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WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1950

HEALTH CONSOLIDATION THREATENED

TAX-RIDDEN residents of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County must have read with dismay and concern this week the purported plan to separate the City and County Health Departments instead of further consolidating them.

Apparently the proposal is the product of several factors:

1. The stubborn opposition of some officials of the City and County Governments to any sort of consolidation which would fence off their political preserves, and the taxpayers' money, and give the people better and more efficient service.

2. The continuing squabble over responsibility for charity hospitalization, including the Health Department's maternity clinic.

3. The lack of adequate space in the City Health building for housing both departments.

The County Commissioners have never been reconciled to the idea that a charity patient in the City of Charlotte is just as much a resident of Mecklenburg County as a man who lives outside the city limits. They are still resentful that the City Government has the hands of charity hospitalization last year, and dumped the whole cost on the County Government where it belongs. There are two reasons why it belongs there: (1) health is a legal responsibility of the County; (2) Charlotte taxpayers pay 80 per cent of the County's tax revenue anyway.

This year the City Council went one step further. It decided to stop its 50-50 contribution to the \$300,000 maternity clinic. Most of the cost of the maternity program is represented in hospitalization costs anyway, and the Council rightfully felt this to be a County responsibility.

That irked the Commissioners. By golly, they said, we'll just pull out of the joint operation altogether and set ourselves up a brand new separate health department to serve only those Mecklenburgers who live outside the city limits. We'll go to the extra expense of paying for people and equipment to staff a separate laboratory, a separate venereal disease program, separate X-Ray equipment, a separate vital statistics bureau, separate meat inspection and the like. Then—and here's the rub—we'll sock the people of Charlotte for 80 per cent of the cost, even though they will not receive any service from it whatsoever.

Of all the foolish, expensating, and utterly childish ideas suggested in Mecklenburg County in a long, long time, this is the worst.

We have in hand the splendid report of the Institute of Government, which piles up convincing and overwhelming evidence that disease knows no boundary lines and that a fully consolidated health department, serving all the people of Mecklenburg County (just as is done in 96 other counties of the state) is the only sensible solution to our present problem.

We have the endorsement of the Mecklenburg County Medical Society for a complete consolidation.

We have the prospect of a more economical operation, and more efficient service to all the people from consolidation.

And yet the gentlemen of the County Commission, who seem to think of themselves solely as guardians for rural dwellers, want to toss the whole thing overboard, and because of pique at the City Council, go to the extra expense of separating the few consolidated functions we now have.

Let the Commissioners remember that they represent all the people of Mecklenburg County. Let them be mindful of the fact that the city residents, through slow to anger, will one day rise up and demand that the tall stop waging the dog where these duplicated, costly functions are involved. And let them note the tense international situation, with its certain promise of a monstrous heavy tax burden on the average citizen.

In the face of that, if the Commissioners choose to satisfy their pique by adding still further to that tax burden and discarding wholly the idea to get there, they will be acting with utter disdain for the welfare and the wallets of their constituents.

LOOKING BACKWARD—AND FORWARD

The news from Korea has been bad, it had and probably will continue to be bad. We have made too many mistakes which we will not have time to remedy.

This week in The New York Times, military analyst Hanson Baldwin writes nine points:

- 1. We had a political commitment to South Korea which could not be backed up militarily.
2. We failed to create a South Korean army which could repel an invasion.
3. We overestimated the political and military strength of South Korea.
4. We underestimated the political determination and military strength of the North Korean army.
5. We either had insufficient intelligence regarding the size of the North Korean army, or we had it and we used it.
6. We underestimated the value of the tank in the sort of war being fought in Korea.
7. We counted too heavily on airpower at the expense of ground strength.
8. We had taken into the "big bomber" and "jet-plane" frame of mind, forgetting the need for a more adaptable of properly supporting ground troops.
9. We reduced Marine ground units thus weakening our "strategic reserve" force.

