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Two Bond Elections

Back Tommy's story on Charlotte's sewerage water and sewer systems was detailed in the Planning Board's preliminary statement that these facilities must be expanded without delay if a grave emergency is to be averted. And, we strengthen our conviction that a series of civic projects now being lumped together into one overall bond election fall logically into two divisions, and should be offered to the public separately.

The underground twins are of such immediate concern as to be beyond controversy. The Planning Board recommended the expenditure of \$4,300,000 for the expansion of the two systems, and added this grave warning: "Charlotte is faced with a critical situation. Our sewer system is now in such a state that we are jeopardizing the health of our people. . . . (We) will barely be able to increase our production of filtered water before our consumption exceeds it. A large fire at the present time could quickly exhaust our reserve water supply."

But the Planning Board's recommendation also included a good many other projects, and when City Council members to adopt it the Fathers tacked on some of their own. The proposed bond issue rose to \$6,000,000 to take care of such matters as a new library, land and plans for a new auditorium, airport expansion, improvements of the city system, etc., and while we are inclined to support all these proposals, none of them is beyond debate, and none could be classified as urgent.

Moreover most of these projects are subject to postponement even after the

bond issue is approved, for they involve construction, and we are convinced that a City Council which has declared itself powerless to act to relieve Charlotte's critical housing shortage could not in good conscience hand over private builders by diverting scarce labor and materials to its own use. And that means a year, under the most optimistic estimates, before ground can be broken for any of these new structures.

Alas, there have been delays in calling the bond election and the first tentative date of March 15 is out. Legal requirements are such that the election can't be held until April, and another law, which forbids the holding of the election within 30 days of a primary, requires that it be held before April 24 or carried over for some three months.

The water-sewer expansion is so urgent, in our view, that nothing should be done that might delay it, and we are inclined to include it in a \$6,000,000 bond election containing a good many worthy but controversial projects might have that effect. Especially since a City-County school bond issue of \$6,000,000 will be presented to the public at about the same time, possibly on the same day.

We do not see that carrying over consideration of all other matters, except sewer and water, until Fall would reduce their individual prospects of acceptance or delay their final realization. It might even be that the citizenry would be in a more receptive frame of mind, more willing to lay cash on the line for its future happiness once the immediate threat to its health had been removed.

Inconvenient Principle

The good citizens of Georgia recently drew up a new constitution, correcting a great many of the palpable weaknesses in their state and local Government and guarding against future abuses as well as they could. And, as has become the practice in most states, they included a section that limits their Governor to one four-year term.

While ink is hardly dry on the new constitution, and the good citizens are already hard at work trying to amend it so that the present incumbent, about the finest Governor they can remember, can succeed himself, Ellis Arnall, the paragon in question, is apparently working on a bill to amend the constitution so that the amendment of the Legislature failed and it now seems likely that he will have to step down.

Well, we hope the good citizens manage to hang onto Governor Arnall for another term or two, but can't help wondering a little as we watch them twisting an old principle around to fit a new case. For the same people who regarded a gubernatorial limitation as a vital democratic institution when old Governor Tamm was in office, are now by a lull in the Governor's Mansion, are the ones who are trying to keep Ellis Arnall in office beyond the limit they finally established. And, we suppose, if old Gene

should be resurrected and slipped back into office they would make another complete about-face.

The trouble is that you can't tailor a principle to fit a personality. The fact that Gene Talmadge is a demagogue and Ellis Arnall is a statesman has nothing to do with the number of terms a Governor of Georgia should be allowed to serve.

But this is ever the way with students of Government; not a few years ago there were many earnest scholars ready and willing to prove that a third, and then a fourth Presidential term for Franklin Roosevelt violated the democratic principle of the separation of powers, and that it was a straight to the establishment of a dictatorship. It is a ridiculous argument, whether applied to Franklin Roosevelt, Gene Talmadge, Ellis Arnall or the local dogcatcher—so long as an office-holder has to stand for re-election at stated intervals, and so long as the elections are free, he can't become a dictator no matter how many terms he spends in office.

