

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1949

COUNTY OPTION PRESERVED

ANY compromise on the liquor question which satisfies both Rep. Shelley Caveness of Gulford and Rep. L. A. Martin of Davidson must indeed have been conceived in wisdom. For those two gentlemen are poles apart in their thinking about the al-

echol problem.

The wets and the drys had about reached a stalemate over municipal ABC elections last week, each having about the as me number of votes in the House. It appeared that the battle would continue until the very end of the session, making it necessary that each side have its full forces on hand at each meeting of the House to guard against any sudden move by the other.

other.

Under the compromise, the various municipalities can hold ABC elections only in the event Commissioners of their counties fail to call county-wide elections within 60 days after the act is ratified. Caveness apparently agreed because it would definitely provide elections, either county or city Marina apparently make one of the County of the c

han the Wets.

Actually, the compromise doesn't settle
the basic question: Where does local option
segin and where does it end?

The News believes in the principle of

PATTERN OF VIOLENCE

In areas where there is no established law it is permissible for an organization of eitiens to mete out justice. The South, in the months following the War Between the States, was such an area, the West of the Gold Rush days was such an area.

Cold Rush days was such an area.

And in the South the Ku Klux Klan
sprang up; in the West it was the vigilantes. Both of these organisations served
to maintain law in their sarty days; both
later degenerated into lawlessness themselves. (Ivilized citismes so on refracted
their support of these groups and placed
their faith in newly established law enforcement officers. The Klan became an
outaw organization and has remained one
to this day. The vigilantes disappeared.
But remnants of the militosochw which

to this day. The vigilantes disappeared. But remnants of the philosophy which gave rise to the Kian still remain. The Kian itself is still bed, thinking persons will want no part of its videous activities, but the philosophy which launched-vitati man may rightfully last the law into his own hands-remains in a time when the situation which caused it to flourish k no more. It is this philosophy — mistkern-ty applied — which has established, in the opinion of some, a "pattern of violence" in the South.

The Southern Regional Council, a group of co-operative organisations on the regional, state and local level, has listed South in
1946. These crimes and intimidations range
from 'praching and shootings' to floggings
and cross burnings.

local option for controlling the sale of alcoholic beverages. But just as we cannot
accept the state referendum, we dislike the
city or town election. Once you leave the
county line you invite trouble.

By giving, County Commissioners 60 days
to call such elections, the county unit systems is largely preserved. Tel. in all, platness, it must be bounded all slong the
right to call ABC elections, with or without petition of the volers.

The fact that more county boards have
not done so reflects that strange double
standard used by the Drys. They insist on a
statewide election on the grounds, that the
people "have a right to yote". They oppose
county elections, however, forgétting all
about that same "right to yote". The
son is clear: with the Dry is an expedient.
They think they can carry a State election, fear they will lose certain county
elections, and they apply pressure accordingly.

Perhaps the county elections called un-

elections, and they apply pressure accordingly.

Perhaps the county elections called under the threat of city elections will all be won by the Drys; maybe the Wels will win a few. In either event, the people within the various counties will have had the opportunity to decide the question for themselves instead of having it decided for them by outsiders, and all in the best local option tradition.

ad extreme example of a general lack of regard for the individual. The climate wijch produces lynchings is one of daily insult, intimidation and the lesser forms of violence, directed against a whole segment of the population. The prevalence of auch incidents as those listed shows that such a climate still exists."

climate still exists."

The Council says "Legislators and even Governots refuse to act; City and County officials enter into allent conspiracy with terroristic elements; sheriffs shrug off their responsibilities; policemen degrade the law they are sworn to enforce."

The group adds that lawlessness is punished swiftly in much of the South, "but where this is not true, the failure is one of the government."

In this indictment, we will agree in part.
But we believe that the Council, in singling
out law enforcement, is minimizing the
importance of breeding grounds of this
"pattern of violence."

"pattern of violence."

Their secondary recommendation — that a more earnest effort to meet the needs of the people, in housing, health care, education and public services, will do much "io remove the tensions that breed violence"— seems to us to be more important than a blanket indictment of the South's law enforcement groups.

Policemen as well as criminals are prod-Policemen as well as criminals are prod-ucts of their environment. And until this environment becomes one in which the dignity of the individual is recognized as of the utmost importance, law enforcement officers—no matter how determined — will not be able to bring to justice the pertators of crimes of intimidation.

