

Action Needed To Loosen Strings On Highway Fund

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer

When a Charlotte cranks up his car for a trip east to the Carolina beaches or west to the mountains, his car glides over the finest type of pavement, maintained with a smoothness almost comparable to that of a ballroom floor. He glides, and he smiles.

But if he walks out of his house, gets into his car and heads for work in town, he will bump over rougher ridges, hit shell holes or crevices, and bounce over corduroy intersections. He'll ride over stretches of streets that'll put a strain on his back, extra twists in the car springs, and deep scars on his tires.

Unfortunately it will ever remain thus until some governmental miracle falls from The Heavens. It appears that a miracle, or some highly political pressure, will be the only means of loosening this tight string on the State Highway Commission's moneybags.

It is a paradoxical fact that these moneybags are burning at the seams with that wad of money placed there by the Charlotte and thousands of other gasoline-buying motorists.

While the Charlotte and thousands of other towns and cities struggle along under heavy budgets that leave no money for adequate street maintenance, that Commission down at Raleigh is raking in the cash at the rate of \$300,000 monthly in gasoline taxes alone.

As a matter of fact, the gasoline tax income in August was \$181,000 (minus an undetermined amount in refunding) in the one month to fix a lot of holes in many miles of streets.

Whopping Sum
But have a bigger figure: The Highway Commission figures show that the gas tax in the 1947-8 fiscal year totaled \$400,000.

By far the greater part of this whopping sum was sent to Raleigh out of Charlotte and other city dwellers, who might expect to get something in return besides such bumpy and blowing roads.

But out of that remarkably large total, the municipalities of the State are allocated \$1,000,000 each year, about one-fortieth, for the maintenance of State highways within incorporated limits.

Here's one reason why that 25 per cent falls so short of doing the job of smoothing over the streets: There are 80,788 miles of roads in North Carolina—10,350 miles of primary roads (county seat to county seat), 50,450 miles of secondary roads (about ten per cent of the total), and 10,000 miles of tertiary roads (about ten per cent of the total).

Over 6,000 miles of those roads, or ten per cent of the grand total, will be found inside city limits. All the rest is outside city limits and is called—eligible for state funds.

And here's another example of inequity: Automobile registration is concentrated in the cities and towns. Driving in Towns

Surveys show that, for every mile traveled by car in the State, 100 miles are traveled in city streets. It also has been estimated that 40 per cent of all automobile trips in North Carolina cover 20 miles or less, and that most of these trips take place in the urban districts or on the smooth open roads.

Take the taxicab, George Franklin of the North Carolina Taxicab Men's Association says that 95 per cent of taxicab operation is within city limits. The cab is based. The average cab in this state traveled 50,000 miles in 1947. In the same year

3 German Zones Fused
BERLIN—(AP)—An almost complete merger of the three western zones of Germany was announced today by the British, French and American governments. The merger of the three zones was signed by the three Western powers and the Soviet Union.

This united the economies of all zones except the Russian zone of Germany, which will be regulated by the Soviet Union. The merger was signed by the British, French and American governments.

A similar fusion of the three Western zones along political lines will be accomplished by the trilateral government for which a constitution is being drafted by Germans at Bonn.

When these steps are completed, Western Germany will be created, leaving only the Russian zone outside.

STATE HEAD OPEN
American, British and French officials here today announced that the Western state will be held open to all German state whenever possible. The state will be reached with the Soviet.

Today's agreement applies only to the foreign travel of the Western zone. It merges them into the Agency (JETA) which has been invited to the foreign travel of the Western zone. The office of foreign travel which has been handling the French travel of the Western zone, is being transferred to JETA as early as possible.

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Second Daughter For Veronica Lake
HOLLYWOOD—(AP)—It's a second daughter for Veronica Lake. The film actress gave birth to a six pound, four ounce girl Saturday night at Good Samaritan Hospital.

