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MORE HOUSING UNITS?

COUNCILMAN Basil Boyd's assertion that more than 400 low-income housing units are needed in Charlotte is an interesting development.

It was Mr. Boyd, we seem to recall, who made a special speech to the Council several weeks ago when he cast his vote for a maximum of 400 units. He said something like this:

"I am going to vote for 400 units. But I say here and now that if another report for more housing units is submitted before this Council meets I am a member, I shall vote against it."

Yesterday, in the informal session preceding the public meeting, Mr. Boyd told newsmen:

"I think we made a mistake a few months ago when we made the 400-unit figure. I guess I was a bit too liberal for that. I think we should have approved 800 instead of 400 units."

We do not refer to Mr. Boyd's new convictions with any intent of pampering his inconsistency. If he has changed his opinion, it is admirable that he should say so publicly. We merely wish to point out the obvious inference that a political compromise which looked good at the moment is likely to prove a retrograde step to one member of the Council at least.

It doesn't look so good, to us, either. How did it do at the time. The Council simply agreed in executive session on a number which it thought would appease both the proponents and the opponents, and made no effort to relate that number to the realities of the situation.

One difficulty was that there were no accurate, up-to-date facts. What the Housing Commission was asking for, though it was not properly explained to the public by the newspapers at the time—was an adequate loan to finance an exhaustive, scientific survey of housing conditions and the completion of professional concern with a view toward building not more than 1,500 units for Negroes and 300 units for whites. Approval of the loan did not commit the Council to approval of that maximum figure. The figure could have been set lower after the survey was completed and the findings analyzed.

It is too late to make that survey under the first two-year allocation of the Public Housing Authority. Two other allocation periods are coming up, and Charlotte may yet get more housing units if it wishes.

Meanwhile, about all we can suggest to Mr. Boyd is to investigate the possibility of having the first allocation without a survey. We hope he takes the leadership in this movement for we believe, as he does, that the 400 units are not enough.

QUARRELSOME QUEEN

SOMETIMES our neighbors all about us must wonder how the turbulent Queen City manages to overcome internal friction and struggle forward at all.

It's a rare thing indeed when a progressive program is planned, announced, and then carried out without stirring up an enormous protest from people who fear they might be affected adversely.

Charlotteans seem always to be spoiling for a good fight.

Perhaps it is just the manifestation of a healthy democracy. But it is often hard to understand.

The most recent case in point: the protest against a \$50,000 community recreation building and lease-age center in Latta Park, probably the most logical place in the city for such a structure since one of its sites is just a stone's throw from school age kids within a half-mile radius of the proposed site.

The battle has been waged in public hearings, and in the newspapers. A decision will be made by the Park & Recreation Commission next Tuesday.

A new angle developed yesterday. Fifty-four residents of Freedom Park, alarmed at suggestions by Latta Park residents that the community building in question be moved to Freedom Park, said they didn't want any part of it. When a community becomes "noisy," they said, property values go down.

That probably did it. If the Park & Recreation Commission is under any illusion that a controversy could be solved merely by shifting it somewhere else, it now knows better.

Best it unnecessary to stress again the unanimous verdict of other cities that the best way to combat juvenile delinquency is to give the youngsters something wholesome and interesting to do, and thus keep them out of the streets.

It is interesting to note that the beer parlors. And if anyone has any doubt about the quiet operation of the Hawthorne Lane center, and its immense popularity and utility, he can check up for himself.

The Park & Recreation Commission is the agent for the whole city. The people of Charlotte have endorsed the million dollar program which was explained to them so thoroughly before the election. It is public money, to be spent for the public good.

Now that Charlotte is at long last embarking on a sensible program of public recreation, the Commission must view this and other projects in relationship to the needs and desires of all the people, who pay for the recreational facilities, not of those who live around the fringes.

NUCLEAR FISSION DEVELOPMENTS

THE SUBJECT of atomic energy has been kicked around by writers and talkers some understanding, some not since 1945. Each new development is reported in minute detail.

At times, the lay reader gets a little misled. With words like "fission" and "fusion" and "radioactive" and "radioactivity" coming up in discussing conjunction this is not unusual.

