

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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STREETS AND ROADS

WITHOUT being overly optimistic that any very fundamental change in the theory of State responsibility for city streets will result, The News nevertheless welcomes the appointment of a special commission to study the question and commends Governor Scott on his choice of the members.

The commission was authorized by the last General Assembly which, in a special resolution, cited the problem of city street maintenance and directed the study group to determine the best method of sharing funds with municipalities. The commission will report to the Governor by Dec. 19, 1950, and will have the benefit of clerical assistance from the State Highway Commission in its labors.

It is the first time that a serious study of this important question has been undertaken, and it would be wise for the people of the State, rural and urban dwellers, to keep in mind certain fundamental facts.

GOVERNOR SCOTT has criticized city dwellers for their failure to support the \$30 million road bond issue, and has said it proves that people who already have their paved roads don't want to help others get them. That is an incorrect statement in at least two respects.

In the first place, all city dwellers don't have paved streets in Charlotte, for instance, there are 450 miles of public streets, 75 miles of them a part of the State Highway system. Of the remaining 375 miles, 200 miles, or more than half, are not hard surfaced.

In the second place, the city dwellers, who pay the same auto registration fees, and who pay the State gasoline tax when they drive over streets which were built with money out of their own pockets, have been helping the rural areas get good roads. According to the Highway Commission's own figures, from March 4, 1921 through June 30, 1948, a total of \$28,777,759 was spent for all purposes. Of this amount, \$10,000,000 was spent for maintenance in cities and towns. That equals \$158 out of each \$100 spent, or barely more than one per cent.

Thus, in those 28 years, the city dwellers—who contribute roughly 90 per cent of the highway fund revenue—now almost 99 per cent of it—paid on State gasoline taxes, have been helping the rural dwellers rather generously.

At the last session of the General Assembly.

ly, the N. C. League of Municipalities urged that the revenue from one cent a gallon of the gasoline tax be spent in cities and towns. The Legislature turned down this request, but did increase the allocation from \$1 million annually to \$2.5 million. That will help, but it is not the final answer.

On March 14 of this year, Chairman Henry Grady of the State Highway Commission expressed a desire to co-operate with municipalities in studying the problem. He made a valid observation; that city streets, with their curbs, gutters, and drainage systems, are complete utilities of which traffic flow is only one function, and that respect, they differ from rural roads. They are also wider, and more expensive to build and maintain, he said.

Admitting the difference, this newspaper still believes streets are basically for the movement of vehicles, and that a North Carolinian who lives inside the city limits of any incorporated municipality is just as much a North Carolinian as the one who lives outside the city limits. He has every right to expect equal consideration when his State Government begins laying out its services.

Yet, whose streets are concerned, the man inside the city pays out of his pocket for his assessed part of the street's cost, and pays additional City taxes through the years to keep it in good repair. Meanwhile, the man who lives outside the city limits gets his street built and maintained by the State.

THERE is no essential division between urban and rural dwellers in North Carolina. Governor Scott appears to believe there is one, and has taken several opportunities to criticize the city dwellers. The News is inclined to believe such a split will develop, with the inevitable retardation progress, if the Governor and the commission to study the problem are not willing to give more useful consideration to the peculiar problems of our cities by granting them more home rule and by sharing with them their rightful part of State service.

We have hope that the new Commission will take advantage of its great opportunity to conduct a workmanlike, unbiased, and thorough survey of the street-road relationship, and that the Governor and the next General Assembly will be of a mind to remedy the obvious unfairness of the present system.

ACADEMIC INQUISITION

WE are being treated this week to an unusual scene: the hounds in full flight behind the fox.

When without a cry of "Yock!" Rep. John S. Wood of Georgia, Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, set his pack on the schools of the nation, the fox would have known he was meeting big game.

Under the leadership of that wily New Jersey thespian, J. Parnell Thomas, the Committee gave schools and their articles a good old-fashioned "beat" and respect for the combastiveness of educators.

He called into last week with a request for lists of textbooks and supplementary literature from 70 schools and cities.

Why? He wanted to be sure that there was no "slanted Communist literature reaching the students in our schools."

It started with the *French News* & *Review*, which the Committee regarded as Communist propaganda. The President Edmund E. Day, one of the committee's letter-targets, said that the Committee is not through with its academic inquisition. If the Committee can whip up a pinkish glow over the nation's schools, it can make powerful and important political friends, for there are men who would suppress a great amount of this country's own history. And the Committee is notoriously eager to make friends with reaction.

We will hear from it again and again, until such headline hunters as Rep. Wood and his Committee are taught that neither they nor any other pressure group can subvert the pursuit of truth and freedom of belief.

JOURNALISTIC CHESS GAME

THE heat is on—literally, that is—and some of our favorite state editors are indulging in that old Summer pastime of kicking a harmless topic back and forth among themselves. Since it helps fill up space during hot weather, it is hard to concentrate on more serious matters, and since it's getting warm up this way, too, we beg their leave to join the game.