The proud husband and father is Dr. Paul H. Lake. The baby has a son, Michael, nearly three

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolinas

U.S. Demands 5-Power Atom Plan Talks

ESTABLISHED 1888 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1948 22 Pages—Price Five Cents

U.S. WARMS

U.N. Asked To Release Problem To Big Nations
Hint Compromise In Berlin Case

By LOUIS NEVIN (AP) — The United States demanded today that the United Nations turn the deadlocked atomic energy problem over to the five great powers and Canada for direct negotiations.

Chief U. S. Delegate Warren R. Austin told the 58-nation political committee the United Nations could go no further in its efforts to control the atom until the Soviet Union agreed to "participate in the world community on a co-operative basis."

The Berlin dispute comes up tomorrow in the Security Council. A new compromise plan which would end the issue of the UN is reported under consideration by the six neutrals of the council.

Austin, commenting on a report drawn up by an atomic energy subcommittee, declared:

"Communist states desire to live in a secret world of their own. We know that they are not prepared to prepare their people for war. We do not desire to live in a secret world of their own."

CITIES IMPASSE
What the impasse in which the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission finds itself. This is an impasse which cannot be overcome by the Atomic Energy Commission.

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Municipal Leaders Here
Leading participants in the 39th annual conference of the North Carolina League of Municipalities which began yesterday at a local hotel are (left to right, seated): Dr. Frank Owens, Mayor of Columbia, S. C.; Carl H. Chatters, executive director of the American Mu-



New Staff Photo by Tom Franklin Studio

nicipal Association of Chicago and featured speaker at today's luncheon; President Earl H. Tate, Mayor of Lehigh, Pa.; and (standing): R. M. Cooksey, first vice-president, city manager of Thomasville.

At League Meeting
Speaker Deplores U. S. Plans

By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Most cities, towns and hamlets in North Carolina were minus their office-holding officials today as some 250 gathered at Hotel Charlotte today to ponder plan and discuss exactly what legislation will be presented to the Legislature in January to help the municipalities get a better break.

Most of the delegates to the 39th annual conference of the North Carolina League of Municipalities gathered here today to ponder plan and discuss exactly what legislation will be presented to the Legislature in January to help the municipalities get a better break.

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President Is Speaker At Legion Convention
Explains Vinson Mission Idea

MIAMI, Fla., (AP) — President Truman said today he considered sending Chief Justice Vinson to Moscow to ask Premier Stalin to help dispel "the poisonous atmosphere of distrust" between the Western powers and the Soviet Union.

The President, in a speech prepared for the annual American Legion convention, described as "a wicked, wicked situation" the "loose and irresponsible talk to the effect that the United States deliberately is following a course that leads to war."

"So long as I am President of the United States, there will be no chip on the shoulder of America," he declared.

NON-POLITICAL
He flew here from Washington in an aviator "non-political" role, and in his address described himself as "a delegate from Missouri, a comrade-in-arms, and commander-in-chief of our armed forces."

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Blast Rocks U. S. Plans
BERLIN—(AP)—A United States C-54 transport plane supplying blockade-busting Berlin was shaken today by a mysterious explosion today shortly after taking off from Berlin's Gatow Airport.

Raymond Miller of the 125th Air Transport Squadron, the pilot, said the plane was shaken severely but not from anti-aircraft fire. It was flying at 1,700 feet. American fighter planes were seen in the vicinity.

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Israel Accepts U. N. Offer To Arrange Peace Talks With Egypt
TEL AVIV, Israel—(AP)—Israel accepted today a United Nations offer to arrange peace talks with Egypt on the fighting in the Negev. However, she rejected a cease-fire proposal.

The Foreign Office said no cease-fire proposal would be accepted until Israel is assured the Egyptians will behave.

In actions last night, Jewish troops stormed and captured the Negev. The fighting was reported to have been a cease-fire.

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First Calf Born Under Country's New Program
Mecklenburg County has today produced its first calf under the new program. The calf was born to a cow named "Too, L. C. Lane, assistant county agent, has an interesting story to tell of the breeding in Mecklenburg.

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