Last week a new term came into the atomic jargon: "breeder reactor." If it were not descriptive of such an unusually important development in the science of atomic energy, we might well ignore it.

Actually, however, it is a term applied to one of the most important steps in the developing of atomic energy. It is as an atom furnace in which atomic fuel can be burned, producing both power and more fuel than is burned.

This may enable atomic scientists to clear one of their most difficult hurdles—the scarcity of atomic fuel. This would make widespread application of atomic energy to peaceful pursuits more rapid.

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Patching Up Squabbles

Court Hears Family Troubles

By RALPH GIBSON
Charlotte News Staff Writer
(Last in a series of three articles).

AN important share of the work done by the Domestic Relations Juvenile Court is, as the name would suggest, in the field of family trouble. The problems are somewhat the same as in Juvenile Court, but multiple.

Judge Willard I. Gatling's work, however, is lightened considerably by Counselor Walter C. Benson, who listens to complaints and is often able to get matters patched up before they reach the courtroom stage.

Counselor Benson's job—roughly comparable to that of a prosecutor—is unique in North Carolina. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Court is the only one in the state employing such an officer.

Offenses dealt with by the court include abandonment and non-support, inadequacy of support, assault (generally wife beating, illegitimate neglect of children, and some sex offenses). In some instances, married people who can't get along but have done nothing criminal come to the counselor and judge for advice.

They are usually referred to one of ten social workers assigned to the court by the Welfare Dept. In this way, the Welfare Dept. builds up a clientele of people who are finding that all they have to do to receive social advice is ask for it.

A TYPICAL domestic case is the bruised and angry wife who comes in and asks for a warrant for her husband's arrest.

But a warrant isn't that easy to get. Her counselor inquires why she wants it.

"He beats me," she says.

"Yes, he beats the rent."

"Yes, he pays the bills."

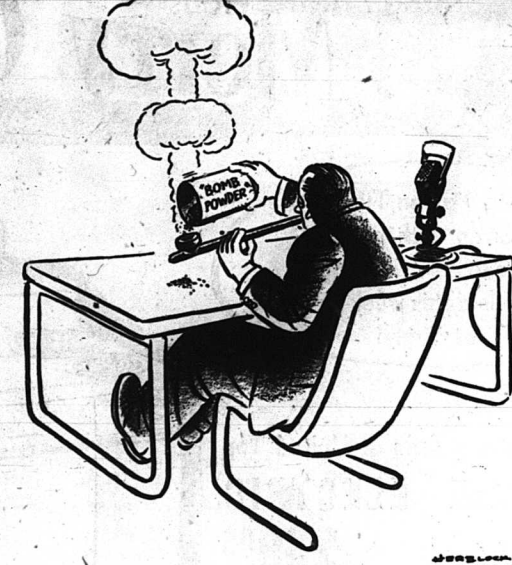
The complaint finally came out: Most of the cases are not that simple, but many of them are more than petty misunderstandings that can be solved with a little sound advice.

A WORRIED man came to Judge Gatling not long ago and told him his wife, who had just reached middle age, had undergone a complete personal change.

From a God-fearing, temperance-minded woman, she had changed her conduct to that of a hussy. He at first questioned the expenditure, but she straightened out.

Secretary Johnson's explanation showed that nothing was originally wrong with the woman, the psychological check revealed that she was passing through a period during which her nerves are prone to mental disturbances that can be treated medically.

She returned to herself when the treatment administered.



Patching Up Squabbles
Court Hears Family Troubles

That was a case in which the woman could have been confined to the Industrial Home or otherwise removed from the happy home she had dominated since she became a victim of middle age.

Emphasis is placed on bringing together the broken family. The court is able to do the job in most instances with the co-operation of the Health Dept., the Mental Hygiene Clinic, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Happily the court is able to report that adult sex crimes do not occur frequently. Most of these are cases of exhibitionism—adults peering on high school students. The usual offense is committed by a man who parks his automobile near a school and makes advances to homing school girls. Because a minor is involved, the case is handed to Judge Gatling.

It usually develops that the man needs psychological treatment. He is on probation until he reacts satisfactorily to the prescribed course. If he doesn't react, he may be jailed.

