

# The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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**EDITORIALS**

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily reflection of the policy of The Voice.

## Letters to Senator Adams

These letters state the position taken by Sen. John Adams, Sr., regarding FEP (editor).

State of Nebraska Legislative Council, Lincoln, October 17, 1950.

Letter to Senator Adams and his position on F.E.P. Senator John Adams, Sr., 2622 North 24th Street, Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Senator Adams:

In accordance with our telephone conversation last Thursday evening, I wrote to the other members of the Committee on Unfair Employment Practices to ask if they would authorize my releasing a statement to the press concerning your position with respect to the recommendations submitted by that committee. A majority of the members have replied favorably, and I have today released to the Omaha and Lincoln papers a copy of the enclosed statement, which you may use as you wish.

Trusting that this will relieve you of any embarrassment which may have been caused, and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Roger V. Shumate  
/s/ Roger V. Shumate  
Director of Research

**POSITION TAKEN BY SENATOR JOHN ADAMS, SR., WITH RESPECT TO THE REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON UNFAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

The Legislative Council Committee on Unfair Employment Practices arrived at its conclusions while meeting in executive session on September 8, 1950. The minutes of this meeting revealed

that Senator John Adams, Sr., participated as follows:

1. He argued throughout the meeting for a state law forbidding discrimination against minorities in matters of employment, and twice moved that the committee go on record as favoring such a law.

2. He voted against the adoption of the committee's recommendation that cities and villages be authorized to enact ordinances forbidding discrimination in employment. In opposing this recommendation, he expressed the belief that nothing short of a state Fair Employment Practices Law would suffice.

Roger V. Shumate  
Director of Research

Legislative Council  
State of Nebraska  
October 17, 1950

## Notes of Interest

The W.S.C.S. of Newman Methodist church, was host to all University students in the church basement recently.

Newman Methodist church, was host to about fifty children at a pre-Halloween party Friday evening under the sponsorship of the W.S.C.S. Mrs. Fawntella Baker is president of the W.S.C.A. Mrs. C. O. Shepherd and Mrs. Ralph Johnson were co-chairmen of the party. The evening was spent playing games and refreshments were do-nuts and cider. Rev. R. G. Nathan is pastor of the church.



by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Among the many historical markers in the storied Scottsbluff region of western Nebraska is a small masonry monument on the site of one of the most elusive fur trading posts in the West—Fort John. For the uninitiated, the marker is almost as hard to find as was the original site itself for the historian. You can see it by taking Highway 29 south out of Gering to the foot of Wild Cat Hills, turning west and following the road leading to Wild Cat Ranch. The monument, erected in 1938 by the American Pioneer Trails Association and the DAR, is just west of the road after you cross the cattle gate.

T. L. Green of Scottsbluff, a member of the State Historical Society's executive board and a leading authority on the history of the region, did much of the basic research required to bring the old fort to light. His reports, published some time ago in Nebraska History, are fascinating examples of historical detective work.

Fort John was a child of Fort Laramie, the West's most important fur trading and military center. The latter, established in 1834 on the Laramie River, not far from its junction with the North Platte, was sold to the government for use as a military post in 1849.

After the American Fur Company had disposed of Fort Laramie, Major Andrew Drips, one of its principal agents—though not the one who negotiated the sale—spent the winter of 1849-50 in Robidoux Pass, down the Platte. In 1850 he moved up into Helvas Canyon and built a new post,

which he named "Fort John," the official name of the fort on the Laramie while the fur company had it.

The new site was well chosen. As Mr. Green points out, Robidoux Pass was thronged each year by thousands of emigrants, and "this continuous encampment of great numbers of emigrants within the pass, with their numerous draft stock consuming all pasturage, must have made a more retired but still accessible location greatly to be desired."

Though the profits from the establishment do not seem to have been all the American Fur Company might have desired, it was the most important trading post in western Nebraska in the 1850's. Father DeSmet, the famed Jesuit missionary, visited it, and baptized the half-breed children living in the vicinity. Prince Paul of Wurtemberg, a widely-known European traveler, spent several days at the post.

