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Nomination

Come Spring and the last days of April, the people of Charlotte will vote for a Mayor and City Council. Well before that time the political lines will be drawn, perhaps even formed, even though the interest in the election would seem to be decidedly limited. The war overshadows a great many lesser affairs.

Who's going to run for Mayor we don't yet know, except that Herbert Baxter gives no indication of not running to succeed himself. It would be, we believe, a highly desirable eventuality for the field to be left to Baxter alone, and for the citizens to re-elect him Mayor as a matter of course.

There probably never was a time when so many municipal items were being in the fire. A good many of them—the War Memorial, the new library, the soldiers' center, City Planning, parks & recreation—Mayor Baxter either sponsored himself or readily proceeded, under other sponsorship, to present for the Council's ratification. He is familiar with what has gone before, with what should happen next, with needs and with means of meeting them. With his long connection with the government of the City gives him a grasp of its affairs which some new mayor would have to spend months in acquiring.

What's more, he has made an excellent mayor both as functionary and as a person. He has brought the Iron Duke and the Blue Bird into something approaching unity, and he has represented the City unflinchingly at those innumerable occasions which take place days, nights and Sundays in this community.

Charlotte is fortunate not alone in having so first-rate a mayor, hardly for re-nomination, but in having no need to interrupt the continuity of administration. We consider it eminently desirable at this juncture that Mayor Baxter be reinstated in office, and bolstered with as good a set of Councilmen as it may be possible to recruit.

A Confusion

The fate of the State Hospitals system for the first time comes in at stake in Raleigh at this moment. In the process of evolving legislation from the wishes of the people, the testimony of experts and the efforts of political office-holders, we have come to a little stalemate. The present impasse is insurmountable in the very nature of things, or else some of the guardians of the public trust in the Hospitals administration have been asleep at the switch.

The General Assembly was surprised (and so were we) when the O'Berry bill concerning the Hospitals was made public. It involved outting present hospital boards, marking a new line of division between medical and business management, elimination of present executive boards, appointment of new members from Congressional districts. It was a pretty thorough overhauling—though something we needed, without.

This bill was aimed at Morganton, where legislators realize that some housecleaning remains to be done. It will, in its present form, prevent a re-entrance of the conflict between medicine and business management there. But the O'Berry bill goes just so far, and stops. The Hospitals need more than money and new boards—and even more than a General Superintendent. They especially need an underpinning of modern legislation. And that, to this moment, is provided in a separate bill, introduced by Senator Mitchell—and written in its entirety by Duke's capable Dr. Maurice Greenhill.

Just now there is concern among friends of the hospitals for fear that either or both of the bills may be cast aside. It is fact that they conflict in some important particulars. The first, for example, provides for a six-year term in office for a General Superintendent; the second specifies a four-year term. One is the official to be Commissioner; the other, Superintendent. There are a number of other points of disagreement. But most important, each embodies vital pieces of legislation which should be passed. The fear is now

Statemen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record.)

SENATOR MCKELLAR (Tenn.) was speaking in behalf of the farm census apportionment when:
Mr. LANGER (Ind.). Can the Senator give us a list of what the census includes? Can the Senator give us a list of what he has before me, but the census includes everything that pertains to the farm.
Mr. LANGER. Does it include farm machinery, for example?
Mr. MCKELLAR. Indeed, it does.
Mr. LANGER. I thank the Senator from Tennessee.
Mr. BREWSTER (Maine). I have received an inquiry from New England as to whether the census is to include the pay of the Senator know whether it is.
Mr. MCKELLAR. Oh, yes; it is; but those taking the census receive the amount of money provided by the "joint resolution" in order to continue it. They do not have enough money to continue it.
Mr. BREWSTER. How much is available here?
Mr. MCKELLAR. I do not recall the exact amount.
Mr. BREWSTER. Would \$1,000,000 be approximately the amount they already have?

that the two will not get by—and they certainly can't in their present form. It seems to us pretty simple: Why can't the two be combined in hearings next week, to include all the valuable suggestions already put in by interested agencies, as members of the General Assembly as one tailored bill?

Pure Lobby Act

From the way he keeps dropping bills in the hopper, you'd never take Joe Ervin to be a freshman Congressman. Last week he had three more, all important matters for consideration in Washington.

He aimed to continue free mailing privileges for wounded war veterans while in veterans' hospitals. He would give to active members of the Civil Air Patrol status of members of the armed forces. And, most happily of all, he proposed that ex-Federal employees be barred from taking part in prosecuting claims against any Federal agency for two years—and against aiding in prosecuting his old Federal agency forever.