THE 'MUNOZ DOCTRINE'

If THE novel and unprecedented "Munox Doctrine" just adopted by the Puerto Rican Senate really becomes embodied in the thinking of the Puerto Rican people, it is going to accomplish at least two things.

1. It will eliminate the chief sport of Puerto Rican politicians—baiting the Unit-ed States; and

ed States; and
2. It will attend then the big hand of
Uncle Sam in world affairs.
None who has not lived among the
Poster Richard can realize what a revolution to the state of the state

medders' by Southern politicians.

For many years, Summer and Winter, before elections and after, the Puerto Rieman newspaper readers and radio listeners have been hammered at and pecked at by politicians of all descriptions who seized upon Yanqui imperialismo was fair game for their ire and hysteria. Fortunately, the people didn't swallow much b'f the stuff.

Now comes the "Munzo Poetrica" poetrica"

eople didn't swallow much of the stuff.

Now comes the "Munoz Doctrine", so amed because it reflects the thinking of i. S.-educated, hulking Luis Munoz-Marin, ow undisputed political boss of the Em-

landers or continentals. It seems that the recent Hayana Con-ference of Thirteen Latin-American Na-tions bent an ear to a couple of discredit-ed Nacionalist leaders from Puerto Rico who lamented the continued "colonial sta-tum" of the Puerto Ricans, and advocated violence and assassination to drive out the Yankee invaded.

Nantee invader.

Not so, says the resolution adopted by the Puerto-Rican Senate. The people of that island have "overwhelmingly repudiated" independence. They are American eitigens and "enjoy all the liberties of the most fundamental characters of humanity" including their own representative.

government, the election of their own of-ficials including the Governor, and their freedom to institute and carry out pro-grams designed to raise the living stand-ards of the Islanders.

thánk you.

There was a time when any U. S. move toward helping oppressed peoples in other lands brought forth embarrasing cries of "shame" and "inconsistency" from Puerto Ricans. Now that the people who live in what they used to call the "backyard of the America" think that Unicle Sam has cleaned up his own premises sufficiently, we will be in a better position to talk to our neighbors about cleaning up theirs.

Installation of a loud speaker, wired to the public address system of the Baptist Church, has been made in the jail at New Albany. "The prisoners," said Sheriff Thomas Shelon, "really like and enloy it." Wird hardly presume to suggest a text to the good Baptist parson but if we so dared it would be St. John 15:18: "If the world hate you, "et know that it hated me before it hated you." — Eupora (Miss.) Webster Procress.

Some of you folks may see a new sign on our front window spelling "bar" but we just dare you to cohe in for a bottle of beer. It so happens that our old window busted out and we werd fortunate enough to get a second hand one cut and put in. If had "Barbeceu" painted on it but we had to cut all but the "Bar" off to make it fit.—Omogo (Fag.) Nees.

There is great stress and strain in keeping a business going. Perhaps that accounts for the fact that most people want jobs. — Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

-Wichtta Falls (Texas) Daily Times.

'Under Consideration'



People's Platform

A Plug For The Incumbent

Editors. The News:

WHAT Inin' of a mayor does the city of Charlotte want a both editors of Charlotte want a forthwant? Do the citizens of Charlotte want a forthbe satisfied with a dignified figurehead presiding over
a do nothing administrating? Will we be content
to drift back into the statisfied a small country lews'in
extended to the content of the content

man of experience and elect an inexperienced man to take his place?

The voters of Charlotte should think seriously of The voters of Charlotte should think seriously of The voters of Charlotte should be sho

particular any accommence.

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-FRANCIS O. CLARKSON.

Note Of Appreciation

Editors, Tux Naws:

IN behalf of the Charlotte Christian Council, let me express our deep appreciation to you for your conversation in publicitain the showing of the King Of King and the Charles of the

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 word, spectrifier of the paper. Each and no only one side of the paper. Each and the less than 100 words, spectrifier of the paper. Each and obsently will be deleted—other turns anything goes. Each letter must be signed.— Editors, Turn News.

Joseph Alsop

Importance Of The Dollar

To see what lies shead, first take the Marshall Plan—

WASHINGTON

The dollar has become a very important question mark in Congress or the construction of the second our friends abroad.

In spite of all that's been said and written about them to include the construction of the second our friends abroad.

In spite of all that's been said and written about them to include the construction of the second our friends abroad. Two Republican leaders in this desirability that the construction of the second out of the work of the second out of the second o

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Politicians Lax With Pulsary Natifications Lax With Pulsary N

CHARLOTTE