

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

66th Anniversary Year

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THE ROAD BOND PROPOSAL

THE General Assembly, in considering Governor Scott's \$200,000,000 bond issue for rural road development, will be rendering the people of the state a major service if it provides the answers to two big questions:

1. Is deficit financing to be preferred over a pay-as-you-go program for building a better road system?
2. Could the job be done, in a somewhat longer period of time, perhaps, within the present framework of highway bond revenues plus the extra income from one more cent on the gasoline tax?

Until those questions are answered, the people of North Carolina cannot be asked to make an intelligent decision on the bond issue.

DEFICIT financing is an expensive way of doing business. The following figures Association show just how expensive:
Road bonds issued since 1921 \$115,000,000
Bonds retired \$2,000,000
Total \$117,000,000

In other words, North Carolina has paid almost as much in interest as it has in principal, just for the luxury of paying a debt over a period of 28 years.

The State has had to write checks for \$89,721,273 in interest which have been used to build more roads—almost as much again as the past bond issues provided.

And what have been the results, measured in concrete accomplishment? We have to look no further than the neighboring state of Virginia.

The Enokeville World-News, commenting editorially on the Scott proposal, recalls that Virginia once "looked with envy upon her neighbors to the south, for they were getting a system of roads rapidly."

But Virginia plunged along on a pay-as-you-go system with these results:
North Carolina, with an area of 50,665 square miles and a population of 2,000,000, has in all some 61,000 miles of non-urban roads of all types. Of this total, only 4,750 miles are classified as high-type pavement.

Another 30,000 miles is surfaced with soil, gravel or low-type bituminous paving, and the remainder, more than 26,000 miles, has no surface at all.

Virginia, on the other hand, having about 49,000 miles of highway, has about the state approximately 3,000,000 population. Of this total, more than 20,000 miles are classified as high-type pavement, 16,000 miles as low-type bituminous paving and the remaining 13,000 miles is unsurfaced.

Furthermore, as The World-News points out, because of the fact that Virginia has a built-up year-by-year, the State was able to keep abreast of technical developments and of changes in vehicle styles.

North Carolina, on the other hand, has spent more money than Virginia before it had streamlined automobiles and buses developed, and has had to pour out countless millions re-laying its roads and highways, widening curves, widening bridges, and otherwise correcting the deficiencies of those 1920 highways.

Finally, the building and maintenance of a State road system is a regular, recurring expense of government, just as regular and just as recurring as the operation of the school system or the paying of State employees' salaries.

It would appear obvious that North Carolina is not in far better condition today if (1) the money which has gone for interest on bonds had been applied to the roads, and (2) the heavy, duplicated

cost of modernizing our old highway had been kept at a minimum.

THE second question is somewhat more difficult to answer, which has been estimates of future revenues are not conclusive, and are subject to many factors. However, it is possible to get an approximate picture of highway fund revenues for the next four years.

The following estimate of money available in the next four years, admittedly somewhat more liberal than that of the Advisory Budget Commission, is still illustrative:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Motor Vehicle Fees, Title Registrations, Federal Aid, etc.



People's Platform

Our Friends The British

DALLAS

All of these items require a great deal of supervision and money, but a job done efficiently and quickly can save us thousands of dollars.

Of course, there are two ways of speeding up the aforementioned dilemma: make a political settlement with Russia; set up a system of world government to guarantee all nations against aggression.

THE People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten, and must be clearly legible.

AM enjoying your paper very much. It gets here about three or four weeks late. But still I am enclosing a clipping that the "Charlottesville News" found in your issue of January 28, 1949.

THE radio station which is called "Armed Forces Radio Service" (AFRS) stands for "Voice to Guano."

ALTERNATIVES TO A DILEMMA
Editors, The News:
I am a young man who hope that each nationality will eventually become part of the stew of a world undivided that once the job of rendering service to the world is done for not only the necessities of life but life itself as we Americans know it is out of the way, everyone can forge ahead with plans for constructive living.

THE PRESIDENT has been marked on the State Dept. calendar with a red circle. This is the date the diplomats are going to watch to see whether the Russians really want to get along with the U.S.

