

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE SCHOOL PROBLEM

ANY DOUBTS that the problem of providing adequate school facilities for Charlotte and Mecklenburg County's horde of children is indeed a monumental one should have been dispelled by yesterday's session of the County Commission.

Speakers told their story simply and straight-forwardly. Basically, the stories were the same and the problems posed by the tidal wave of postwar babies were in identical. The differences were in detail, mainly a somewhat greater urgency within the city limits.

What they added up to is the inescapable conclusion that the people of Mecklenburg County are going to have to spend a staggering amount on their schools in the next ten years. The total bill may well run as high as \$15 million or \$20 million by 1960.

The immediate problem is to increase the county's legal borrowing capacity, so that the people can be asked to approve a bond issue big enough to make a substantial beginning. There are two ways in which this can be done.

1. If a pending friendly test suit to force the County to absorb some \$750,000 in old Charlotte school district bonds is

decided in favor of the plaintiff, the County will be able to borrow up to 8 per cent of its \$240 million property valuation instead of the 5 per cent at present. This would mean an increase in the debt limit from \$12 million to \$19.2 million, and would give ample leeway for school building programs in the next few years.

2. A county-wide revaluation of property, to eliminate inequalities and to lift the over-all values somewhere near modern day figures, would greatly boost the present \$240 million total valuation, simultaneously increasing the debt limit. But this procedure will take almost two years, and there is a squabble between the City and County about sharing the revaluation bill to be settled first.

County Attorney Carol D. Tallaferro said yesterday he is ready to proceed with the test suit, and the Commissioners reiterated their willingness to assume the old City bonds, once the legality of the transaction is approved by the Supreme Court.

The responsibility for quick action rests on City Attorney John Shaw. He has promised to get the legal process started without further delay, and he must do so if an election is to be held next Spring.

'THE LOOKING-BACKWARD YEAR'

HISTORIAN Arthur Schlesinger Jr. and Washington columnist Margu Chids fired in *Look Magazine* today the first shot in a volley which you can expect to rattle about your heads for many months to come. You might call it the beginning of "the looking-backward year."

In an article entitled "The Twenty Who Shaped the Twentieth Century" the pair sought to answer the question: "Which twenty men and women had the most to do with shaping our lives in the past 50 years?"

One need not consider the validity of the judgment of Messrs. Schlesinger and Chids to realize that some figures of the past 50 years stand out boldly before the flickering days, months and years of the past half century.

Look's judges chose these:
Winston Churchill, Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Henry Ford, Rigmund Freud, Mohandas Gandhi, Joseph P. Kennedy, Howard Kuyper, Nikolai Lenin, George C. Marshall, Benito Mussolini, Pandit Nehru, Pope Pius XII, John D. Rockefeller Sr.,

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Sun Yat Sen, Joseph V. Stalin, Woodrow Wilson and the Wright Brothers.

These were the men (and one woman) who brought us two great wars, who brought us scientific and mechanical progress unmatched in all recorded history, who brought prolonged life and quicker death.

They were, Schlesinger and Chids point out, down, they, for the most part, acted rather than thought. They were impetuous; so was the first 50 years of our century.

It is interesting to speculate about the next 50 years. Will the pattern continue? Will the shapers of our lives in the second half of the twentieth century be doers or thinkers?

Half-way in the headlong rush of this most amazing of centuries, we feel inclined to hope that at least a few of them will be men of thought, men concerned with the mind and the soul as well as material progress.

THE CONSUMER IS THE LOSER

WHILE we look with some misgiving on U. S. Steel's announced price increase of \$4 a ton, there is no particular reason why representatives of the Steelworkers union should get so excited about it.

When Mr. Philip Murray bludgeoned the steel industry into a lavish new pension and health insurance, he gave the industry a perfect reason for existing: the production of its products. Perhaps, as union spokesmen claim, the industry could absorb the higher labor costs out of present high profits. But it would hardly be expected

to do so as long as the market will support higher prices.

Just as organized labor takes advantage of good industrial profits to force wage increases, industry can be expected to take advantage of higher labor costs to justify price increases.

The loser in either case is the ultimate consumer of the many products which are manufactured from steel. And we suspect that neither the industry nor the Steelworkers union is very concerned about the consumer.

A REMINDER

Awake, ye people of a single world; Transform your fate into an open hand. Breathe life into the noble words, "Peace and Brotherhood"—Marry them to nobler deeds.

And the noble words will have meaning. This is the essence of "Peace," a cantata with music by Lamar Stringfield and text by Marian Sims. The world premiere of this work by Charlotte composer Stringfield and Charlotte novelist Sims was

presented in a Washington church Sunday. And it was well received.

Charlotte has not heard the music, but Mr. Stringfield's ability is known and it is to be hoped that a local performance will be forthcoming.

The text by Mrs. Sims is before us, however, and we find the message to be a powerful one. It is an eloquent, forthright plea for a turning away from hypocrisy, an exhortation to man to embrace at last the inevitable philosophy: "Love thy neighbor, Peace on earth."