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'Hello—F. B. I.? My Neighbor Is Walking Around In The Un-American

Stewart Alsop

The Last Card



Hoover Commission Report

Government Personnel Problem

(Third of a series of articles explaining the Hoover Commission Reports on the U. S. Government.)

EVEN with a perfect organization chart, the Federal Government cannot operate efficiently and economically without able, enthusiastic workers. The Government's greatest single problem is how to secure them.

Every year about one-fourth (500,000) of the Government's civilian employees quit their jobs and have to be replaced. Few if any business could survive such a turnover. The entire Government personnel system is clogged with inefficient red tape. Supervision is overcentralized in the Civil Service Commission. Recruiting machinery is slow and cumbersome. Little effort is made to recruit really promising young men and women and train them for the higher professional and administrative jobs. Of the best who are secured, many are forced to quit because of low Government pay. Government workers are disgruntled by inequities in pay schedules, slow and uncertain promotion, lack of opportunity to offer criticisms and suggestions.

On the other hand, red tape designed to prevent political firings makes it extremely difficult to get rid of an incompetent or superior worker. Those in charge of personnel believe that their pay and prestige will be cut if their staffs are reduced, and vice versa. Hence they resist what the Commission calls "empire building."

In recent inflationary years, pay for lower-grade Government employees has increased 30 to 50 per cent, while for the highest grades it has increased 100 per cent. An inexperienced college graduate receives Government service at \$2,975, just \$735 less than the maximum that can be earned by top-flight Federal executives and professional men with thirty years or more of service.

In one bureau checked, 24 subordinates receive as much compensation as their chief.

Four to eight months elapse between announcement of examinations for a Government job and actual appointment to the job. Recruiting consists of posting jobs on post office bulletin boards. No effort is made to enlist bright young college seniors as private business does.

Employees threatened with discharge can usually appeal to three different agencies. Average appeal time is 100 days. A "wholly unsatisfactory" stenographer has to wait seven months.

There is in the major agencies an average of one personnel worker for every 78 employees, at an average cost of \$42 per employee served. A personnel office of 100 men is charged with the personnel of 7,800 employees. Government men never compete on a dollar-for-dollar basis with private industry for persons for its top positions. It can get the best men for less than persons in an equitable manner. This is it now doing.

"We cannot entrust Government of today to second-rate men and women."

1. The personnel system should be decentralized. The Civil Service Commission should devote itself

primarily to setting and enforcing standards, leaving to each department or agency the details of recruiting.

2. Vigorous systems of recruiting, training, and promoting able workers should be developed. Employees should be encouraged to criticize and suggest.

A single, comprehensive pay policy should be adopted. Pay should be raised in the higher career levels; the ceiling (now \$10,330 a year) should be lifted.

3. The Civil Service Commission, now composed of three members with equal power, should have a single chief, who should also be the President's staff adviser on the career civil service as Director of an Office of Personnel in the President's office.

4. The President should be empowered to issue and enforce rules regarding department and agency heads for recruiting their staffs.

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People's Platform

'Crying Needs' Unmet

Editors, The News: THE recent bond-election revealed an interesting alignment of forces in North Carolina. In the election, the bond issue was carried over well, though the city machines appeared to have pulled their weight. The bond issue was carried over well, though the city machines appeared to have pulled their weight. The bond issue was carried over well, though the city machines appeared to have pulled their weight.

It is not opposed to wide spending for good roads and schools. Far from it! But I am perfectly convinced that, unless the rank-and-file farmers of every county get together, the bond issue will set up the most widespread political machine this state has ever known. Unless our farmers get together and demand such roads as are really needed, unless the farmers organize supervision of road building, the bond issue will set up the most widespread political machine this state has ever known.

This is even truer of the schools. In recent years, the teaching standard in North Carolina has declined. In France Mrs. Alling became interested in Communism. She met and talked with French Communist leaders.

Mr. Alling is a type fairly common in this country. Her religious background and her political beliefs are a mixture of the old and the new. She is a woman of the world, and she is a woman of the world. She is a woman of the world, and she is a woman of the world.

Returning to her home in Atlanta, Ga., Mrs. Alling intended to bring to the Negro in 1934 the Atlanta

THE difference between China and Indo-China can be simply stated: Indo-China is a country entering its final phase, in an atmosphere of decay, disillusion and despair. Indo-China is a country entering its final phase, in an atmosphere of decay, disillusion and despair.

The catastrophe that threatens Indo-China is the result of the rest of Asia to the Soviet Union. Indo-China is the danger point, where what has happened in China may become a chain reaction. But here in Indo-China, the first thing you notice is how well the French know how to live. It is only a good deal later that you realize how little the French know how to govern.

