

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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AND NOW TELEVISION!

MANY of the readers of THE NEWS were around when radio first sounded its siren of progress from a cornucopia-shaped loudspeaker. A fad, some might say. Some of them were thinking age when gracious living came riding down the street in the form of a Winton automobile. Well, stick to the buggy, some of them said. Some remained quiet, but the beginning of the age of electricity. Is it safe? they wondered.

No matter what their original reactions, all but few of our readers are pretty well convinced by now that the radio, the automobile and the electric light are useful gadgets, here to stay.

And now television! Radio, Station WBT announces that Charlotte and environs (out to 50 miles) will have TV (and get used to those initials) before August.

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Programs at first will be a lack of adequate studio facilities. Nor will WBT be able to throw a switch and bring in the live network programs from the East until such time as the AT&T's co-axial cable link between Charlotte and Richmond is equipped with booster stations.

But the station is making plans to film regular TV shows, rush them down to Charlotte by plane, and rebroadcast them the following day. Those shows, plus the regular assortment of TV movies, will still be of sufficient interest to make us all emulate our Yankee friends and spend a good part of each day clustered around the sets.

When you stop to consider that television actually transports you to a front row seat at a multitude of interesting events, or brings straight into your home the animated, talking images of entertainers and informants, you begin to grasp the tremendous revolution this new development is going to make in our lives. Actually, it's as still young, but it has already proven itself.

And so we welcome WBT's announcement, and note with satisfaction that the Pioneer Station is still pioneering.

PEOPLE'S VICTORY

WHILE the use of "loss leaders" and price cutting admittedly places the small, independent merchant at a competitive disadvantage, any effort to enforce by law certain minimum price mark-ups borders on price-fixing and is of questionable desirability and constitutionality.

Thus, the action of the N. C. House of Representatives yesterday in killing a proposed "fair trade" act was for the best interests of the consumers in this state.

There are two very good reasons why the bill should have been killed:

1. Those who object most stoutly to government meddling in free, private enterprise cannot consistently support any measure which gives the State authority over what a merchant may charge, and thus denies to the consumer the natural benefits of such competition.

2. The bill was of dubious constitutionality.

Recently the Florida State Supreme Court declared unconstitutional that state's "fair sales" (minimum price) act.

CANDIDATES ON DISPLAY

THE novel parade of the politicians at the Courthouse this week may not have shed a great light on the confused city elections, but it was at least a refreshing reminder that alert, interested citizens have a right to get government than apathetic voters.

It was necessary, because of the exceptionally large number of candidates, to limit the time of each to several minutes. But in that short space the several hundred persons present in the courtroom got a good look at the men who will either add heard them sketch their views on the main public issues; as a result, they will probably find it considerably easier to make up their minds on April 26 than some of the rest of us.

Actually, the impact of the meeting will be felt far beyond the number of persons present. They will doubtless tell their friends and neighbors of their impressions.

A FEDERALIZED AGRICULTURE

THE business columnist, J. A. Livingston, concluded a recent discussion of Secretary of Agriculture Brannan's new farm support price program with this cold analysis:

In this age of economic interdependence, it is no longer feasible to permit 6,000,000 farmers to over-produce themselves and the nation into depression. They need guides and suggestions — as to production and consumption possibilities.

The magazine of U. S. News, in a special report on the program, says:

As it is apparent that as farm surplus piles up, farm prices weaken and farm income begins to fall, the Government is moving back toward over-planning and direction of the farming industry.

The financial editor of THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, George Ericson, has this to say:

If the Agriculture Department proposals that "farmers' incomes should be thus adjusted, it is to take up the cudgels for fixing at some right and proper level the incomes of bookkeepers, lawyers, doctors, clerks, teachers, bankers, machinists, etc. In other words, the farmer will thereby become utterly dependent upon government, which would use billions of the taxpayers' money to make the farmer politically beholden to the party in power.

It is rather significant that a business columnist and a business magazine, both conservative, and two newspapers which

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The case involved a St. Petersburg druggist who had boomed his sales from \$39,000 in 1925 to some \$12 million a year by unorthodox "loss leader" promotional sales. (Once sold two thousand 41¢ units for 95 cents apiece to attract customers.)

The case arose over his selling a particular brand of whisky below the fair-trade minimum. The druggist got an injunction, the druggist appealed. The Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision held the act unconstitutional because it was "arbitrary and unreasonable" and was an unlawful use of the state police power to hinder the freedom of interstate commerce. The druggist called the decision a "people's victory against price-fixing."

