THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



THOMAS L. ROBINSON....

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1951

HIGHWAY FUND BOOKKEEPING

to city streets, rather than non revenue.

That proposition needs no defense, for it has been forthightly stated by the Municipal Roads Countlission after a long and detailed study of city streets and their role in the state road network. Monthless, a rysiew of highway fund revenue, in zecent years affords ample proof that enough money is wailable from present funds to carry out a \$6 million annual street; not carry out a \$6 million annual street; not without seeking new revenue and without impeding work on the primary and secondary systems.

Fiscal Year	Originally Estimated	Actual Revenue	Over Esti
1943-44	\$18.880.142	\$32,269,776	\$13,389,53
1944-45	14.644.554	33,514,803	18,870,24
1945-46	34,882,000	44,175,032	9,293,03
1946-47	41.192,000	53,359,869	12,167,86
1947-48	51,750,000	57,481,379	5,371.37
1948-49	51,750,000	62,804,037	11,054,08
1949-50	57.625.000	73,158,772	15.533,77
1950-51	57.625.000	*77,375,000	*19,750,00
* Now	estimated.		

For the eight fiscal years, estimates of Highway Fund revenue were low by a total of \$105,790,072, or an average of \$13,223,753 each year. That, of itself, is more than enough to provide the \$9 million sought for city streets.

But that is not all. The revenue estimate

AST week The News expressed its disdor 1931-32 and for 1932-33 is \$77.375,000 each year—the precise figure of the exwhereby State funds for city streets would
be obtained from a \$5 increase in license
tags and a half-cent increase in the gasoline tax This newspaper is dedicated to
the proposition that a fair share of current
histway fund revenue should be devoted
to city streets, rather than new revenue.

There is, still another angle. The above.

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There is still another angle. The above figures do not include Federal matching grants that the State has received each year. In the three years from 1946-46 through 1947-48, these grants totaled more than \$11,000,000 .each year. The amount dropped to \$320,725 in 1944-95 and an estimated \$10,445,788 in 1949-95 and an estimated \$10,445,788 in the current fiscal year of 1950-51. Here's the catch. The Highway Fund revenue estimate for the next two years does not finctude only Federal money, but its appropriations plan provides \$12,000,800 to match Federal grants seek year. That's really eating one's cake and having it too. When asked why current money is not. figures do not include Federal matching

really eating one's eake and having II. too.
When asked why current money is not
ample to help-cities and towns, Highway
Commission 'officials always answer that
our primary road needs are great. Of
course they are great, but the long injustice to urban dwellers is also great.
Furthermore, primary road needs are
being well cared for with money that
would have gone to secondary roads. The
latter are being paved and stabilized with
\$200 million in bond money, releasing
virtually all of the huge Highway-Fund for
primary roads.
The Naws contends that the discrim-

virtually all of the huge Highway Fund for primary roads.

The News contends that the discrimination against urban dwellers should be ended and that there is ample money stready in sight without imposing new license and gasoline taxes. It is our reasond belief that the figures given above establish the soundness of that position.

ON DRAFTING 18-YEAR-OLDS

THE debate over drafting 18-year-olds is still in progress and the Congress is apparently no closer to a decision than it was when the Defense Establishment first broached the controversial plan two

weeks ago.

Main reason for the delaying action is that the issue has become shrouded in emetion and confusion—emotion eigendered by the pleas of tearful parents who, strangely yet understandably, consider an 18-year-old entirely different from a 19-year-old entirely different from a 19-year-old; confusion resulting from a constantly changing manpower requirementiplan, and from a paradoxical dearth of draft material and wealth of volunteers in certain branches of the service.

No one bits far from the caultal scene

No one this far from the capital scene can be sure that it is necessary to draft 18-year-olds. There is too much conflict-ing testimony about manpower resources, and too little public information about the

nation's over-all manpower needs But the people back home can keep in nd certain fundamentals, and should

No one wants to draft 18-year-olds. President doesn't want to, the Defense

Department doesn't want to, the Congress doesn't want to.

2. The proposal to lower the draft limit does not envision an immediate full-scale war (in which case la-year-olds would probably be drafted without further ado anyway) but rather is a bade part of a longer range Universal Military Service program.

a longer range Universal Military Serviceprogram.

