

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1949

ONE-MAN GOVERNMENT

WHATEVER Governor Scott's motives may be, his high-handed invasion of the Conservation & Development Board preserves last week is another indication that he believes in government of Kerr Scott, by Kerr Scott, and for Kerr Scott. Acting abruptly in the arrogant fashion which is becoming more and more the Scott trademark, our chief executive suddenly:

1. Appointed his secretary, Charlie Parker, to succeed Bill Sharpe as director of the State News Bureau at the very time the advertising committee of the Board was in agreement on Jack Riley of the Raleigh News & Observer as the best available man;

2. Announced that the State advertising account, now placed with a Charlotte firm, would be canceled in 60 days and renegotiated.

In both instances, the Governor assumed prerogatives which have certainly belonged to the board by tradition and, according to Vice-Chairman, Josh Horne, by law. "It's unusual," he said, "it's never been done by previous governors."

The Board of Conservation & Development is scheduled to meet in Raleigh tomorrow and further developments may be expected. It has been hinted that the Board will seek a ruling from the attorney general to clarify its powers.

"There was a similar instance recently involving J. Harris Sampson, director of the Paroles Commission. Scott wanted him fired and replaced with a Scott man; the Commission wanted to keep him. But Scott said, 'No,' and the Commission accepted the verdict."

Charlie Parker is probably well qual-

fied for his new post—but he will begin his work under a cloud of suspicion arising from the political aspects of his appointment.

The cancellation of the advertising contract has even stronger political implications. It was awarded to Ayer & Gillette of Charlotte on January 1, 1948, after having been bid by Eastman-Scott of Atlanta in 1937 when the Advertising Division was set up.

The News & Observer says:

"The Governor's action, Redwine, local representative for Eastman-Scott, is anxious to regain the contract for his company. Redwine supported Scott's new one-man government."

The Governor has announced that the contract will be re-let through the Division of Purchase & Contract. Just yesterday it was announced that Mr. Redwine had formed a new advertising agency, the Eastman-Redwine Inc., which will "solicit the State's account." It will be safe to bet that this new "home-grown" firm will get the business.

North Carolina's state advertising program has been enormously successful. But if the Governor is going to make a political and football game of it, its effectiveness will soon be destroyed.

He does not have a "majority" on the Conservation Board because of the staggered term system. But he does not need a majority as long as he can ride roughshod over the public-spirited men who are serving on the Board, men who are better qualified than the Governor to decide such matters, and men who are acting in the best interests of North Carolina instead of the best interests of W. Kerr Scott.

THE OBJECTIVE IS THE THING

THE proponents of an ordinance setting up a stronger educational committee for Charlotte were striving to accomplish several things:

1. To guard against fraud by placing a stumbling block in the way of the occasional outside, fly-by-night outfit using devious means to collect money for dubious purposes.

2. To encourage bona fide fund-raising enterprises to examine closely their policies and eliminate non-essential expenditures before ever asking the commission for a permit;

3. To curtail the growing tendency for campaigns to run on and on by insisting on better timing and more intelligent campaign methods;

4. To curb the present trend toward unrealistic and fictitious goals set all too often on the basis of what the traffic will bear rather than real need.

They felt that the present solicitations amounted to no more than a rubber stamp and is not so constituted that it can exercise any effective control. To replace it they recommended a more stringent commission with definite powers to require compliance with its decisions. Appeal to the City Council was initially included to satisfy some of the critics.

In the process of free public debate on the question, opponents have made quite a few points which could be used to "regiment" personal giving and otherwise dictate to legitimate fund raising organizations.

Though the News has endorsed a more effective commission, it is not wedded to this particular ordinance. And if the City Council should decide that the proposed ordinance cloaks the Commission with too much authority that it should have and that its powers might be abused, further revision would be in order.

But it does seem eminently desirable that something be done to bring fund-raising into line with reality and to protect both the public and the bona-fide organizations against the kind of high-pressure, competitive bidding for favor which can only result in public annoyance and loss of respect for the worthy enterprise.

The experience of Winston-Salem, described elsewhere on this page, indicates that Charlotte would profit by such an agency.

