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 unbottling traffic congestion.
9. Improved air transportation facilities.
10. Positive action to clear Charlotte's creeks of contamination and pollution.

TEN-YEAR PLATFORM—VIII

CHARLOTTE is not alone in its traffic woes. Most American cities failed, for perfectly understandable reasons, to envision the Motor Vehicle Age and to anticipate its demands. Now they face the problem of correcting, by costly surgical operations, conditions which could have been prevented had they been detected earlier.

But though our city's problem is not unique, it is peculiarly acute. There are few wide streets in the business area, and few well-planned thoroughfares in the residential areas. We are also bottled up on all four sides by railroads. If this were not enough, Charlotte has grown with unusual speed the past two decades.

Thus we are now facing almost insoluble traffic congestion. Such improvements as can be made will be expensive, but they must be carried out if we are to maintain any semblance of our present compact main business district.

A long-range program for unbottling traffic congestion has several phases:

1. The elimination of grade crossings where traffic is tied up many times during the day and night by shifting trains.

2. The opening up of streets now blocked by railroad tracks or otherwise brought to dead ends.

3. The widening of some streets immediately, and the adoption of setback ordinances for others so they may be widened in the future.

4. The provision of new crosstown thoroughfares, such as Independence Boulevard, to connect the expanding sections of the city with each other and with the main business district.

5. The continuation of the present traffic engineering program with its more efficient control signals, channelization, marking of lanes, etc.

All of these phases are designed to keep traffic flowing smoothly. That is just part of the task, and will be of little use unless we also provide a place for all these vehicles to stop, once they reach their destination. Thus the program must also include:

6. Maximum efficiency in using curb parking spaces for the present; and

7. Acquisition of sites for permanent off-street parking facilities as insurance against the day when all curb parking will, of necessity, be banned.

There is still another phase—although we do not customarily think of it in relation to traffic congestion:

8. Improvement in the public bus transportation system. As it becomes more convenient to ride public transportation, we will be less inclined to use our private cars. That will reduce the potential congestion accordingly.

Perhaps the unbottling program, in its entirety, is a big assignment for one decade. If Charlotte continues to grow at its recent pace, however, it will not be a matter of choice but rather of urgent necessity.

DEARTH OF CANDIDATES

IT IS undoubtedly a tribute to the personal popularity and political wizardry of Senators Clyde R. Hoey and Frank Graham that no one has yet dared challenge them in the Democratic primary a few months hence. But it is certainly a sad commentary on the state of political affairs in Tar Heelia.

We have repeatedly bemoaned the absence of an effective two-party system in North Carolina. But we have gleaned some consolation from our spirited Democratic primaries which, more often than not, have given the people an opportunity to choose between candidates of differing philosophy and ability and, hence, substituted in a manner for the two-party jousting.

Now, it appears, we are losing even that. It appeared for a time that Mr. Umstead might take on Dr. Graham—and a zestful fray that would have been—but Mr. Umstead has decided against it. There is still the possibility that Mr. Reynolds will tackle the venerable Mr. Hoey. Though that is not exactly the kind of contest we are talking about, it would, as the *Greensbodo Daily News* says, give the people one more good reason for voting for Mr. Hoey.

In some respects, the Democratic Party in North Carolina has been quite vigorous under the leadership of Governor Scott. But in the spawning of exceptional political leadership, it is distressingly sterile. More than likely the Democrats of North Carolina, having no alternative, will go to the polls this Spring and rubber-stamp the nomination of Senators Hoey and Graham. Under our one-party system, they will be shoo-ins next November.

In Russia, rubber-stamp voting is enforced by the Kremlin; in North Carolina, it is the result of the debility of our one-party democracy.

CHARLOTTE AND SHAKESPEARE

SOUTHERNERS with an eye and an ear for theater sometimes wonder if something can't be done about the centralization of the dramatic art in New York. Some of them think in terms of a "national theater," others in terms of development of regional theaters through expansion of college or "Little Theater" groups.

But these things are difficult, requiring time and effort hard to spare these days.

And so it is with gratitude and pleasure that the city receives the news that Margaret Webster's company will bring "The Taming of the Shrew" to Charlotte next week.

The city is particularly fortunate in that it will have the opportunity to see this group present Shakespeare's comedy, for the lively performances Miss Webster's excellent troupe will give it may serve to remove some of the cobwebs from Shakespeare's name, may serve to wipe out the memory of the uninspiring readings given "Hamlet" in school and the equally distressing memory of conquering word-for-word that passage beginning, "The quality of mercy is not strained. . ."

