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—II

THERE is no dispute among members of the City and County Schools Boards and the Board of County Commissioners over the urgent necessity for an unprecedented school building program in the next few years. The only two questions these gentlemen are asking themselves are:

1. How much money will it cost?
2. Where is the money coming from?

They are not easy questions to answer. At the moment a nationally-famous firm of school consultants is conducting an exhaustive study of Charlotte's postwar birth rates, new residents, and shifting population to try to find out precisely how many new classrooms will be needed by 1960 and where they should be placed to do the most good.

The County School Board is deep into a study of its own problems which are just as pressing as those within the City except that they involve a smaller number of children.

Recently, at a joint meeting of the two education boards with the County Commissioners, school officials spoke in a general way of a $10,000,000 building program; hence, that is the figure set in *The News'* Ten-Year Platform. It may add up to more than that; it will hardly be less.

At present, the County Government does not have adequate borrowing capacity —under the limitations of the County Finance Act—to issue more than some $6,000,000 in additional school bonds.

There are two ways to get that capacity increased:

1. By a county-wide property revaluation. This project, cherished by the hard-pressed City and County Governments, is temporarily snagged by a squabble over sharing the cost—an estimated $300,000 to $400,000. Even if the dispute should be settled, it would require a year and a half, perhaps two years, to complete the revaluation. Assuming that an additional year would be needed to hold an election, plan school projects, and get construction under way, the situation in the schools would become exceedingly critical before work could be started.

2. If the Supreme Court rules that the County Government can legally assume some $700,000 in outstanding Charlotte School District bonds, the county's borrowing capacity for school construction will automatically increase from the present 5 per cent of the total assessed valuation to 8 per cent. This would be more than adequate for foreseeable borrowing needs. A friendly test suit has been planned, and the speed with which it is carried through depends on the energy of City Attorney John Shaw who must bring the action.

In the event that neither of these works out, the school authorities will be forced to ask the voters to approve a smaller amount—perhaps $6,000,000—and then, in another two or three years, hold still another election.

Whether it is done in a piece-meal fashion or all at once, the job must be done. It's the most expensive, and the most important single project in sight for the challenging decade which lies ahead.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE President's annual State of the Union message was more buoyantly optimistic in tone and content than any similar message in recent years. Mr. Truman looked about him, found the condition of the nation good, and was even reasonably hopeful of continued improvement in world economic conditions.

There were few surprises, unless his unusually friendly nod toward business and industry be considered un-Trumanesque. Painting a rosy picture of potential expansion of our national economy in the next half-century, Mr. Truman said:

> "These gains cannot be achieved unless our business men maintain their spirit of initiative and enterprise and operate in a competitive economic system."

Then, by acts of commission and omission, he gave U. S. business some reason to maintain its "spirit of initiative and enterprise."

Gone was the suggested $4 billion in new corporation taxes. In its place, tacit approval of repealing some excise taxes and only moderate increases elsewhere to make up for the loss of revenue. Soft-pedaled was his previously irrational opposition to the Taft-Hartley Act, and in its place a rather mild renewal of his request that the law be amended to make it less "punitive".

The President also called for plugging the loop-holes in the Clayton Anti-Trust Act and for new legislation to strengthen anti-monopoly laws in order to encourage competition and to help small business and industry.

Finally, he omitted entirely his oft-repeated demands for broad inflation control powers, apparently because he does not think inflation is any longer a serious problem.

The most significant new ideas were (1) the widely-discussed Brannan farm plan, and (2) Federal assistance in large-scale construction of middle-income housing. Details of this latter program were not spelled out.

Otherwise, the message was largely a rehash of the Fair Deal program, with emphasis on the full civil rights program and compulsory health insurance, neither of which will pass both houses of this election-year Congress.

It was a mild message, unlike the usual Truman "give-'em-hell" formula. This was partly because Mr. Truman could not afford to criticize too harshly the past session of the Democratic 81st Congress, partly because he undoubtedly is saving his forensic talents for the Congressional campaigns this Summer. He has found out before that his oratory is more appealing to voters than it is to Congressmen.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

THE executive secretary of Washington's Social Hygiene Society is up in the air about young folks who get up in the clouds about "love at first sight." Ray H. Everett, who apparently feels called upon to play chaperon to the lads and lassies of the District of Columbia, launches his attack on "spontaneous flaring of feeling through the lyrics of a recently-popular ditty from *South Pacific*."

The tune is "Some Enchanted Evening." in which the philosophy of lightning love and atomic affection is ballyhooed as never before.

