THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON ..... Publisher
J. E. DOWD ..... General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH ..... Executive Editor
C. A. McKNIGHT ..... Editor

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1950

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

TEN YEAR PLATFORM—V

As Mayor Victor Shaw said the other day, the matter of additional low income housing units for Charlotte is closed until the Fall of 1951, when new applications may be made under the second two-year allocation period of the 1949 Federal Housing Act.

Two significant events will have happened by the Fall of 1951:

1. We will hold another City election at which the voters will have an opportunity to choose a Council made up of men who are willing to meet our big problems head-on instead of dodging them.

2. We will have an accurate, factual survey of housing in Charlotte from the 1950 census which will, we are confident, utterly confound those who have argued that more low-income housing is not needed.

Thus, we may reasonably expect that the Fall of 1951 will see Charlotte making a belated effort to catch up with the slum clearance programs of such places as Atlanta with 3,500 new public housing units slated, Norfolk and Birmingham with 3,000 each, Richmond and Roanoke with 1,800, Greensboro with 600, and the like.

In comparison with those programs, Charlotte's 600-unit program is a timid and inadequate effort to grapple with a major problem: *how to provide rental housing for low-income families for whom no housing has been built by private enterprise since the war and for whom no housing can be profitably built under present day labor and material costs.*

In the absence of a door-to-door housing survey such members of the Council as Mr. Boyd, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Daugh try were able to quiet their consciences by convincing themselves that no more than 600 new units are needed. They did so in the face of a well-documented appraisal of the need by the members of the Charlotte Housing Authority, all of them outstanding, conservative businessmen of the community who, at no salary, are serving as representatives on the City Council's own agency.

They did so, also, in the face of such statistics as a five-fold increase in Mecklenburg's charity hospitalization since 1941, and proportionately great increases in all phases of public welfare work.

Our poor are still with us, and they are increasing. Yet no private housing is being provided for them.

At the Council meeting last week, two leading real estate representatives struck a new note. In contrast to previous spokesmen, who had argued against any new public housing, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Vinson conceded that a certain amount of public housing was necessary, but contended that the 600 units were enough. Thus they showed themselves somewhat more enlightened than some of their associates, and their approach was closer to that of the Winston-Salem Real Estate Board, for example, which unanimously endorsed, along with the Chamber of Commerce, that city's application for 1,200 units.

If the facts of the 1950 census are as we expect them to be, the City Government will be in a better position to plan an adequate long-range program of low income housing—with the prospects of some encouragement instead of the usual opposition, from real estate interests.

FIRE AMONG THE HELPLESS

Somehow violent death always seems worse when the victims are innocent children or other helpless souls. That is why the Davenport, Iowa, hospital fire in which 40 or more were killed Saturday morning seemed so horrible.

It is not known whether officials of the Davenport hospital were negligent in taking preventive measures against such a catastrophic fire; an investigation is now under way.

In North Carolina, however, the fire chief who made an inspection of the State Hospital at Raleigh (Dix Hill) in September has given the city officials of that institution fair warning.

There are fire hazards there and the lives of many helpless mental patients may be lost unless measures are taken immediately to carry out the recommendations of Raleigh fire chief A. B. Lloyd.

Some of them, Chief Lloyd says, have been carried out. A building he called a fire hazard has been vacated, but another which is also dangerous is still in use. (Plans are under way for construction of a building to replace it.)

The most recent of Chief Lloyd's recommendations concerns a shock treatment center which is located on the second floor of a hospital building at Dix Hill. This center sometimes renders completely helpless simultaneously as many as 20 or 30 persons. These persons are not in condition to walk down the stairs to escape a fire and it is doubtful that attendants could control them (since the treatment first makes the patient violently active under control straps and then unconscious) if they were released from beds. The beds could not be moved down the stairs rapidly enough to escape a healthy blaze.

The chief has recommended either (1) the removal of the center to a first-floor location or (2) ramps leading from each end of the building down which the beds of patients may be rolled rapidly.

This is but one specific danger at Dix Hill—and Dix Hill is but one of the State Hospitals. It may be in as good, or better, shape than State Hospitals at Goldsboro or Morganton, for instance.

It is not our wish to contribute to the burden of hospital officials who most certainly have been and will be besieged with calls from panicky relatives of mental patients as a result of the Davenport fire; it is our wish, however, that the Davenport fire will serve to remind the State Fire Marshal, hospital officials, legislators and all others concerned of our responsibility for helpless patients in our mental hospitals.

DEATH OF A NEWSPAPER

Age, once again, has fallen before the onslaught of youth. The *New York Sun*, age 117, was merged last week with the stripling, Scripps-Howard *New York World-Telegram*.