Baldwin adds: "A complete re-assessment of our somewhat dubious military policies

of the recent past seems clearly in order." It is not just an order; it is imperative. I am to fulfill our obligation to the rest of the world.

What has happened in Korea can happen in Yugoslavia, in Iran, in Indo-China, in Formosa, in Greece, in West Germany. Who is to blame? The Defense Department, the State Department, Gen. MacArthur—practically everyone in Washington who has been responsible for protecting the national security.

The period of uncertainty now is ended. We know where Russia intends to go, we know how she intends to get there; she is headed for world domination, using "little hot wars" as stepping stones.

She will most certainly succeed unless the United States strengthens its diplomatic and military policy all over the world.

We are paying the price for weakness in Korea and that price is high. If we are not to continue losing American prestige and American lives, we must strengthen our defenses now: industrial, economic and human.

WAR UNTHINKABLE?

WORDS like "fantastic," "unreal," "unbelievable," "incredible," "unthinkable" have had a way of cropping up in conversations about the Korean crisis. The man in the street—and we're all there once in a while—finds it hard to believe that another war is near.

Our VA psychoneurotic hospitals are still crowded with young men who can't forget the sound of falling bombs or the sight of torn bodies.

Russia, too, is still scarred from the destructive advance of German tanks and troops.

Portions of the great cities of Europe are still in ruins from World War II.

Fantastic that anyone wants a war but five short years after the end of hostilities?

From The Greensboro Daily News

EXTENDING A WELCOME

THIS WEEK a large group of useful citizens received their credentials when the State Board of Nurse Examiners approved 183 new nurses for duty in North Carolina.

These highly trained women, welcome at any time, gain an even warmer welcome now due to the shortage of nurses for duty now the sick of our state.

The Board also approved 199 for tentative for their status in other states, bringing the total for North Carolina state to 352.

Of course, but aggressive war has never been a thing of reason.

The men who have brought war to the modern world—men like Hitler, Mussolini, Tojo, Stalin—have never been men of good will or, even, of "good sense."

They have fallen victim, perhaps, to a nationalistic delusion, or to the examination to better their people at the expense of the rest of the world. Or they have simply lusted for power and more power.

Wars are the expression of the worst in man; they are not fought for the benefits of humanity.

War is unthinkable now, but no more unthinkable than at any other time.

The Daily News gladly takes its hat off to these useful citizens in welcoming them, as nurses, to the State of North Carolina.

The recently published book, "The Story of Language," recites this mountain proverb: "We ain't what we will be, and we ain't what we want to be." But we ain't what we wuz"—Waynesville (N.C.) Mountaineer.

Remember our article in this column about how the folks at Monroe, N. C., distributed with a preliminary census report of 9,383, were going to try to find enough uncounted people to rock more than 10,000? They made it—Roch Hill Evening Herald.



Thriving Papers They're Not Weakies Any More

By BILL HARPER
ABOUT the oldest and comeliest job attached to the The State Magazine is the newspaper business was to speak of a non-daily paper as a weakie—coupled with an "I get it. How, how?"

Well, anyone who has haves at the non-daily newspaper business in North Carolina now has been very observant in the last ten or fifteen years. Gone are the days and forever, we hope, when the typical "weekly" almost invariably a rural paper, existed precariously from one issue to the next, getting its paper once a week on a contingent basis, raising subscriptions for eggs and advertisements for merchandise.

Along, too—or fast going—is the country editor with a great deal of flavor, misinformation, and prejudice. His short-stall of type and wheezing old press are replaced by modern equipment and anyone who steps into the office of the Waynesville Mountaineer, or Smithfield Herald, or other modern non-daily papers will find nothing to haw-haw about.

The property which hit the non-dailies in the past fifteen years has tended to get them out of the also-ran class, and lift them from the tattered edges of economic make or break. The operation of a non-daily not only is a serious and dignified business, it has become a stabilized one, and in many instances quite profitable.

