THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON.....Publisher
J. E. DOWD.....General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH.....Executive Editor
C. A. McKNIGHT.....Editor

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1949

ROLL OUT THE BARREL

THE $50,000,000 school building bond issue will probably slide through the Legislature without much friction, and may be approved by the people of North Carolina at the next election. But in its present form, the bill is one of the most preposterous examples of the pork-barrel technique ever to get serious consideration by the North Carolina General Assembly.

There are only two good arguments why the State of North Carolina, at this time, should invade the local school building field:

1. To give greater proportionate aid to those counties which need help most urgently, and which are too poor, and legitimately so, to finance their own school buildings;

2. To give some central planning agency, State Board of Education or otherwise, a degree of control over the design and location of school buildings so as to eliminate the small, inefficient community schoolhouses in which it is patently impossible to afford the youngsters the same facilities as would be possible in a big, consolidated school.

But the present $50,000,000 school building program will do neither. It will merely dole out to each county in the state the flat sum of $500,000—no matter how many children it has, how poor or how wealthy it is, what condition its school buildings are in, what effort it has made on its own behalf to provide good school buildings.

It recognizes neither merit nor need, makes no distinction between initiative and shiftlessness, and doesn't purport to remedy the basic trouble with our school buildings—the fact that they are too small, too numerous, and too widely scattered.

If the bill proposed that the money simply be allocated on a per-school-child basis it would be infinitely more sensible, even if that system failed to recognize ability to pay.

As it is, we will have such ridiculous extremes as this:

Mecklenburg County, which has 30,916 children to provide school buildings for, will get the piddling amount of $16.25 per child.

Camden County, which has only 1,035 children to educate, will get the huge sum of $483.09 per child — *or more than 29 times as much per child as Mecklenburg.*

And the most astounding angle at all is that Camden County — which would receive $500,000 under the pie-cutting—needs only $15,000 to bring its buildings up to the minimum standard prescribed by the recent Education Commission report, whereas Mecklenburg's accumulated needs run into the millions.

Furthermore, Mecklenburg County, which bears approximately 15 per cent of the State's general fund expense, will pay for about $7,500,000 of the $50,000,000 bond issue principal (not counting interest) for the privilege of getting back the magnificent sum of $500,000. This county's share of the interest alone on the state bond issue will be much greater than the money it gets back.

If the General Assembly is merely interested in a Scott-free scheme for redistributing the wealth on a sort of public spirited socialistic basis, then all right. But let's don't do it under the guise of building school buildings for our children. Let's be frank about it.

FORSYTH PONDERS ABC SYSTEM

IF THE recommendations of Winston-Salem's influential Committee of 100 are followed, the people of Forsyth County, Winston-Salem, or both will have an opportunity to vote on the question of establishing the ABC System.

The Committee of 100 is a unique organization in these parts. It is composed of 100 public spirited citizens who have banded together to work for good government. No member is permitted to hold any kind of political office.

The Committee, through its executive committee, has been studying the liquor control question for many weeks, and has accumulated a huge volume of information from ABC and dry counties on the respective merits of the two systems. The 67 to 8 majority by which it approved an election on the establishment of ABC stores indicates its strong preference for the ABC system over the present bootlegging and lawlessness.

From our vantage point in Mecklenburg—where we have been able to compare the relative merits of Prohibition and controlled sale—we venture the hope that the people of Forsyth County will be permitted to vote on the matter. It is their own problem and they should be permitted to settle it in the way they think best.

One thing is certain—they will hear both sides of the question. *The Winston-Salem Journal*, the morning paper, and *The Winston-Salem Sentinel*, the afternoon paper, have been engaged in a running battle for months. Sanford Martin, editor of *The Journal*, is a Prohibitionist, and his page propounds the Dry theme; Pete Ivey, editor of *The Sentinel*, is a staunch believer in the ABC system and tells his readers so in no uncertain terms. Both papers have done an excellent job of explaining the opposite views.

If, in the course of events, an election is held, the decision will be made by a well informed electorate and thus will be in the finest democratic tradition.

REGISTER . . . THEN VOTE

THE Mecklenburg County Board of Elections has shown commendable zeal in making extensive plans for the new city-wide registration which starts April 2.

The registration poses a tremendous problem. All of the old residents of the City will be required to sign up again because their former precincts have been rearranged. In addition, some 15,000 new residents, who came into the city on Jan. 1 when the city limits were extended, will have to get their names on the books.

To handle this great volume of work, the Board of Elections has worked out a schedule which should make it convenient for every single voter to register. In addition to the three regular Saturdays, April 2, 9 and 16, registrars will be available at their homes in the afternoons and evenings of certain week-days.

