

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## GOVERNOR SCOTT'S DISSERVICE

ALTHOUGH one would hardly suspect it after reading the newspapers these last few days, there is a substantial area of agreement in the dispute over State aid for city streets. All parties concerned, including Governor Scott, admit publicly that the urban dweller is being discriminated against, against the rural dweller's share of the gasoline and license taxes he pays to the State Government.

It is the area of disagreement that has been paramount in the tug-of-war between the Governor and the rural dwellers. The Powell bill passed by the Senate last week assumes that the Highway Fund has enough money to share with towns and cities. Governor Scott insists it does not have. And the ensuing struggle threatens to inflame the smoldering rural-vs-urban animosity in this state.

Governor Scott has complained often and loudly against those who would try to divide the pie. He has been particularly vocal against those who would give the rural dwellers, but he has done more in his two years in office to bring about such a division than all his predecessors put together. By creating the division again this time he is causing those who will be a long time healing, and he is simultaneously jeopardizing a highly meritorious piece of legislation.

There is ample evidence that the Highway Fund has more than enough money to cover the requirements of the Powell bill. We have set forth in these columns before, and shall not repeat it today. The point we want to make is that the debate,

at this stage in purely academic (and somewhat political), because availability of money has nothing to do with righting of long-standing injustice.

The Municipal Road Commission clearly set forth the existing inequity, and recommended that the State's responsibility to citizens of cities and towns should be accepted "immediately."

That does not mean that it should be accepted immediately, provided that the General Assembly levies more gasoline taxes. It means immediately, period.

Two years hence, after Governor Scott's Highway Commission winds up its herculean task of spending \$200,000,000 on secondary roads, there will be time to examine the needs of the whole system, including primary roads, secondary roads, city and town streets. If the General Assembly then decides that highway revenue is inadequate, it can levy an additional tax for the benefit of the whole system.

For Governor Scott to endanger the righting of a traditional injustice by insisting that higher taxes be levied now, and to place the opprobrium for higher taxes on city streets when it should be on the steps necessary to provide sections short of a grave disservice to all the people of the State.

If he were completely fair and honest, he would insist that the General Assembly rectify the injustice immediately. But then he would lay before the court of public opinion his contention that more money is needed for the whole system, and let it be decided on its merits.

## THE STALIN 'INTERVIEW'

THERE are at least three reasons why Premier Stalin's latest "interview" has been the object of discussion and interpretation all over the world.

First, Stalin speaks out but infrequently. The last time he commented publicly on the world situation was in January, 1949, when the Berlin blockade was still on. Answering questions put to him by an American of the International News Service, Stalin dropped hints that the Berlin Blockade might be lifted under certain conditions.

Second, Stalin speaks with absolute authority. As unchallenged head of the world Communist movement, his words carry tremendous weight.

Third, the critical world situation, in the opinion of many observers, has reached a turning point, and the free nations are on the verge of taking the initiative in world affairs away from Russia. The timing of his interview, thus, gave it added significance.

Actually, Stalin said very little that had not previously been said by members of the Kremlin in the United Nations and elsewhere. He predicted the defeat of U. S. forces in Korea if they fail to accept Communist China's proposals. He claimed that U. S. troops in Korea are not fighting well because they don't believe in the cause for which they are fighting. He lambasted Prime Minister Attlee's Labor Government and its rearmament program, and he denounced the United Nations as an "instrument of war." After all that, Stalin still said very little that has not been said before. He contended that Soviet Russia is pursuing "a policy of averting war and maintaining peace."

To date, the diplomatic experts in the

world's capitals have found nothing in the Stalin statement that indicates any real desire on Russia's part to halt the rush toward war and to work out a pattern of peace. Some of the more hopeful diplomats have pounced on the little word "if" in Stalin's reference to acceptance of Communist China's terms for a Korean settlement, and have interpreted that as meaning the door to further negotiations is not completely closed. That may be, but it strikes us as a frail reed, indeed, upon which to lean.

Rather the Stalin statement appears to have been designed for consumption in the countries of Eurasia than around the world. The words of encouragement to Mao Tse-tung may well have been a substitute for military assistance that Russia either cannot, or does not wish, to provide at this time. The emphasis on Russia's peaceful intentions, by the same token, may have been intended to quiet apprehension within Russia and the satellite nations over what must appear to those people to be a rapid drift toward another war. And the attack on Attlee was undoubtedly aimed at splitting Anglo-American unity.

