THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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

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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

In coming weeks the people of North Carolina are going to hear arguments from both sides about a $200 million bond issue for rural roads and a $25 million bond issue for school buildings, to be approved or rejected at the June 4 election.

They are going to be torn — just as this newspaper is torn — between a tempting opportunity to invest heavily in a courageous and bold program for their state and the native Tar Heel reluctance to return to the burdensome deficit financing of previous years.

They are going to be regretful — just as this newspaper is regretful — that the road program and the gasoline tax increase are tied together so that a vote against the road program of necessity means a vote against the tax increase which is needed whether or not the rural road program is carried out.

They will be somewhat disappointed—just as this newspaper is disappointed—that the General Assembly, in an "economy" move, went ahead and appropriated $25 million for school buildings, before the people had a chance to debate the wisdom of this very fundamental departure from the traditional county responsibility for school plants.

They will be stirred — just as this newspaper is stirred — by the strong faith and courageous leadership of W. Kerr Scott, yet will wonder all the while whether the Governor has not asked for too much, in too hurried a fashion, without adequately mapping a long-range plan for State services and finances.

On this page, and in its news columns, THE NEWS will strive diligently to present to its readers both sides of the debate, in a fair and impartial manner. The public platform will be open to any individual who wishes to express himself, and THE NEWS would encourage such expressions.

THE NEWS will consider it an obligation to have, and to express, its own opinions in the matter. If it so happens that the verdict of the people should coincide with the expressed opinion of this newspaper, we will not be elated; neither will we be chagrined if the people's decision differs.

The people of North Carolina are sensible. They are patriotic. They have vision and courage. They believe in good roads and good schools, and they believe in progress. They have good minds, and they make them up by themselves.

Their judgment is good, and their decision will be final. It will be so accepted, we are sure, by those who favor and those who oppose the two great issues now before us.

THE WAYNICK APPOINTMENT

THE appointment of Capus Waynick as Ambassador to Nicaragua was somewhat anti-climactic, it having been freely predicted in the press for some weeks that the former High Point newspaper editor would get some diplomatic assignment in Central or South America.

As in all things political, there is no definite proof that Waynick was given the assignment by the White House because the appointment to the Broughton Senatorial vacancy was denied him. Yet the indications are strong indeed that such a consideration was involved in the negotiations between Raleigh and Washington over the Graham appointment.

At any rate, Capus Waynick deserves the Ambassadorship in his own right. He is a man of great ability and a likeable personality, whose winning ways have smoothed many a bumpy spot for his Tar Heel people. Friends and foes will be of good use to Uncle Sam in the troubled and sometimes tempestuous arena of Central America. He likes Latin-Americans, likes their speech and culture; they, in turn, will like him.

There have been indications of late—since the Graham appointment — that Waynick's enthusiasm for Governor Scott and his Go Forward program was cooling off. He has made several speeches in which he endorsed the Go Forward goals but was critical of the trend to deficit financing in order to achieve them.

His appointment as Ambassador will clear the way for Governor Scott to sponsor another, and perhaps more militant, supporter for Waynick's post as chairman of the state Democratic Committee. It has further political overtones in that it will remove Waynick as a possible contender for Senator Clyde R. Hoey's post in next year's election.

The final complexion of state politics is not yet clear, but the trend is unmistakable. To Governor Scott and his friends have already fallen, in rapid order, the Governorship, the position of Democratic national committeeman, a Senatorship, a long list of appointive State jobs, an Ambassadorship, the Secretaryship of the Navy, and now, in the near future, the chairmanship of the state party.

As long as such opportunities present themselves, and as long as the close liaison with Washington can be maintained, there is no reason why Go Forward shouldn't have a fairly easy time of it.

NEW POWER PATTERN

MANY observers who are close to the national scene have commented recently on the long-range implications of the Johnsonville, Tenn., steam power plant approved by the 81st Congress. Most of them agree that the principle of public power has been embraced completely by the Democratic Party and by many members of the Republican Party and that never again will we see the sharp pitched battles between public and private power interests that we have known in the past.