The Board has made extensive plans for publicizing the registration schedule, and informing the voters of the new precinct arrangement.

All of this energy is for one very simple purpose: to get as many bona fide voters on the new city registration books as possible with the minimum of confusion and inconvenience to the voters.

But once we get a big new registration, the job will be only half done. The most important objective is to find some way to make those same people turn out on election days.

So far neither the Board of Elections, nor any other organization, has found a sure-fire way to make the American voters exercise their right of the free ballot. But we haven't given up hope.

From The New York Times

A CAROLINA TREE GROWS

NATIVE orators have facetiously described North Carolina as "a valley of humility between two mountains of pride, Virginia and South Carolina." The pride of the state of the long-leaf pine must be swelling these days, for it is achieving notable gains among progressive Southern states.

There has been a long and continuous flourishing of the tree of liberalism from which the state is now beginning to gather fruit. "It is time," says Governor Scott, "for North Carolina to stop dodging the Negro question." He pledges himself to see that "the minority race has a fair opportunity." North Carolina abandoned the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting thirty years ago. It was one of the first Southern states to break the barrier against the employment of Negroes by the municipalities, with its uniforming of Negro policemen.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has nourished the tree. Much that the South and the nation know about regionalism it learned from Howard W. Odum and a brilliant coterie of researchers in the social sciences at the University. Rupert B. Vance studied the population of the South and its movements and told the country that here was the seed-bed of its people. The University of North Carolina Press published books about the South by Southern authors, like Mr. Daniels, "discovering" the infinite variety of life below the Potomac. Sharecroppers, farmers, landlords and workers at many odd jobs came vividly to life in stories that told the region, sometimes with the simplicity of a Chekhov, how its people lived. For two decades and more the University at Chapel Hill has been the dynamic center of a Southern cultural renaissance chiefly concerned with the workings of Southern social forces.

Now Governor Scott, in an old phrase of the itinerant farmer, is "aimin' to move." His "Go Forward" program calls for new schools, rural electrification and for diversified agriculture. Here is a program worth watching as its pacemakers stride through the "Valley."

We note the Mecklenburg legislators have introduced a bill to prohibit fortune tellers, palm readers, and clairvoyance. They must have meant clairvoyants. If there's anything we need in these parlous times, it's more clairvoyance.

Mrs Gladys Jenkins of the Association For Family Living says children learn friendliness from their parents. And other things, Mrs Jenkins; many other things.—*Joplin (Mo.) Globe.*

"House broken" used to apply only to well behaved dogs. Now it is applied to anyone who buys a house. — *Grenada County (Miss.) Weekly.*

'Anybody Here Want To Cast The First Lump?'

Story Of An Experiment

British Doctors Work Harder

By EDWIN SHANKE
Associated Press Staff Writer
(Third of a Series)

LONDON

THE British refer to the start of their sweeping experiment in socialized medicine as "The Appointed Day." That was July 5, 1948. What has happened since? How is the program working?

The anticipated rush of patients developed. Waiting rooms were crowded. Hospitals were even more pressed for beds. Demands for free glasses, free dentures, free hearing aids and even free wigs swamped the medical men—and the manufacturers.

For the patient the golden day was at hand. The Ministry of Health underestimated the demand by tens of millions of dollars.

Much of the scramble, a Health Ministry spokesman says, is a hangover from the pre-July 5 days—a lack of facilities which still will take years to overcome and an accumulation of medical needs which many people couldn't afford before.

After July 5 every man, woman and child from King to lowly charwoman had the right to ask a doctor for free treatment and free medicine—provided the doctor had contracted to work in the program. Anyone who insisted on private care had to pay for his medicines.

When a patient went to the doctor for the first time, he took a white card from the Post Office. He was entered on the doctor's list as a public patient.

The card was sent to the local health executive council. There are 138 of these councils throughout the country. One part of the card goes into the doctor's file for accounting purposes. The other portion goes into the patient's file and formed part of his "case history." In London, he became one of 3,049,000 registrees.

The Health Ministry says these lists are inflated at the moment. Many patients registered with more than one doctor. Many already enrolled under the old national health insurance scheme re-registered. The lists are being weeded out.

Once registered, the patient just calls on the doctor whenever he feels he needs medical attention.

HAS NO FINANCIAL WORRIES

HE doesn't have to worry how high the doctor's bill will be. He doesn't have to save for the coming baby. The doctor gets his 18 shillings annually for each patient on his list, no matter how often the patient calls.