We do not know just when Fort John was abandoned. It probably passed out of existence as the bulk of overland emigration shifted from Robidoux to Mitchell Pass, thus leaving the Helvas Canyon site completely out of the mainstream of western traffic.

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## LEGAL NOTICE OF MEASURE TO BE VOTED UPON NOVEMBER 7, 1950 (BALLOT TITLE) CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY 1949 LEGISLATURE

For amendment of sections 6 and 7, Article III, of the Constitution of Nebraska, providing for either annual or biennial sessions of the Legislature, providing restrictions on business that may be transacted by the Legislature in even-numbered years, providing for election of members of the Legislature for four-year terms, and providing for payment of compensation to members of the Legislature as may be provided by law. □

Against amendment of sections 6 and 7, Article III, of the Constitution of Nebraska, providing for either annual or biennial sessions of the Legislature, providing restrictions on business that may be transacted by the Legislature in even-numbered years, providing for election of members of the Legislature for four-year terms, and providing for payment of compensation to members of the Legislature as may be provided by law. □

## TEXT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.

Section 1. That at the general election in November, 1950, there shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska, for approval, the following amendments to sections 6 and 7, Article III, of the Constitution of Nebraska, which are hereby proposed by the Legislature.

"Sec. 6. The Legislature shall consist of not more than fifty nor less than thirty members. The sessions of the Legislature shall be annual or biennial as provided by law. If the sessions are held annually, in even-numbered years the Legislature shall not transact any business except to provide appropriations for the expenses of government and to confirm appointments unless specifically requested to do so by message of the Governor.

Sec. 7. At the general election held in November, 1952, there shall be elected such number of members of the Legislature as may be provided by law from even-numbered districts for a term of two years, and such number of members of the Legislature as may be provided by law from odd-numbered districts for a term of four years. Thereafter at each general election, successors of members whose terms expire in January following shall be elected for a term of four years. All terms shall begin at noon on the first Tuesday in January next ensuing the

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general election at which the member shall be elected. Each member shall be nominated and elected in a nonpartisan manner and without any indication on the ballot that he is affiliated with or endorsed by any political party or organization. The aggregate salaries of all the members shall be determined by the Legislature and payable in such manner and at such times as shall be provided by law. In addition to his salary, each member shall receive and be paid an amount equal to his actual expenses in traveling by the most usual route once to and returning from each regular or special session of the Legislature. Members of the Legislature shall receive no pay nor perquisites other than said salary and expenses. Employees of the Legislature shall receive no compensation other than their salary or per diem."

Sec. 2. That the proposed amendments shall be submitted to the electors upon a ballot separate from that upon which the names of candidates appear, after publication once each week for four weeks in at least one legal newspaper in each county where a newspaper is published immediately preceding the general election in 1950. The ballot for the submission of the proposed amendments shall be as follows:

### "Proposed Constitutional Amendments"

For amendment of sections 6 and 7, Article III, of the Constitution of Nebraska, providing for either annual or biennial sessions of the Legislature, providing restrictions on business that may be transacted by the Legislature in even-numbered years, providing for election of members of the Legislature for four-year terms, and providing for payment of compensation to members of the Legislature as may be provided by law. □

Against amendment of sections 6 and 7, Article III, of the Constitution of Nebraska, providing for either annual or biennial sessions of the Legislature, providing restrictions on business that may be transacted by the Legislature in even-numbered years, providing for election of members of the Legislature for four-year terms, and providing for payment of compensation to members of the Legislature as may be provided by law. □

Sec. 3. That the proposed amendments, if adopted, shall be in force and take effect immediately upon completion of the canvass of the votes, at which time it shall be the duty of the Governor to proclaim the amendments adopted as a part of the Constitution of Nebraska.

Approved May 28, 1949  
Respectfully submitted,  
FRANK MARSH,  
Secretary of State

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