THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The News' Platform For 1950-60

1. Organization of an Urban Redevelopment Commission.
2. A $10,000,000 school building program for Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.
3. A scientific county-wide revaluation of property.
4. Maximum feasible consolidation of the City and County Governments as recommended by Institute of Government studies.
5. A definite public housing program based on facts gathered in 1950 census.
6. Formation of a civic promotion group similar to Winston-Salem's Committee of One Hundred.
7. A new city auditorium.
8. A full-scale program for unbotling traffic congestion.
9. Improved air transportation facilities.
10. Positive action to clear Charlotte's creeks of contamination and pollution.

TEN-YEAR PLATFORM—VII

PROBABLY no single public undertaking in Charlotte's modern history has engendered as much discussion and argument as the building of a new civic auditorium to replace the ancient and ill-suited Armory-Auditorium as a center for community cultural and commercial activities.

For many years Charlottians have come away from the Armory sighing for a new auditorium. The project came to a vote twice, in 1946 and again in 1947. Both were votes against registration, and it was necessary that a majority of the total registration be cast in the affirmative. Had either been a simple majority of the votes actually cast, as the law now provides, the bond issues would have been approved.

One reason the previous tests of public opinion caused a setback in auditorium aspirations was that inadequate advance planning had been done. The people had no building design, no specific site before them.

This time the City Administration is proceeding more logically—and more cautiously. A strong committee of leading citizens, headed by Mr. David Ovens, has been working quietly for many weeks studying auditoriums in other cities, surveying potential sites in Charlotte, and trying to decide on a design and capacity.

It is apparent that this committee intends to exhaust every possibility before making any public announcement of its findings, and we can be sure that its proposal, when finally brought forth, will answer most, if not all, of the City's needs.

The planning of an auditorium is a complex undertaking. Many factors such as capacity, arrangement, site, accessibility, method of financing, parking facilities, and the like must be considered.

There has been the further suggestion that a sports coliseum, perhaps on the same site as the new auditorium, should be included in the planning, but there is no indication of the committee's feeling about this additional undertaking.

At any rate, the prospects for a new auditorium in Charlotte in the next few years are better than they have ever been before. There is every reason to believe that the people of Charlotte will overwhelmingly approve the necessary expenditure of money, provided they are convinced that the project has been carefully planned.

THE 'BB' GUN MENACE

IT MAY BE a roundabout way to diminish the menace of "BB" guns in the City of Charlotte, but the investigation of 24 accidents to see if criminal negligence on the part of the parents was involved at least focuses attention on the real culprits.

The present law governing air and spring rifles carries no penalty. The police are merely authorized to confiscate such weapons when used inside the city limits and hold them until parents reclaim them. The officers can give the parents a lecture, but little else.

In a sense, it is certainly criminal negligence for any parent to permit a small child to wield an air rifle—or any other potentially dangerous weapon, for that matter—around his playmates. On top of that, it is downright stupid—for the parent himself might be the victim if he wants to consider the thing selfishly.

A prominent Charlottean pointed out the other day that the eye is a relatively small portion of the anatomy. If 24 children have been shot in the eye since Christmas, many hundreds of others must have been struck elsewhere about their bodies. (One young buck buried a shot in his own finger.) This gentleman surmised that never before in history—including two great World Wars and even encompassing Cornwallis' famed visit to the Hornets' Nest—had so many Charlottians been struck by objects ejected from guns in an equivalent period of time.

That may be stretching it, but the "BB" gun menace is indeed a serious one. Whatever the City Solicitor and the Police Department can do to drive that fact home to careless, thoughtless parents will be of help in eliminating it.

FREE RIDE FOR MANY

A STORY in THE NEWS yesterday citing the heavy cost of providing for our aged brings out on the local level the unanswerable arguments in favor of an expansion of the Social Security on the national level.

Old-age survivors' insurance is paid out of Federal taxes collected under Social Security from covered employees and their employers.

Old-age assistance is paid out of general tax money on a joint Federal-State-County basis.

Of 205 cases studied by the local Welfare Department recently (all of those terminated in the July 1, 1948-June 30, 1949, fiscal period) only 57 drew Social Security insurance benefits. The rest were not covered by the Social Security law—53 farmers, 50 homemakers, 43 domestics, and 2 who had never worked, or a total of 148.

These 148 drew old age assistance—and, unlike the 57 under Social Security, they had contributed nothing to their old age security.

Furthermore, their payments were higher than the Social Security benefits. The exact figures were not given, but a recent national compilation showed that the U. S. average for assistance was $42.02 monthly as compared with only $19.88 for Social Security.

