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NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS

NOW that the State Board of Elections has confessed the error of its ways and decided to follow the law in making appointments to county election boards, it can move along to the next item of business on the agenda—a thorough investigation of the charges of misconduct which allegedly have been made against election officials in eight western counties.

Governor Scott says that Chairman Britt has a file of affidavits and other papers "three inches thick." Chairman Britt says the information has been turned over to the Attorney General, and that the State Bureau of Investigation is already at work.

Good. If irregularities have taken place in those counties, or other counties, the State Board of Elections should crack down hard.

The law provides, however, that public hearings must be called in the counties in which the irregularities happen. Officials accused of misconduct must be given an opportunity to testify. They can not be removed—

THE City Council moved a long step forward this week when it asked the Federal Government to set aside temporarily a portion of the \$200,000,000 urban redevelopment fund in case Charlotte decides to proceed with a slum clearance program.

The Council asked that \$70,000 be reserved. That figure is based on the estimated redevelopment cost of \$70 for each of the city's 10,000 slum dwellings, and seems reasonable enough.

The reservation of funds does not commit Charlotte to a definite project. It merely assures that money will be held available until such time as the U. S. C. General Assembly approves the necessary enabling legislation, and (2) the City makes a final decision on slum clearance.

TOUCHE! THE Raleigh News & Observer, which has dedicated itself wholeheartedly to the re-election of Frank Graham, was considerably irked by Candidate Willis Smith's criticism of the State Board of Elections.

1. That there are no attorneys in the eight counties "able and willing" to defend Willis Smith's own citizens.
2. That Mr. Smith's firm is making "an interesting departure from usual methods of practice" by drumming up business, even if the services are free.
3. That Mr. Smith's action was "prompted by his zeal as a candidate for the United States Senate rather than his zeal as a lawyer to rectify all wrongs without fee."

SPRING FOR A DAY AT 5 O'CLOCK, the night or the early morning Winter packed up and went North leaving only a soft chill at dawn and sunset as a lingering reminder that the cold is still here.

It was Spring for a day—anyway. The while that it would come just when it did. And it was easy to imagine bluebirds in the naked trees, spindly daffodils along the hedge, girls in jaunty skirts and wool-soft sweaters.

FROM THE Twin-Sentinel COLD GERM A CONCEALED WEAPON "I REALLY should be in bed," he said, snoring vigorously from a bad cold.

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THE President has not hesitated to kick big campaign contributors in the teeth in the past. However, in this case, the campaign money pressure operates through Congressional friends, including Leonard Johnson, the hand-picked chairman of the committee to investigate the B-29 crash.

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News From The Capital

Barden In Center Of School Fight

BY TOM SCHLESINGER Charlotte News Special Writer

ONE meets strange bed fellows in the case of politics, a fact well demonstrated by the odd climax of the Federal aid to education controversy for this session.

Graham Barden, third district representative, branded by Cardinal Spellman as a "bigot," wound up voting on the same side as Catholic members of the House Education and Labor Committee.

The entire matter, of course, got hopelessly bogged down in the religious wrangling over whether Catholic schools should get some of the education funds.

WHY did such committee Catholics as Chairman John McNamara (D-Mich.) and Thomas H. Burke (D-Ore.) join with the majority of Protestants in voting for the bill?

WHILE Barden was being criticized by Catholic Whistle Blowers, he was being praised by Protestants. He was made a symbol, a rallying point for many militant Protestant groups.

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Fuss Over Secret Files More Important Than Mere Politics

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON SENATOR MCCARTHY has been reluctant to charge in his first political speech that there were 207 card-carrying members of the Communist Party in the State Dept. When he finally spoke on opening the files later in Nevada, the figure 207 had been crossed out and 37 written in.

It becomes doubly important in view of the speech of Republican Chairman Guy George Cabell on the floor of the Senate last week. He made considerable official party backing to the McCarthy line. It refutes the charge that he is acting on his own while the party leadership looks on worried about the next move.

GOOD POLITICS Now this is good politics. Cabell's direct attack against the Democratic Party, which has been so long tolerated by the GOP, is a long way toward making it go.

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Public At Last Willing To Face Problem Of Perversion

By ROBERT C. RUARK

LOOKS LIKE A new point in journalism has been reached, at which it is possible to face the problem of perversion with the same honesty it took so long to confront with the same honesty.

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