That, you see, brings the current debate over Tommy Corcoran et al to a climax. There's been a gush of talk about this unfortunate attack, but until Representative Ervin struck in his bill, nothing had come of it.

Mr. Ervin wants to make it impossible for any man to leave Federal employ for private legal practice, and return shortly to beset his former cohorts and underlings in the behalf of a private client. It was the example of Tommy Corcoran that led to the introduction of this bill, but he is not by any means the lone offender.

If passed, the bill will become good and powerful medicine, and it goes beyond any previous discussion. Washington's laymen thought that a few years ago or two Federal employees might cool off a hot situation. But Mr. Ervin, adding the proposal that no attorney could ever return to practice before men of his old agency, perpetuates a high principle. It will put Washington lobbying on a higher plane, in one particular, and if there's any phase of Government activity in greater need of upstating at the moment, we'd like to be advised of it. Better still, advise Rep. Ervin. He's the kind of a fellow who'd do something about it.

Round-About

If Mecklenburg's delegation to the Legislature is actually serious about this matter of electing County and City court solicitors, rather than appointing them, we'd like to hear more. Just off-hand, we can't think of a single good reason to make the change. Why should these officials be elected?

At present, both offices are appointive. That is, the County Commissioners name the one; the City Council, the other. The City also appoints its Recorder's Court Judge. The only one of the four gentlemen who must make a regular run for his office, and take part in the hurly-burly of political campaigns, is the County Recorder.

It must be obvious that throwing the solicitors into campaigns is going to increase their political activity, and put heavier political pressure upon them. It is equally obvious that there are political considerations to be met under the present system—but appointment by a small body of elected officials seems eminently more desirable. We're afraid we don't get the point.

Representative Morris is quoted as explaining that this action is contemplated because of the present unfortunate state of affairs. The County Recorder must make a race for his office, placing an unfair burden upon him, demanding his time and entailing considerable expense. So he argues that the County Recorder should be appointed by a small body of elected officials, and we don't get the point.

We may have overlooked something, but the only logical answer that occurs to us at all is simply that they take the County Recorder out of political campaigns, too. Isn't that the simple thing to do?

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON
MISSISSIPPI's rootin'-tootin' John Rankin has introduced an interesting bill resolution to drain away the assets of the Government. It is to pay a salary to draft-deferred Robert Stripling, clerk of the old Dies Committee. Rankin has introduced a bill which is supposed to have been in the Army and at a time when the Dies Committee was in session. This climaxes a long series of draft deferments for the young men who did much of the work of the Dies Committee about un-American activities.

For some time, Stripling was deferred by his Alexandria, Va., draft board as an essential worker. Then last August the draft board decided he was not essential to the war effort, and he was in I-A. In October, however, he was deferred again. Others around him, such as the 23-year-old nephew of Gen. MacArthur, also living in Alexandria, together with the 32-year-old city manager of Alexandria, were drafted. But 31-year-old Stripling was deferred.

Finally on Dec. 11, he was slated to report to the Army at 7 A. M., but once again he was given more time. This time the Virginia draft board refused to defer him, but Selective Service in Washington went over its head, at the request of wire-pulling Congressmen, and gave Stripling until Jan. 4.

Then the young Dies Committee flag-waver got his fourth deferment. This time Congressman W. of Kentucky went over the head of the local draft board and got him deferred until Jan. 26. But by this time, the Dies Committee had ceased to exist, having expired Jan. 2. So Congressman Rankin has introduced a resolution to pay Stripling for the time in January that he was hanging around Washington with the Dies Committee nonexistent and when his draft board wanted him in the Army.

Gould's Little Deals

French and U. S. officials are greatly interested in the statement of Mrs. Frank Jay Gould that she paid 5,000,000 francs to the Nazis to save her husband from being taken off to Germany.

What puzzles them are some transactions which make it appear that the Gould family was being well-treated by the Nazis. In fact, during part of the war, the Nazis, instead of exacting payments from Gould, actually paid him rent on his villa.

This was in September 1943. The amount received was 1,500,000 francs. (It was ten months later, in July, 1944, just as the Allies were sweeping toward Paris, that Mrs. Gould deposited 5,000,000 francs in a German-controlled bank in Monte Carlo, allegedly to save her husband.)

The 1943 German payment to Gould was deposited by the German commissioner in the Chateau-Sur-Cher branch of the Chase National Bank for re-equipping Gould's villa in Vichy. Later, the German commis-

sioner even paid Gould an additional 100,000 francs to compensate for expenses connected with the requisitioning of the villa.

Mrs. Gould's deposit of 5,000,000 francs ten months later was in the Banque J. E. Charles et Cie. of Monte-Carlo the eight-square-mile, neutral principality famous for its Monte Carlo gambling casino.

