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PLAYGROUNDS AND POLITICS--II

YESTERDAY we tried to identify the principals in the Latta Park community center dispute and to define their interests. Today we want to take a little about the philosophy of zoning.

Cousins Billy Coddington wants to blow the erection of the Latta Park recreation building. All other means including a court test having failed, Mr. Coddington now proposes to use the city's zoning law to bring the Park & Recreation Commission to heel.

This amendment violates good zoning practices in several respects: 1. It employs the zoning law for a political purpose with punitive intent.

NEW JERSEY EXPERIMENT

A RECENT report on a three-year New Jersey experiment in penology may prove of benefit to North Carolina in its efforts to employ women prisoners usefully and staff mental institutions adequately.

New Jersey's Clinton Farms women's prison has been the scene of a series of experiments in the Trenton State Hospital for mental patients was sadly short of female attendants.

Carefully-selected women prisoners, 28 of them at a time, were lodged in a big residence at Mercer Field, a former Navy air station, and used as ward attendants and waitresses.

Commenting on the results, The New York Times says editorially: "There seems to be a bond of sympathy between the prisoners and the patients."

Currently the North Carolina State Hospital Board of Control is reasonably well satisfied with the number and quality of persons applying for positions as attendants at state hospitals.

EDITORIALETTES

Tornadoes, we read, strike the United States more furiously and frequently than anywhere else in the world.

A desert mouse out in Berkeley California lived to the ripe old age of six years--equivalent to 40 years in man--without ever drinking water.

Now Moscow reports that a Soviet paratrooper ran into a strong current of ascending air and got stuck in clouds for an hour or so.

One resolution we aren't waiting for New Year's to make: to turn off our radio every time it gives out with "Goodnight Irene."

2. The language of the amendment is entirely too broad. It is difficult indeed to define a "public building."

The broad language raises another legal question: How would churches fare under the ordinance change? Are churches public buildings in the sense that they attract large crowds and are open to the general public for worship?

3. So far as The News has been able to learn, no one consulted either the Zoning Commission or the Board of Adjustment about this change in the zoning law.

Members of the Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment, like members of the Park & Recreation Commission, are appointed by the City Council.

For these reasons--(1) it is "punitive" legislation, (2) the language is too broad and general, and (3) the agencies concerned haven't been consulted--we believe the Coddington amendment is worthless except to show the Park & Recreation Commission the error of its ways.

News From The Capital

WASHINGTON
By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News Special Writer

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S bombshell proposal to establish a formal diplomatic mission to the Vatican has been approved by the House.

Neither North Carolina Senator thought it was a good idea. Senator Hoy said "it is not a wise course to pursue."

Some politicians fear a Senate debate will permit the religious issue.

THE White House has quietly dropped James F. Pinkney from consideration for the chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

However, both the White House and Senators Graham and Hoy denied the charge.

CARL DURHAM, vice chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, said that week that no location had yet been selected for the huge H-bomb plant.

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Vatican Envoy Idea Stirs Congress

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How's That For A Smart Move?

OUR lines here in Korea are being intensively engaged in a few moments of troubled sleep... When these men attack their first task is to scale precipitous mountain heights...

Business Continues As Usual

While Undermanned GI's Die

BY JOSEPH ALSOP

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Former Resident Of Korea Avers Food Is Not So Good

BY ROBERT RUARK

MR. C. S. ANDERSON of Denies, a kind correspondent who seems to know quite a lot about the people of the Korean peninsula...

THE situation will be about as far as buying or selling a valuable commodity...

There are not many chickens; so eggs will be scarce. Eggs are also rather difficult to find...

Workmen have already removed chairs and desks from the Senate chamber, preparatory to ridding the first floor...

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

(ED. NOTE--While Drew Pearson is on a brief vacation, his column will be written by members of his staff, Tom McNamee and Jack Anderson.)

IT'S usually the district attorney who rips into the witness, but this role was reversed the other day for Washington's District Attorney George Morris Fay.

At one point, West Virginia's Senator Matt Neely asserted that Fay was "under suspicion as much as Senator Joseph P. Kamp."

Neely was buttressed by a statement that Fay had given to the press, claiming the grand jury's investigation of wire-tapping was "not a whitewash."

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