3. In UMS lies the source of our greatest potential strength—a big backlog of
trained manpower—and one of the best
guarantees that Russia will think twice
before launching a major war. (General
Marshall believes that North Korea would
not have attacked had the United States
been better perpared.)

4. The issue should be decided by logic
and reason, instead of by emotion.
Barring new aggressive moves by Russia
and its satellites, Congress will look at the
Defense Department's program 'for the
next decade' from every possible angle
before changing the draft age limit, in the
final analysis, however, the proven needs
of the nation must override our individual
emotions, and Congress nust decide acmotions, and Congress nust decide acemotions, and Congress must decide ac-cordingly, no matter how great the pres-sure from back home.

TIME FOR ACTION ON GAS FRANCHISE

Now that Piedmont Natural Gas Co. burg. The two rival companies were given time to submit new applications to serve Charlon clies, the way is clear for the City Council to approve the transfer of Duke's gas franchise to Presumably, Piedmont officials will soon

the transfer of Dutes agas Infarcine was Predmont.

When the request for approval was made some months ago, three commagnes—Piedmont, Carolina Natural, and Public Service Co. of N. C.—were seeking a Federal Power Commission permit to serve this area. The Council wisely refrained from taking sides in the controversy, and held up its approval until Piedmont, or one of the others, got the nod from the FPC.

Last week 3-FPC order is clear-out. Piedmont is authorized to serve Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Greenaboro, Salisbury, Hish.

Point, Burlington, Greenville and Spartan-

Piedmont network.

Presumably, Piedmont officials will soon renew their request that the City Council approve the purchase of pulse's franchise. This time the request should be granted promptly, so that the new company may get busy on the task of building a lateral line into Charlotte and converting Duke's present equipment to natural gas.

Access to cheap, clean, hot natural gas can be a boon for this community. It will not be, however, unless Pledmont shows more daring and more vigor in expanding the local gas system than Duke has displayed in the last 20 years.

From The New York Times

POINT FOUR ON THE LAND

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To the past three years a county agent from North Carolina has been giving advice. Lo Indian farmers in a hundred-aquare-mile area north of Calcuita. During the three years wheat production in that area went up 67 per cent, potato production-200 per cent. Dr. Henry G. Bennett, technical administrator of the Peint Fuur program, gave this illustration in a statement to the press recently. Under Point Four program, gave this illustration in a statement to the press recently. Under Point Four program, gave this illustration in a statement to the press recently. Under Point Four program, gave this illustration in a statement to the press recently. Under Point Four program, gave this illustration in a statement to the press recently. Under Point Four program, gave this illustration and the press and this appeal be counteracted by the pressure of the press and the program and the forms and that our agents by the pressure of the press and the press and

Kremlin Actions Look Like Spring War Preparations

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WITHIN THE LAST six mouths and the Kremlin has quietly taken a series of steps which at least near the series of steps which at least near the series in Europe in the Spring of Summer. This is reliably the central series in Europe in the Spring of Summer. This is reliably the central series in Europe in the Spring of Summer. This is reliably the central series in the political reliability of the political reliability o

been president contained and proposed the property of the prop

The National Debate

Shall We Give Europe To Stalin?

randaction stand for the U.N. to take a wide in the U.N. to take a wide in

What Retreatism Means

THE HOUSE position, has evited much favorable frespotate, and some sittle traileon from both Republicans are Democrata, Cascass for support are sold to the state of the state

for us and our friends—determined by such motives.
But—there remains the solid part of Hoovers appeal—that Europe probably can't be held silvest, in the state of the solid part of Hoovers appeal—that Europe probably can't be held silvest, in the state of the solid part of the defense of the Western Hemisphere.
In erery such counsel there is reasonableness. But in our opinion, it would be fastel the remaining ree areas outlied this hemisphere, with no opposition on the part of the only power in a position to deter them.

tion on the part of the chay power in a position to deter them.

Maspert (Tenn.) Times.

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(An Editerial Ireas Business West)

THUS country is now in the mide of a great fortile of the state of the

There Are-Alternatives

IT IS incredible that we should choose this blue-print for disaster. Such a course is alien to the spirit of this nation. It would shrivel our national soul. We can be hard-headed in this crisis without withdrawing also our cave and rolling the stone

Quote, Unquote

'Where Were You Guys When We Were Winning?'