The place is wonderfully pretty, wonderfully agreeable and wonderfully unexciting. The French colonial officials, who were Indo-China's only government for so long, have organized for themselves in Saigon every one of their favorite pleasures from the most sumptuous hotels and the most exquisite parks, to the most intimate and exclusive forms which the humble applicant must fill out with the respect.

The whole show is perfectly in order, and entirely convincing until you come to the fact that Saigon is nothing but a charming concentration camp.

The trouble with the rebellion against French rule of Indo-China, the Communist Party of Indo-China and the Communist Party of Indo-China have been leading since the end of World War II. The European or American venturing beyond the borders of the city (except by dubious means of the city) risks death. Even within the city, when night comes, the streets are apt to be disturbed by the sound of gunfire and the firing of machine guns.

Ministry, as they delight to tell you, the French have been in Indo-China in 1949 are in the same position as the German occupation in the early Summer of 1944. Like the Germans then, the French now hold, at least during the day, the larger towns—Saigon, Hanoi, Haiphong.

They attempt to hold certain

Marquis Childs

No Proportion

WASHINGTON

THE FANTASTIC lengths to which the loyalty search is being pushed in this country is becoming apparent. It would be absurd if it were not so absurd for the well-being of the nation.

In this and a following column I want to show the lengths to which the loyalty search is being pushed in this country. It would be absurd if it were not so absurd for the well-being of the nation.

Mr. A. V. Alling, who has given me permission to present the details of his case, is a man of the world. He is a man of the world, and he is a man of the world. He is a man of the world, and he is a man of the world.

Mr. Alling's husband suffered severe wounds in World War I and died of them. She is a woman of the world, and she is a woman of the world. She is a woman of the world, and she is a woman of the world.

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the Vice-Presidency at the 1944 Chicago convention that nominated Truman, looked down on him, constantly recalled that save for a twist of fate he would be in Truman's shoes.

With years of experience behind him—in the Senate, on the Supreme Court, as a member of the War Relocation Authority—he acted on his own without clearing policies with Truman.

Not robust in health, he also pushed himself to see that his duties were performed. He was a man of the world, and he is a man of the world. He is a man of the world, and he is a man of the world.

Truman, who was acting Secretary of State while Byrnes was in Moscow, in 1946, had told part of the story to close friends. During that time he saw the President five times a week. In addition to being summoned on other occasions, he was constantly embarrassed at not being able to report to Washington.

Several times Byrnes called Byrnes asking for reports, but sometimes he never even got an acknowledgment. Dean Acheson, who was friendly to the narrowest White House reporting from Jimmie Byrnes; for it was Jimmie's failure to send detailed reports to the President, that led to his first break with Truman. When Byrnes attended the Moscow conference as Secretary of State, the still-unfolding mystery of why the popular and sometimes impulsive Jimmie Byrnes suddenly resigned.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WHITE HOUSE insiders marvel at the way Secretary of State Acheson's report to President Truman on almost every detail of the Paris conference. The White House is almost as up-to-date on what the foreign ministers are talking about as Acheson's own assistants in Paris.

When the news broke that the narrowest White House reporting from Jimmie Byrnes; for it was Jimmie's failure to send detailed reports to the President, that led to his first break with Truman. When Byrnes attended the Moscow conference as Secretary of State, the still-unfolding mystery of why the popular and sometimes impulsive Jimmie Byrnes suddenly resigned.

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At one time, Byrnes called: "Ted Maud (Mrs. Byrnes) has my child is better." But he called little or no information to Truman before he resigned.

Newsmen Scoop Government

WHAT got Truman's attention last week was that the final protocol signed at Moscow was broadcast by the Moscow radio long before Byrnes called to the State Dept. Therefore, the President's press secretary, Mr. Acheson, must have read the final results in the morning papers almost before he got a report from the State Dept.

Acheson Not To Repeat Byrnes' Action

TRUMAN was further irked when Byrnes, flying back from Moscow, sent a message to Bill Benton, assistant Secretary of State for Public Information, telling him to arrange for a press conference to which Byrnes would bring the Atomic Bomb.

Truman Byrnes arrived, Acheson went to the airport to meet him and, while driving home, Jimmie casually mentioned his forthcoming broadcast. "What broadcast?" asked Acheson. Byrnes told him.

Argument In Limousine

KNOWING that Byrnes was asked, Acheson hinted that it would be wise to report to the President before going to the limousine.

Truman, however, had gone down the Potomac on the yacht Williamsburg—perhaps as a deliberate rebuff to Byrnes. This made the Secretary of State highly indignant. Acheson has a hard time explaining that Byrnes' was Truman's only way of escaping a constant stream of callers. Byrnes, however, had been busy as busy as Byrnes.

Truman's Suspicion

THERE was always a suspicion in Truman's mind that Byrnes, older, far more experienced, and a candidate for