

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

MECKLENBURG County's ABC system, it seems, is the prevailing ground for both prohibitionists and control advocates who are presently locked in combat in several North Carolina counties.

Each side appears to find adequate ammunition in Mecklenburg to load all its guns. Some of the facts and figures are right, some are wrong, and some of them are simply misinterpreted.

Speaking in Salisbury Sunday, Attorney Francis C. Clark of Charlotte, a forceful leader of the Allied Church League prohibition forces, cited some increases in Mecklenburg County's budget for 1949 and, although he did not say it in so many words, inferred, strongly that the ABC stores were at least partially responsible for the increases. Here is what Mr. Clarkson had to say:

The combined tax rate in Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte is as follows:

Year	Rate
1947	\$2.98
1948	\$3.06
1949	\$3.12

The County's share of 1948 taxes was above \$200,000. The 1949 County budget is the following increase over 1948:

Rural Police	\$ 17,730
Poor Fund	15,000
Public Welfare Admin.	15,528
Public Health Fund	10,000
Aid Dependent Children	105,670
Total Increase	\$244,558

In the first place, Mr. Clarkson took the original budget for 1949 and failed to include supplemental appropriations. There are three of these funds. Thus his 1948 figures were incomplete, since it did not include ABC funds which subsequently came in and were budgeted. Actually, a more realistic comparison between 1948 and 1949 expenditures, including 1948 supplemental appropriations, as furnished by the County Auditor's office is as follows:

Fund	1948	1949 Increase
Rural Police	\$172,850	\$170,283.50 .00
Poor Fund	21,138	\$21,874.00 .00
Public Welfare Ad.	129,750	154,750.00 11.5
Public Health	30,030	39,968.00 18.2
Aid Depnt Ch'n	227,125	278,800.00 19.2

The most interesting thing about these figures, however, is the way they compare with Rowan County, where Mr. Clarkson

'ME TOO' POLICY IN BRITAIN

THAT the once-mighty British Conservative Party is rapidly becoming an English model of our own "Me Too" Republican Party was made perfectly clear by the party's statement of policy and Winston Churchill's major address last week.

Both documents adroitly avoided any direct attack on the Socialistic policies of the Labor Government; both promised to retain a major portion of the "reforms" of recent years; both took refuge in meaningless bombast and merely promised the voters to administer the program of nationalization more efficiently.

If the party continues this approach up to and through the coming general election, it will be a real test of the British Conservative's ability to unseat the Democratic Party in this nation and, in all probability, will be destined to the same miserable fate.

The party policy statement, "The Right Road for Britain," did pledge that it would not undertake any further nationalization of industry, and vaguely held out the promise to restore to private enterprise some sections of the industries already nationalized. It further promised to remove restrictions on new retail businesses, and otherwise encourage private enterprise.

At the same time, the booklet promised to retain food rationing, price controls, agriculture regulation, and the national health service.

Expanding the policy statement, former Prime Minister Churchill addressed a great throng at Wolverhampton on Saturday. He blasted the Labor Government for disclaiming the need for bringing the nation to the brink of insolvency, for placing Britain under a "cramping and disastrous" rule.

OUR BOB TO THE RESCUE

WE note from The Asheville Citizen, the Associated Press, the United Press and various other reliable and trustworthy sources that Robert Reynolds of Asheville is "considering" running for another term as U. S. Senator.

"Quite a number of people in Buncombe County and in the central and eastern portions of the state have personally urged me to seek another term in the Senate and have pledged me their support. I've also had considerable number of letters from friends and acquaintances," Reynolds told The Citizen.

His law partner, T. C. Crawford, was less coy about it.

was speaking, and where there are no ABC stores. Here are the Rowan figures, as furnished by The News by the County Auditor and excluding the Rural Police since Rowan has no rural police department.

Fund	1948	1949 Increase
Poor Fund	\$44,250	\$74,019.00
Public Health	26,885	46,779.00
Public Health	40,863	55,252.00
Aid Depnt Ch'n	14,940	17,820.00

In each category, Rowan's percentage increase for these welfare services exceeded Mecklenburg's. What does it all prove? City Manager Henry Vance, in a letter to the Statesville Record the other day, answered that question:

"To assume that the increased cost of government in Charlotte is the result of the establishment of ABC stores is an erroneous assumption in the extreme.

"There are no ABC stores in Greensboro, yet the cost of government has risen to the point where the City of Greensboro has closed two stations.

"Public welfare, public health, aid to dependent children, law enforcement are simply departments of government, and the costs have increased almost everywhere, and not as a result of ABC stores.

"The operating cost of our water department in 1948-49 was \$217,184.65, an expenditure for the year 1948-49 of \$441,204.88, an increase of 39 per cent.

"I doubt that anyone would allege that this increase was due to ABC stores. However, such an allegation would be about as nearly correct as the one concerning health, welfare and aid to dependents."

One other point about Mr. Clarkson's figures. Take the Rural Police fund, for example. He cites an increase of \$17,730. Of this increase, \$7,656 resulted from a 4 per cent salary increase and \$5,500 for the replacement of worn out automobiles. That's \$13,156 of the increase. If the Rural Police funds are so much busier because of ABC stores, their appropriations for fingerprinting, supplies, clothing, gasoline, tires, auto repairs, new equipment, laundry, police training, telephones, and other expenses would be identical with last year's or within a few dollars of the 1948 figure.

Figures are deceptive. If they are examined closely, they do not always mean what they seem to mean.

Yet with curious inconsistency, he denied vigorously that the Laborites were the "authors and originators of social reform."

In the last four years they have carried out plans prepared by the National Council of Government, with its large Conservative majority of which I was the head," he said.

