FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1947

Charlotte's Stake In Education

OUR Mr. McKnight, chopping his way through a jungle of school-cost statisties, has come up with the conclusion that, no matter what it Legislature's decision in the matchener salaries, the cilitzens the checkner salaries, the cilitzens where of the cost of our local schools. Although all schools operate under a State system. North Carolina paid only 54 per cent of the total-school bill in Charlotte last year; the City put up the remainder to maintain buildings and supplement the low salaries paid by the State. If the South Pledmont District schedule of teachers pay increases were adopted (as it appears now Pledmont District schedule of teachers pay increases were adopted (as it appears now it will not be) the local salary supplement would be unnecessary, but Mecklenburg would still pay something like \$1,000,000 into the State deutational frond, while self-ting back only about \$200,000 into the state deutational frond, while self-ting back only about \$200,000 into the State deutational frond, while self-ting back only about \$200,000 into the State of S

Mr. McKnight's figures and his conclu-sion are valid. But there is danger, we think, that they may be misconstrued.

think, that they may be misconstrued:

The fact that Charlotte now pays a heavy local supplement to city teachers is one of the strongest arguments in favor of the South Piedmont plan. It demonstrates clearly the gap between the theory of the State system—causility of educational opportunity for all North Carolinian—and the practice. If salary makes the difference between competent and incompetent teachers, as the deducators are now insisting it does, then it is obvious that the larger cities, which supplement State pay, are providing much more handsomely for their children than the rural communities which do not, and cannot.

It can be shown that State taxes col-

It can be shown that State taxes col-lected in Mecklenburg amount to roughly one-tenth of the State total, and obviously this county does not receive one-tenth of the services provided by the State, educa-tional or otherwise. But it does not follow that the taxes collected in Mecklenburg come exclusively out of the pockets of lo-

cal residents. Charlotte prides itself upon its status as a trade and distribution center, and makes much of the fact that more than a million persons live within an easy drive of The Square. Certainly these good out-of-town customers of ours contribute heavily to the tax total, thus helping shove their own home counties down the list of State tax collections.

State tax collections.

And, of all the counties in North Carolina, it seems to us Mecklenburg has the greatest stake in seeing to it that schools from Manke to Murphy are kept up to the highest possible standard. The native Charlottean, as a good many of them have noted, its becoming a rare bird; an enormous proportion of the city's residents moved here after attaining their majority, attracted by the opportunities offered by the State's largest city. Certainly, we are to grow in the case will be not the art to decadional level maintained in our way reportion of our citizens will not have had the benefit of it.

It is obvious that Charlotte, without any

It is obvious that Charlotte, with It is obvious that-Charlotte, without any unique resource such as Winston's tobacco industry, cannot prosper independently of North Carolina. The trade upon which we pride ourselves spreads far beyond the county limits and, reflects the fortunes, good or bad, of the most remote community in the state. Education for all our people, as we have proved beyond question in the past, means prosperity; lack of it means poverty—for all our people.

Certainly the record will show that Char-Certainly the record will show that Charlotte now contributes a disproportionate share of the expense of government. But the record will also show that Charlotte cerives a disproportionate share of the ultimate benefit from good roads, good schools, and good health. There are many moral reasons with the contribution of the c

The Republicans And King Cotton

KING COTTON, as even his best friends KING COTTON, as even his best friends will admit, is a mighty sick monarch. The other day, for instance, Dr. William P. Jacobs of the American Cotton Manufacturers Association told a Congressional Committee considering international trade agreements that cotton should not be included because American cotton producers simply cannot compete in the world market.

Leaders of the cotton industry long ago decided that the only way to guarantee the future of cotton production is through research—the continuing effort to find new uses and more efficient methods of farming. While mounting production costs have gradually frozen American farmers out of the once-profitable world market, competition from synthetic fibers has increased on the home front. For example, the automobile tire cord market, which once absorbed 600,000 bales of cotton each year, has now been taken over almost exclusively by the rayon manufacturers. es and more efficient methods of farm

ly by the rayon manufacturers.

Private research programs have been under way for some time, and will continue. But the most ambitious effort to find new uses, and to improve marketing methods, was undertaken by the Department of Agriculture. That research program now seems fated to go by the boards; a House Committee last week cut out of the President's budget the \$19,000,000 needed to underwrite it.

Cotton Digest, trade paper of the raw cotton Industry, considers this one of the worst blows the cotton farmer has been dealt in years. "It was realized," Digest commented, 'that the synthetics, with their large outlays for research, would con-tinue to gain ground technologically, to outstrip cotton, to Improve their product and lower their price, and would likely

make further deep inroads into cotton's markets unless a co-ordinated research program were inaugurated." Killing of the Agriculture Department appropriation, Digest believes, may well lead in a few years to a drastic curtaliment of cotton productions.

This, certainly, is a major threat to the South. No matter how we may pride ourselves on our diversification of crops and industries, the Southern Congonny is still, geared to cotton. These will be a determined effort, of course, to restore the appropriation, and we have no doubt the Southern Congressmen will support it almost to a man. But here again they will run into the high political cost of the one-party system. Cotton is raised exclusively in the one-party states, to whom the Republican majority owes exactly nothing. Go. O. P. Congressmen are already hard pressed to find appropriations that can be reduced without allenating Republicans; what could be more natural than that a research program that does not concern a single Republican voter? research program that di single Republican voter?

Cotton Digest believes there is a chance that the Republicans will see that the threat that the Republicans will see that the threat to cotton is also an indirect threat to the crops raised by their own constituents. "If the South is forced to curtail its production of cotton it will surely turn to other crops in competition with the corn-growing and dairying sections of the nation." That is self-interest, aright, but it is self-interest conce removed, and the impatient Republican majority has shown little inclination to peer deeply into the future.