The date of her deposit, July 21, 1944, is itself interesting. For the Charles bank was actually established on this same date. It had not been in existence before. Furthermore, Mrs. Gould became a stockholder. Mr. E. and French officials also consider other dates significant. June 5 was the date when the Allies landed in Normandy, July 10 the day they entered Strasbourg, when Gen. Patton started his dash for Paris. Three days after the breakthrough, the bank was founded.

Collaborationist Bank

The group which put up capital for the bank included interesting Germans and collaborationists, suspected of wanting to get their money out of reach of the U. S. Government. The founders were:

- 1. J. E. Charles, a German resident of Monte Carlo.
- 2. August T. Gausebeck, another German banker formerly living in New York, suspected of handling Nazi funds in the U. S., and deported from New York in 1942. Before the war with Germany, he apparently knew it was coming and transferred much of his property to Argentina. The rest has been seized by the alien property custodian.
- 3. Guillaume Charles Le Cense, French banker, who before the war was associated with a company making electric storage batteries. During the war he continued with this company, the batteries being important to the war and being sold to Germany.
- 4. Florence La Case Gould, born in San Francisco of French parents, former actress and third wife of Frank Gould. She is vice-president of "Sea Bather" at Juan-les-Pins, a director in "Lunches et Glaciers," a catering company, and in various Winter and Summer resort companies.

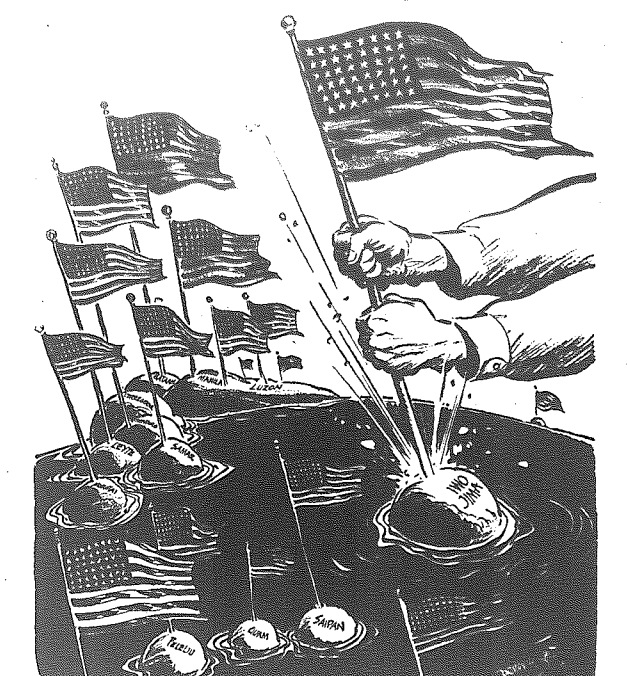
Another interesting date in the history of the Charles bank falls on Aug. 23, 1944, when it increased its capital from 80 million to 150 million francs. Aug. 23 was just eight days after Gen. Patch landed with an American Army along the French Riviera, near Monte Carlo.

Since Monte Carlo is neutral, officials suspect that the Charles bank was a scheme whereby Germans and French collaborationists transferred funds out of the Gaul's jurisdiction. Charles, when interviewed by investigators, said he and the German, Gausebeck, would retain an interest of 50 million francs and the "American group" (the Goulds), which has a participation of only five million, will have the right to a total participation of 50 million.

Investigation of the whole affair is continuing by both French and U. S. officials.

Note—Mr. and Mrs. Gould were warned repeatedly by American authorities before hostilities to return to the United States. Their funds were frozen during the war.

Planting Time Is In Full Swing In The Pacific



The Ghost Of Paris

By Marquis Childs

PARIS, once called the City of Light, is today a city of darkness and misery. A pretense of the old Paris is kept up but it is a rather pathetic gilding on what is an empty shell.

Shops on the Rue de la Paix and the Place de l'Opera still have smart things in the windows, but these articles are merely window-dressing. Nothing like them is for sale inside the shops. Similarly, perfume bottles are displayed in windows, but the American army has long since cleaned out the supply.

It is a little like the huge peach-bark hats worn by some who still try to look fashionable. They are pretentious in a bad sort of way and very, very expensive. An American traveler who wanted to take a Paris hat back to his wife found that the minimum price at a lesser-known establishment was \$100.

Prices on the Black Market are fantastic, somewhat reminiscent of the German inflation of the early '20s. Butter, if you can find it, costs \$16 a pound. Automobile tires—and they are scarcer than butter—cost \$25 a piece. A woman's suit in a shop window in a provincial town, though shabby looking, was priced at \$80.