The decision as to whether a man should stay in office or not is the people's, and the people's will is the law. It is a violation of democratic principle. And, also, as the good citizen of Georgia are finding out, it can become terribly inconvenient.

A Note On Crime

Chicago is a big and a lusty city, a wild and a sinful city, and after last week's kidnapping the police had to warn the city fathers to keep their eyes peeled. Nobody was surprised, of course, for everybody knows that Chicago leads the nation in crime.

There are open saloons in Chicago, and liquor flows like water in Chicago, and there is gambling and it is vice, and of course, there is violence, individual and organized violence. Chicago has a mixed population, and the political machine in Chicago, as everybody knows, is pretty corrupt. They say you can even buy a policeman in Chicago.

Chicago is a sinful place, no doubt about it. The population of Metropolitan Chicago is 4,699,146 and in 1945 there were 28,533 recorded violations of the law, exclusive of minor traffic offenses. This figures out to one violation for every 116 persons.

From The Rock Hill Herald:

Virginia Liquor Sales

If the state of South Carolina is going to be in the liquor business then it is better to establish the Virginia plan than to continue the present monstrosity that allows a liquor store on most any corner.

Drys will argue that they do not want to go into the liquor business but whether they like it or not they are practical. It is now the state grants licenses to many individuals, collects large taxes from all sales, keeps some of this money in the state treasury, gives a part to local Governments, and places a liberal amount in the funds from which teachers of the state are paid. If this is not "in" the liquor business then we hardly know what "in" really means.

The Virginia plan does not allow wholesale grants on liquor licenses. A town the size of Rock Hill in Virginia has one liquor store. The operator does not try to "sell" his customers. Rather does the customer visit the store, buys what he wants, and leaves. There is no effort to sell on the part of the store.

Governor Williams urges the state

HST Forgets His Own Woes

As a Senator

WASHINGTON When President Truman was sometimes entered the Senate chamber and sat down at his desk, he would tell one of his cronies, "Just got another kick in the pants from the White House," he would tell one of his cronies. "They're just a pack of lies," he would tell another Stark man to a good job. "Let's make 'em" referred to supporters of Harry Lloyd Stark, leader of an anti-Truman Democratic faction in Missouri.

Today, however, Senators, with that the ex-Senator from Missouri had a better memory and would think back to those days. One Senator who especially wishes it is Jim Tunneil of Delaware, who has just received the most resounding kick in the pants recently given by the White House to any alleged friend of the President.

Senator Tunneil has been one of the most loyal of all the Roosevelt-Truman supporters. He has slaved night and day for the program. He is one Senator who can be absolutely depended upon. Partly because of his loyalty he faces a difficult re-election fight this Fall, with the support Republicans preparing to put a tough candidate in the field against him.

Until recently, they had been planning to give over ex-Senator John Townsend, a staunch friend of the Duponts, but considered a traitor because of his isolationist record.

However, Townsend will now be their candidate—thanks to Harry Truman. For the President has just appointed Townsend as alternate U. S. delegate to the United Nations. This automatically takes away the faint of election, elevates him to a position of prominence and makes his political future.

It was the most crushing blow faithful Jim Tunneil could have received.

Now, politicians blamed Secretary Byrnes for the appointment. He, however, had nothing to do with it. Then they turned to Townsend's son-in-law, Prew Savoy, who was among the group which helped invite Truman to the Jefferson Hotel last summer. Replied Savoy:

"I wish I could plead guilty. It would have put me in right with my father-in-law."

Now, however, President Truman has said that he did the job himself. He is the sorriest man in the world—and has said so to Senator Tunneil.

EUROPEAN REFUGEES

Some of Jimmy Byrnes' expeditors have really pepped up the refugees, and they are straight to the establishment of a dictatorship. It is a ridiculous argument, whether applied to Franklin Roosevelt, Gene Talmadge, Ellis Arnall or the local dogcatcher—so long as an office-holder has to stand for re-election at stated intervals, and so long as the elections are free, he can't become a dictator no matter how many terms he spends in office.