Richard L. Strout of the *Christian Science Monitor* staff is of that opinion and he has stated the case more succinctly than others:

"The Democratic victory has had another effect. This is to throw the Federal Government strongly behind the development and distribution of electric power. Symbol of the program was the reversal of last year's Congressional action on the Johnsonville steam plant.

". . . The present atmosphere is amazingly different from what existed only a year ago."

Strout recalls that the Republican House in the 80th Congress rejected the steam plant by a vote of 201 to 186, but that more than half a hundred Republicans who opposed the project were defeated last November.

When it came to a vote in the House this year, it was approved by more than two to one, with many members reversing their position. In the Senate, the Bridges amendment to eliminate funds for the project was defeated 30 to 55, with 13 Republicans siding with 42 Democrats in the key ballot, some of whom changed their position since last year.

The Johnsonville project was a clear-cut departure from Federal power theory. The TVA was sold to the Congress basically as a flood control and soil conservation measure, with the production of electric power considered as a by-product. The steam plant at Johnsonville will specifically bolster the power production of the TVA system and thus goes much further in concept and operation than the original TVA measure.

If, as Stout believes, this sets a new pattern, then we may expect Congress to look with favor on the other huge Federal power projects, among them the Columbia Valley Authority and the Missouri Valley Authority. Both of these are appealing to public power advocates because of the disastrous floods which sweep the areas. Once established, they will, like TVA, become mainly a method of producing power.

And the people apparently do not object to this gradual extension of the Federal Government's influence. Says Stout:

"The reason is that local towns, industries, and Chambers of Commerce support the wide-scale development of the area's power. The majority in the locality do not seem to take it amiss that the Federal Government is playing a major part in this operation through construction of huge dams and power lines."

Unhappily, that seems to be true in most cases involving the spending of Federal money.

From The Asheville Citizen

CARRYING OUR OWN BALL

IN the morning's mail from the lowlands comes something called *The North Carolina Economy Advocate*, "dedicated to the promotion of economy in government and reduction in public debt" and "published intermittently as occasion demands" at Statesville, Post Office Box 29, Telephone No. 395. Except for Thomas Jefferson, Roger Babson and J. Paul Leonard, who is featured in the third person, hardly any proper nouns appear in *The Economy Advocate* and no one owns up to proprietorship.

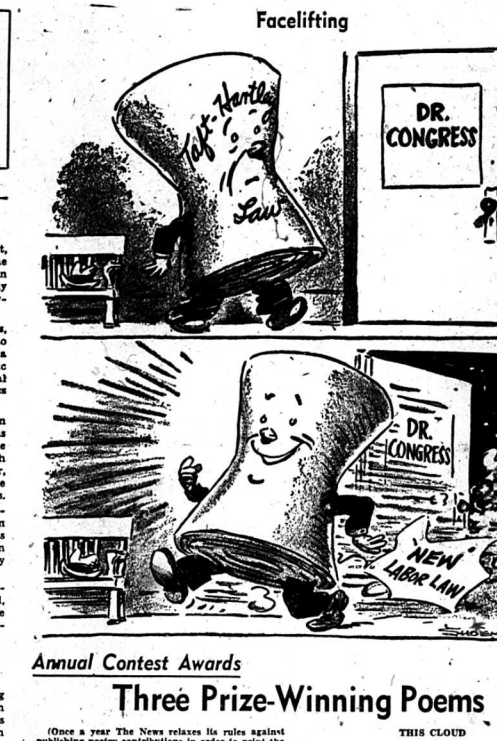
Since *The Citizen* is quoted at length and in the course of an argument against Governor Scott's road bond issue, we suppose we have the right to ask whereat our own words are directed and whether the management will fly a flag indicating its colors.

After all, that would be only fair. And probably it would be legal.

Several days ago *The Citizen* urged that the bond matter be presented "on a plane of fact." It is this editorial which *The Economy Advocate* reproduced (and for which, thanks.) But it seems to us that every party to the debate ought to present credentials. The 1947 General Assembly adopted a good law known as the Registration of Propagandists Act. As we recall, there is a Federal law which requires identification of those who circulate handbills in political contests. The suspicion is somewhat strong that the Scott bond campaign has political intent. A similar suspicion is entertained in respect to some of the anti-bond forces.