This, of course, is what the two sponsoring organizations—the Shakespeare Society of Charlotte and the Mecklenburg Council of English Teachers—have been trying to do for some time; but their task is made considerably easier by the genius of Miss Webster, heralded by critics as "The First Lady of the Theater".

From The Indiana Teacher

CREDO FOR TEACHERS

I. Thou shalt have interests outside thy classroom.

II. Thou shalt not attempt to make graven images of thy students, for lo they are not stone, but flesh, and heir to the wrigglings and whisperings thereof.

III. Thou shalt not cry out in a loud voice unto them, for the voice of wrath is alien to the spirit of learning, and thy students will respect thee not if thou callest their names in vain.

IV. Remember thy week-ends and thy vacations, for in times of stress the thought of them will give thee comfort.

V. Honor thy students and believe in them, for they have great need of thee, whatsoever their actions; and verily thou must hold strong to this faith when the spitballs fly unto thee and the unruly grow wild.

VI. Thou shalt not kill in any way, even the smallest, the curiosity of a little child, yea, tho it seems often the curiosity of a cat and never-ending.

VII. Thou shalt not suffer any unkindness of thought or action to enter the door of thy classroom.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal time from thine own hours of leisure by putting off work so long that it fitteth not its rightful schedule.

IX. Thou shall not bear witness to the ills and sorrows of thy students with a cold heart; verily thou canst not love them all, nor is it commanded, but to understand their problems and to say unto them, "Come, let us work together," that is the law of thy profession.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy colleague's classroom, nor his equipment, nor his system, nor his degree, nor his personality, nor anything that is thy colleague's, but work out thine own salvation in fear and trembling.

XI. Thou shalt not lose thy sense of humor, for verily without it thou art lost and doomed surely to beat out thy brains upon thy blackboard.

Every married man knows that a stitch in time is quite a surprise—*Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.*

Home: A place where a man seldom arrives with his take-home pay.—*Rocky Rocky Mount (N. C.) Telegram.*

'There Must Be Some Better Way We Can Run This'

People's Platform

Would Outlaw BB Guns

MYRTLE BEACH, S. C.

Editors, THE NEWS:

THAT was a splendid editorial contained in your paper of Jan. 7 under the caption "Dangerous Toys".

"Two dozen Charlotte children have been shot in the eyes since Christmas, because of parents." Two dozen in Charlotte. Mr. Editor, visualize our nation as a whole and see the hundreds, yes possibly thousands of our youngsters who have had the same experience since Christmas, because of parents.

However, while the parent is primarily responsible for the purchase of such a dangerous toy, don't you think that each of us is guilty before a fact, when we permit the manufacture, sale and distribution of such a toy, which can do absolutely no good whatever to anyone, and yet kills, blinds and cripples for life annually those greatest of all gifts—our boys and girls?

Our association has sponsored laws that prohibit the sale of fireworks. Look what a great improvement has been brought about in Tarheelia since fireworks were abolished. We are solidly behind a law to abolish the BB gun that is doing all over the nation what it has just done in your splendid city.

—WALTER T. HOSIER,
National Safety Chairman,
Travelers Protective Association of America.

News Platform Praised

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE Charlotte Planning Board has, by resolution, commended THE NEWS for its ten-point program for Charlotte. The Board adopted this resolution:

"WHEREAS The Editors of The Charlotte News announced in their January 2, 1950 edition a Ten Point Platform for the next ten years; and

"WHEREAS The Charlotte News has given, and continues to give, extensive news and editorial space to exposition and explanation of this program of civic enterprise and progress; and

"WHEREAS many of the projects urged by The Charlotte News have either been studied and endorsed by the Charlotte Planning Board or will come before the Board in the future; and

"WHEREAS it is the considered opinion of the Charlotte Planning Board that this Ten Year Platform encompasses some of the most urgent needs of the City of Charlotte; now therefore

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Board of the City of Charlotte extend its commendation to the Editors of The Charlotte News for the timely and forceful presentation of these great projects to the people of Charlotte and Mecklenburg, and for this continued evidence of The News' traditional interest in long range planning for Charlotte's future."

—BEAUMERT WHITTON,
Chairman, Charlotte Planning Board.

On Oleo Tax Bill

GREENVILLE, S. C.