Newspapermen, and others, all over the nation will mourn, while understanding, the death of *The Sun*. Its history was a glorious one and such journalistic landmarks as *The Sun's* Charles A. Dana, Arthur Brisbane, Joseph Pulitzer, Jacob A. Riis, Richard Harding Davis and Frank Ward O'Mally will never be forgotten.

Since the day it was established—Sept. 3, 1833—as New York's first "penny" paper, to the circulation peak it reached in 1936, *The Sun's* position in New York's sometimes brilliant world of journalism continued to improve.

In recent years, however, *The Sun's* vigor has been on the wane. Whether this has been due, as publisher Thomas W. Dewart declares, to increased labor and newsprint costs or whether to a decline in the "newspapering" ability of *The Sun* depends, according to opinions expressed by labor and management, on which side you belong to.

However death came to *The Sun* it is regrettable, for the New York area now has but three afternoon newspapers in general circulation. The trend toward "absorption", toward bigger and fewer newspapers, is growing and competition will inevitably decline.

Competition is the lifeblood of journalism, for so long as there is competition newspapers will exert every effort to serve the people. And for only so long as the people are served, may a newspaper merit the freedom granted it by the Constitution.

From The Louisville Courier-Journal

PRIVACY FOR THE KHANS

Now that we have been treated in infinite detail to the birth of Rita Hayworth's daughter, Yasmin Khan, we are ready to drop the subject, both for discussion or for listening.

Prematurity of the child, length of the delivery, nervousness of the father are all, no doubt, of the greatest importance to the principals. As a matter of international news, however, they seem most singularly to lack both significance and drama.

And as a matter of ordinary courtesy we wish henceforth that degree of privacy for Miss Hayworth and her husband, Aly Khan, which they have on rare occasion called for as their due.

You never hear about a hunch unless it was right.—*Elizabethtown (Ky.) News.*

'You Seen An Oculist Lately, Boy?'

Rhetoric Cannot Erase The Eloquence Of Solid Facts

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

The other day the Rural Electrification Administration announced that nearly 80 per cent of all farms in the country now have electric power. That compares with about 11 per cent in 1935 when REA was established and it is one of the witnesses of the revolution that has taken place in the past decade and a half. It is also one of the reasons the New Deal-Fair Deal party goes on winning elections.

Of the farms electrified since 1935, about 57 per cent get their power from systems financed through REA. These are facts which no amount of angry rhetoric can erase.

The political link uniting the interests of these power users is the National Rural Electric Co-operative Association. While it is not a partisan political organization, the association is a potent force in protecting the interests of the 971 co-operatives that work with the REA.

Just now in Oklahoma there is a significant example of what this vigilance means in terms of politics. Sen. Elmer Thomas of that state — most recently in the news for his bumbling travels on the cocktail circuit in Europe — has brought down on his head the anger and resentment of REA co-ops in Oklahoma.

They accuse Thomas of playing the game of the big power companies in the Southwest. The reason is a questionnaire sent out to at least a million Oklahomans under Thomas' free Senatorial franking privilege. Clyde Ellis, head of the electric co-operative association, charges that the question was loaded to get the kind of answer on private vs. REA power that the private companies wanted.

The fight is over hydroelectric power to be produced by the Southwest Power Authority financed, of course, with Federal funds. The private companies would like to take this low-cost power and distribute it to farm and city users. The co-op association is demanding the right of REA co-operatives to build their own lines.

The likelihood in this instance is for a compromise. Executives of the Public Service Co. of Oklahoma have indicated that they would distribute power in rural areas at low rates where the company already has existing power lines, leaving the way open for co-ops in other areas.

This compromise would probably be acceptable to Rep. A. S. (Mike) Monroney of Oklahoma who has long taken an active interest in the development of Southwest power and the REA co-ops. It would, Monroney has pointed out, avoid unnecessary duplication. It would be acceptable, too, to Speaker Sam Rayburn whose attitude toward the Southwest Power Authority is that of a mother hen toward her favorite chick.

Monroney is to be Thomas' opponent in the Democratic primary in Oklahoma. He has frequently been tagged by that threadbare and much abused label "liberal."

It seems to me more accurate to describe him as an independent. He has been for some New Deal legislation and he has opposed other proposals in accord with his own convictions. He is on the record, for example, in opposition to the Brannan farm plan and the compulsory health insurance scheme.

Thomas, at 75, is likely to find himself in serious trouble. For one thing he has made the voters laugh at him. They chuckled at his statement when he returned from Europe that he had spent $1,500 of his own money to pay for cocktail parties and other entertainment. He has not been notorious for his generosity and, moreover, in dry Oklahoma cocktail parties are considered pretty sinful. One thing Thomas will have in his campaign and that is unlimited money, part of which will in all probability be provided by the utilities.