What we are driving at is that in this and other matters *The Citizen* prefers to carry its own ball. It hopes that others will do the same without dubious benefit of screened pass or flying wedge.

Facelifting



Joseph Alsop

Seems Like Old Times

WASHINGTON

IT seems unpleasantly like old times, but the fact had better be faced, none the less. A plan for resuming employment—making public works projects on a spot basis, in the regions where unemployment pools need to be sopped up—has been evolved by the President's more left wing advisers.

One must hasten to add that this plan, at present, is hardly more than a by-product of the bitter internecine war over economic policy that is raging within the Truman Administration. Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer's opinion of the Fair Deal is almost unprintable. Dr. Edwin Nourse, chairman of the President's Economic Advisory Council, and Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder are distinctly pallid in their fervor. And all three are now jointly and severally claiming for withdrawal of the Spence Bill.

This is the measure embodying the President's proposal for wage and price inflation controls, and for Government-directed expansion of industrial plants. The Snyder-Nourse-Sawyer attack is being fought out by the two other members of the Economic Advisory Council, Dr. Leon Keyserling and John D. Clark, supported by the President's close policy adviser, Clark Clifford.

The fact that the price and wage control sections of the bill are not now urgently necessary, will probably be conceded by the Spence Bill's defenders in view of the changed economic outlook. But in compensation, the President is entirely likely to be asked to add the provision for spot public works to the Spence Bill's other, economy-stimulating half.

What is implied, of course, is an admission that the present slight recession of business is sufficiently serious to require counter-action. It is true that the projected public works will be relatively small in scale, and strictly limited to areas where special conditions have caused a disproportionate amount of joblessness. Yet the admission will have to be regarded as sizeable and significant, none the less, if the President buys the plan. He is expected to decide between his warring groups of friends some time in the next fortnight.

In conjunction with these unpleasing facts and prospects, it is also necessary to consider the state of the Federal budget. Even when President Truman sent his 1950 budget to Congress, it contained an admitted deficit of $600 million. He then asked for about $6 billion of taxes to cover the deficit, and for debt retirement. The situation has deteriorated since then to a point where the budget would hardly balance even if Congress unexpectedly voted this heavy tax rise.

The following items have affected the budgetary picture. (1) An increase of at least $500 million in the amount needed to subsidize the American farmer, in view of fallen farm prices. (2) An estimated net increase by Congress of from $200 to $300 million, over the President's original budgetary requests. This estimate allows for Congressional economies in ECA appropriations and elsewhere. (3) A $275 million increase in the projected veterans' costs, caused by veterans fearing joblessness and therefore flooding back into the colleges under the G. I. Bill of Rights. A supplemental appropriation has been asked for this. (4) Between $600 and $700 million of 1950 expenditures for the program of military aid to Europe, which was not included in the original budget.

Add up these items, including the original estimated deficit. They total more than $2.5 billion. In order to reach a new estimate of the deficit, you must then revise the downward guesses about forward tax revenue. The revenue figures are conservatively regarded as at least $1 billion too high. Thus the minimum projected deficit is now $3.5 billion.

It is acknowledged, moreover, that the President will demand still greater Government spending, on a straight deficit basis, if the expected slump deepens. Meanwhile the Congress shows no sign of paying the slightest attention to the President's economic recommendations. Altogether, it begins to be high time for this country to evolve a national economic policy by hard thought and serious discussion instead of following the present by guess, by God and by politics method.

Annual Contest Awards

Three Prize-Winning Poems

(Once a year The News relaxes its rules against publishing poetry contributions in order to print the three prize-winning poems in the annual contest sponsored by theN. C. Poetry Society. The winners were announced this week: First place, Miss Charlotte Young of Charlotte, English teacher at the Burton Institute; second place, Miss Ann Durbin of Charlotte; third place, Mrs. Zoe Kincaid Brockman of Gastonia. These prize poems follow.—Eds., The News.)