Editors, THE NEWS:

YOUR editorial on the oleo tax repeal bill was factually correct but you did not cover the real reason for farmer opposition to H.R. 2023. The situation is this: The price for fluid milk paid to the farmer who sells his milk wholesale is set by a regional Federal administrator. This is a political appointment, and is rarely held by anyone familiar with dairy farming, the marketing of milk, and the economy of milk distribution.

However, Federal law requires that the price of butter determine the price of milk. The assumption among butter dealers is that a 10c per lb. decrease in pre-colored oleo will bring a like decrease in the price of butter, thus maintaining the same price spread. This, a 10 to 15 per cent decrease in the butter price, will necessitate a like decrease in the fluid milk price; yet the butter price decrease will probably not effect the milk price charged the consumer.

Let us look at an example of what the decrease will mean to the dairy farmer. A farmer with 50 head of Guernsey cattle, sufficient equipment for his farm, and 250 acres of land has about a $50,000 investment. The average cost of keeping a cow is 50c per day over a one year period. Our farmer's cows then cost him $9,175 a year. Fifty head of cattle could produce about $15,000 worth of milk a year. This leaves $5,825. Deduct from this an average 10 per cent of the investment for labor, machinery, repairs, auto or truck upkeep, and other operating expenses. Our farmer now has $825 with which to support his family, pay land and school taxes, and insurance—if any—for the year. With a 10 per cent decrease in his income—in this case $1,500—it is obvious that he will be in the hole nearly as much as he now has to his credit. This example is typical of what will happen throughout the dairy industry.

Dairymen will suffer from the passage of H.R. 2023 in its present form. Solution: Add an amendment setting a floor on the price of fluid milk to the farmer at $5.00 per hundredweight of milk testing 3.5 per cent butterfat.

—JESSE JAY HENRY JR.

(P.S. The statements expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the administration of Bob Jones University.)

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed.—Editors, The News.

Quote, Unquote

We read what the experts say about oil potential, but we've yet to see the beat of our 1938 four-cylinder job when it comes to potenting oil. —Dallas (Tex.) Morning News.

These days it looks like if you build a better mousetrap the Government will beat a path to your door like a bat out of Hades and stick your own fingers in it. —Shreveport (La.) Times.

Here's a fellow trying to sell me a pencil. He says the pencil glides over paper as noiselessly as a feather floating down upon an oriental rug. I bought a gross of 'em. —Grenada County (Miss.) Weekly.

Long-Range Economy Policy Vs. Short-Term Politics

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE BATTLE now joined over President Truman's budget will go right on through the elections this Fall and after. If any Republican orator fails to attack that five-billion-dollar deficit, it will be because he or she is suffering from total amnesia.

The good intentions the President's budget exudes are like those in the message on the State of the Union and in the Economic Report. The goal of high prosperity in an expanding economy is unassailable.

But a great many people will question the means set out to reach that goal and they will include reasonable men in Mr. Truman's own party who approve much of the program he seeks. What the President proposes is deficit spending with large outlays for public works at a time when employment and income are near the top.

This is directly contrary to accepted theories of Government spending. Such spending is justified, in the Keynesian doctrine, in a period of decline in order to compensate for a falling off in private payrolls. To resort to it now is to risk using up the slack of Government credit when it may be urgently needed at a later time.

NEW ANGLE NEEDED

If Government spending is to be part of a calculated long-range economic policy, it must be subject to controls more nearly divorced from short-term political considerations. The President's budget includes $1,400,000,000 for river development — flood control, navigation, reclamation, power and other uses.

Undoubtedly, part of this is essential if the economy is to continue to expand and provide more and more jobs. There are areas where an acute power shortage has held back development.

A lot of it, however, is plain pork. Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois, an able economist who believes in facing up to facts, pointed that out when he made a heroic effort at the last session to cut the rivers and harbors bill. But he got little support from either Republicans or Democrats, since most Senators had a river or a harbor back home that the Chamber of Commerce wanted to see developed.

Here precisely is the danger given the kind of target the President has put up before an economy-minded Congress. There are essentials in the budget that have been scaled down about as far as can be done consistent with American responsibilities at home and abroad.

In most instances, however, these essentials are not cherished by any group or region for any particular or selfish reason. It will, therefore, seem painless to lop these off. Especially will it be easy when it happens to coincide with the grudge of some disgruntled "statesman." During the last session Sen. Pat McCarran frequently threatened to get even with the State Dept. by slashing the department's appropriation.

