

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The News' Platform For 1950-50

1. Organization of an Urban Redevelopment Commission.
2. A \$10,000,000 school building program for Charlotte and Mecklenburg County as a study in county-wide regional planning.
3. A maximum feasible consolidation of the City and County Governments as recommended by Institute of Government studies.
4. A definite public housing program based on facts gathered in 1949 census.
5. Formation of a civic promotion group similar to Winston-Salem's Committee on Civic Renewal.
6. A new city auditorium.
7. A full-scale program for unbottling traffic congestion.
8. Improved air transportation facilities.
9. Positive action to clear Charlotte's crevas of contamination and pollution.

TEN-YEAR PLATFORM—IX

BACK in September, 1945, when *The News* published the first of several series of special articles on Charlotte's aviation needs, the North Carolina had ten flights daily, all within the south, all operated by Eastern Air Lines.

"That first article decried the lack of interest in aviation among civic leaders, pointed out the rapid development of air transportation in such competitive cities as Atlanta, Memphis and Denver, and urged the commercial airplane as an opportunity for the city to lift itself out of its relative isolation and become, in reality, the hub of air traffic in the Carolinas."

"Subsequently, a great deal of local interest developed. Charlotte interested vigorously in several key CAB hearings and won a majority of the votes in the CAB to the city under favorable terms."

"Today the first two of those objectives have been realized. We have air routes which branch out in all directions like the spokes of a wagon wheel. And we have four north-south lines. We have four competitive scheduled air lines—Eastern, Capitol, Piedmont, and Southern—where we had one before. We have 19 flights daily to eight cities. And we have Morris Field."

"The growth of air traffic has followed an anticipated. Records at the local airport show the following number of landings

October, 19481,547
October, 19471,797
October, 19462,549
October, 19453,633

and take-offs by regularly scheduled commercial carriers in the past four years.

The pressing need today is an adequate administration building and passenger terminal at the municipal airport. That need seems on the verge of realization. Architects are already working on preliminary plans for a building which will cost approximately \$300,000, half of which will be borne by the City Government, half by the Federal Government.

But before long, there will have to be an extension of at least one runway by some 2,000 feet to allow operation of jet military and commercial craft. And there will have to be resurfacing of runways when jet aircraft become more widely used. Jet aircraft will not stand up under the hot blasts from jets.

The cost of keeping our airport facilities up to date will not be large in comparison to other projects envisioned in *The News Ten-Year Platform* for Charlotte. Yet the ultimate benefit—measured by the potential of Twentieth Century aviation—is limitless.

The American cities, almost without exception, are big because of transportation advantages: rivers, harbors, rail crossroads, highways. Charlotte has only highways on the surface. But the air above is obviously a democratic process. All people are on a competitive level with any other U. S. city. In aviation lies our greatest hope for continued growth. We must have the facilities.

THE BRITISH ELECTION

NOW that a general British election has been called for Feb. 23, we can look forward to a third successive major test of public opinion on Socialism in an English-speaking country.

Labor Governments have fallen in New Zealand and in Australia, and have been replaced by governments pledged to maintain the basic security of the British Empire while halting further nationalization of private enterprise and further encroachment upon the freedom of industry.

The British voter is going to be influenced by many factors in arriving at a decision between the Labor Party of Prime Minister Attlee and the Conservative Party of Winston Churchill, leader of the opposition.

But the main battle will be fought over the issue of nationalization and that is the issue which will be watched with greatest interest by observers this side of the Atlantic.

The Conservatives promise to keep most of the welfare services and state controls already enforced by the Laborites, but pledge to administer them better. Churchill

says he hopes to turn Britain back toward private enterprise. He would repeal the steel nationalization bill, which takes effect Jan. 1, 1951, and stop any further trend toward state ownership.

The Laborites, who have already nationalized coal mines, gas and electric plants, railroads, airlines, long distance telegraph, the Bank of England, cable and wireless facilities, and steel, promise to go even further. In addition they pledge themselves to nationalize cement factories, sugar refineries, water works, all mineral resources, wholesale meat, fruit and vegetable markets, and slaughter houses.

Most observers believe that Labor's chances of a repeat victory are good. They think the Churchills' leadership, deterioration of British empire influence, the dollar shortage, the continued austerity program, British foreign policy, and the like.

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CHALLENGE TO CONGRESS

THE American people will have two tangible yardsticks by which they may measure the sincerity of the clamorous Congressional economy advocates—Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia and Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon.

Senator Byrd's \$86 million budget was introduced on the floor of the Senate on Monday morning and published in full detail in the Congressional Record.

Senator Morse introduced a budget prepared by the Committee for Economic Development which would reduce expenditures more than \$4 billion below the current fiscal year, permit a tax reduction of \$2.5 billion, eliminate taxation inequities, and still leave a surplus of revenue to apply toward the national debt.

Mr. Truman's budget, on the other hand, would entail a net deficit of \$4.1 billion in the 1951 fiscal year.

The fact that these two gentlemen, one a conservative and the other a liberal Republican, should, on the same day, make the same plea for a more sensible national fiscal policy is significant. It shows that the demands for a more realistic budget are reaching the sensitive ears of Washington Congressmen.

In both budgets the major reduction of

tions of the Government. There is the acid test. Will Congress, in an election year, vote to reduce services and hand-outs which may alienate large numbers of recipients?

We shall have to wait and see.

If ducks have anything to live for, we think it would be for the flavoring of the duck. And again, the duck might accuse us of being inclined towards the welfare state.—Crosley (La.) Signal.

