THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1948

Settle The Hospital Dispute

THE CURRENT controversy over charity payments to Memorial Hospital has a raised fundamental questions of governmental responsibility which enanot be dismissed lightly, and which may eventually have to be settled by the General assembly and the Supreme Court.

It is a well established legal principle that Government is obligated to furnish medical attention and care for those citizens who are unable financially to provide their own. Such expenditures are properly considered "necessary expenses" of government within the comparatively narrow framework of North Carolina's Constitution, and it is not necessary for the people to wote their local Governments authority to use tax funds for such a purpose.

There is, so far as we know, no corresponding legal principle which limits demonstrated the contribution of such payments, either such contribution to \$1\$ per described by the way to the put the such contribution to \$1\$ per described to the way in the way is clear for City and

State of North Carolina and the Duke Endowment limit their contribution to \$1 per day each, but the way is clear for City and. County Governments to spend as much or as little as they desire.

As a practical matter, of course, there is a limit, And the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have decided that their present contribution of \$6-per-day-per-patient is that limit. Memorial Hospital asys the \$6 a day from the three sources is not enough to pay for charity patients, that actual costs are \$11.77, and that the hospital goes in the red by \$3.77 each day it cares for a charity patient.

WEMORIAL admits that it is operating.

MEMORIAL admits that its operating MEMORIAL admits that its operating average general private hospital, and explains that the higher costs reflect directly what it terms four "vital" services to the community. (1) resident physicians and immergency ward and the various out-patient clinics where indigent patients receive medical attention not requiring actual hospitalization; (2) scientific meetings, fectures and clinics which further the medical knowledge and proficiency of the local medical profession; (3) autopsies, decaying the medical social service department, which gives counsel, advice and assistance to indigent patients afficied with sociological problems.

These services, the hospital says, add to its operating costs. And because such a

ical problems.

These services, the hospital says, add to its operating costs. And because such a large percentage of Memorial's patients are charity patients, the \$3.27 a day loss on charity patients, the \$3.27 a day loss on each one is running the hospital into the red. Ownously the hospital cannot continue to operate permanently at a deficit. If higher payments are not authorized by the City and/or County Governments, Memorial Hospital asyst twill be forced to discontinue these four services. Collaterally, it has offered to co-operate to convolved with the offered have the soft of the continue these four services. Collaterally, it has offered to co-operate completely with

Actually, the use of a flat, average per-patient-per-day cost figure, though perhaps necessary from an accounting standpoint, somewhat confuses the issue. What we have in this case are two separate and distinct types of extra services: Those benefiting the whole community, and those of primary benefit to the medical profes-

with primary benefit to the medical profession. The suggestion has been advanced that private endowment be established to pay for a parl of these services. Certainly, the members of the medical profession and interested lay leaders should be willing to contribute to a fund which would pay for the scientific and educational clinics and autopsies which are for the immediate benefit of the profession, even though the community may gain over the long-haul. Willing to pay a part of the cost of keeping the interns and resident physicians, whose constant presence on the hospital floors and continued service to all patients frees practitions members of the profession to a large extent from this type of charity service.

Furthermore, the operation of the medi-

Furthermore, the operation of the medical social service department seems to us to be a responsibility of the Charlotte Community Chest, which contributes to its upkeep. Its work fails—more naturally into the sphere of the private social agency. But there is a definite public responsibility for the coats of staffing and operating the emergency room and the out-patient clinics. Such emergency resources are of inestimable work to the community as a continuous of inestimable work to the community as an accident, or if he has been injured in an accident, or if he has been striken with some sudden, acute malady, the immediate treatment and attention by Memortail's emergency staff may mean the difference between life and death. Like, a life insurance policy, the mere existence of such emergency facilities in the community is invaluable, and is certainly worth the annual premium necessary to keep it in operation.

THE HOSPITAL, we believe, is correct in asying that its emergency service-certainly as far as non-paying patients are concerned—is too great a burden for it to bear alone. We make the further point: That it is a service to the whole community which the community should bear.

which the community should bear.

This any be a novel suggestion. It is certainly no different from using tax money to maintain a fire department which is of most value to the taxpayer when his house is burning down. And we recommend to the County Commissioners and the City Councilmen that they give due consideration to the financing of Memorial's emergency and out-patient services as excellent insurance for the whole community, and an expenditure of tax money which will be as beneficial to a man of means as to an indigent.

A Charlotte Technical Institute

A Charlotte Technical

A TECHNICAL institute is in immediate
Prespect for Charlotte and the project
presents the community an opportunity to
take a major stride forward in its development as an industrial center.