(The Social Security benefits are so low, in fact, that most of the recipients also get direct assistance to help meet the expense of living.)

The bill now before the Senate to expand the Social Security problem will help remedy this situation. It will take in many more types of workers, and it will increase the scale of benefits. Passage is almost a certainty, since it swept through the House with a big majority.

As it is now, it often pays not to save—you can get more by not having contributed to your future welfare.

TAR HEEL PIONEER

TO GEORGE M. Cooper, M.D., for his brilliant and humane leadership in establishing birth control as an integral part of the public health service of North Carolina, the first State in the Union to take this step. As head of the Division of Preventive Medicine, he displayed extraordinary talent and vision as an organizer, educator and administrator in bringing the benefits of child spacing to underprivileged couples. To him we owe much of the improvement in maternal and child health and family stability."

So read the citation of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in recognition of the unpublicized achievement of a Tar Heel doctor. For these accomplishments, Dr. Cooper won the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation Awards in Planned Parenthood.

Born in Clinton, N. C., he practiced there after graduation from the University College of Medicine, Richmond, in 1905. He was county physician for Sampson County from 1909 to 1913, and in 1915 joined the State health service. In 1923 he was promoted to assistant State Health Officer and to his present post in 1931.

While controversy over planned parenthood still rages in many portions of the nation, North Carolinians, it is believed, have recognized the social havoc that can be wreaked when poor folks have too many children.

Belated congratulations then to Dr. Cooper, whose activity in this field has brought further recognition of North Carolina's social progress.

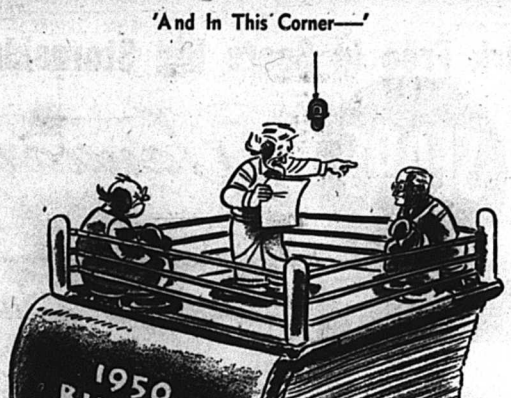
Speaking of the law's uncertainties et cetera, there are the Oklahoma laws which have gotten the Constitution of Oklahoma into such a twist that 22 of our state senators are eligible to run for governor and 22 of them are not eligible.—*Oklahoma City Daily Oklahoman.*

New in the drug line is something twice as potent, they say, as morphine, and if a bigger dope has been the national need, this probably is it.—*Asheville (N. C.) Citizen.*

Once there was the story of a man who had to get rid of a million dollars in a year, and what a hard time he had. That was the man who was Born Thirty Years Too Soon.—*Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.*

In the old days it was the universal custom to do without the things one could not afford. Today we borrow the money and get them anyway.—*Pittsburg (Tex.) Gazette.*

'And In This Corner——'



Man Behind The Scene

MacArthur And Formosa

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

IN deciding against any American military aid for Formosa, President Truman resolved a sharp difference of opinion between his Secretary of State and his Secretary of Defense. Dean Acheson opposed sending a military mission to help Chiang Kai-shek in his last stand on the island of Formosa. Louis Johnson insisted that a mission be sent.

But Johnson may still have his way. At the end of January the Joint Chiefs of Staff will make a tour of the Pacific. Word has reached the State Department that the Joint Chiefs, at Johnson's initiative, will go to Formosa.

That is, they will go if Formosa is still held by the Nationalists. Out of that visit could come, as is well understood in the State Department, a renewed demand for military advisers from the United States and even, in line with the extreme Republican position, for the U. S. Navy.

GENERAL MacARTHUR

The controversy over Formosa must surely rank as one of the strangest in the nation's history. It is mysterious, above all, because one of the principal figures is missing from the public views. It is just as though in a great painting the artist had left a blank space for the leading actor in the drama.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur has been more responsible than any single individual for pointing up the dispute over Formosa. Yet, publicly, he has not uttered a single word.

* * *

ON JAN. 26, the commander of the American occupation in Japan will be 70 years old. For nearly 15 years MacArthur has not returned to the United States. He was first in the Philippines, helping to plan the Philippine defenses, and then he fought the entire war in the Pacific.

Briefly, here is the sequence of the Formosa dispute and MacArthur's part in it. The Joint Chiefs of Staff had taken a decision not to intervene with military assistance. That was prior to the visit to Tokyo of Assistant Secretary of the Army Tracy S. Voorhees and Deputy Chief of Staff for the Army Maj. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther.