"Peace" is not only a work of art, but a much-needed reminder that brotherhood must be lived before lasting peace can become a reality.

From The Winston-Salem Journal

WON'T THEY EVER LEARN?

A KEY lawmaker has predicted that Congress will renew the rent control law.

The reason? Well, as the unnamed legislator implied, it is the same old story. Some landlords are incapable of learning their lesson. They keep raising rents in cities and towns where off rent controls they begin to hit-jacks rents to points all out of reason. In so doing they hurt themselves as well as the honest, reasonable landlords.

They know, or should know, that when they do this they are making a powerful plea in the language of action for Federal rent controls. And they are playing right into the hands of those who insist we must have a planned economy, by giving the private enterprise simply will not behave itself unless government literally forces it to behave.

"The final answer to rent controls must be restored," said the legislator, referred to, "was given by the re-imposition of rent ceilings at Harrodsburg, Ky. where

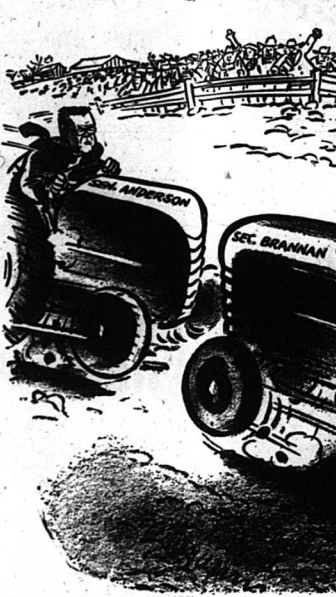
even a landlord and a banker asked that controls be restored after there had been exorbitant rent increases—running from 10 to 300 per cent."

This is a sane matter. Before World War II nobody in this country had ever experienced rent controls and similar restrictions. It doesn't seem logical at first glance that five years after the war we should still be invoking these controls. But the war period saw the development of a black market philosophy in this country which many of its disciples apparently have been reluctant to abandon in the postwar era. These people to a far greater degree than the exponents of planned economy are threatening the extinction of the free enterprise system of the United States.

Won't they ever learn?

When Klon Summers put mud flaps on his truck, as required by the new law, he didn't use store-bought flaps. He made his own out of old caps. He left the fringe on top. Rather decorative—Oklahoma City Times.

Field Of Combat



Truman Will Apply Axe To Tree of His Own Planting

By JOSEPH H. STEWART ALSO

WASHINGTON

JUDGING by present tendencies, it is almost impossible to exaggerate the extent of the damage that budget President Truman will presently be doing to the tree of "economy" he has planted in the "economy" of the government. What is not known, however, is even more important—has a further step may be taken.

But the President has not merely decided to reduce out-armed strength to armed feebleness. He is also showing a strong inclination to retreat from the constructive American foreign policy, which is as infinitely the most important of his Administration's accomplishments to date. Again, the motive is "economy."

In order to grasp what is happening, it is necessary to understand the foreign and defense policies of the President. By his order, estimates were first prepared for every dollar of foreign and defense spending—up to the military aid program, ECA's atomic energy, German and Japanese reparation, and the Greek-Turkish and Korean aid programs. The estimates were then lumped together, and referred in a bundle to the National Security Council.

The Security Council (with ECA Chief Paul Hoffman sitting in) was instructed to determine what the difference actually was between the minimum total. This difficult process was completed in a matter of minutes, and a minimum global expenditure was suggested to the President.

These cuts of omission go hand in hand with such acts of commission as the increasing of our national security, and the now-contemplated attack on existing foreign policy. There is only one trouble with this kind of policy: it is a sure way to get us into a world of worry about what's not doing things will cost, than about the things that are doing it. In respect, a cold war is very like a hot war.

Capital Roundup

Economy And The ECA

(By Congressional Quarterly)

WHILE the President waffles with his new Federal Reserve Board, Congressmen are being free with advice on economies—especially as regards European aid.

Several Senators and Representatives had returning from swings through Europe claim that Marshall Plan spending can be cut drastically. About \$1.5 billion was appropriated for European aid for the current fiscal year. In accordance with the long-range plan that figure will be cut somewhat in the upcoming budget request—about \$1 billion, according to ECA officials.

But Sen. Willis Robertson (D-Va.) recommends a cutback to \$2.5 billion as a step toward a balanced budget. Sen. Burnet R. Maybank (D-S.C.) and the ECA budget will be carefully scrutinized with cuts in mind. Sen. Dennis Chavez (D-N.M.) also has expressed his belief, while Sen. Homer Ferguson wants the RFC to assume Marshall Plan obligations and then make loans only to private European business.

Rep. James E. Wood (D-Ind.) and the program could be "considerably reduced" next year and "definitely ended in 1952." Sen. Theodore Tilton (R-Minn.) said the RFC budget will be carefully scrutinized with cuts in mind. Sen. Dennis Chavez (D-N.M.) also has expressed his belief, while Sen. Homer Ferguson wants the RFC to assume Marshall Plan obligations and then make loans only to private European business.