THE Russian people are not in a hurry to get along with the U.S. They are not in a hurry to get along with the U.S. They are not in a hurry to get along with the U.S.

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WASHINGTON
JOSEPH STALIN'S answers in the U.S. past few days—on questions President Truman—about internationalism as saying he's against it.

IT is again war? Yes. Is he for peace? Yes. He could hardly be expected to say the opposite of what the obvious answers to the questions asked him.

THE only unusual thing about what he said was the way in which he chose to say it.

IF Stalin had been anxious to patch up the split, and wanted to make a move in that direction, he could easily have done it in the way nations usually do business.

HE could have called in the American and other Western ambassadors, who have their embassies in Moscow for the past few years, and told them what he had to say.

INSTEAD, he by-passed them and piped out to the world a few statements in the form of a news conference sent him by a newsman, Kingsbury Smith of the International News Service.

NEWsmen in Moscow certainly sent questions to Stalin in the form of a news conference, but they've ignored. This time he chose to answer Smith's questions, which were harmless "Who?"

NO one can know precisely, since no one can read his mind. But it is possible to guess, no matter how obvious, would make a political settlement with Russia; set up a system of world government to guarantee all nations against aggression.

WASHINGTON
AFTER his defeat last November, Gov. Thomas Dewey of New York was counseling him on the dangers of continuing to run the State with test-re-race local candidates.

"YES," said the GOP Presidential nominee, smiling, "I know what you mean. They were pretty bad."

"BUT you should have been with me in 1946," Dewey said. "I would have been with you in 1946. I would have been with you in 1946. I would have been with you in 1946."

THE Republican National Committee, meeting in Omaha last week, gave Dewey a vote of confidence.

ALL ABOUT
NOTHING was said about the discredited back running for national and local offices. Nothing was said about nothing, was said of the national committee's stout determination to resist every change that has occurred since the era of William McKinley.

SO now it is Gov. Dewey's turn. Having deliberately accepted the consequences of a national audience with radio and television hook-ups, the New York Governor can

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LESSON IN SALESMANSHIP

WESTBROOK FEGLER will probably try to claim credit for it; but whatever the cause, something has happened to change Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's economic philosophy.

FOR years she has been preaching the most dreary of U.S. liberalism, sincere, no doubt, but still hawking theories which were not consistent with reality.

WHAT she had to say recently on the U. S. Government's domestic policy was so unusual that it prompted Columnist David Lawrence to devote practically his entire day's output to a quotation of her remarks.

HERE what Mrs. Roosevelt wrote, and Lawrence quoted, recently:

IT is essential to a high level of employment that it be profitable for capital to be invested not just in an enterprise but in an enterprise which has a future.

THE preservation of the credit of our Government is of vital importance to us and to the world as a whole, and while I believe there are many things in our program, as outlined by the President, that are essential and will help to bring us prosperity, I think even the best of them should be put off until we attain the objectives that we have before us.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

FEBRUARY 7 has been marked on the State Dept. calendar with a red circle. This is the date the diplomats are going to watch to see whether the Russians really want to get along with the U.S.

ON that date the United States, France and Britain begin negotiations with Russia for an Austrian peace treaty and a barometer of the cold war.

SO far the Russians have been talking peace but acting tough. They are not in a hurry to get along with the U.S. They are not in a hurry to get along with the U.S.

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Chinese Red Visits U. S. Consulate

THE State Dept. just received an awkward cable from the American Consul General Angus Ward in Mukden, China.

CONSUL Ward called that American citizens, American property and American diplomats in Communist China are being treated with a remarkable good treatment at the hands of Chinese Communists.

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Capital Clash

THE Republicans who wanted the Lincoln Day dinner invitation for Governor Dewey were Michigan's Communist Party and his close friend, GOP National Chairman Hugh Scott. Other Republicans are irked because of the invitation.

THE Republican women of the District of Columbia, who are sponsoring the "Power Talk," have heard that many Republicans on Capitol Hill will boycott it. That would be something to their own advantage and the advantage of their party.