MacArthur helped to persuade them that Formosa had to be held. On their return to the Pentagon, they were in turn influential in getting the Joint Chiefs to reverse the original decision. Secretary Johnson, too, came down heavily on the side of intervention.

But MacArthur's influence was most significant in its effect on traveling Republican Senators and, particularly, on Senator William Knowland of California and Sen. H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey. These and other visitors felt the full weight of MacArthur's impressive personality, and at the same time he made planes and officers available so that they could visit Formosa to get the Nationalist point of view.

* * *

IT WAS out of MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo that the State Department memorandum on the need to prepare for the fall of Formosa was leaked. A constant stream of top secret MacArthur telegrams flown into the Pentagon urging immediate action. Thus, behind the majestic silence he outwardly maintains, MacArthur is the key figure.

Quite apart from his passionate convictions on Formosa and Chiang Kai-shek, MacArthur, according to one of his closest friends now in this country, feels a deep sense of grievance at his treatment since the war. The European generals and even some of MacArthur's subordinates returned to receive triumphal welcomes. But, according to his friend, MacArthur was offered by Gen. George C. Marshall a week's free vacation at a fashionable resort if he wanted to return on a brief leave.

The hero of Bataan was deeply offended. His friend quotes him as having said at the time:

"I shall not return until I am asked to return by a joint resolution of both Houses of Congress."

If the Republicans were in control of House and Senate, they could be expected to try to put through such a resolution. But short of that, MacArthur is likely to stay where he is and remain what he is—an imponderable and silent force in the great Asia debate.

By law, all officers of the Army are required to retire at the age of 62 except four-star generals, whose term may be extended to 64, and five-star generals—MacArthur, Eisenhower, Arnold and Marshall—two never retire. Even though they may be in civilian life—Marshall is head of the Red Cross, Eisenhower president of Columbia University—they remain as "officers of the United States Army on active duty without an assignment."

This means that MacArthur, if he chooses, can stay in Japan indefinitely. And he shows every sign of doing just that.

People's Platform

Mercy Killing Justified

LINCOLNTON

Editors, THE NEWS:

IN REGARD to the mercy killing case that is being aired in public just now, I think the doctor was justified in doing what he did. There is no point in allowing the patient to suffer the few remaining days with the aid of powerful sedatives. In my opinion, a lethal dose at once would have been indicated.

The only mistake the doctor made was in putting the case on his file, where some snooper with a which hunting complex could find it and make trouble. In fact, I would say this was fairly common practice among the better and more broad minded medical men. They just fail to mention it.

When surgeons began using anesthetics in their work, some narrow minded church-going persons proclaimed it a presumptuous sin. They wanted the other fellow to suffer. The physician who introduced anesthesia replied that Almighty God performed the first operation when He put the patient "Adam" to sleep.

—G. N. RAMSEY.

Quote, Unquote

An old timer is one who can remember when a wooden ruler was used to see how much gasoline was in the car. —Arkansas Gazette.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Labor Tax Fraud May Sidestep Justice

WASHINGTON

THIS column recently exposed the manner in which Mid-Continent Petroleum had fixed a $6,000,000 income tax evasion case for only $3,000,000, after Internal Revenue agents had recommended criminal prosecution.

Here is another fraud case, this one involving a labor union. The chief difference between the two cases is that the Truman Administration, despite its great and avowed friendship for labor, has not yet let the union get away with it. Although the union tax fraud has been delayed for one year, it may still be prosecuted. The big oil company case, on the other hand, was quickly fixed on the inside and was never allowed to get to the Justice Dept. for criminal prosecution.

The labor case involves three organizers of the United Textile Workers (CIO)—Toby Mendes, Frank Bartholomew, and J. Turner. They are charged with encouraging workers to falsify their tax returns at the Simmons Mattress Co., Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

The Simmons company was in the middle of a fight over whether the plant should or should not be organized by the United Textile Workers, and as one inducement to join the union, the three organizers offered to show workers how to save money on their income taxes.

They saved money all right, but largely by swearing out false church contributions, travel expenses, gambling losses, etc.

Phony Church Contributions

GIFTS to churches in Roanoke Rapids, according to the income tax returns, were so high that one preacher remarked:

"If we had received all the contributions that have been deducted from the income tax returns around here, we would not have to pass the collection plate again."

Treasury investigators secured scores of sworn affidavits from millworkers telling how the union organizers encouraged them to fill out fraudulent tax returns. Here is one example of a conversation between Toby Mendes and a millworker.