The State does the bookkeeping. The doctor doesn't have to worry about bad risks. But his work professional and clerical—has soared. The British Medical Journal quoted from a typical doctor's report: "No doubt treatment of trivial ills is being asked for on an unprecedented scale."

On the other hand, many doctors report patients are very considerate of their time. Some comment "it doesn't seem right to get all of this for nothing."

Ministry of Health officials agree there have been cases of "frivolous and unnecessary use" of the health services. "But who's to say whether the complaints are trivial", a spokesman added.

There undoubtedly is a percentage of abuse because the scheme is free.

"They are out to get as many tonics, drugs and baby foods as they can," says a Medical Association spokesman. "That puts an added burden on the doctor and undoubtedly detracts from his professional time."

The British Medical Journal published a classic letter from a doctor which illustrates the point.

"Dear Dr. X," the letter read. "Many thanks for sending permit to buy vacuum flask. I should be grateful if you will kindly send me permits as below: (1) Surgical shoes. (2) Bi-focus glasses (my reading glasses were stolen from a rest room). (3) Artificial teeth.

"When not too busy, perhaps you would call in, if if further explanation is necessary? So sorry to trouble you.

"P.S. Since leaving off cow's milk, the indigestion is very much reduced. Condensed milk suits fine. But the allocation is insufficient. My grocer says 'ask your Dr. for a permit, and the food office will supply'. I should like 6 tins per month. So please: (4) permit for cond. milk."

Doctors complain about the amount of paper work involved in the scheme. One remarked, "The best medical invention of the last century has been the ball point pen."

EFFECT BELIEVED GOOD

THE Health Ministry believes the overall increase of medical work for the doctors is good for the nation's health. "We only are beginning to uncover the potential demands and needs for medical care," a Health Ministry spokesman says. "The patient is being looked at from the standpoint of what he needs on medical grounds and not what he can afford."

The ministry points particularly to the uneven distribution of doctors. Some areas have more than they need. Others are under-doctored. The Ministry is seeking to adjust that.

"When a young doctor starts out in practice," the Health Ministry explains, "he reports first to the Medical Practices Committee. Certain areas are designated closed. If he registers on the list as a public doctor, the committee tells where he can go. If he wants to engage in private practice, he can start where he chooses. With time, the availability of doctors should level out."

In addition, the Ministry has set up a "special inducements fund." Out of this, a doctor can be paid more if he goes to areas where he is especially needed or to districts which are considered unattractive generally. The Ministry feels the present rush is exaggerated.

"Knowing that the scheme was coming into operation, many patients delayed going to the doctors and dentists until they could get free care," a spokesman says.

"Besides, many patients never bothered to go to a doctor with complaints they thought trivial. Now that they can get expert medical attention free, they're bound to make more visits to the doctor."

As the scheme settles down and case histories build up in the files, each new application for special appliances, or for example, spectacles will be carefully examined. If they are for replacements due to carelessness the patient will pay.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

New Treaty Covers Unprecedented Area

WASHINGTON

THE North Atlantic pact, most important international agreement since President Monroe set forth the Monroe Doctrine, will be released to the public later this week. Meanwhile, it can be revealed that the pact embraces all of Europe and the United States, plus the Atlantic Ocean north of the Tropic of Cancer.

In this huge area, no aggressor nation, in the present instance presumably Russia, can attack any ship, airplane, or territory of the North Atlantic allies without automatically incurring the joint opposition of all the other allies.

Furthermore, should Russia attack U. S. forces in the American zone of Berlin, the other signatory nations would be obligated to side with the United States. Actually, the American zone of Berlin is not mentioned in the treaty, but it is included in the geographical area.

Also included in the geographical area is most of Mexico and French North Africa.

The pact does not call for an automatic declaration of war. Furthermore, it preserves the structure of the United Nations and provides for consultation under it. Nevertheless, article 5, the most important part of this historical treaty, states categorically:

"The parties agree that an armed attack upon any one of the signatories constitutes an armed attack upon all, whether the attack takes place in Europe or North America."

Article 7 also states: "If such an attack takes place, each will exercise the right of self-defense recognized by international law and each party to the agreement will act under article 51 of the United Nations charter to report the attack to the Security Council and go to the defense of each other."

"An armed attack," it is also stated, "means any intrusion on the territory of any nation in Europe or in North America."

Summary Of Pact

A BRIEF summary of the historic treaty follows:

Art. 1—Lays down the principle of peaceful settlement of international differences.

Art. 2—Specifies that the signers shall collaborate economically as well as politically and militarily.