Then he turned right around again and said that "there's no doubt that the process of nationalization have proved to be an expensive failure to date, pointing to higher charges for nationalized gas and electricity and to the high losses being incurred by the nationalized coal board, the British railways and by the publicly owned banks."

In still another reversal, Mr. Churchill said that "there's no real difference between a full application of the Socialistic system (which his Coalition Government had mapped four years earlier, by his own admission) and Communism. Both are fatal to liberty, as we have known it, to our prosperity and happiness and to what we have called the 'British way of life'."

The only difference: Socialism is administered by homefords, Communism by jackboots and tools of a foreign power. The inconsistency running through the whole Churchill address, the fawning compliments to British labor unions, and the fact that he is a Communist ironist and sarcasm of his own Communist irony would doubtless leave many Britons wondering whether it will make very much difference who wins the next election.

That nation seems to be firmly entrenched in Socialism, and the Conservative Party's spineless attempt to woo voters by promising to keep the major reforms and administer them better deserves the scornful contempt of Congressmen Jimmy Watson, Pennsylvania Republican, a naval reserve captain.

"Do you stop to admire a little roadside beauty?" asks a travel writer—without reference, of course, to the one thumbing a ride. —Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.

Maybe the world isn't any worse than it used to be. Perhaps you just know more about it than you used to. —Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal.

The U. S. Now Has Delicate Relations With Russia, Britain And The Senate Appropriations Committee



Dispatch From The Farm

Rain Barrel Music

By JOHN GOULD
(In The Christian Science Monitor)

FOR a number of years now this farm has gone along rather well with a rain barrel, but each summer when I find I suddenly get the notion I ought to have one. Just for old-time's sake, I think, nothing but a barrel to hold water. I've seen about it. Right now I'm sure that on my next trip to the village I'll find a moldy barrel to use as a rain barrel. I've seen about it. Right now I'm sure that on my next trip to the village I'll find a moldy barrel to use as a rain barrel. I've seen about it. Right now I'm sure that on my next trip to the village I'll find a moldy barrel to use as a rain barrel.

Not for little boys. Little boys weren't supposed to touch them. The barrels on top, with the little hole where the spout is, were in the water. In the summer when I find I suddenly get the notion I ought to have one. Just for old-time's sake, I think, nothing but a barrel to hold water. I've seen about it. Right now I'm sure that on my next trip to the village I'll find a moldy barrel to use as a rain barrel. I've seen about it. Right now I'm sure that on my next trip to the village I'll find a moldy barrel to use as a rain barrel.

When the season had been showery, and there was "dry spell," we sometimes used rain water for bathing. It was a treat. The cold water from the barrel was fun to use. When I didn't need a scrubbing all over, but only to clean up on my knees from going barefooted, it was fun to use. When I didn't need a scrubbing all over, but only to clean up on my knees from going barefooted, it was fun to use.

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Marquis Childs Hard To Extinguish

AS HISTORY has shown repeatedly, the fires of religious conflict, once kindled, are difficult to extinguish. It is impossible to clear. Disquieting signs of hostility between Protestant and Roman Catholics have been multiplying since the end of the war until they are today a clear and present danger.

Cardinal Spellman's attack on the "devil" will certainly not restrain that threat. It becomes an open feud with increasingly unhappy manifestations as it is likely to have quite the opposite effect.

In this country where so many minorities live side by side tolerance is essential to peaceful existence. If the spirit of life-and-let-live is supplanted by mutual hatred and reprisals, then no minority will be able to feel secure.

The immediate cause of the present strife is the aid-to-education bill in the House. A clause in the bill approved by a House committee would limit Federal aid to public schools. This has led many Catholics to believe that unfair discrimination is intended.

BEYOND REASON
A careful examination of all the circumstances should convince any fair-minded person of this belief. The bill was introduced by a Republican. It was approved by a House committee. It was approved by a House committee. It was approved by a House committee.

A reasonable solution can still be found. Step No. 1 is for the House to drop the proposed child health bill. This provides \$30,000,000 to be allocated to child health on the basis of the number of children under five years of age.

Rep. Graham A. Barden of North Carolina, who introduced the bill, limited to public schools, says he has no objection to the bill. He is, according to those working to compromise, he gives proof that he has no religious prejudice, but is basing his stand on aid to education on legal and constitutional grounds.

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Trading guns for time, with the emphasis on the word "time," that's the game of the present day. That's the game of the present day. That's the game of the present day.

Why the speed? The thinking goes like this: This country's allies, particularly in Western Europe, have been trying to recover from the war, with our help. They've been making progress but their economies will take years to get back on their feet.

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Guns For Time

WASHINGTON
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by state taxes shall go to provide bursas for children attending parochial and public schools.

This is a continuation of the differing pattern in the different states. In, say, Louisiana or Rhode Island, the children attending parochial schools is far lower than in, say, Vermont or Iowa. It would be impossible to argue the merits of the compromise, since the support of the compromise would cut across these differing patterns.

COMPROMISE SOLUTION
Quite apart from theoretical argument, the actual fact is that the House has for desperately needed the compromise approach adopted in the Senate. All of the current conflict continues to boil up, even that chance is slim.

One unhappy aspect of the present controversy is that it tends to emphasize the separateness of the minority group. It is to emphasize the pessimistic view of the situation. This suggests a need for special rights and special treatment would not yield to the "melting pot" but would grow deeper and more uncompromising.

In choosing a justice for the Supreme Court, the President is faced with the problem of choosing a justice who will be a fair-minded person of this belief. The bill was introduced by a Republican. It was approved by a House committee. It was approved by a House committee.

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