NORTH CAROLINA has non-dailies, 131 of them in 1949, or 137 in 1948. Some of them compete favorably with the dailies in the dailies own field, when typography, editing, production and management are considered, not to mention the matters of financial position and circulation.

Plenty of tidy little dailies would like to have the ABC circulation of Roy Cox's Asheville Courier-Tribune—nearly 1,200 in the 1949 report. The Daily Herald boasts 6,065. The Stanberry News & Press 6,921, and The Sanford Herald 4,494. These are all serious dailies.

Perhaps the largest circulation of a strictly weekly paper is the 3,263 of the Durham News-Journal, of the 2,650 of the Mountain Independent at Clinton. The Elkin Tribune's 3,096 circulation is ABC certified.

Plenty of three or four non-daily papers operate without a lumpy name like the McNeill sisters. In recent years, many dailies have installed color presses and other equipment, and a few of them today have their own engraving plants. It has been ten or fifteen or twenty years ago that an engraving plant was an unheard of luxury even for the largest dailies in this state.

Out of the many claims to distinction, the Warren Record has one of interest to non-dailies. It distributes 500 of its 2,100 circulation through street boys to peddle its paper. The Charlotte and Gaston County News-Times with 1,855 circulation sells an average of 232 copies each issue through news-stands. Combining newsstands and street sales, the Warren Record City paper probably has a larger proportion of direct subscriptions than any other paper in North Carolina.

Female journalism students discouraged by lack of opportunities in dailies might consider the Record, at least 26 non-dailies are edited by women.

WASHINGTON
THE following incident took place in the Senate floor, it was not reported in the Congressional Record.

The continuation of the draft act before the Senate for a vote. Three of the strongest isolationist—James Watson of Utah, all Republicans—huddled with floor leaders.

"Don't embarrass us," they whispered. "We don't want a record vote. Just the yes and no."

Whereupon Oregon's Wayne Morse stepped back to follow Republican Labor Lodge of Massachusetts in a loud whisper. "The nerve of those guys!"

Lodge, getting the cue, immediately demanded a record vote. When the yeas were called, Wayne Morse, Malone and Watkins—meekly voted "Aye."



Quote, Unquote

Maybe another reason young boys are sometimes bad to that it is a boy's nature to imitate his father.

People really do not need half the things they buy anyway.—Pittsburg (Tex.) Gazette.

Having wondered about a shoeshine boy's made up a good barber shop on a busy Saturday, we took a peek at the barber's shop and found a good average.

This country's birth rate is very much higher than Europe's. It is the only nation coming out of the depression that is not in a bad way.

Propaganda, of course, is a word used to create a great many meanings, and to some people it means angled news. It is a word that is used to create a certain bias in the mind of the reader.

Propaganda doesn't have to be carried by radio or by the printed word. It can be carried by the spoken word, by the personal contact—by people-to-people propaganda. This is what the American Legion did with its "Buddy" program.

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By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

ONE fact is now transparently obvious: President Truman is going to ask Congress for something very big indeed. It is not military appropriations, 50 or so as can be learned, the President has as yet the money to take this step; but one can see that he is a sensible and patriotic man.

He has been reported in the past, the need for a vastly intensified American defense effort has long been understood by most of Truman's ablest advisers, and particularly by Secretary of State Dean O. Acheson and W. Averell Harriman. Korea has now exposed our own shocking weakness.

Since the Korean attack, Acheson, Harriman and others of the mind, conspicuously including John Foster Dulles, have been earnestly urging the President not to delay the hard journey to Capitol Hill. If he follows their advice, he will be before Congress in a few days. It is dangerous in realistic terms the appalling danger that now confronts the United States. We will ask for special powers and a new taxation bill, a \$10-billion additional fund, the most urgent special defense outlays.

It is apparently a general field for husband-and-wife teams, too. Witnesses Anderson of the western chain, The Mechanics of the Coast Times, The News-Herald and Kennerly of the Southern Pines Pilot. All are rated at the top as publishers and business executives.