Thanke to the initiative the Charlotte
Thanke to the initiative co-operation of
City and State deucational authorities, the
plan for the school already is well advanced
beyond the preliminary stage. The Extension Division of North Carolina State College is moving to appossor the institute.
Dean J. H. Lampe of the State College
School of Engineering and E. W. Ruggles,
director of the college's Extension Division,
are expected in Charlotte today to conferwith representatives of the Engineers Citub
and Dr. E. H. Garinger, associate superintendent of city schools. They will discuss
the location of the proposed institute and
Other details.

In the race of the cities and states in this
technological age, the prizes go to the compower. Charlotte's need for more trained
technicians, specialists and aritisan has
grown steadily more acute with the expansion of automotive, electrical, radio, metalworking, building, heating and other industries in the Queen City area, A technical
institute will not only make it easier to
meet that need but will contribute granty
to acceleration of the expansion that now

Is under way.

Public and private interests are both vitally concerned in this educational program, and the benefits promised for both Charlotte and North Carolina as a whole are large. Charlotte's growth as a business and industrial hub is a prime factor in the movement, which is attracting new enterprise to the Piedmont, strengthening the economy of a wide region and improving conditions generally.

In addition to raising the quality and quantity of the labor force in this community, a Charlotte technical institute will serve young men in neighboring towns who do not have facilities for this training. It will help to keep our ambitious and com-

serve young men in neighoring towns who do not have facilities for this training. It is training a town on the petent young men at home, and draw others to us. It will ease the load on other shools and provide training for many young men who do not now have a chance to develop their insturral skills.

A fine start has been made by the educators who are working with John Purser, president of the Engineers clibs, and the committee headed by Herman Wolf. The "plans already drawn inspire great hope in the future of this program. Indeed, the potentialities are so large that Charlotte can have a technical institute that is notable throughout the South if the proper community support is forthcoming.

Tax Cut 'Moral-Obligation'

A 5 THE \$4.8 billion income tax reduction bill heads to the White House for an expected veto, the cry is raised in Administration circles that this is a vote-catching measure.

measure.

It is notable that 30 Senate Democrats joined the Republicans in voting for this bill which the GOP fathered and on which it bopes to ride to power in November. Democrats are naturally reluctant to do anything that would contribute to Republican national success in an election year, and making the assurance of one of their number of the second of the sec

Shortly before the vote, Senator George of Georgia declared that he felt "a very definite moral obligation" to support the measure. It may be added that both the

Republicans and the Democrats will have assumed a great moral obligation if they pass the bill over the President's veto. This tax slash will have been purely a This tax slash will have been purely a This tax slash will have been purely a form of the star of

Crackup





People's Platform

Broken Palestine Promise

GOVERNMENTS must earn the respect of their people size as parents must earn the respect of their children. When a parent promises to do something for his child and falls to keep his promise and particularly when he repeats that act frequently, the child not only becomes expertial but begins to wonder promise in the first place and the child not only locase contidence in his parent but also the respect and faith and there is not a chance in the world for the child to consider the parents' advice as valuable, and the relations between parent and child the continued of the child to develop the children of the child to develop the children of the c

blook, and the relations between parts and chind blook, and the relations between parts and chind correment. The alms can be applied to Government. The alms can be applied to Government made a promise to the Jewish people many years ago, we had a right to believe that it meant everything in that promise and almough it feel on repeating those promises and best but there were obstacles in the way. However, the facts begin to show a doubtful result. When the Balfour declaration was signed some 30 years ago, although we were not members of the League of Nations. Also Government pickeds to support it, through its Googness and its President. It has since the control of the contr

and necession. Yet much afford was not put in by our Govern-ment to go shead with the recommendations of the various committees until I came before the United avarious committees until I came before the United committee of its own and after a thorough investigation reported to recommend to partition Palestine for Jews and Arabs. Although the Jews 192, the public of the public

What is happening now instead of carrying out the plan our Government encourages new discus-sions, which is against all honorable principles wheth-er to people or to governments. There is neither need nor necessity for such discussions because people are being alaughtered in Palestine and it is up to us to slop it at once.

up to us to stop it at once.

The majority of the representatives in the United Nations voted for it, we included, as I mentioned the voted by complete the voted by complete the voted by complete the total voted to an arromites not only to the Jewish people but to all the people of the world? The Arab representatives and promites on the voted? The Arab representatives up to the voted of the voted of the voted of the think the voted of the voted of the voted of the think that we are ready to double-cross the Jewish limit, that we are ready to double-cross the Jewish

Vandenberg "The Only Man"

ors. THE NEWS:

Catawba

In her "River Reverses." Maude Waddell in-cludes the following verses on the Catawas, which becomes the Santes River in South Car-cilled Williams on the Banks of the Catawas that control with the Catawas that the Catawas that the Catawas with the Catawas that the Catawas that the Catawas with the Catawas the Catawas that was the limit news the family had of the Ceneral's death.