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On the organization's priority list were Civil Service reforms, budget and accounting simplification, reorganization of the Post Office, unification of many overlapping government services and reduction of the number of agency heads reporting directly to the President.

Problems of small companies which can't find persons willing to invest in their stock were still being heard by another subcommittee of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, E. L. Sholley, president of Keystone Custodian Fund, an investment holding company, testified that only eight per cent of the families in America ever invest money in common stocks. Their savings, he said, go into such "safe" channels as insurance and government bonds.

It is the subcommittee's goal to find ways of encouraging persons with spare cash to put it into new and small businesses. Most witnesses have suggested a cut in taxes on investment income as the best incentive.

Other Congressional Activity
The Senate Agriculture Subcommittee hearings on food prices were suspended as coffee prices remained stable and the cause of the recent price jump was left a matter of controversy.

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Help Your Child To Learn The Good Comics From Bad

By HENRY C. McFADDEN

ALBEMARLE

TEACHERS and parents of growing children scratch their heads over the comic books, radio, and movies. Now and then they find a good one. But the vast majority of them are bad. Various publications attempt to rate movies and radio programs so that parents may know what is suitable for their children to see and hear. If you have some young children, you know that it is not easy to find a good one.

Of course it is ridiculous to condemn all comics, radio programs, and movies. There is much in all of them that is good. But there is high entertainment value. On the other hand everybody knows that there is a great deal of truth in the rounds that no careful parent wants his child to see or hear.

Beyond that, the question is: how can we use these three agencies supply a definite need in the lives of young children. A child must have adventure. He must have action. Where in our civilized world can he find it? A child who can't find it will turn to the comic books, radio, and movies.

Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy, But children have always loved the comic books. They are a part of a child's life. A child who is hemmed in by city streets and swarming traffic will find a great deal of comfort in the comic books. He will find a great deal of comfort in the comic books. He will find a great deal of comfort in the comic books.

I think what parents and teachers need to do is to see that their children do not get an overdose of comic and radio. The same goes for the movies. They are a part of a child's life. A child who is hemmed in by city streets and swarming traffic will find a great deal of comfort in the comic books. He will find a great deal of comfort in the comic books. He will find a great deal of comfort in the comic books.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

(ED. NOTE—This is the third in Drew Pearson's series of columns on tax evasion—a question of importance to every taxpayer who has to pay more as a result of deficiencies by others.)

IT IS not often that Treasury agents turn up a tax fraud case against a big corporation. This is partly because most of the big corporations are so big that they can't be caught. But also because it is almost impossible for the T-men to scrutinize carefully the complicated books of the big corporations.

The Internal Revenue Bureau is so understaffed—thanks largely to the "tax cut" Congress passed in 1948—that it is hard for its agents to take enough time to go through all corporate books.

So the Treasury agents stumbled into what they considered an airtight tax fraud case against the M. C. C. Corporation. In this case, the Treasury agents found a loophole in the tax law which allowed the M. C. C. Corporation to avoid paying taxes on its profits.

The case was considered so airtight that there was not the slightest doubt, they thought, about criminal prosecution. However, the loophole got busy and the M. C. C. Corporation was able to avoid paying taxes on its profits.

The reason the Treasury's case against M. C. C. was considered so airtight was that a former Treasury agent had furnished the evidence for the Government.

While working for the company, he had caught it making capital expenditures for plant expansion during the war years and then charging them as "repairs."

Improvements Read 'Repairs'
THROUGH the lower offices of M. C. C. had shown the nature of the improvements. These improvements were charged to read "repairs" when the books went up to the top office. Repairs, of course, are not deductible. Improvements are capital expenditures and not deductible.

Big Corporations' Books Too To Check

Mid-Continent officials gave careful instructions that the receipts and orders for the improvements be destroyed, but the books were not destroyed. They were kept and turned over to the Treasury. As a result the case was considered so airtight that there was not the slightest doubt, they thought, about criminal prosecution.

The agent who first handled this case was Frank W. Lohm, chief of intelligence for the Kansas City district. He was a former M. C. C. employee who had been fired for stealing. He was now working for the Treasury.

But while the case was still pending in Kansas City, Daniel Bolch, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, was called to Washington. He was called to Washington to handle the case of the M. C. C. Corporation.

When the case was brought to Washington, a conference was held in Bolch's office, at which General Counsel Charles E. Adams, Jr., and Bolch, for reasons best known to himself, came all the way to Oklahoma from Washington to handle the case.

At this conference, Commissioner Bolch ordered the investigation stopped and had the case transferred to Washington.

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to let Mid-Continent off for \$30,000—instead of \$40,000 recommended by the T-men. He also decided against any appeal from the T-men's decision.

Only after this was decided did Bolch send the case to General Counsel Oliphant with instructions to close the case. The case was closed, and the T-men's decision was upheld.

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