There is no one to scream to heaven when such appropriations are cut. And when this is done, then the pork can stay in.

The President rightly complains about the action of the Republican-controlled 80th Congress in cutting taxes when the inflationary boom was at its peak. That was an irresponsible act and it has complicated every effort to keep the economy on an even course.

But if he is to be consistent, he should go back to an even more grievous error for which he must in the last analysis accept the blame. Shortly after the war ended, the Truman Administration moved to take off the wartime excess-profits tax and a compliant Congress readily agreed. This had a lot to do with the still-soaring spiral of high profits and corresponding demands for higher wages. The lid was taken off just as the fires of inflation had begun to blaze up brightly.

EASY OPTIMISM

A few far-seeing individuals were at the time aware of the seriousness of this step. One of them was Bernard M. Baruch, who has never ceased to point out the unhappy consequences that have flowed from what was a major mistake.

This nation has endured a great deal. Another deficit in the billions may not be too serious. The economy, as the President points out, appears to be remarkably sound and resilient.

What deficit financing does do is encroach on the future. It assumes that we shall always have high employment and high levels of income. That kind of optimism comes naturally and almost too easily to Mr. Truman.

Taxpayers May Save $30 On White House Transportation

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

WASHINGTON

I CAN'T help it if I am late with this piece about the budget; I read it, all five pounds, nine ounces of it, and while this took time I did learn where the 42 billions are going. First off I wish those heavyweight Senators would sit down a little more gently in their mahogany chairs.

President Truman had budgeted $18,000 for repairing their furniture. He also reports that it's going to cost $5,400,000 for patching up the White House, including $5,000 for, and I quote, "printing". What has to be printed for showing up a house with bulgy walls I would not know.

The President, who is a forgiving soul, wants $12,530 to support the Fine Arts Commission, which last was in the news when it advised him not to build a back porch on the Executive Mansion.

SHEEP, GOATS AND BEES

He is seeking $112,300 to investigate earthquakes, $266,931 to ditto sheep and goats, and $173,500 to study honey bees. His agriculture boys also have a scheme to get automobile tires from cows. They're working on making synthetic rubber from milk, but try as I would I couldn't discover what it will cost. All I got for this effort was red-rimmed eyes.

For the Veep's limousine Mr. Truman wants $5,480; to keep the Senatorial subway trains running $2,600, and to build an Arctic health institute in Alaska, $6,450,000. He needs $860,000 to control white-fringe beetles, $32,800 to educate Congressional pages, $275 for streetcar fares of the gardeners at the Botanic Gardens, and $546,350 to pay for the wages of Federal Court criers.

For the Atomic Energy Commission, which already has 2,082 automobiles, busses and trucks, he expects to buy 339 more. The Government Printing Office must have $16,250,000 for printing such things as the budget itself, while the Post Office Dept. needs $13,868,200 for supplies, including penpoints that sputter.

Mr. Truman wants $1,512,228 for investigating fish, $56,793 for protecting birds, $584,789 for protecting Alaskan seals and $37,650 for investigating these same beasts. For catching mail robbers and those who send infernal machines by parcel post, the President is asking for $85,000 in reward money. Last year he wanted only $70,000 for this purpose, thus indicating he is pessimistic about stamping out burglary.

The President hopes to donate $280 to the International Whaling Commission. He announces that he already has paid $14,600,000 damages for bombs dropped by mistake during the war on Switzerland; that he needs $6,000 to fulfill peace treaties with the Seneca Indians of New York, and that he figures it'll cost $10,000,000 to control forest fires.

MONEY FOR MONEY

He's asking for $1,700,000 to buy special paper for dollar bills and $23,816,511 for printing those pretty pictures on them. He needs $500 for buying samples for the District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and $41,300 to pay the capital's dogcatchers and deck them in new uniforms.

These many years since I have been straining my eyes on the small type in his budget, the President always has asked for the $30 for the transportation of things at the White House. Never a mention of what things. This year he isn't planning to move anything and it looks like we taxpayers have saved 30 bucks.

This cheered me considerably until I looked at the Navy's needs; it owns a lot of things and it intends to spend $75,000,000 transporting them.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Rayburn Honored At 'Bipartisan' Lunch

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT TRUMAN attended a private birthday luncheon for Speaker Sam Rayburn last week at which he presented Sam with a new hat.