This is bad, quite bad, says Mr. Everett and proceeds to explain why:

> "Here's this chap and he sees the girl across a crowded room and he knows right away that she's the one girl in the world for him. So he's told to go over and grab her and make her his own for the rest of his life or else he may be very lonesome.
>
> "It doesn't make any difference, of course, that her parents and grandparents may be in a mental institution. She might be a chronic alcoholic with the I.Q. of an eight-year-old. Those are only little details, you know.
>
> "The lyrics, unfortunately, are a collection of superb inanity illustrating pseudo romanticism at its illogical peak."

Overlooking the fact that romanticism was ever illogical, that old feeling seems in need of some small defense.

Let us say then, despite Mr. Everett's unquestionably wise counsel, that "love at first sight," or at least the concept, has been of value in the past. What would Romeo and Juliet have been if Romeo had stilled his pitter-patting heart and, instead of scaling the balcony, launched an investigation of the Capulets?

Furthermore, you can do no more to prevent young hearts bursting forth in mutual furore than you can prevent athlete's foot or beri-beri by advising one against contracting them.

Fashion Designer Hattie Carnegie recommends shirts of dark, dotted swiss this year for men. Shucks, we've had shirts which may not have been swiss but they were dark and dotted.—*Greensboro Daily News.*

Even the unpaid player on the college grid squad gets something out of the game: Character, et cetera, and a knee that buckles after he is 44.—*Jackson (Miss.) Daily News.*

Setting a fee of 14 cents for the once-free bottle of medicine in Socialist Britain is a thing that will discourage the fisherman who only wanted the cork.—*Jackson (Miss.) Daily News.*

A local man says it wouldn't be so bad to reduce if his skin didn't stay the same size that it was when he was fat.—*Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.*

Memphis has one great distinction among American cities. This is the place where they take banners down after the occasion for them has gone.—*Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal.*

'Hasn't Changed Much, Has He?'

People's Platform

'Mercy Killing' Decried

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IT IS highly distressing to read of the wave of "sympathy" and "sentimentality" being lavished on Dr. Herman Sander of Candia, N. H., who admittedly killed a patient who was suffering from an incurable and painful cancer. While it may not particularly serve Society if the doctor were sent to prison, it does appear logical that his act should not go unpunished and at least his license to practice medicine should be canceled.

In this, Society would show great consideration to Dr. Sander, because "cancellation" of a medical certificate affects only a piece of paper and a mere livelihood: and bad as they are, they are still far short of killing a patient. Nothing has yet been discovered which is as irrevocable as death.

This misguided sympathy for Dr. Sander is a great injustice to the entire medical profession, because there is not a doctor anywhere who has not been confronted with a similar case. In addition to which there is hardly a person over fifty who has not watched some loved one suffering in terrible pain and hoped against hope that somehow the pain would be eased one way or the other. The fact that once in a great while we hear of a doctor or an individual who "plays God" and eases his patient or loved one into death, is a great tribute to the integrity and to the honor of the medical profession and to the great mass of people in general.

The decision to kill a patient or to kill anyone without due process of law is strictly a barbarian concept which went out of practice three thousand years ago, and was revived for a decade by the Nazis in Germany. If we are to allow it to pass without any serious punishment we are opening up the flood gates of barbarism. Who knows what another doctor may consider "incurable"?

Our western civilization is based on law and whenever the slightest attempt was made to go beyond the law regardless of how noble it may have seemed to the perpetrator, our civilization always took a step backward. Is it unreasonable to assume that some doctor or some group may suddenly determine that being born with green eyes is "incurable", and therefore the killing of the subject was justified? This may sound far-fetched, but it may not sound far-fetched to those who have studied the history or the morals of the world.

Being a doctor, there was absolutely no excuse for Dr. Sander to have taken the life of his patient. As a scientist, he above all, should have known that there is no such thing as an "incurable" illness — incurable in the sense that all hope is gone. If cancer were really "incurable", then our people are contributing millions of dollars each year for nothing. The cure may come at any moment. Why could it not have come five minutes after Dr. Sander killed his patient? How many doctors and how many parents have watched the horrible agony of pain in a child with double pneumonia as it lay in its crises? Suppose the Dr. Sanders had killed their patients a few minutes before scientists brought the newly discovered sulpha drugs into the room?

Who will dare say what is incurable and what is not incurable and what incurable disease today will be nothing worse than a common cold tomorrow? No one can make that decision except God and Dr. Sander is not God.