Then the farmer with electric light in his house and his cow barn is likely to think twice about returning Thomas to the Senate. The cohesion of those who have benefited and continue to benefit from Federal legislation is a powerful force in politics today. No amount of thundering denunciation will remove it.

Obsolete Craft Assigned To Protection Of Pearl Harbor

By ROBERT C. RUARK

HONOLULU

Took a short spin around my old stomping grounds at Pearl Harbor the other day, and collided with a couple of statistics that may be of some interest to the gentlemen of Congress.

I understand that we are in the defense business in a large way, at least when taxpaying time comes around, and I wonder what we are getting for the money. Maybe nobody will ever get mad at us again and come throwing eggs, but that seems a silly assumption if you listen to the generals and admirals speaking a voice of doom.

The Air Force tells me it can win all the future wars practically single-handed, so I am wondering why there is no Air Force fighter strength in the Hawaiian Islands. The vital base at Pearl Harbor depends momentarily on 54 Navy aircraft and the Air National Guard, which boasts some obsolete P-47's.

This sounds a touch sinister when you recall that Dec. 7, 1941, there were 202 naval aircraft and 272 Army Air Corps fighter planes on the island of Oahu. There were also six military airfields in operation then — Wheeler, Hickam, Bellows, Ford Island, and the Marine base at Ewa. There are only two in operation today — Hickam and Barbers Point.

Dec. 7, 1941, there were eight battleships, two heavy cruisers, six light cruisers, 29 destroyers and five submarines at Pearl Harbor. In addition, two carriers, seven heavy cruisers, and fourteen cans were at sea west of Hawaii—ships normally based at Pearl.

Today only five destroyer escorts, ten submarines and four minesweepers operate out of Hawaii. That's the surface and subsurface defense of our Pacific outpost, supplemented by the Air National Guard and a handful of Navy planes.

Dec. 7, 1941, the whole Pacific fleet included four carriers, nine battleships, 21 cruisers, 80 destroyers and 84 submarines.

Today the Pacific fleet has one carrier, two escort carriers, one light carrier, no battleships, six cruisers, 50 destroyers and 27 submarines.

Dec. 7, 1941, our defense commitments west of Hawaii included only Midway, Guam, Wake, Guam and the Philippines. Today they include all those places plus all of the Caroline, Marshall and Marianas group, plus the occupation forces in Japan. We were unable to do anything about our defense commitments before, and seem twice as unable today.

It is argued, and even by the Navy itself, that Pearl Harbor no longer represents a prime target for a possible aggressor. They argued that way back in 1941, too. Target or no, strategic or no, it is our only mid-Pacific arsenal and repair shop, and wars have a way of fighting themselves all around the globe, no matter where they originate or what they aim at. And our Pacific protective force is nearly all today, both in air and sea.

These moody thoughts occurred as we wheeled around the harbor on a short inspection tour. There were a half dozen submarines over across from Ford Island, and a lonely destroyer escort and one tanker to keep them company. The only other craft was the hulk of the poor old Arizona, which still keeps the corpses of 1,200 men in her shattered rusted structure. There were a couple of withered wreaths on the old girl's tortured turret, a moment of brief commemoration services for this historic day of Dec. 7, 1941.

It seemed to me that the guys who still inhabit the skeleton of the old battleswagon might find some wry amusement in the fact that their current protection is two score obsolete National Guard fighters and a handful of Navy craft.

Joseph & Stewart Alsop

Acheson Vs. Johnson

WASHINGTON

Thus far, the Formosa mess has cast far more light on the future of the Truman Administration than on the future of Asia. Indeed, the general turmoil has produced only one certainly significant result to date. Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson has scored a rather spectacular triumph over Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson.

It is certainly time for some one to come out with the plain truth, that Secretary Johnson has been one of the chief inspirers of the campaign against the State Department's Formosa policy. The other, of course, has been General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

For a very long time, Secretary Johnson has been indicating dissatisfaction with the State Department's passive response to the Communist victories in Asia. For an even longer time, General MacArthur has been making the same point to all his visitors, with special emphasis on the importance of holding Formosa. Rather recently, the Joint Chiefs of Staff came to agree with MacArthur, that some attempt should be made to keep Formosa out of Communist hands. It is a pretty open secret that Johnson then caused this J.C.S. decision to be transmitted to the public.

