

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1949

## THE SENATE VETO

The side issues involved in the most recent Senate filibuster have diverted public attention from the basic question: Shall a fractional minority be permitted to block any action by the U. S. Senate? Obviously it should not. Yet under the present Senate rules, that is absolutely no way a majority, even an overwhelming majority, can bring a measure before the Senate of the United States. That is an utterly incomprehensible state of affairs in the highest deliberative body of the greatest nation in the world.

It is hard to separate the civil rights legislation from the filibuster question, but it must be so separated if we are to understand the real issue since the 1917-18. In 1917, U. S. Senate adopted former Rule 22 which provides that, upon petition of at least sixteen Senators, the presiding officer calls for a vote on whether cloture shall be applied "to any pending measure." If two-thirds of the Senators present vote for cloture, each Senator is thereafter limited to one hour. Cloture has been successfully applied only once since the 1917-18.

In 1919, through a ruling by Senate Presiding Officer Vandenberg, the effect of Rule 22 was completely nullified. There was a motion from the floor to take up an anti-poll tax measure. Vandenberg stated a filibuster. An effort to invoke cloture was made.

Vandenberg ruled that a motion to consider a measure was not "pending" under the effect of Rule 22 did not apply. In the Senate, means there could be no way to stop a filibuster against a motion to take up a measure.

The latest filibuster was against an effort to make Rule 22 apply to a motion, as

## MINIMUM WAGE MEASURE

Industries will arbitrarily be moved upward. Its greatest effect will be felt in the South where wages have traditionally been lower than in other sections of the country. This is not a matter of degree, but it is a stark reality, and the readjustments in the South would be immeasurably greater than in the East, Mid-West, or Far West.

For instance, Commissioner of Labor Forrest Shuford estimates that some 65,000 workers will be raised substantially in North Carolina alone in such industries as the textile, furniture, manufacturing, beverage products, logging camps and sawmills, planing and plywood mills, apparel and other finished cloth products, nonmetallic mining and quarrying, stonemasonry and refractory. These industries would thus be placed at an unfavorable competitive position.

It is undoubtedly true that the present 40-cent minimum is low, in view of 1949 price levels. Still, the proposed legislation would be harmful for these reasons:

1. The 75-cent level is too high, and an immediate shock to that figure, rather than a gradual increase, would create serious dislocation.
2. By exempting retail establishments of less than \$500,000 annual volume, it would impose a hardship on the larger stores which could not bear in times of a bouillabaisse labor market.
3. The definition of covered industries is too broad, and the Secretary's authority too vast.
4. Such "rioters" always go up and never go down. In time of recession, an artificially high wage base would bankrupt many of our companies.

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## HIGHWAY DEATH TRAPS

A LETTER elsewhere on this page reveals that more than 1,000 automobiles are stranded from the highways as totally unsafe under the auto inspection program have since been brought out of the junk yards and the woods, and driven on the highways.

The critics of auto inspection, who became irritated with certain phases of the enforcement, forgot all about this when they forced through the General Assembly a measure to repeal the inspection. They forgot that the inspection law was slowly but surely eliminating death-traps from the highways in addition to keeping other later models in a good condition of repair.

It may be, of course, that some of the junkyard owners are in an accident. Chances are that they will, and that Tar Heels will suffer death or injury because of them.

There have been several tragic reminders of the mechanical defects can play in automobile accidents. One of the latest involved an accident near Boone. A State Patrolman had stopped a truck which had only one headlight, no tail light, no driver's light, no signal light, no clearance light. The driver was given a ticket.

The truck went along its way. A motorist, meeting the truck on the highway, was blinded by the truck's headlights. His automobile crashed into the truck. The truck driver was killed.

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## Who's The Odd-Looking Guy Carrying The Banner?



## People's Platform

### A Plea For Auto Inspection

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Petty conveniences, ease of living, pleasures, luxuries, that the Government can provide, have no solidity, are transitory, but sterling character lives on throughout the centuries. That man who has his difficulties smoothed out, his problems solved, by the Government, is less a man than if he had done those things for himself.

A Government that does for the people what the people can reasonably do for themselves is tyrannical and vicious.

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It was the opinion of the committee that public sentiment back home must be crystallized if the inspection system is to be saved. The inspection law was a part of a carefully planned and prepared safety program. It resulted in a 20 per cent decrease in fatalities on the highways of our State in two years. The State advanced from the lowly position of being the second highest in fatalities to the second lowest in that short period.

I am sure that I can count on you in this emergency.

—H. KALT BRAXTON,  
Vice Chairman State Committee for Traffic Safety, Inc.

## Appreciation Voiced

ON behalf of the Heart Association of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, I wish to express our appreciation for the excellent publicity and support you gave us in our Heart Drive.

—GEORGE K. CUTLER.

## Man Must Build Himself

THE railroads maintain their roadway, and it seems to be common sense that the truck should, too.

—PRESLEY N. JACKSON.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THIRTY-NINE former Senators and Congressmen are drawing retirement pay from the Government. Several are independently wealthy, but many are not. They are living on their heads. Many others fully deserve pensions for their long service to their country. However, the greed of those who don't deserve pensions is likely to hurt those who do.

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(Second Article in a Series)

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## Street Signs Needed

CHARLOTTE

WELL, learn the details of the WELLS plan, come, maybe Friday, from the State.

The pact is a military alliance worked out by the United States and Great Britain and France, and it is to be made the North Atlantic.

It is a double purpose: To make the alliance militarily strong that they not only can withstand any military aggression, but even discourage one from striking.

Communists claim its real purpose is to get ready for an attack on Russia.

The pact will not become a fact at all unless the U. S. Senate approves it. The Senate may take months.

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News on the pact, interpretations, half-spitting on the meaning of it, and a temperature, heated debate, editorial, radio discussion.

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## British Medicine

(Second Article in a Series)

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## The \$64 Question

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