And a number of them are both editor and owner. Mr. C. R. Hamrick, of the Vance-Rand at Burnsville, Beatrice Cobb of the prosperous Morganton News-Herald and Kennerly of the Southern Pines Pilot. All are rated at the top as publishers and business executives.

Together, North Carolina has competitive newspapers. Counting the 45 dailies, it has 205, and this means one paper for every 17,000 Tar Heels. Nine of the dailies are published in the morning field, and fourteen of them have Sunday editions.

THIS is a far cry from the days of James Davis, "the father of journalism in North Carolina." Davis gets credit for having set the first printing press in this state. This important event took place in 1749, and initial printing was confined to law books. But Davis decided that the time was ripe for starting a newspaper in North Carolina, so in 1751 he launched the North Carolina Gazette, a weekly publication.

Present besides the Senators were National Chairman Guy George Gabrielson, and Victor A. Johnston, director of the AOR Senate Campaign Committee. Brewster spoke in a somewhat anticlimactic manner about the raising campaign funds. It would not be easy, he warned, to find sufficient money to carry on each state where there is a Senate race. Campaign money would have to be concentrated for the most part in crucial states.

Each Senator was called upon in turn for his suggestions. When it came to Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, he began with a good-natured grin to talk about his primary election.

In that contest the almost unknown challenger, Dave Hoover, a city grocer, defeated a group of 551,473 and reported expenditures of \$3,887 in excess of \$100,000. Hoover's success came from wealthy Republicans in the East anxious to defeat Roosevelt.

"So I do so happen, gentlemen," said Morse, "that I just found out that I have a deficit in my campaign. My opponent has a surplus of \$100,000 more than I have. I am in a hole."

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Russia's Plans Clear, U.S. Mustn't Delay Mobilization

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

development work on new weapons, and for certain other obvious reasons. That is, the most clearly urgent must be started now, and the rest (barrying a planning initiative) formalized in a law.

As for the problem of mobilization, the formal law will probably be deferred. However, many insist it should not be. Instead, the President should do what he will for emergency authority of allocation and priority, to break the most urgent bottlenecks in the production of the television boom, for instance, cannot be permitted to halt radar manufacturing, as it is now doing. On the economic side, the President's Council of Economic Advisors, headed by Leon Keyserling, has played a bold and useful role, advising Truman that the American economy can support whatever American security requires, without undue strain or confusion.

But while the criminal neglect of our defenses is being daily more glaringly exposed, the Secretary of Defense stands alone against launching an adequate defense effort. The deficit in our arms has stood so incredible, is also the main asset of Louis Johnson in this matter. He is now doing.

"JOINT CHIEFS"
Louis Johnson describes the heads of the services as "my joint chiefs." A policy of divide and rule has been successfully encouraged by the Joint Chiefs' disagreement on the range plans. Gen. Omar Bradley, a vocal and energetic member of the Joint Chiefs, cannot do what Johnson ought to do. Hence the chief of staff never been able to agree upon a true requirements plan for American defense. The confusion of global Western defense planning under the Atlantic Pact is almost indescribable. The mess is only now being tacitly.

Thus it seems hardly possible at this time to do more than to ask for money for the vital equipment, such as tactical aircraft, tanks, atomic energy, and other modern radar warning apparatus, which hardly exists in the American arsenal. The deficiencies of our armaments are so great and so glaring that no one can disagree as to the need for a true requirements plan for stepping up research and development work on new weapons, and for certain other obvious reasons.

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GOP Has Campaign Funds For Right Conservative Senators

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
REPUBLICAN Senators up for reelection in 1950 will have other day to discuss the important question of money and how to raise it. It turned out somewhat differently than had been expected.

Present besides the Senators were National Chairman Guy George Gabrielson, and Victor A. Johnston, director of the AOR Senate Campaign Committee. Brewster spoke in a somewhat anticlimactic manner about the raising campaign funds. It would not be easy, he warned, to find sufficient money to carry on each state where there is a Senate race. Campaign money would have to be concentrated for the most part in crucial states.

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