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TAJ MAHAL

At sundown I beheld the Taj Mahal . . .
A dream released, a marble sorrow set
With jewel tears. Each crested minaret,
Each glistening dome, each gracious portal—all
Into a pool their duplicate let fall.
Perfection by its perfect image met.
An hour I stood and gazed — my lashes wet
Till dusk diffused the shape of tower and wall.

Quadruple wonder, marvel twice fourfold . . .
Yielding in every line to beauty's law?
Trembling as darling Mumtaz might have done,
I dared not stir for fear I should behold
From other view some slight, half hidden flaw
To mar this imaged love of Shah Jehan.

—Miss Charlotte Young.

• • •

THE TRADE MARK

I crushed the flower between my hands, and raised
my eyes and cried,
"Oh God, I'll take no more! Must I be ever filled
with doubt?
My mind and heart are tired . . . tired wondering
Who made this flower . . . who caused and gave it
life.
God, was it You? Were You the One Who carved it,
painted it,
And gave it mystic fragrance?
If You did this, then tell me so!"
I waited, but only silence came. My plea unanswered
went.
With torture in my heart, I breathed again the
words . . .
But silence thundered still. And then I knew . . . I
knew
There was no God!
A sudden triumph seized my mind:
Exultantly I cried, "Is this
Not proof enough to still the doubts within my
heart?
Must I plod on in further search
For what I know I will not find?
Not so! Not so! That emptiness within could not be
filled
By nothingness more empty still.
No more, no more; I've had enough. I'll bind up my
fears; destroy my doubts
And let my tortured soul have peace."
Then suddenly I stopped, and as if by force
Unclenched the flower I held within my hands.
I looked at it, then slowly turned it o'er and read
The words—"Made by God."

—Miss Ann Durbin.

THIS CLOUD

At first it was no bigger than a man's hand.
But now it covers continents and seas;
It shadows space inviolate—our own land.
We who were strong, and wiser far than these

Who sat quiescent while the darkness gathered,
Who fiddled while the forked lightnings flashed.
We were so right, so sure, so strongly fathered;
And now we huddle, frightened and abashed

That freedom's torch burns through a fog, and dimly;
That doctrines have a false and hollow sound.
Diminished oceans girdle us but slimly,
And terror is the lean and hungry hound

That presses at our heels the while we fumble
To mend the wall, to brace the temple gate,
We scan the sky and listen to the rumble.
The steady whirring of the wings of fate.

—Mrs. Zoe K. Brockman.

Marquis Childs

The Deluge Increases

WASHINGTON

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Charles Brannan is tall, balding, looking a little like an overworked college professor. On his high-domed head in recent weeks has poured a deluge of criticism that seems to be growing rather than decreasing in volume.

The reason, of course, is the Brannan plan to support farm prices with Government subsidies that are intended to make it possible at the same time for consumers to eat more at lower prices. Not since the beginning of the New Deal have so many dead cats and overripe tomatoes been aimed at one target.

A lot of the attack comes from sideline critics who take it for granted that the Brannan plan is a gimmick dreamed up by its author for one sinister purpose or another. Brannan is deliberately trying to undermine the free enterprise system. Or, he is putting over a plan to catch the farm vote.

This type of criticism is, in my opinion, essentially unfair. It is unfair because it fails to take into account the very difficult spot in which Brannan finds himself.

Wheat farmers in this country will produce this year twice as much wheat as the American public can consume. That is a fact which has staggering implications. With the price of hogs hovering close to the support level of $14.50, Brannan thinks that any day now he may have to go into the market to buy hog products. Not so long ago hogs were $30.

If a Republican were sitting in the chair of Secretary of Agriculture, he would be faced with exactly the same problems that confront Brannan. The Republican Secretary would be under pressure from farmers all over the country to come up with a "solution" just as Brannan has been under unremitting pressure since the first day Congress met. That is a fact which Brannan's critics largely ignore.

PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE

Another basic fact is overlooked by the attackers. That is the remarkable increase in productivity per acre in most crops. New hybrid seeds, new fertilizers, new insecticides, new and improved farm techniques—all these things produce two ears of corn where only one grew before.

The potato is an interesting example. On large scale factory farms, notably on irrigated land in Kern County, Calif. potato production is being pushed right out of this world.

The catch is that Uncle Sam pays the bill. The estimated cost of supporting last year's potato crop is $232,000,000. That is the bill for potatoes which were largely destroyed, since the cost of processing them and sending them to hungry people overseas is so high.

What to do about this flood of production? The farmers have not forgotten that they went through a ruinous period after World War I when farm prices dropped disastrously. The climax came in 1932-33 as farm foreclosures were prevented by embattled farmers with shotguns.

For years Republican farm leaders had been urging some scheme of Government protection. That came with the New Deal. So-called surplus commodities were taken off the market and stored and they would probably be rotting away today if the war had not come along.

Brannan believes that the farmers out in the country will go for his plan in spite of the complaints of the critics of the Government operations. Certainly, the farmers are looking to Government to prevent a repetition of the disaster that came in the aftermath of the other war.

It remained for a dry-speaking New Englander, Sen. George Aiken of Vermont, to ask the real question: "If Government undertakes to guarantee a satisfactory income to the producers of farm commodities, can we, with a clear conscience, deny the same guarantee of satisfactory income to other groups of our population? Where can we stop?"

To attack the author of the Brannan plan is not enough. The critics should feel an obligation to supply some of the answers. To say that supply and demand must run its course even though it means ruin is not enough either.

People's Platform

State Bar Criticized

RICHMOND, VA.

Editors, THE NEWS:

RECENTLY my wife, as an heir-at-law, lodged what we considered a legitimate complaint against the unethical practices of a North Carolina lawyer. This complaint was lodged with the North Carolina State Bar, Inc., which presumably is set up under the law to protect the public from abusers.

Now have a laugh: She was informed by State Bar, Inc., that her complaint would have to be made out on one of its forms. That was all right. We are used to filling in forms. From income tax blanks on down. But—she also was informed that the investigation would have to be made at her expense, although State Bar, Inc., gave no hint as to how much that might add up to. Further, she was told that if a hearing was held on the matter she would have to appear at her own expense.

I am fully aware of the implications and complications of complaints against lawyers. But this much must be borne in mind: That few persons who have complaints against lawyers (sic) have the means to spare to finance investigations.

The 1949 General Assembly has adjourned. May I suggest that House Bill No. 1 for the 1951 session be a bill to be entitled An Act to Abolish State Bar, Inc.?

—C. A. PAUL.

Better Care Needed

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

WHO is responsible for the maintenance of the Kuester Memorial at Freedom Park? Its present appearance certainly belies the sartorial dapperness of the late Clarence Kuester.

—JAMES T. POTTER.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Alabama Has Monument To Friendship

JACKSONVILLE, ALA.

THE average Washington newspaperman gets his eyes so riveted on what's going on in the Capital that he sometimes forgets what's going on in the rest of the nation. I know I do. That's why, every so often, I try to take a vacation from skulduggery-rooting and see what the rest of the USA is doing.

Down here in northeastern Alabama where the hard rock of the Allegheny tapers off into the soft limestone of the Black Belt, I found a surprising monument to people-to-people friendship.

This is about the last place in the world you would expect to find such a thing. And if it hadn't been for Harry Ayers, publisher of the Anniston, Ala., Star, who is as much a crusader for the public as he is a publisher, I wouldn't have found it.

In New York and Philadelphia and New Orleans you're not surprised at finding international student houses. But not at relatively obscure Jacksonville State Teachers College in the foothills of Alabama. However, thanks to the tireless devotion of one man, Prof. James H. Jones, Jacksonville last week dedicated an international house just as fine in its way as anything in the great cities of the North.

Prof. Jones is what you might call a true servant of brotherhood. He not only raised the money to build International House, but passed the hat to bring a group of students all the way from France, and send another group from Alabama over to France. The cash for this student exchange was raised not in Wall Street or Washington, but right here in Jacksonville and Anniston and Piedmont and the other neighboring communities.