The \$80,000 the taxpayers invest is not foolishly spent then. The Domestic Relations & Juvenile Court may be something you only read about now but it is ready to serve you if you need it.

Quote, Unquote

FOOLISHNESS
In the "Try It" feature of this newspaper a few days ago there appeared a suggestion that I should deride foolishness. It was about being exercised. You were invited to stand flat-footed and bend over and touch the floor with the palms of your hands. And then to stand on a box and bend over still further.

There is no profit in such capers, except perhaps for the limner-makers and the medical profession who will be called in to make repairs in your spine, designed for such treatment, it would have hinges you need to enable you to reach the floor when necessary. This bending over stuff it fraught with many dangers and no benefits whatever.

DEFENSELESS SEX
Emboldened by their success in promoting the new look, the folks who make a plush living by making advertisements for the new look, are pushing something called the lady dangerous look. . . . If woman can say any more dangerously than the perfume advertisements and other national magazines, she had better be amended right away to permit every man to take a woman. —Bates Bease (LA) States-Times.

A reformer is a fellow who does real well for himself with his righteous, burning indignation over the fact that as many people are behaving like human beings. —Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial-Appeal.

These are the days when we rake the leaves today, look at the yard tomorrow and wonder why we did. —Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

Would a Roosevelt by any other name run as well? —Atlanta.

Merry-Go-Round
Junketing Senators In Bad Impression

WHEN Sen. Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma wrote a letter to the House of Defense Louis Johnson last Fall waiting a special Air Force plane to carry a Senate appropriations subcommittee through Europe, someone in Johnson's office said:

This caused the Senator from Oklahoma to challenge the use of Government airplanes by Secretary Johnson. Johnson and other members of the subcommittee, when the Senator pulled in his horns, and Senator Thomas got the plane for the other.

Now that Senator Thomas and colleagues have toured Europe—apparently on official business—it appears that Secretary Johnson's final impulse was right. He should have stuck to his guns.

The general results of the Thomas junket are an overdose of hospitality in Spain, and an underdose of hospitality in Sweden—thereby bringing relief complaints from Senator Johnson and the general taxpayers left upon Europe that U. S. Senators are ignoramus.

When we get this impression, here is an interview published by the highly reliable Paris edition of The New York Herald Tribune:

Secretary Johnson's final impulse was right. He should have stuck to his guns.

Thomas told the press, to illustrate the fact that his committee in Europe to see how the American taxpayers money was being spent. "She showed us the rooms Napoleon's mother lived in. Think of that! Mamie's name was Blanche and she lived in the same room as the Emperor's mother."

Now the wife, the chairman of the Senate committee did not know the name of the French defense minister, who is not Georges Bidault, but Rene French. M. Bidault is the French defense minister.

Paris Night Clubs—Good!

THOMAS went on to tell the press about the Paris night club and theater his committee had visited and named with approval the Lido, Bal Tabarin and Folies Bergere. "Oh, those were the President Roosevelt's new in-laws. Max Truitt, our Dictator Franco's pal, a New York forerunner."

"The chairman of the committee," he explained when

WASHINGTON
"CHINA'S big island of Formosa, which has been the subject of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek for the Nationalist Republic, is becoming another international hot potato."

Sen. Smith (R-N.Y.) stated the other day that Gen. Douglas MacArthur recently told him Formosa is essential to the security of America's Pacific defenses. The senator said he believed MacArthur would favor sending U. S. troops to Formosa to defend it against invasion. The Chinese Reds, by the way, are said to place occupation of Formosa by first Soviet troops.

And why should Formosa be essential to America's defenses? Well, the military experts say this island in hostile hands would flank the U. S. defensive line at that vital area, including our great base of operations in the Philippines.

Formosa has athwart the entrance to the China Sea, between China and the Philippines. It is only 200 miles from the mainland and is a strategic Philippine Island containing Manila and Uncle Sam's base at Cavite. Formosa is about 1,000 miles from Japan proper, and some 600 miles from Britain's big colony of Hong Kong.