We can only join the *Digest* in the hope that the Congress as a whole will see the junking of the cotton research program as "penny wise and pound foolish". But, politically, it's a pretty thin hope.

Duncan Patterson Tillett

FEW people, until they saw his full name in the sad news of his death, ever knew what the middle initial in Duncan P. Tillett's name stood for. Few people, indeed, ever formalized his first name, brief as it was. It was Dunc Tillett, not Duncan Tillett or D. P. Tillett, who died yesterday.

The total unexpectedness of his passing was as great a shock to the community as it must have been to his family. One didn't associate unexpectedness with Dunc Illiett. The quality of his nature which had endeared him to many hundreds of people was regularity. You knew where you would find him, and you knew you would find him responsive, and you knew that he might be counted on.

Which is not to make him, in death, the conformist that he never was in life. The Tillett strain was too strong in him, the habit too deeply engrathed of questioning before accepting, ever to mould him into a conventional business man. Retiring he was, strely; but with his convictions un-daunted.

evoted association with Mr. H. M. had given him this extraordinarily and personal approach to banking, de the banker's decisions, and made visely, we may be sure. But it was

not alone security that he looked for, but the opportunity to be of service. The profit he sought lay in the welfare of his fellow man, and rich dividends it paid him in friendships and the peace that comes of the knowledge of a life well spent for those

The last big Army-Navy merger took place around Thanksgiving, with the two locked, as we remember, on 'Army's three-yard line, as thousands swooned.

This thing of having to finance Europe et al. moves us to regard the weeping wife of Daytime Radio in a kindlier light, All that she asks is love.

The U. S. Treasury moves to recover the

People's Platform

'Ya Gotta Be Smarter Than The Law'

Pro & Con On ABC

Editors. The News:

A I have fead in The Charlotte News about your appearing before the Board of County Commissioners and note that you state "according to available county and that there are more than 250 speakesales scattered about the city where liquor can be purchased by the drinks. In Information and why something cannot be done about it. If you have this information, it is your duty as a cittizen to see that these are the county and the property of the county in the county is cleaned by the will help to do away with the gailon law then INfor one, am willing to try to organize the county is cleaned up. But as long as the gallon law is in effect, it is difficult to get an arrest and conviction.

law is in effect, it is difficult to get an arrest and conviction.

The work of the control of t

CORDING to newspaper reports, it must have been a grand performance that Frank Sims and Harvey Morris staged last Monday for the benefit of the County Commissioners. I wonder who they were representing, the people or the fluor interests when they were representing, the people or the fluor interests dividing the "spoils"—the money, Judas thought he was doing a good job in taking charge of the money, but it later cost him his life. Money has always been a tempstation, and it is being used by the advocates as the spoils of the spoi

_J. L. FOLEY

GAFREY, S. C.

I HAVE been following the trend of the liquor question through your paper. It seems that some of your politicians are using the same propaganda that one of the liquor politicians are using the same propaganda that when the liquor through the same of liquor. There is nothing farther from the truth officers as during problem of the liquor stores. Some of the liquor stores, so that the liquor stores, so that it is not same that the liquor stores. So that the liquor stores is difficult to the liquor stores seem of the liquor stores. So that liquor stores is seen to see the liquor stores so that liquor stores is seen to see the liquor stores. So that liquor stores is seen to see the liquor stores in the liquor stores. So that liquor stores is seen to see the liquor stores in the liquor stores in the liquor stores. So the liquor stores is seen to see the liquor stores in the liquor stores i

-LOUIE WYNN.

decent society.

—J. A. GARDNER.

Marquis Childs

Lilienthal And Taft

TAU's statement went much fur-ther than a mere declaration that he intended to oppose Lilienthal's confirmation, In his reference to a seemed to be trying to amear the monimee so completely that Lillien-thal's userfutness would be serfously impaired even if he is confirmed, appeared to be an attack on the shasis of American atomic policy, which has been widely accepted by press and public. The engine pro-priess and public. The engine pro-ling, as its authors were careful to point out—was the Lillienthal-

NOT long site David E Lilianthal was nominated to be charsman of the U. S. Alosalo Energy
Commission, a friend came to the
with an interesting report. This
serial Republican leaders had designificant to the party he represents
retail Republican leaders had deretailed to throw the weight of the
party against his confirmation.
Participating in this decision were
wealthy backers of the Republicant
hardy. They even, according to this
report, worked out a patient of
would seem to develop apontaneously
rather than as the result of area.

Harold Ickes

To Have And Have Not

WASHINGTON
THE problem of adequate food,
clothing and shelter to support
people, comfortably is a world-wise
problem. It may be expressed
either in terms, of over-population
source, Even here in the Child
States we are on the threshold of
becoming a "have not" nation after
an abundance that has been the
another way, we are on the verge
of becoming an "over-populater
auton because of the greed and
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acres of arid but fertile soil we our ability to irrigate could be to rich fertility. The same is of Australia and broad expanses the continents of Asia and Aft We have the ability, but not will.

WANT AMIDST PLENTY

These potential food producers lie idle and undeveloped variety. In the world whole, we are at least ten person of our food needs. The measure of our stupidity our inhumanity. We fail to ulour assets to the utmost or entity while disregarding our to save and build up for future erations.

NO TIME TO LOSE

Drew Pearson's : Railroads Ignored Advice On Boxcars

Read Around The World
THE one-minute speech is one of the oldest institutions of
TOMERON. It is a pet device by which Congressmen get
a grievance or some other personal project off their chests,
usually delivered with one eye on the priess gallery and usually
forgotten after the speaker's gavel falls.

However, Freshman GOP Representative J. J. Javits of