There is even some indication that MacArthur and Johnson have been concerting the effort to make Formosa a hot public issue. The existence of a State Department paper warning foreign service officers abroad that Formosa might soon be lost, was recently reported, from Tokyo. Yet there was no reason why this document should have reached Tokyo for some weeks, if at all. The natural inference is that some one in Washington took special steps to transmit the document to General MacArthur's headquarters. And the further inference is that this may probably have been done by the chief MacArthur sympathizer here, Secretary Johnson.

* * *

In such ways, and by such devices, the Formosa issue has been heated up in the public mind. In the early stages of this process, Secretary Johnson also began to press for a National Security Council meeting, at which a clear American policy for Asia, including Formosa, would at last be outlined. At this meeting Johnson felt he would make a last ditch fight for an aggressive program.

When the Security Council meeting was scheduled, it almost appeared as though Johnson's long struggle to take a hand in foreign policy-making might finally be crowned with success. Then the Defense Secretary learned that the President had already made up his mind. Perhaps he also heard that Truman had been informed of the real origins of the Formosa row, and was irritated thereby.

At any rate, to the complete astonishment of his former confidants, Secretary Johnson did not go to the Security Council meeting. He vanished into Florida, leaving even his personal staff ignorant of his whereabouts. The field was thus left to Secretary Acheson, who quickly secured the President's complete acceptance of his more carefully calculated policy.

There may be details of all this bureaucratic infighting. The suave denial of known facts is an old official custom, rivaling infighting itself in hoary antiquity. What has happened is mainly worth reporting because of the contrast in character between the contestants.

Although he has often shown courage in dealing with the armed services, Secretary Johnson is a pretty adequate symbol of everything that is distressing about the Truman Administration. Although he has sometimes been indecisive, particularly about Far Eastern matters, Secretary Acheson is an excellent symbol of the Truman Administration's good side. And although he breathes no fire and flame, Acheson has now shown that he will fight hard for a principle and will not run away.

* * *

In the choice between Acheson and Johnson, President Truman has certainly been influenced by personal considerations. As Under Secretary of State, Acheson insisted upon working closely with the freshman President, at a time when his chief, James J. Byrnes, wished to run the State Department without White House supervision. Truman and Acheson are now warmly attached to each other.

On the other hand, the President's disillusionment with Secretary Johnson seems to have begun shortly after Johnson went to the Defense government. Washington now rings with stories, of which a high proportion are authentic, of Presidential manifestations of dissatisfaction with the Defense Secretary. One such was Truman's pointed refusal to ask Johnson to Key West, when Johnson wished to report on his recent Europe trip.

Whatever his reasons, nothing could be more important than the choice the President has now almost recently made, of Acheson over Johnson. Every sign suggests that this choice is permanent, and that Acheson's views will continue to prevail in policy circles of the future. And this is bound to have the most far-reaching effects, ranging from Asiatic policy to the decision about building a hydrogen bomb.

People's Platform

Rents And Cab Fares

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

The Mayor and certain members of the Council who so vehemently protested decontrol, claiming to have the burden of the poor so at heart, turn right around and insist on an increase in cab fares, while the companies asked for lower rates.

Does interest for the poor and a vote for higher prices harmonize? Prices in some things held at a minimum, and in other things let the sky be the limit, and when companies wish to lower, they are not permitted to, when it is mostly the low income classes, and the working man who has to ride. It is bound to strike a discordant note for the instrument is out of tune.

Public housing for those of low income does not encourage home ownership, but retards it in the extreme, causing the tenant to remain on the same level, thinking he would have to pay taxes and upkeep on a home of his own, so he does not invest.

Many taxpayers have not been able to properly educate their own children, and now we must contribute $2,500 to educate Mr. Bivens, and after educating him, he will then want a raise in salary. Many underprivileged children could be helped a great deal in education by that $2,500.

—IVA WILLIAMS

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Great Strides Predicted For Aviation

WASHINGTON

Their findings won't be published for some time, but U. S. air experts have done some amazing research on the airplane of the future. As a result, they are definitely of the opinion that commercial airlines someday will fly at the speed of sound.

However, it will probably be too expensive to fly commercial planes faster than sound, because of the high cost of refrigeration, air-conditioning and structural strength that must be built into planes traveling at supersonic speeds. The danger of air crashes will also be reduced to a minimum, the scientists say, by automatic aircraft control and radar-block traffic control.

Military planes, on the other hand, will fly at unlimited speeds, powered by turbine-type engines using atomic energy as fuel, according to the experts. The fighters and bombers of the future will be launched from the ground, and the pilot will go along just in case something goes wrong. They will fly at an altitude between 80,000 and 100,000 feet.

And all this will happen, the scientists declare, within the lifetime of many of us. Furthermore at the risk of being ridiculed, they predict that, sometime during the next 50 years, rockets will be able to travel from the earth to Mars.