THE GEOGRAPHY
Formosa is as large as the state of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. Its population is some 6,000,000. The island is oblong 200 miles long and 100 miles across at its greatest width. It has a good harbor and modern transportation facilities. It has mountains backbone upon which, including the highest peaks, are high snow-capped mountains.

This island was ceded to Japan at the end of the China war in 1895. It was not until 1945 that the U. S. took it over. The fact that they were very strict about foreign ships entering the harbor. Captains were fined or imprisoned for taking refuge there without permission even in a storm.

So there you have the island which is causing global heartburnings. At first glance it would seem that its occupation by the Communists would be a serious thing for America. However, the situation has not been viewed from both the political and the military angles, and on inquiry we encounter different points of view.

Some military greats insist that American control of Formosa is imperative. Other greats insist on the view that it would be a good thing for the United States to control the island but that it isn't essential since we have control of the sea and the strategically placed Formosa is widely regarded as an undesirable exposure of the hands-off program hold that occupation by the United States would raise the cry of imperialism. The effect on the Atlantic world would be bad.

Moreover the political situation is not so simple. For one thing there are many Communist sympathizers there, and it is reported that some 2,000 Communist agents are working for collaboration with the Reds. This has caused much bad feeling. A deterioration of the general economic conditions has been caused by the influx of Nationalist refugees. Many people are out of sympathy with the Nationalist Government.

Thus far Washington hasn't had a clear idea of the political situation. The Nationalist Government has many unofficial expressions pro and con. It is not clear whether it has reached a critical stage. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has an Army of some 300,000 men on the island, and he has American equipment.

Therefore close observers rather expect Washington to pursue a course of waiting to see what the strict about foreign ships entering the harbor. Captains were fined or imprisoned for taking refuge there without permission even in a storm.

REPLY
Mr. Kaiser's mass production of Liberty ships and later, of the Jeep carriers, which performed so poorly as to be possibly as profitable as any other material factors in winning the war. Our Government's touch has been in the building of the ship to film-film his right to build them. Our Government's touch has been in the building of the ship to film-film his right to build them.

The Maritime Commission and the Navy hooded down his suggestion. He finally sold the ship to small carriers, with Adm. Emory Elson's approval. He finally sold the ship to small carriers, with Adm. Emory Elson's approval.

Kaiser justly assailed his patriotism. His first ship sold the little carrier on the strength of a picture—full of blue sky and blue water, very pretty!—and a four-page article in a magazine, which which found its way to President Roosevelt's desk.

This project got started over the protests of sixteen admirals, and when the carriers finally hit satisfactory production, a step-up demand caused Mr. Kaiser to go into the steel business, with what was also was unprofitable. The exigencies of production had been mastered as the occasion demanded.

Mr. Kaiser is a man who thrives on controversy. He has a keen interest in as he conquers them, and some say he is going to thrive on the automobile. He has a keen interest in as he conquers them, and some say he is going to thrive on the automobile.

BETTER ENGLISH

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "You didn't use to go there."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "reproduce" in the sentence "The machine reproduces the record."?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? A. reword, B. wordy, C. word, D. wordless.

4. What does the word "arrogant" mean in the sentence "The arrogant man looked down on the other people."?

5. What is a word beginning with "re" that means "reproducing" or "copying"?

ANSWERS
1. Say, "You didn't go there formerly." 2. It is a noun, not a verb. 3. First, it is an intransitive verb. Second, it is a second syllable. 3. Arrogant. 4. Arrogant. 5. Reproduce.

Merry-Go-Round

THE battle of the admirals isn't over yet. Admiral Byrd's first another round last week while in the New York City. He is in a bad impression.

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WASTERS OF LAND AND WATER

TRAILERS in Eastern United States, conveying New York City's acute shortage of water, may complicate any "Oh, well; it is fortunate that this mild time is due to drought, for there is still time to save the now insufficient daily delivery of a little more than one billion gallons.

But the scientists, the engineers and the chiefs of the Geological and Biological Survey, are now warning of a pending drought.

Eastern America does still have a greater endowment of water than the Far West. Yet they also know that the great subterranean water, which once was a safeguard against drought is steadily being

lowered even in the East. It is being lowered by the removal of trees, and other vegetation which help to humidify the atmosphere and make rainfall normal.

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