I am not anxious to see Dr. Sander punished, but thinking people all over the country should show a great anxiety in seeing punished and eliminated that stupid, arbitrary, barbaric and uncivilized and certainly blasphemous, concept of "mercy" killing without due process of law.

—P. L. LINDSEY.

Public Housing Criticized

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE recent controversy, among the people of Charlotte, over public housing, has been such as to make me desire to put into writing my reasons for objecting to public housing.

First and foremost, in a section of the country such as we live in, I believe that individual dwelling units, with adjacent garden plots—which would be a means of helping support the family—would be more desirable in case there comes a depression. Public housing does not offer this.

It is also my conviction that a program of public housing should provide that a dwelling occupant might eventually own his home. Public housing does not provide this.

Public housing is not an incentive to lift the standards of people and invariably I believe that it would lower or keep them at a standstill. If a man has his own home, he will work to keep it and to compete with other surroundings. No people can lift themselves to a high standard unless their environment is of such.

With the amount of available land in this area, what the Government can do if it is interested in relieving slum conditions, is build houses such as I have described above and sell them to the occupants. In case this is not acceptable to the Government, such can be bought now without Government assistance especially with the progress which is being made in Charlotte—so many big businesses and new buildings. The Government would receive its money back, plus interest and tax.

My convictions are based upon my experiences of 64 years, forty of which have been spent in Charlotte as a working woman.

—LETHIA JONES HENDERSON.

Quote, Unquote

Some fellow came along Thursday morning and jibed Mayor Roy Baker about the city hall's plate-glass windows needing washing so he proceeded to get the janitor's mop and do the task. He hadn't forgotten his Navy training and did a good job. —Sparta (Ga.) Ishmaelite.

Old Bud Crawson says what a taxicab driver could tell you about the night life of your town wouldn't make good Sunday School lesson material. —Bartow (Ga.) Herald.

No act can shake a lady's poise—like wolfish whistles by the boys.—Mattoon (Ill.) Journal-Gazette.

Super-Atomic Bomb Could Be Frozen Asset For The Nation

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THE CASE for launching another Manhattan District project, in order to build a "super - -bomb," seems at first hearing like a Walpurgis night dream of total destruction. Yet this case is being seriously made, at this moment, by important personalities on the highest governmental level. The worst nightmares have a way of coming true, nowadays. The essential arguments must therefore be set down.

In brief, it is theoretically feasible to build a hydrogen bomb with something like 1,000 times the force of the uranium - plutonium bomb that fell on Hiroshima. It may cost anywhere from $3 to $4 billions, to build such a bomb in the shortest possible space of time. The real issue in debate — a bitter commentary on the state of the world — is whether such bombs can be surely delivered to their proper targets.

To be blunt about it, the vital centers of the Soviet Union are the obvious, potential targets, whether for the hydrogen bomb of the future, or for our existing stockpile of uranium-plutonium bombs. Great distances, uncertain topography and other factors will always make it extremely difficult to hit targets in Russia with reasonable accuracy. And the chief attraction of the hydrogen bomb is that it will reduce the premium on accuracy in any bombing attack.

This is simply because such a bomb should theoretically devastate an area of from sixty to 100 square miles, in one ghastly detonation. Hence it should transform what would be a wide miss, even with a uranium-plutonium bomb, into a direct hit consuming a whole city. Even for conventional bombing, this is crucially important. Furthermore, its importance may later be increased very greatly, by the development of long-range guided missiles.

Provided a pilotless aircraft is the type selected, it has been possible to build the airframe of a long-range missile at any time since the war. The most talked-about design is a stripped-down, pilotless jet bomber capable of several thousand miles of flight, at just sub-sonic speeds and at very high altitudes. How to guide such a missile has always been the question.

In the last year, however, the basic obstacle to long range missile guidance has been successfully surmounted. As was reported in this space a "non-precessable" gyroscope has been designed at MIT. This almost miraculous instrument is simply a gyroscope whose accuracy is not disturbed by friction. Because it is dependably stable, it provides the long-sought "brain" for missile guidance systems.

Already, therefore, fleets of intercontinental guided missiles, carrying hydrogen bombs, are expected in certain authoritative quarters to be the strategic attack force of the future. With all due allowance for inevitable disappointments, some such development is certainly feasible in theory. Those who expect theory to be translated into practice are the advocates of an immediate special effort to build a hydrogen bomb.

DEFENSIVE MEASURES

The opponents of such an effort, on the other hand, are sharply critical of these lurid visions of the future. They do not attack the underlying theory, although they note in passing that our present, chaotic research and development program is unlikely to achieve the sort of result outlined above. Their criticism rests, rather, on their belief that in air warfare, the defense is now being developed even more rapidly than the offense.