If A Nickel's Now No Good, Can A Dime Be Far Behind?

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

If BADE A TEARPUL farewell to
the mileace, i tother day, when
the cost of the common phone call
the passing of the work have ofour coinage, the simple jit.

For years the little round hole
phone, has been an argunal of yeaterfay's values and source of comsiderable comfort to people who do
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terminal plan. You were
secure, at least, in the knowledge
that they hadn't yet been able to
the childhood of my generation
was founded for my generation.

had at the corner groups for live.

The price at the Priday movie, when Ben Turpin or Torn Mix or Mabel Normand were providing simple pastonime, was ten centa, or so nicket. The wonderfully gases to the property of the pro GOOD OLD DAYS

oau piayer and said Imails, even if he idiorit meni, iches te a young-ser. Today I saili get a thrill out a feet. Today I saili get a thrill out I have not recently been able to extract from the dwelling of a denatured dollar in my lean. Hard to extract from the dwelling of a denatured dollar in my lean. It is possible to recall that the anniorities presence in the pants. In not-so-recent years, it is possible to recall that the annivities of the said of the

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Small Towns Are Backbone Of America

AST week I went up to the little Pennylvania town where ming of a new town half. It brought back a lot of memoria. It also set me thinking about what forms the real foundations of a new thinking about what forms the real foundations of the memoria. It also set me thinking about what forms the real foundations of America.

It also set me thinking about what forms the real foundations of the control of the con

suits but both the hearthstones and the hearts of the propie inside are warm.

A few things about my town have changed in the 30-odd years since I moved away—but not many. There's R new replaced the r

Pearson's Police Record

DIGGEST change in Swarthmore, however, is going to be the process of the new town hull, for which—with proper ceremontes—we broke ground. The old Town Hall, a gaunt, ungainly eye-sore, caught fire last year, which reuninded me that maybe the police records had burned with it, thereby removing from the clutches of my Senatorial well-wishers the criminal evidence they have been so different byring to find.

A certain Senator has been eagerly digring into my past of late, and last week an attorney close to the McCarthyties stood up in court and indicated by his cross-examination of me that they were even trying to track down an incident in Redsville, N. C. where, after taking down a Chautsquage Redsville, N. C. where, after taking down a Chautsquage to the mixty Southern Railroad yards. Sating a spoone, bath in This is a story which I self-

frii. I was arrected as do not not make a possible from the form of the first manner o

Grist For Sen. McCarthy

Grist For Sen. McC.drrny
PRESIDING at the Town Hall crementies in Swarthmore
was William H. Ward, now a top executive of the du Pout
company, who, like me, worked his way through collese by
spending his Summars on a Chaufaunua tent crew. And I
couldn't help but remember how Bill Ward and Cibsoo
couldn't help but remember how Bill Ward and Cibsoo
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burned records in the old Town Hall at Swarthmore would have showed that I was also arrested on an entirely different entirely different entirely.

It was after a college football game, Swarthmore had besten Its olds, right Haverfoot. The two Quaker colleges were supposed to practice bruherly love, but didn't. Afterward, I rang the village fire bell and got caught. Fine: 85.

Backbone Of America

WELL, all these memories and a lot of others came crowd-ing back at that dedication ceremony last week. And among them was the realization that our small fownis are the backbone of America, and that if we ever iose our small-town independence, and the community spirit that goes with it, then we might really be in danger of going the way of

them we might really be in danger of going the way or. Funda, and the state of the state of the con-ceptive too much power in Wachington, Most people hims Washington for this, though actually part of the blame se-longs at home. For, when some towns can't or do not rake enough taxes to build new schoolhouses or pay their teachers, then they come to Washington for Federal aid to education. And when states want new roads, they are esger beavers in 50 Washington can't be blamed for exercising the power which local communities addicate. Meanwhile, the most centralized government in the world today is the Soviet, where local communities have almost no power and where only fourteen men sitting in the Xemilia coup that scheme of things the greater chance for us some-day to fit into the Soviet pattern.