A meal of horse meat and poor macaroni in a working-class restaurant costs just under \$2. In the few Black Market restaurants, you see hard-faced men and women—undoubtedly operators in one phase or another of the Black Market—who pay \$100 or \$150 for a dinner for three or four persons. In these restaurants, patronized only by hated profiteers or fence-sellers, the food is

ines are putting a stop to some of this. The Black Market still flourishes.

Resentment against profiteers, some of whom were on the border line of collaboration, is growing throughout France. Some people feel that Gaul is not proceeding rapidly enough with the liquidation of collaborationists. Former collaborationists say cynically, "you're not dead until you're buried."

On the other hand, many housewives admit frankly they could not feed their families without the Black Market. Minimum rations simply are not obtainable without behind-the-scenes deals. During the recent severe cold spell, the food crisis was so acute that the U. S. Army was persuaded to turn over a small amount of its stores to relieve the situation at least temporarily.

A marked rise in infant mortality and deaths of older persons is a sure indication of near-famine. Likewise, a sharp increase in cases of tuberculosis, as shown by recent U. S. Public Health studies, is a sign of what is happening.

With the machinery of a living barely functioning, existence is full of annoyance and frustrations. The French collaboration system, never very efficient, now hardly works at all. One reason is that census and switches were frozen in unheated office buildings and apartments.

Almost no transportation exists outside of the subway system. Near the Place de l'Opera, shabby horse-drawn cabs wait for fares but they are only for very short runs. For three or four dollars, you can hire a bicyclist with a side car. That is, you can hire him if you're lucky enough to find him.



"It's peculiar how few new things I've had the matter with me since the doctor told me flatly he didn't have time to see me more than twice a month for the duration!"

City Hall Today

By Dick Young

CONSTITENCY was not a virtue displayed in the discussion by Mecklenburg legislators of the proposal to make the Office of City Solicitor elective instead of appointive.

Representative Harvey Morrie had proposed that the County Board should elect the City Solicitor and put it on the same basis with the County Judge and amend the law in regard to the City Solicitor and produce exactly the same municipal jurisdiction and the City solicitorship but this I can say, the record of appointments by the City Council has been good over a period of years and I see no reason

why the Council can't be trusted to do a good job and be left alone without stripping it of its appointive powers.

City Attorney Hugh Campbell did a good job of bargaining and saved the City more than \$200 in a compromise settlement of damage this week. A Negro woman had fallen in the street in front of St. and her attorneys gave notice of a suit for damages of \$200, when the case was brought to Campbell, he first succeeded in obtaining consent of the attorneys to reduce the claim to \$100. Then there was a question of liability for the condition between the City, the Duke Power Co. and the Southern Bell Telephone Co. Legal representatives of the two companies accepted their share of the responsibility and agreed to pay one-third of the claim. And so all the City had done was to turn the record of appointments by the City Council. It makes no difference to me whether the City solicitorship is elective or appointive but I am concerned as I am quoted in snapshots from Raleigh that this I can say, the record of appointments by the City Council has been good over a period of years and I see no reason

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We Three Kings

By Dorothy Thompson

EVERY major event in the life of the Mediterranean Sea through the Dardanelles could imperil the eastern end of the Mediterranean. This all-important waterway is flanked by three states: Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. The President met these three Kings of Orient.

Did he meet them as the emissary of the Big Three, or as the President of the United States? The Russian representative, General Andrievich, the President Mr. Churchill had his own talks with the three kings, inviting still a fourth ruler, the King of the President of Syria, Syria is still, legally, a mandate of France, and has been proclaimed an independent state by the French. But General de Gaulle has made it clear in a public speech that he expects French influence to continue predominant there.

Politically Mr. Roosevelt's position is delicate. Ibn Saud is the leading spirit of the movement for pan-Arabism, and includes Syria, and this movement wants Palestine as an Arabic member of the Arab League (the Republican Party also) is committed to the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. So it was probably wise of Mr. Roosevelt not to invite the President of Syria, Syria is still, legally, a mandate of France, and has been proclaimed an independent state by the French. But General de Gaulle has made it clear in a public speech that he expects French influence to continue predominant there.

As for Stalin—who did not go at all—the Soviet Union contains millions of Muslims. At Yalta the United States, through the President, definitely abandoned the hands-off policy which had been followed during the war as the Premier and Mr. Roosevelt of the East, and will be interested in bases for both. We have built many airports in Egypt, Italian Eritrea, and Iran and pressure is being put on them. It would be interesting to know the terms of the unpublished Iranian armistice.

The President's comment on the meeting with the Three Kings was that he has already advised meetings between the heads of state. The long communique, with its colorful description of the Arabian