When it came to building International House, all the home folks contributed. A Jacksonville plumber donated the bathroom fixtures. Someone else gave a refrigerator. A local lumber dealer helped with lumber. Others contributed labor or cash or something else, with the result that a beautiful, though modestly appointed international student center now stands on the Jacksonville campus.

Alabama At 5 A. M.

FOLLOWING the dedication of International House, the irrepressible Champ Pickens woke me up at 5 A. M. by long-distance telephone in order to make sure I got to my next stop, Montgomery, in time for breakfast. And on that 120-mile drive I had a chance to do a little thinking about the way thousands of communities have responded to people-to-people friendship. Without any prompting from their Government, the American people have put across Friendship Trains, democracy letters to Italy, exchange of students, adopted European cities welcomed the Gratitude Train and put cross scores of other things.

In brief, the American people are anxious and itching to do anything and everything to win the peace. They are tired of writing to Congressmen. They do not altogether trust ambassadors. They know that if war comes they, not the diplomats, have to do the fighting. So now they are willing to do the working for peace.

So thanks to this people-to-people friendship we have vastly strengthened our ties with France, Norway, Denmark—in fact, all of Europe this side the Iron Curtain.

Iron Curtain Still Remains

BUT the problem of penetrating Eastern Europe and Russia still remains. No matter what is done about the Berlin blockade, no matter what is agreed on at the United Nations, the danger of war continues as long as fourteen men in the Kremlin can declare war overnight—with no Senate, no press, no church, no radio, no public opinion to put the brake on them.

Obviously these fourteen men in the Politburo aren't going to lift the Iron Curtain and let Americans into their country—at least for the time being. But there's another way of prying the Iron Curtain party open, and at least putting them on the spot. That is to invite 1,000 Russian students to come to this country.

At first blush a lot of people will hold up their hands in horror and claim that we might be contaminated by Communism. If we take that point of view, however, we have something of an Iron Curtain ourselves. Furthermore, our system is plenty strong to withstand contact with a few Russians, and the smartest thing the National Association of Manufacturers ever did was to invite Russian composer Shostakovich to tour the USA.

Almost every Russian who has visited this country goes back flabbergasted at our wealth, our freedom and our culture. Many become so entranced that they never want to go back at all.

When Andre Picard of the French Gratitude Train visited the Firestone Rubber Plant at Akron, Ohio, and saw the tiled swimming pool for workers, he remarked:

"If Stalin could see this he would understand why he can never communize the United States."

Pandemonium In Politburo

OF course the comrades in the Politburo, being smart, probably would never let 1,000 students or any other of their citizens come to this country. But the point is to invite them anyway.

If a committee of down-to-earth Americans—not the State Dept. or the Henry Wallaceites—invited 1,000 Russians to visit this country it would cause consternation and pandemonium behind the brick walls of the Kremlin. The Politburo wouldn't know what to do about it.

In the first place the Voice of America would broadcast the invitation direct to the Russian people, and the mere fact that the Soviet Government said "no" would cause thousands of Russians to question their Government and wonder why their own leaders were against the people-to-people friendship which the Moscow Radio pretends to champion.

The invitation should come from a mixed group of real Americans—farmers, veterans, chambers of commerce, labor unions, the NAM—in a true cross section of the country. It could be made so representative and so genuine that the Kremlin would have an awfully hard time turning it down—though in the end it probably would do so. But the turning down would get noised about, not only in Russia but throughout the world and would create adverse propaganda everywhere.

Of course, organizing such a project would be a lot of work. But so is war a lot of work—work and blood and death. The trouble with peace heretofore is that too many people took it for granted, weren't willing to work at it. Now they're beginning to realize that peace is like matrimony. You can't drop it right after the wedding cake is cut. And you can't drop peace right after the armistice treaty is signed. You have to work at both every day.

Well, I started out to write about the South, and got sidetracked. I'll be back with more on the South in another column.