

Kennedy And North Carolina

With regard to the nomination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy as the Democratic Party's standard bearer in the November elections, we find ourselves in the same boat with Governor Luther Hodges.

The governor said last night that he doesn't know if Kennedy can carry North Carolina against Richard Nixon.

It is not, we believe, a question of whether the Tar Heel State has a large majority of Democrats—good Democrats. Rather it is a question of whether a candidate for the highest office can be a good Democrat, a good President AND a good Catholic.

This is a question which the Protestant majority will ask itself many, many times before dropping a ballot in the box.

We doubt that even the Kennedy fortune can satisfactorily provide the answers to the questions posed by a set of "recommendations" approved by Pope John at the first diocesan ecclesiastical council held in Rome in January.

News releases from Rome carried the statement, "Although the new rules will be valid only in the diocese of Rome, it is expected that other dioceses throughout the world will follow suit."

Writing in the Christian Herald, Dr. Daniel A. Poling noted, "Of particular interest to Protestants are the articles of this 'constitution' which apply to 'all Catholic laymen'."

As published in the New York Times, they are:

1. Obligated on pain of excommunication to enact no laws harmful to the Church.
2. Forbidden to read publications inspired by Protestantism, illuminism, existentialism, atheism, or materialism.
3. Forbidden to take part in services, sermons, or discussions of non-Catholic cults or in sessions of spiritism, magic or divination.
4. Liable to excommunication if they join or vote for political parties or persons that promote heretical principles or doctrines, even though they may not go so far as apostasy or atheism.
5. Subject to excommunication also if they back doctrines or views in contrast with the Catholic dogma in the press, in lectures or public speeches.

Locally, the Times of Jan. 27 reported, "Catholics should deal with social questions on the basis of the Church's teachings and may not favor political or other organizations condemned by it."

To paraphrase a bit, in North Carolina the Protestants are more numerous than the sparrows.

And John Fitzgerald Kennedy is a Catholic.