British scientists have produced a method whereby sound waves will clean clothing. And now, maybe when the man of the house shouts, "Where in blazes is my clean shirt?" it will be some good.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

A small town in the one where "office hours" mean nothing. If a man doesn't work, he'll be kept in on his own home.—Rocky Mount Telegram.

It's not anything that matters, of course, but how long has it been since you saw a man strike a match on the seat of his pants?—Wickles Falls (Tenn.) Times.

It is a carpenter who expedites housing, not a public cop.—Simsfort News (Ky.)



Questions For The American People

The China-Formosa Problem

By RUSSELL BARNES
(in *The Detroit News*)

THE question whether the United States should in effect take over Formosa and fight Chiang Kai-shek's battle to recover China from the Communists has been appealed over the heads of the Administration to the American people.

The attempt to override the White House and the State Department, by employing American forces to save Formosa and aid Chiang, as part of our world-wide Communist campaign, has been launched by a group of Senators, mostly Republican, led by Hiram Wesley of Michigan, and William M. Knowland of California.

The proposal to use American armed forces to defend the island of Formosa, and to prevent complete destruction of Chinese Nationalists, has now received the powerful support of former President Hoover.

The demand, of course, is not new—it has been hammered long by Americans who hate Communism and love Chiang. In addition, Charlotte is the seat of a powerful Communist army crumpling Nationalist forces and driving them to a last refuge on Formosa.

A Democratic Process

THE effort to reverse the Administration's Asiatic policy of staying clear of the Chinese civil war is obviously a democratic process. All power basically rests with the people.

But it is just as obvious that if the American people decide to force the Administration to switch its Chinese and Asiatic policies, they should act with a clear knowledge of the fundamental facts, and with realization of what American intervention to save Formosa might mean.

To clear his mind before arriving at a decision, it must be well for the American to seek answers to these questions:

Should the United States put itself in the position of occupying Chinese territory?

Who Would Command? Would American intervention at Formosa strengthen or weaken far-eastern Communism? Should American generals assume command of Chinese Nationalist forces?

If we should decide to intervene to save Chiang, are we prepared as a Nation to spend the lives and treasure that would be required to reconquer China for the Nationalists?

Do the Chinese people favor return of Chiang and his Nationalist regime?

What would 1,000,000 Formosans and 400,000,000 Chinese think about American troops in their country? What would be the attitude of our Asiatic and European allies in the world conflict with Russian Communism?

Would Moscow welcome our involvement in the Chinese civil war, because it might further sap American economic resources? And what would the day when revolution might be possible?

What Is Risk of War? WHOSE are all questions which must be answered cold-bloodedly before the American people decide to try to help Chiang hold Formosa.

As for whether we should risk war to stop

Communism in Asia, that is easily answered—we have all along been risking war by trying to stop Communism in Europe.

The real question is whether we would stand up to a less a Chinese war, without enormous expenditure of life and capital.

Factors to bear in mind are that in Europe we have had the support of the governments and people of the free world, and that in China we have the mass of Chinese people favor a return of Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist regime.

The record shows that they deserted wholesale to the Communists, because of the failure of Chiang and his government to do a job that the people and the Nationalists regard as corrupt and inefficient.

Formosa is essentially a Chinese island, whose inhabitants dislike both the mainland Chinese and former Japanese occupiers.

American intervention could certainly be achieved without formal annexation. The argument, right or wrong, that if the United States starts throwing its weight around in Asia, the reaction might be to strengthen the Reds.

American military experts sent to aid the Nationalists have reported that Chinese generalship is so inferior to the Japanese that the only hope for success would be to put Americans in command.

A Long-Term Proposition

IF we went that far, obviously we would have to fight the Chinese war through to a successful conclusion. In other words, we would have to take an awful blow to the national prestige.

We would also be running counter to the convictions of our European allies, who believe that Chinese Communists have established a government which probably should be recognized, because it conforms to the principles of international law.

If it is true that the Russians hope we will break ourselves economically by spreading ourselves too far, the intervention in China, where American prospects of prevailing are, to say the least, less than in Europe.

China poses big problems for the American people. The problems are too big to be solved by snap judgment.

Quote, Unquote

When you think of the word Tex, you usually conjure up a picture of a big husky cowpoke or oil drier. The definition of Tex Smith, a small town, Texas, cowboy, is "a man with a beautiful cream and rose tinted face." "Ch! Ch! Oh, you Tex." —Maitland (Ill.) Journal-Gazette.

London says Ambassador and Mrs. Lewis Douglas have taught Queen Elizabeth by plain dress. Offhand, anyway, it seems a queer way of improving the cordiality of Anglo-American relations. —Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial-Appeal.

Monopoly Control Charged Against Newspaper Concerns

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The newspaper industry has been charged with monopoly control of the newsprint market.

LAST week the National Newspaper Guild charged that the industry has been controlled by a few large concerns since the newspaper 116 years ago, and suspended publication. With hardly a splinter of water in the drying gap sought to put the blame on increased labor costs.

Pursuing the same narrow course have appeared 16 have been one of the reasons for The Guild's decline in recent years, the management in the moment of the drying gap sought to put the blame on increased labor costs.

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Drew Pearson's Gambling Government inks Check

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Florida sheriff who is chasing a gambler named Big Bill Liza, the Wheeling race track operator, contributes \$50,000 to an earlier campaign of Lee Smith, now in the White House.

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