ROLL in majesty seaward.
Singing child of the West.
Born in the crevice of meuntains,
Luiled by the sea into rest.
Catawba, the fresh rushing river.
That roars as it falls from its height,
And Santes, the plentful giver.
As it rolls in its pride and its might,

Marquis Childs

Mud-Slinging Starts

Much-Slinging Starts

WASHINGTON
THE first gob of campaign mud
is here on my desk. It is a bard
is here on my desk. Tick and
is here on my desk. Tick and
is here on my desk. Tick and
convict photograph of the late
Boos* Tom Pendergast of Kansas
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and food was rotti

Samuel Grafton

The American Fear

The Amel

New York

The contortions of our foreign
Jobit's have passed the point
where political comment can take
the psychological movelus, qualified
to write a story on the tragedy of
fear. In our panicky reversal or
fear, in our panicky reversal
and agonized. And it was not, indeeper size, it was the perhape even
more dreadful fear that she would
co-perate with us, that she would
co-perate with us, that she would
same room.

When fear grows as big as thirt
everything blurs, it is no longer a
sition or co-operation; the harried
nerves respond in the same way,
still on the co-poration; the harried
nerves respond in the same way,
the still of the same way.

They will as yit was for oil, the
er about it knowingly, as man to
than. But it was not for oil, not
er about it knowingly, as man to
and the still of the same that the
drown our fears if the Great
would have sted in the same would
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the sted of the Near Rest in meration.

The oil of the Near Rest immera-

Lakes were full or use, a meway, out. FRARS
The oil of the Near East is merely a concentration, reasouringly a concentration, reasouringly as concentration, reasouringly as concentration, reasouringly as the same emotion that the oil attra in use can be started by the frowning face of an Arab chieftain, or a war-lord, or sometimes, one is almost compelled to think, by the popping of a paper bag, made us do, in so many ways, in and the hope of the placetime, and the hope of the placetime, and the hope of the same ways, in so the placetime, and the hope of the same ways, in so the placetime, and the hope of the same ways, in so the placetime, and the hope of the same ways, in so the placetime, and the hope of the same ways, in so the placetime, and the hope of the same ways.

Drew Pearson's: U. S. Alcohol Reserve Dangerously Low

WHILE the brass hate demand the drafting of men for the first policy of the first poli

Industrial alcohol for detense.

Truman Gets Job Offer

PRESIDENT TRUUMAN has already been offered another Job—If the woters retire him in November. The joo—all the woters retire him in November. The joo—all the woters retire him in November. The joo—all the state of the property of the property of the John States and its territorities.

Frou informed Truman that he was returning as national content of the property of the prop

the nomination. I'm going to be very busy on other mat-

Airplanes Need Materials Control

Aurplanes Need Materials Control
DRESIDENT FRUMAN has just received a blunt warning
from William M. Allen, president of Bosing Aurent's Co.,
materials, such as alluminum, if the U. S. A. is to build
airplanes for future emergencies.
Senater Warren Magnusion of Washington, told Truman
that his company now is producing a super successor to the
month. The company now is producing a super successor to the
month.

But. Allen told the President:

"We can't begin turning out these new planes in any
antity unless there are allocations of the materials needed
produce them, so we can plan our production schedules
least six months ahead. We can gear-ap our production
B-50s right now to 40 a month, but not without material
cocations,"

of B-58x right now to 68 a month, but not without material allocations.

Truman replied that he was pleased to learn of the new revolutionary blues, but selected to learn of the new revolutionary blues, but selected to learn of the new revolutionary blues, but selected to learn of the new revolutionary blues, but selected to learn of the new revolutionary blues, but selected to learn of the new revolutionary blues, but selected to the new revolutionary blues, but selected in the selected to the selected that the B-50 pointed up the new of universal military training an selective servine mediate. The reliable that since is not the answer, we must have flexible that since is not the answer. We must have flexible that since is not the answer we must have for some of the selection of the selection

ators, in an effort to settle the growing coal strike last week.

John L. Lewis not only attubernly refused to back down
on his demands for pensions for coal miners, but even declined to consider a compromise proposal.

Lewis told Ching that his demand for a \$100-a-month
retirement pension for all United Mine Workers Union
retirement pension for all United Mine Workers Union
the mineral retirement of the compromise of th

Under Lewis' plan, former miners who quit work five or ten years ago or longer would be eligible for pensions, provided they still carried a UMW card. This would make head of the CIO, eligible for pensions, though they haven mined coal for years.