FOREST FIRE BROUGHT HOME

TO MOST of us in Charlotte, a forest fire is about as foreign as an earthquake or typhoon. We haven't had our homes destroyed or our friends killed and we haven't worked for hours upon end, scorched by heat and blackened by smoke.

This week, however, some Charlotteans were awake to the terrors of forest fire, of a forest in flames. When word reached Charlotte that a young college student, a Charlotte youth named Raymond Thompson had been killed while fighting the huge Monticello forest fire, many of us were taken out of the headlines for a while; it became a personal word.

Charlotteans began to wonder why such youngsters as Thompson and his college companions—smoke jumpers, they were called—volunteered for the perilous task of leaping from airplanes into the flames. And as they began to understand the genuine concern for the great world of the young man who was seeking a new name, they were moved to admiration for the youngster and his fourteen fellow fire

fighters—only three of whom escaped.

And, in contrast to Thompson's sacrifice, they thought of the unthinking men and women who, with a cigarette, a careless cigarette, destroy millions of acres of timber each year, and with them, more and more, a few lives.

No one has yet determined the origin of the huge Monticello fire. It is entirely possible that no human hand was responsible; yet the United States Forest Service informs us that campers, hikers and motorists must bear a very large part of the blame for forest fires throughout the nation.

Lamenting the tragic death of young Thompson and his friends, we join with the U. S. F. S. in deploring the wanton carelessness of those responsible for many fires, and urge stiff penalties for the thrill-seeking, irresponsible, and selfish.

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Another City's Experience

Frequently Raising in Winston-Salem

The following summary of Winston-Salem's experience with a stronger educational committee should be of interest to proponents and critics of a proposal to establish a similar commission here. The City Council has passed several resolutions on the question until next week. Editors, The News.

By THOMAS D. CARTER
Chairman Committee on Public Solicitation,
Winston-Salem, N. C.

THREE years ago our town organized a Committee on Public Solicitation to review the increasing flood of financial appeals which threatened to devour our County. We hoped to prevent outright fraud, to improve campaign timing and to lend the prestige of our Committee to worthwhile causes, and to help them obtain adequate support. Little did we realize what we were getting into.

It did not take long to find that the fraudulent appeals were few and far between and relatively easy to deal with. The real problems arose from genuine appeals. These were of two types: one group had been raised, usually by some national agency, to promote its local fund-raising efforts. The other group was made up of appeals from individuals who had been inspired by the cause they sponsored and who had no other means of raising funds.

In several instances there was no responsible local contact. These appeals were usually from the State or National policy making bodies, and little known about how funds were being expended by such organizations. In some cases, the funds were being expended haphazardly without thoughtful planning and without regard for the activities of other groups.

Often, these well-intentioned individuals were uninformed about the extent of local, National or State need. What might be a very real need for the State or National policy making bodies, and little known about how funds were being expended by such organizations. In some cases, the funds were being expended haphazardly without thoughtful planning and without regard for the activities of other groups.

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Joseph Alsop

The Prop Is Cracking

THERE were two vital topics of the successful foreign policy of the earlier Truman era. The first was the close collaboration between the State Department and the military, and the second was the close collaboration between the State Department and the Congress. The first was the close collaboration between the State Department and the military, and the second was the close collaboration between the State Department and the Congress.

It has been encouraging in comparing notes with other communities throughout the country to find that their findings and experiences tend to confirm our own. We have accomplished no miracles, but it does seem that we have made progress in at least four areas.

1. Although appeals have been coming thick and fast, we have been able to keep them from being conducted on top of one another. We have prevented one drive from killing another drive.

2. It has also been possible to work out campaign priorities. In one instance, we prevented a campaign which might have had a serious effect upon a major community development by insisting that no drive be conducted until a satisfactory plan for the campaign had been developed. It has been generally accepted at present that this is justified in approving only one major community campaign at a time.

3. We have been able to assure our community that the announced goal of approved campaigns are realistic. Because agencies are required to demonstrate need, we have been able to secure the widest of carefully limiting their campaign goals to the needs of the community. This has resulted in close relationship to the stated goal.

4. We have also prevented a number of fraudulent appeals from being conducted. All in all, it has seemed that our efforts have resulted in providing a climate in which most campaigns are conducted on a basis of honesty and integrity. Interagency board members who are more active in the campaign fund-raising and health and welfare problems.

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