"Sam is the only man I know," commented the President, "who could stay in Washington over 40 years and still wear the same size hat he wore when he came here. I don't know what kind of a hat this is," Truman continued, "but I'll show you how to fix it."

Showing he hadn't lost his touch as a haberdasher, Truman flipped the hat into shape and planted it ceremoniously on Rayburn's head. As the guests roared, Rayburn yanked it down over his ears.

The President also kidded Rayburn about his age.

"Vice-President Barkley tells me when he was a kid, he used to listen to Sam on the lecture platform," Truman confided. "But, in view of Barkley's known age, I'll be damned if I can understand how Sam can be just 68."

Florida Vs. Texas Citrus

FIRST COURSE at the luncheon in honor of a famous Texan was grapefruit, which caused the President to remark: "I understand this grapefruit came from Florida."

"Yes, I am sure this is Florida grapefruit," agreed Chief Justice Fred Vinson.

"Now I know it is Florida grapefruit," declared the President, "because the Supreme Court has already handed down a decision that it's Florida grapefruit."

"You'll have to wait until I prepare my dissent," differed Justice Tom Clark, a Texan. "I am going to claim that it came from Texas."

Bipartisan Birthday

THE luncheon was attended by both Democrats and Republicans, all close friends of the speaker. This caused Sen. Lyndon Johnson, master of ceremonies, to announce it was a "bipartisan birthday luncheon". Later he introduced Rayburn as "a man who has made his friends proud and his critics ashamed".

With a voice sometimes choked with emotion, Rayburn told how he was one of eleven children, spoke of their early troubles and struggles, boasted that seven still came home for Christmas dinner last year.

"No place in the world could we have had the opportunity we have had in America," he said.

Rayburn went on to say that he believed "97 or 98 per cent of the world are good people and have good in them. I haven't any room in my heart or time in my life for hatred. I love people and I believe in them. . . . Under the leadership of a plain man from the farm lands of Missouri, we have taken the courage to lead the world for good and righteousness. I believe we will succeed."

Small Business Champion

THE House Small Business Committee will dish out some unsavory, but important, facts on the alarming growth of monopoly in a forthcoming report to Congress. The committee, headed by spade-calling Rep. Wright Patman of Texas, will say in part:

"If monopoly continues at the present rate, either the giant corporations will control all our markets, the greatest share of our wealth, and eventually our Government, or the Government will be forced to intervene with some form of direct regulation of business.

"Either choice is inimical to those who believe in the American system of democratic government and free enterprise."

The committee will recommend a complete overhauling of the Federal Trade Commission, charging that the FTC has not given adequate protection to little business men trying to compete with big monopolies.

Perhaps more important, the Patman report will recommend these changes in the anti-trust laws:

1. A provision barring corporation officials convicted of monopolistic practices from resuming their jobs for a specified period after the conviction.

2. A provision that the United States, as well as private individuals, may bring treble-damage actions for violations of the anti-trust laws.

3. A provision that fines for anti-trust violations be increased from $5,000 to $50,000 on each count.

Patman also will charge that small-business men, bidding for Government procurement contracts (for defense and other purposes), are being systematically blackballed by red tape and contract specifications that favor big companies.

Exit An A-1 Man

PRESIDENT TRUMAN may not know it yet, but he is going to lose another worth-while public servant. He is Atomic Energy Commissioner Sumner Pike, the delightful man from Maine. Pike wants to go back home and run for the State Legislature. Those who know Pike's pixeyish sense of humor forecast a tumultuous time for the Maine lawmakers.

For more than a year, Pike carried on a vigorous letter-writing campaign to collect half a year's pay as a $1-a-year man during the war. His letters were addressed to the conscientious Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, not noted for his sense of humor.

Every time Morgenthau sighed and announced he was ready to give up the fight with Pike, his assistants rallied round and said, "Don't you dare. He would frame that 50-cent check, and hang it up in his office to laugh over. And we never would get our books back in balance. How would we explain a 50-cent deficit to a Congressional investigation?"

Salmon Pack Vs. Atlantic Pact

MAURY MAVERICK, the former Congressman and mayor of San Antonio, Tex., is still the master of the vivid phrase.

In a brief, whirlwind trip back to his former haunts in Washington, the colorful Texan criticized the State Dept. for failing to get its program and policies across to the people.

"Why, out in Texas," Maverick grumbled, "they think the North Atlantic Pact has something to do with the fish that swim in the North Atlantic."