Arts. 3 and 4—Outline the elemental principles—after which the signers will mutually assist each other and consult with each other.

Art. 5—Quoted above, invites recognition of the fact that an attack directed against one among them is an attack directed against all, and asks them to take immediate action.

Art. 6—Sets forth the description of what constitutes an armed attack and gives the geographical limits in which the attack must take place—north of the Tropic of Cancer.

Art. 7—Defines the relation between the Atlantic pact and the United Nations, and recognizes the supreme authority of the Security Council for maintaining the peace of the world.

Art. 8—Declares that the pact recognizes the validity of existing international obligations to which the signers of the pact may already be obligated.

Art. 9—Describes plans to render the terms of the pact effective.

Art. 10 and 11—Contain the usual final clauses relative to the admission of eventual other signers and the duration and ratification of the pact.

75-Cent Minimum Wage

ONLY insiders know how close the 75 cents-an-hour minimum-wage bill came to being ambushed in the House Labor Committee. It was finally reported out only after Chairman John Lesinski of Michigan and fellow Democrat Graham Barden of North Carolina exchanged verbal hand grenades, behind closed doors.

The two Democrats who rescued the minimum-wage bill were C. M. Bailey of West Virginia and Hugo Sims of South Carolina. Three other Democrats—John Wood of Georgia, Wingate Lucas of Texas, and Barden—voted with nine Republicans against the 75-cent minimum wage. After it was over, Barden voted with the thirteen Democrats and one Republican, Brehm of Ohio, in a 15-8 ballot to report the bill. Wood and Lucas still voted not, along with four Republicans. Other Republicans voted "present."

Before the showdown, however, Barden angrily charged Lesinski with "trying to buy Congressman Sims' vote."

"I don't know what you mean," shot back Lesinski. "We're not offering concessions to anyone to vote with us. Everyone on this committee is entitled to express and vote his views. I haven't attempted to influence the gentleman from South Carolina."

North Carolina Vs. South Carolina

SIMS, a former combat paratrooper, didn't seem to need a spokesman. Looking squarely at Barden of North Carolina, Sims of South Carolina snapped: "I have been for a strong minimum-wage bill from the start. The record will show it. Even before we started hearings I predicted the bill would pass Congress.

"As a Southerner, I would like to add that higher minimum wages for working people is one of the solutions to economic problems in the South."

Barden upbraided Lesinski for not inviting him to off-the-record caucuses on minimum-wage strategy.

"I resent your dictatorial attitude—the way you're trying to put this legislation over behind our backs," Barden challenged. "As ranking majority member of this committee, I had a right to be called in and told what is going on."

"I phoned your office and your secretary told me you were out of town," explained Lesinski.

"Yes, I know," retorted the North Carolinian, "but you didn't tell my secretary about these strategy you've been holding. You could have invited me through him if you really wanted to have me present."

Later, Barden, an able Congressman, apologized for the outburst and joined with the committee majority in finally voting out the minimum-wage bill.

Marquis Childs

Time For Action

WASHINGTON.

FOR at least two years, the State Dept. has been planning to take over administration of the American zone of occupied Germany. The State Dept. planners have so long been on the outside looking in that they cannot bring themselves to believe this miracle will come to pass.

Yet once again they are dusting off and refurbishing the organization charts and the detailed plans. And this time there is some reason to hope that civilians may ultimately determine and administer German policy, which has up until now been largely determined by the military.

One reason for the new hope is the presence in the State Dept. of Robert Murphy at the head of a division of German and Austrian affairs. Murphy has been sitting for four years at Gen. Clay's right hand in Berlin. He knows the problems thoroughly and he has the confidence of military men who would, of course, continue to have an important role in the occupation.

Whether Murphy in Washington and a civilian administrator in Berlin could reverse the trend of the past year is a question. Decisions have been taken by former Under Secretary of Army William Draper in the Pentagon Building and Clay in Berlin that seem to commit this country for a long way into the future.

There is a growing and unhappy conviction in this country that U. S. policy means the return of German industry to former Nazi owners. This seemed to be confirmed in the recent announcement of the twelve Germans nominated to supervise the great industrial complex of the Ruhr.

Several of these men served the Nazis as managers of German steel and coal when Hitler was pushing every blast furnace to the utmost limit for rearmament. It may be argued that they are not technically the former "owners" of German industry. Nor are they members of the Krupp family.

But often, in a large corporate structure, management exerts more influence than ownership. The answer of Clay and his advisers is that only men with management and technical skill can restore Ruhr production.