Within the past fourteen months, American strategic air capabilities have already been materially reduced, by the appearance of an excellent Soviet jet fighter and the beginning of a Soviet air warning net. Piloted and pilotless aircraft alike are already threatened by the prototype of an effective anti-aircraft guided missile. The whole present theory of bombing could be upset by already-discussed devices to jam radar target locaters. If progress with these defensive weapons really out-distances progress with the weapons of offense, even a stockpile of hydrogen bombs will be largely a frozen asset.

Politicians May Have Rough Sledding In Next Elections

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

IF THE straws now blowing in the political wind mean anything, 1950 promises some major changes in the line-up in Congress. Familiar faces will be missing before the year has run its course to usher in a new Congress.

One new face is already to be discovered on the Democratic side of the aisle in the Senate. Sen. Raymond E. Baldwin, a Republican, resigned to accept a place on the supreme court of his native Connecticut by appointment of Governor Chester Bowles, Democrat and Fair Dealer. To Baldwin's seat Bowles named his good friend and former advertising partner, William Benton.

Benton is that comparatively rare phenomenon—the successful business man in politics. He is a self-made man who helped to build the advertising firm of Benton & Bowles into one of the most successful in the country. With that behind him he branched out into various other lines, including the publication of an encyclopedia, the marketing of canned music and the administering of the affairs of a great university.

In September of 1945 Benton accepted the thorny assignment as Assistant Secretary of State in charge of the government's program of information throughout the world. This was in a sense a pioneering job and one bound to stir a hornet's nest of trouble.

Tackling it with the eagerness and the supreme self-confidence that characterizes him, Benton annoyed and irritated many people who were accustomed to more caution and discretion in Government. Among them were many of the colleagues who will now be associated with Benton in the Senate.

In an extraordinary session before a Congressional committee, he was called on to justify and explain the modern American art he had approved for a traveling collection to be sent to South America and Europe. As publisher and collector, Benton qualifies as an art expert.

But he found his confidence melting away as committee members demanded to know whether that really was an apple or just a daub of red paint. The committee, its ignorance matched only by its arrogance, ruled against any appropriation, however small, to send that "stuff" around the world. Later the State Dept. sold the collection.

The business man in Congress has sometimes in the past found himself baffled by the complexities of politics. The man of action is lost in a body that puts a premium on talk and then more talk.

Benton will have a special desire to make good in the Senate. He will want to justify the choice of his friend, Governor Bowles, who went outside the orthodoxy of politics in making the appointment. Next Fall Benton will have to run for re-election, as will Connecticut's senior Senator, Brien McMahon.

For the first time in the history of the state, due to a change in the constitution, a Governor will be elected for a four-year term rather than a two-year term. This puts an added emphasis on Bowles' race for re-election, which would draw national interest in any event because of growing speculation that he will be a strong contender for the Democratic nomination for President in 1952.

A current report has it that President Truman, now decided to seek re-election, regards Bowles as the adversary he must get out of the way. In spite of the handicap of an opposition legislature, Bowles has pushed through some of the measures in his progressive program for Connecticut; conspicuously a housing program that is attracting attention outside the state.

The Connecticut contest thus becomes a key piece in the national picture. And Benton's performance will be watched with critical attention.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

'Tide Of Toys' Another Christmas Story

WASHINGTON

THE world has read a lot of great Christmas stories, from Dickens' Christmas Carol to Heywood Broun's famous column, but this year we have a Christmas story of doing which ranks with any of them.

It's the story of veterans who have fought our wars, led by the American Legion, who don't want to fight any more wars and do want to build up friendship abroad. Recognizing that wars have come in cycles of about every twenty years, they have gone out to woo Europe's children of today—who can be our best friends or the enemy soldiers of tomorrow.

That's one factor behind the "Tide of Toys" campaign, by which American children who can spare an extra toy immediately after Christmas are urged to send it, via the American Legion, to less fortunate children in Europe.

There was a time when the public thought of Legionnaires chiefly in connection with roughhousing at annual conventions. But a new sense of international responsibility and determination to play a part in world diplomacy is growing in the Legion today. And that is one reason why Legionnaires, at this, the busiest time of the year, have been cutting short their holidays to promote what amounts to a friendship train of toys to Europe.