The action of the House yesterday might also be called a "people's victory." Although the Court in a 5-4 decision held the act unconstitutional because it was "arbitrary and unreasonable" and was an unlawful use of the state police power to hinder the freedom of interstate commerce. The druggist called the decision a "people's victory against price-fixing."

Municipality's Plight

(The plight of U. S. municipalities was emphasized in an open letter to the City of West Palm Beach addressed to Governor Warren and the Florida Legislature. Since many North Carolina cities and towns are facing much the same problem, we reprint the letter from the United States Municipal News.)

WE speak as the governing body of a Florida city with some 50,000 inhabitants. In a large sense our voice is that of all cities and towns of the state and of those citizens who call such places home. Collectively, therefore, ours is the vibrant and representative voice of the great majority of the total citizenry of the state.

We come to you proud in the knowledge that our cities and towns, the smallest units of local self-government, constitute the very foundation of our form of government. We boast of the contributions our cities and towns have made and continue to make to the progress of Florida. Without the units which we govern our state would be a mere shell.

Mr. Governor, and you, the representatives of our people, are reminded that we are the form of law and government closest to the average citizen. We give him the water he drinks, the light he sees by, protect his home from the ravaging destruction of fire, and shield him from petty crime. We carry away his garbage, we protect his children from school. To the average citizen, we are the face of government to which he has personal and intimate access.

With shame, we must admit that we have fallen down upon our solemn responsibility. The fire protection service is antiquated, equipment on our streets are in disrepair, sidewalks and street lamps are in disrepair, and the maintenance of our streets is in neglect. The maintenance of our streets is in neglect. The maintenance of our streets is in neglect.

Why this breakdown in our duties to our citizens? You know the answer as well as we—because we have no funds with which to perform the essential services incumbent upon us as the smallest unit of local self-government.

Why? You know this answer too! Such local governmental services must be paid in great part out of the operation portion of our ad valorem tax levies and assessed on the basis of the value of the property. That exemption is fundamentally the

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE Republican National Committee has sent a warning that, unless the GOP acts quickly to offset the bad publicity over its alliance with the Dixiecrats, it may suffer the reduction of its vote in the 1952 election. The GOP National Committee also is pleading with Senators to drop the redaction of the Dixiecrats' record when it comes up again. All 42 Republican Senators must sign the committee wants, to show their good faith for their previous conduct. The South over the filibuster. They would leave only 22 signatures for the Democrats to round up. If the Republicans contributed twice as many signatures as the Democrats, the GOP committee would be in a position to force the Dixiecrats to drop their names from the ticket.

So far, the national committee admits, the Republicans have taken a beating in the press for their compromise on the filibuster. As an example of Negro reaction, the committee cites the editorial in the Atlanta Constitution. In the past week have the actions of the Republicans in the Senate shown us how grievous was our error?

We think a serious mistake in supporting the selection of a Republican Congress, declared the Afro-American, "has been made. The committee's error in the past week have the actions of the Republicans in the Senate shown us how grievous was our error?"

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A City Lists Its Woes

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ment, 200,000 in the army. This is the cost of the Greek battle, sustained by the Greeks without aid from the U. S.

For the current fiscal year Greece is getting roughly \$60,000,000 in aid from the U. S. This is a far higher percentage than other countries receive. A large proportion of the aid goes to the Greek army on the border. The army is now facing a shortage of food and clothing, and nearly 10 per cent of the army is made up of former Greek soldiers who have been recruited by the Communists.

Greek specialists in the State Dept. profess to see some political improvement. But it is difficult for the outsider looking on to see this.

Before he left Athens to come here to testify on the need for more Greek aid, Ambassador Henry Grady criticized against a new Cabinet. But he had hardly reached New York by air before powerful Cabinet factions had formed out of the new Cabinet, Ministerial portfolios.

Markensides was considered one of the best and ablest U. S. leaders. He was accused by other Cabinet members of speculating in gold.

European aid officials working in the State Dept. are said to feel that the Ambassador should take a much firmer hand in guiding the Greek government. This goes against State Dept. policy, which is to keep hands off.

It seems, however, that there is one point at which U. S. aid is being kept out of the hands of the Greek government. In N. Y. Herbert Evans, U. S. Assembly member, is making an attempt to get the U. S. to help the Greek government.

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