What is little known in this country, however, is that the German trade unions sent in their own list of nominees who were comparatively free of the taint of having worked for the Nazis. There are indications that the State Dept. noted this list.

It is a significant fact that the twelve men nominated by the Bi-Zonal Economic Council have not yet been approved by the three military governors—Gen. Clay and his opposite British and French numbers. The loud opposition from the U. S. may have something to do with the delay since Clay announced on Feb. 26 that the decision would be taken in a week or ten days.

The time has come, it seems to me, to organize American public opinion behind a really democratic policy for Germany; a policy which will win the allegiance of the German people and not just a few managers at the top. There are signs that Secretary of State Dean Acheson wants to institute such a policy.

A nationwide conference on foreign policy would be extremely useful to Acheson and to the country. Such a conference would bring together representatives of labor, the farm organizations, the co-operatives and a wide band of independent groups representing important sections of public opinion.

The first move before such gathering would be to review the steps that have led to the present impasse. Then it would be the duty of the conference to formulate a positive approach to the German problem. Acheson himself would in all probability want to come and address such a representative assembly.

The conference would not necessarily be restricted to Germany. The whole course of U. S. foreign policy would be reviewed and appraised. The educational value of such a meeting, in terms of public opinion and understanding, could not be estimated.

Too long we have been put off with guesses and half answers. What is more, no policy-maker, however strong his intentions, can move much beyond public opinion. The kind of gathering proposed here could be expected to back Acheson in a new approach to Germany.

DeWitt MacKenzie

Big Assignment

WASHINGTON

THE immediate future of stricken Nationalist China may rest largely on the sagacity and personal influence of her new premier, Gen. Ho Ying-Chin.

Gen. Ho has been picked by Acting President Li Tsung-Jen to negotiate peace with the conquering Communist forces. Ho still to select a cabinet which will meet the approval of the National legislature. If he succeeds in that then he will be ready to embark on the all but hopeless task of trying to gain concessions from victors who are demanding unconditional surrender. His job won't be made easier by the fact that he is on the Communist list of war criminals.

That's a tough assignment, but Ho is a man of varied experience and has seen tough times before. The 60-year-old general is a former Minister of Defense and a former Chief of Staff. In 1947 he represented China on the United Nations Military Committee at Lake Success.

Ho long was regarded as President Chiang Kai-Shek's right hand and, next to the Generalissimo, is said to have more influence with Nationalist China's military leaders than any other man. This influence is the key to his appointment, and for three reasons:

1. Although Chiang Kai-Shek "retired" and left his capital on Jan. 21 he still has remained dominant in military affairs and this has split Nationalist China politically. Acting President Li Tsung-Jen is seeking to win control of the Army.

2. A unified military command might put the Nationalists in a better position to negotiate peace.

3. The Communist armies on the north bank of the Yangtze River are reportedly pushing preparations for a crossing, to carry the war further south in China. The Nationalists must either be prepared to meet this new offensive, or to surrender.

Obviously the chances of the Nationalists to gain many concessions are slight. Moreover, their chances of standing off the Red forces are slight. Still, Gen. Ho's great influence with the Nationalist military chiefs is bound to interest the Communist leaders, since the Red command might rather drive a bargain for control of southern China than wage a further protracted war.

Naturally the question of what the Generalissimo finally will command is a matter of speculation. However, some close observers believe there is a chance that the might compromise on the formation of a coalition Communist-Nationalist Government for southern China. That is, they might adopt the procedure followed in countries like Czechoslovakia where the coalition wheeled back into an outright Communist government.

Perhaps Gen. Ho wouldn't even agree to carry back to Nanking a suggestion to his government. However, I had a long talk with him while he was in America and he told me he had got some new ideas—that there were other ways of getting results than by force.

"During the past twenty years of my fight against materialists in China," he told me, "the method I used was force against force, and organization against organization. But it did not occur to me that I should fight with an idea against an idea. I have come to the very firm conclusion that I must fight an idea with an idea."

Of course the General in making that statement wasn't contemplating any such situation as has now arisen. I mention it as indicating that he believed ideas were better than bullets. It will be interesting to see whether that philosophy enters into the peace negotiations—if Ho ever gets that far.

BETTER ENGLISH

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "He spoke very friendly."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "physique"?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Extravaganza, evangelical, eyet.

4. What does the word "puerile" mean?

5. What means "to instruct by question and answer"?

ANSWERS

1. "He spoke 'a very kindly' is preferable. 2. Pronounce fi-sek, i as in it, e as in me, accent last syllable. 3. Eyelet. 4. Childish, as contrasted with mature. "It was a puerile remark." 5. Catechize.