Biggest problem in interplanet rocket travel is developing a fuel light enough to pack in a small space, yet powerful enough to break away from the pull of the earth's gravity. This will take an "escape speed" of 23,000 miles per hour.

However, Government scientists say they believe an atomic fuel can be developed that will lift a rocket any size and propel it any distance.

To leave the earth, an atomic-powered rocket would shoot to the earth's outer atmosphere and circle the earth at a "satellite speed" of 18,000 miles per hour. Then an extra burst of 5,000 miles per hour would be necessary to take off into space. The experts are convinced that sometime before the end of this century, passengers will be able to make interplanetary trips with safety.

Independent Congressman

Congressman Usher Burdick, a big, shaggy bear of a man, has House leaders on the spot and crying for mercy.

Burdick, a North Dakota rancher and ex-football great, wears a battered cowpoke's hat and is as independent as they come. Nominally he is a Republican, but votes them as he sees them. Leaders on both sides of the aisle, however, would like him to forget his resolution for an investigation of Congressional pay rolls.

In the cloakroom arguments, Burdick says bluffly, "Out my way, the folks kept asking, 'What about them crooks in Congress?' Is Drew Pearson the only one in Washington worrying about them? We'd better clean our house proper, if people are going to have any respect for Congress. We should be the first ones to put a stop, voluntarily, to kickbacks and pay roll padding."

Only In a Democracy

President Truman gave House Republican Leader Joe Martin of Massachusetts a hearty hasslaugh before entering the House chamber to deliver his "State of the Union" message.

"You're looking mighty good, Joe," beamed Truman. "How do you do it?"

"Oh, that's because we Republicans don't have many responsibilities," replied Martin.

The President was somewhat upset by GOP heckling during his references to the Republican 80th Congress. And when he retired to Speaker Rayburn's office following the speech, John McCormack of Massachusetts perked him up.

"Just remember," he said, "that could happen only in a democratic country."

Merry-Go-Round

Clark Clifford, the President's albeit brain truster, tells friends he may not be gone from Government long. . . . Tennessee's Sen. Kenneth McKellar, the sometimes absent-minded grandpa of the Senate, showed up for the opening session 40 minutes early. Though he was the sole occupant of the chamber, he marched grandly down the aisle, took his seat, shuffled through papers, scribbled notes, snapped his fingers for imaginary page boys. Puzzled tourists in the spectators' gallery couldn't decide whether he was just rehearsing or absently thought the session had already started. . . . Hard-boiled newsmen on Capitol Hill showed recently that they have hearts of gold underneath. They heard that AP Reporter Howard Dobson was desperately ill, that the Associated Press might reduce his salary because his sick leave had run out. So they scraped up $1,700 as a Christmas present for the family. . . . Iranian Ambassador Ala has been worried about the Shah's romances. The Shah was taken with the ambassador's 20-year-old daughter, now a student at Bryn Mawr. The only trouble, is that the daughter is already in love with an Iranian embassy attache and has no desire to be a queen.

The Cold War

The American and Canadian Armies have agreed to set up two weather stations on Ellesmere Island only 600 miles from the North Pole—to watch for Russian planes. . . . The USA has decided to help rebuild the French Navy to combat the Russian submarine menace. . . . Gen. Omar Bradley will soon transfer six fast destroyer escorts to the French as part of the Allied anti-submarine campaign. . . . Inside reason why Counselor George Kennan is going to Latin America is to look into the growth of Communism below the border. Secretary Acheson is alarmed over Communist infiltration into maritime unions which could cripple shipping in case of war. . . . The U. S. Army has warned the State Dept. against telling military secrets to the Iranian Government. The Army says it has reason to believe a very high Iranian Army officer is pro-Russian.

Diplomatic Pouch

The diplomatic grapevine from Moscow reports that Stalin has added two high-ranking Russians to the Politburo—A. M. Suslov, a director of the Cominform and P. K. Pomaranko, the former premier of White Russia. Their appointment is interpreted as meaning that Stalin is alarmed at the spread of Titoism through other parts of Europe. . . . The Permanent Disarmament Commission of the League has sent a petition to General MacArthur signed by 80,000 natives urging him to order American troops to occupy Formosa. MacArthur used it to persuade the Joint chiefs of staff not to abandon Formosa to the Chinese Communists. . . . British Foreign Minister Bevin has decided to make a special visit to Italy to see if he can talk the Italian Government into soft-pedaling the bitter anti-British campaign in the Italian press. Bevin is reported ready to transfer 200 British jet fighters to the Italian Air Force as a token of Britain's good will.