The Tide Flows

HERE is how Legionnaires and the public all over the country are putting across the tide of toys: Gen. Lucius Clay's home town, Marietta, Ga., was one of the first to respond, through Commander John Roy, with a pledge of one boxcar of toys. . . . Emperor Hirohito's white horse is being used to collect toys at Nashville, where an admission fee of one toy is being charged to get in to see the famous steed. . . . Harry Warner of Warner Brothers, who so patriotically chairmanned the Friendship Train committee, produced a newsreel telling the story of the "Tide of Toys". . . . Thirty Iowa cities responded immediately to the Legion's call, with Des Moines printing special greeting cards for American children to send to European children. . . . Mayor Mike di Salle of Toledo, recently returned from Europe, proclaimed "Tide of Toys" week, while Chairman Frazer Reams arranged for the schools to be open even during the Christmas holidays, to receive toys.

In Poughkeepsie, N. Y., the Legion used the French Merci Train "40 & 8" boxcar, sent to New York by the people of France, to collect toys. Poughkeepsie Legionnaires have already adopted the town of St. Lo, France, and all toys collected in the Poughkeepsie area will go to St. Lo. . . . Special proclamations were issued by Governors Bowles of Connecticut, McMath of Arkansas, Browning of Tennessee, Tuck of Virginia, urging support for the Tide of Toys. . . . In Los Angeles, Mayor Fletcher Bowron has decreed this week as "Tide of Toys" week, and Chairman Louis Goff of the Los Angeles area has fixed California's goal as "a million toys for a million boys."

Largest Legion post in the world is Omaha's No. 1, with 16,000 members. But Denver's Post No. 1, with 10,400 members and second largest in the world, proclaims it will outcollect Omaha. . . . In Merion, Pa., Editor Harold Keating is publishing in his Main Line Times the names of each boy and girl who sends a toy to the children of Europe. . . . Wheeling, W. Va., Post No. 1, oldest in the United States, got its drive started so early that even on Christmas morning youngsters set aside a toy from under their Christmas tree. . . . In Nashville, Post No. 5 is sending toys to the St. Mary's Orphanage and the Protestant Orphanage for the children to attach notes to and then be forwarded on to Europe. . . . Letters attached to toys can help to start a chain of friendship letters across the Atlantic.

Connecticut Battleground

MOST significant political battle of 1950 will be fought in Connecticut where the Republicans are lining up a glamor team to oppose equally glamorous Democratic stars.

On the Republican side, Claire Boothe Luce, blonde authoress, ex-Congresswoman, and wife of the Time-Life publisher, is being groomed to run for the Senate against Brien McMahon, who has done a notable job as chairman of the Senate Atomic Energy Committee. Mrs. Luce was an A-1 Congresswoman.

In Connecticut's second Senatorial election, Congressman John Lodge, brother of Massachusetts' Henry Cabot Lodge, will probably run against newly appointed Democratic Sen. Bill Benton, advertising executive and former Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Voice of America.

And for governor, the Republicans are grooming the ex-mayor of Hartford, William Mortensen, a popular vote getter, to run against Democratic Governor Chester Bowles, former head of OPA and a Democratic possibility for President or Vice-President.

Two motives are behind Republican determination to make Connecticut a testing ground in 1950. One is that they want to knock off the ex-OPA chief, who has proved to be so right about price control. The GOP doesn't want the ghost of high prices, led by Bowles, haunting them in 1952. Second, whoever wins Connecticut in 1950, with the governor elected for four years for the first time instead of two, will probably control the state for some time to come.

Merry-Go-Round

WHEN Sherman Minton was a law student, one of his teachers was ex-President William Howard Taft, and after a heated discussion with Minton, Taft remarked: "Well, that's the law and the only way you will be able to change it is to get on the Supreme Court." Minton is now there. . . . The Supreme Court has before it five cases involving the right to picket, of which perhaps the most important is that of John Hughes and Louis Richardson vs. the State of California. Hughes and Richardson picketed one of the Lucky Stores in Richmond, in an attempt to induce them to hire Negro employees in proportion to the number of Negroes patronizing the store. The Supreme Court of California issued an injunction banning this picketing. . . . To get the proper background on picketing, the nine old men have gone back through medieval dictionaries to trace its history. . . . Here is an indication of how concerned the American people are with peace: After Leon Pearson had Quaker leader Clarence Pickett as guest on his television broadcast, he got almost as many requests for the Quaker booklet on U.S.-USSR relations as another TV show, "Who Said That?" which staged a contest for a free TV set. . . . Tom Morgan, able head of Sperry Gyroscope, was sounded out on taking David Lilienthal's place as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. He wasn't interested.