Mendes: "How much do you donate to church?"

Millworker: "I don't go to church."

Mendes: "Do you pass by a church on your way to work?"

Worker: "Yes."

Q: "What church?"

A: "The Methodist Church."

Q: "Fine. You gave a $300 donation to the Methodist Church last year."

Q: "Do you ever gamble?"

A: "No."

Q: "Do you ever play cards for fun?"

A: "Yes."

Q: "Fine. You lost $300 in gambling debts last year."

Union Vs. Company

IN PREVIOUS years, the Simmons company had supplied accountants to help workers make out their taxes, but chief organizer Mendes told workers that the company did not have their interest at heart and that the union would save them money.

Mendes also claimed that he and the two other union organizers were former Internal Revenue agents, knew the inside ropes on how to save money. Later it turned out that only one of the organizers ever had been connected with Internal Revenue, and then only as a file clerk in Washington.

After T-man unearthed the phony tax returns and in the course of their investigation, Mendes and Bartholomew burst into the tax collector's office in the basement of the Post Office building at Roanoke Rapids. Four T-men were in the room: James White, Woodrow Blue, both deputy collectors, and Agents Arthur Selby and Joseph A. Tagliori of the intelligence unit.

"I understand you are looking for me," said Mendes. "You don't have to look for me. Here I am."

There being no comment, Mendes continued: "I understand you are investigating the returns we made out."

Agent Selby admitted that was a possibility.

"Well, I wouldn't if I were you," Mendes warned. "You may get into trouble."

Wire-Pulling In Washington

THE fraudulent tax returns were for the year 1947, and the Treasury Dept. concluded its investigation in 1948. More than a year elapsed after that, during which Mendes apparently tried to carry out his threat. For no prosecution was ordered in Washington.

Union officials claimed that the company had inspired the tax probe; that it was a part of intimidation tactics used by the Simmons company to hamper the organization of their mills. Internal Revenue agents, however, claimed that the company kept hands off. They said that Frank Williams, manager of the mill, told them he didn't want to have anything to do with the matter, didn't even want to hear anything about it.

Finally, after more than one year's dickering and delay in Washington, the Justice Dept. sent the case to Bryce R. Holt, U. S. Attorney in Greensboro, N. C., for criminal prosecution.

Holt, however, has informed the Justice Dept. that he is opposed to prosecution. He justifies this on the ground that the three union organizers got no financial return for preparing fraudulent returns and that prosecution of the case in court would boil down to a battle between labor and management.

That is the status of the case as of today.

'National Security Weakened Through Defense 'Economies'

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON.

IT IS a little hard to convey, to a naturally peaceable people, the real meaning of the defense "economies" in the President's new budget. This is particularly true when the Secretary of Defense himself publicly asserts that defense savings are being "made without any reduction in our state of preparedness," as Louis Johnson recently told the National Manufacturers' Association.

Fortunately, however, there is one very easy way to show what a gross deception is now being practiced. Consideration recently has been given to revising the capabilities plan of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to provide for withdrawal from Japan, Okinawa and perhaps the Philippines in case of war. This is how far we have come, under Louis Johnson's "economy" program.

The process of impairment of our security began in the autumn of 1948, when President Truman rejected the pleas of the late Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, to implement the Joint Chiefs' requirements plan. The JCS requirements plan, is what its name implies—a plan setting forth the minimum requirements for fully defending this country and the free world from potential Soviet aggression.

This decision of the President's threw us back, defense-wise, on the Joint Chiefs' capabilities plan. This plan is also what its name implies—the JCS plan for doing the best we can with what we have, in event of sudden war. The available American combat strength, present and in prospect, is being progressively whittled away by Johnsonian "economies," thus the capabilities plan has be continuously revised. As reported in this space, all hope of holding in the Mediterranean was sacrificed some time ago.

Our real weakness in the Pacific has now caused the war-time fate of our garrisons in Japan and Okinawa to be called in question (which makes Secretary Johnson's project for a Formosa adventure look pretty sick). Our Pacific Navy is hardly stronger than at the time of Pearl Harbor. This might not matter, since there is no Japanese navy to oppose us. What is really far worse is the fact that only the smallest beginning is being made on the task of combatting the new, high-speed, radar-proof German submarine which the Soviet Union is building in quantity.