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NEW DEAL TRENDS

What we are trying to say is that at one time or another the five men we have mentioned succeeded in making a good many nervous citizens regard them as nurturing designs against the existing economic system, in varying degrees. Mr. Corcoran was a power in the White House during the earlier crusading years of the New Deal. Harry Hopkins remained very close to President Roosevelt to the very end, and his principal activities came to center in the field of foreign policy, but in his earlier phase, as head of the WPA, he became identified in the public mind with the new economic ideas about deficit Government spending.

THE PLANNERS

Leon Henderson's studies were believed to move along planned economy lines. Thurman Arnold had published a satirical book about the folklore of capitalism just before he left Yale Law School to become an assistant Attorney General in Washington. And while Mayor La Guardia cannot be said to have shown a real lack of confidence in the private enterprise system, he did have his frequent strong words about bankers and hardheads of seeing death that was the bidding of the bankers and the big advertisers.

And now we find all these men, enemies of free enterprise at their worst, or "bureaucrats" at best, comfortably or more than comfortably installed in the private enterprise system.

There is an interesting paper from the London Office of the Mitsubishi firm, telling their head office in Tokyo how they got Reuters in London to lay off the story. Dated June 22, 1939, the letter states:

"It was a great shock to us to learn that such details of business were disclosed in Tokyo, and as we were certain that this was caused a great deal of difficulty in the various papers, we tried hard to persuade Reuters not to publish same. They claim that they have maintained a neutral attitude regarding the handling of news and they were not in a position to create or ignore any news in the interests of the parties concerned."

We stated that their information was incorrect. Fortunately we could insist that their news was actually incorrect in the minor points. Finally with the kind assistance of Mr. Hasagawa, the head of the home office here, Reuters agreed to kill this news so far as they were concerned.

We immediately arranged with Mitsui that they would take a similar attitude. Our editor, Mr. H. S. Reuters, which they handled accordingly. Our editor, Mr. H. S. Reuters, which they handled accordingly. Our editor, Mr. H. S. Reuters, which they handled accordingly.

If worse comes to worst—which it may—why not move our headquarters around, like a World Series?

A minor item in the larger news, but the WCTU might like it. American occupation troops have given up Pilsen.



From The New York Times: The New Dealers And Free Enterprise

RUMOR has it that Thomas G. Corcoran, perhaps better known as Tommy the Cork, is doing very well in his new position as a Federal judge as an enemy of existing institutions, and the international Ladies Garment Workers Union is, in the field of labor, a conservative organization.

WERE THEY ENEMIES?

It is a situation which must mean one of two things. Either these five men were enemies of free enterprise in a democracy, or else they were enemies of free enterprise only to have free enterprise get the better of them. Either explanation cannot help bringing comfort to the believer in free enterprise who may himself have begun to have his doubts.

If such dark moments recur to the nervous citizen just fix his mind on Messrs. Corcoran and La Guardia's very substantial fees and the other three men's more moderate but respectable pay checks. Then, to clinch the matter, our timid citizen might go on to recall that Professor Laszlo said before sailing for home recently. He told the reporters that it would be a very long time before this country had an anti-capitalist government like that in Great Britain.

THE PEOPLE'S PLATFORM

By Mrs. Esther Blair CHARLOTTE IF I am allowed to take just a little space in your paper, I may venture to give my opinion on the new platform of the new boys that have spent nearly two years away from their families doing guinea duty in the chain and bomb water and suffering the filth of unpopularity and the contempt of our boys that want to come home and can't. I mean boys that have approaches and parents who are as dependents.

If Congress would see that all the men that have been at the breaking point, they have gone through so much bombing and hardship of seeing death that was budding around them that they can't stand any more, so why

"Those Who Suffered..."

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THE ALIGNMENT

In the House the alignment at the opening of the 78th Congress was 190 Republicans, two others, 243 Democrats. The Democratic majority was 243 to 190. The Democratic majority was 243 to 190. The Democratic majority was 243 to 190.

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