ANTI-SUB WARFARE

It is true that Adm. Forrest Sherman has sensibly concentrated his effort on improving the Navy's anti-submarine capabilities, which are now hopelessly inadequate. But the task is enormous, and enormously expensive. It can only possibly be done, on any important scale, within the framework of the Defense Dept.'s "economy" policy. Meanwhile, although the current talk of hundreds of German-type Soviet submarines is undoubtedly exaggerated, all intelligence reports suggest that the Kremlin will have a powerful submarine fleet operating from Manchurian and Chinese ports by 1955 or sooner.

Continued penny-pinching on our own anti-submarine effort plus Soviet submarine development, can add up to only one outcome. The trans-Pacific lines of communication will be indefensible. Our Japanese and Okinawa garrisons will be cut off, and left exposed. The trans-Pacific positions will become untenable.

Very likely, the existence of the problem will be denied, and the problem will be handled as was that of the Philippines and Guam before the last war. But official denials and official delusions will not alter the underlying situation, or the meaning of that situation to the security of this country.

Furthermore, this situation involving our trans-Pacific bases is by no means special or unique. The requirements plan of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (and every other serious study) calls for an American Air Force of seventy groups as the minimum consistent with reasonable security. By 1953, according to official calculations, the Johnsonian "economy" policy will leave us with an Air Force of about 25 groups equipped with modern aircraft, plus some cats and dogs. We would have only 32 modern groups in 1954, if the decision had not been made to train Air Force candidates with old planes, instead of the latest up-to-date trainers.

This "economy" is to be accomplished, moreover, by something perilously like the abandonment of fighter and tactical aviation as American weapons. And this is to be done in the face of most ominous intelligence reports, telling of great Soviet advances in air strength of all kinds.

If the people were frankly consulted, and if they then freely chose to denude their own defenses, no one could criticize Secretary Johnson. But what is being done is a grave scandal—there is no other word—against the background of the kind of statement the Defense Secretary made to the assembled manufacturers not so long ago.

Life of Beach Boys Better Than It's Cracked Up To Be

By ROBERT C. RUARK

HONOLULU

I WOULD like to try to make an accurate presentation of a much-maligned profession, that of beach boy. I am very fond of beach boys and wish I had talent enough to be one.

Beach boys are named things like Chick and Turkey and Curley and Jimmy and Panama and Mystery and Tough Bill and Steamboat and Marlin. They inhabit the beach front at Waikiki, on salary, to teach the tourists how to fall off surfboards. They hand out towels, umbrellas, sun-tan oil and advice. This advice is delivered in a kind of spoken shorthand, which may be based on the English language or may be a unique tongue, according to how many beers have been involved in its delivery.

Beach boys are not servants. They are not gigolos, although I never heard of one ducking a pass if one was pitched. Beach boys are not entertainers, although they all play ukes and guitars and sing and do the hula. I do not know precisely what a beach boy is, except sunburned, unless you could call him a philosopher.

A beach boy in true standing has small regard for money. The ones I know do not grovel for tips or cadge drinks or give a damn about how much money a tourist has. He treats the tourist as an equal, and if the tourist earns the right by respecting the beach as a tourist—then gradually he may be included in the inner circle of beach boys, a high compliment indeed.

SKILLED WORKERS

These men are carefully selected for their skill and probity by the hotels who employ them to instruct in swimming, surfing and canoeing. For the guest's life and reputation are in the boy's hand when they cross the reef.

Parents trust their children in their care, and when the children grow up to be parents they turn over their kids to the same boys to teach. Friendships have been formed between guests and the boys in this manner, and millionaires have entertained them regally in their mainland homes and have sent them to college. Yes, but the boys have a scorn for money unless it is accompanied by personal charm.

It is a tight association, ruled spiritually by Sheriff Duke Kahanamoku and officially by Chick Daniels, called Pappy by all. Pappy is in his mid-60s, gray, but still strong as a bull and a great man either with a bottle, a uke or a hula.

When a beach boy dies his ashes are scattered on the ocean that gave him his livelihood, and each Christmas the boys throw a party on the beach after they have strewn memorial flowers on the ocean. This may be a good indication of the temperament of the beach boy. He sees no reason to sob over departed brothers, but throws a whingding of a party that lasts until the bonus of the boys wear out. And I have never known the boose to outlast the boys.

The beach boy loves to have enough money in his pocket to grab a check for a fast beer when his head hurts, but he is uninterested in real estate, capital gains, ulcers and the other boons of wealth. He acts like a beach until he dies, and his life is composed of equal amounts of music, manahini, pineapple, whisky, romance, poker games and measured conversation. No psychiatrists fatten off his complexes, because he has no complexes.

I wish I were one of their band, except I am a bum on a surfboard and consequently had worth a dime and could never achieve their social eminence—and apart from all that could never hope to compete with Panama in the romance league.