The free nations of the world will be well advised to treat the Stalin "interview" just as they have treated the effusions of Vishinsky and Malik in the councils of the United Nations. Actions, not words, are needed to convince the rest of the world that Russia is interested in peace. And until Russia confirms by deeds that she has no intention of invading these years, the free world has no choice but to continue bolstering its military and economic power for the great conflict if and when it comes.

## BROTHERHOOD WEEK

THE National Conference of Christians and Jews will have no difficulty putting to use the \$1,000,000 which is being donated by the estate of Henry Ford. The money is important, but equally important, we think, is the implication of the gift.

Henry Ford ranked near the top in the list of anti-Semites. He was led to believe that the Jews sought world domination and led others to believe through his newspaper. He did immeasurable harm in that, just as he contributed immeasurable good to the nation through his inventive genius and business ability.

Now, however, Henry Ford II has completely reversed the stand taken by his father, who, actually, changed his position before his death. The Ford million stands as a symbol of enlightenment in a great American family and should lead others to understand better the brotherhood of man.

There is no reason why brotherhood should not be practiced daily.

Prejudice is not inborn in us. The child gains his prejudice from his playmates, school companions and from his parents. Probably the most important source of prejudice is the home. In the Southern home, for instance, prejudice against Negroes is often unwittingly taught. In Protestant homes, disparaging remarks about Catholics are often heard. In Catholic homes, the reverse is usually true. Both are usually the breeding ground for anti-prejudice. If there are some who are not without anti-Gentile prejudice on occasion.

This week, "Brotherhood Week," should cause parents to ask themselves how they are implanting prejudice in their children and whether they want to propagate senseless and dangerous hatred.

## FAIRNESS COUNTS

Certainly the State has a heavy obligation to deal fairly and squarely with its employees, to avoid inequities and discriminations, and to correct them, when they are discovered, as quickly as possible.

While we are willing for all who were previously missed to be taken care of, we are especially interested in the plight of the class-room teachers who are below the standards of those previously taken care of.

The unanimous vote of the House Education Committee shows that its members too feel that way about it and that fairness carries its weight in at least one field of legislative endeavor.

## Outlining A New Proceed ure



## People's Platform Bus Agreement Criticized

CHARLOTTE  
THE following letter has been sent to Mayor Shaw and members of the City Council:

"Prior to the meeting between the City Council and the Duke Power Co., held on the evening of Feb. 10, it was agreed that the minimum bus service to which the City Council would agree was to be extensions on twelve lines, including 100 per cent direct bus service out Central Ave.

"The unbiased 'Hooper report,' compiled after lengthy studies by traffic experts at a cost of several thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money on the steps necessary to provide sections short of a grave disservice to all the people of the State.

"If he were completely fair and honest, he would insist that the General Assembly rectify the injustice immediately. But then he would lay before the court of public opinion his contention that more money is needed for the whole system, and let it be decided on its merits.

take controversies over bus service to the Commission for final ruling. In conclusion, gentlemen, the bus agreement if ratified does not settle the issue as far as this large and growing section of Charlotte is concerned. We should have and are entitled to 100 per cent direct bus service to and from the center of the City.

"All sections of the City should receive adequate bus service under a franchise as held by Duke Power. It is their obligation to provide such service, and it is the opinion of the Merry Oaks Civic Club that it is the duty of the City Council or the Public Utilities Commission to see that we get 100 per cent bus service throughout the city or should be ordered to dispose of its bus holdings."

—MERRY OAKS CIVIC CLUB,  
Mrs. Olga N. Porter, Secretary.

## Note Of Thanks

CHARLOTTE  
I thank you and your newspaper staff for the excellent space and coverage you gave rural Mecklenburg in the current "Polo Drive."

We found Miss Ann Sawyer to be a splendid reporter and the news stories and good coverage along with the pictures, gave the public a picture of what we needed.

Without this help, the drive would not have been a success.

—MRS. RALPH MILLER,  
Chairman of the Rural Mecklenburg March of Dimes Campaign.

## Opera A Success

CHARLOTTE  
The Charlotte News gave fine coverage of the Feb. 6 and 7 performances of the opera "Martha," and without this excellent newspaper coverage, the Charlotte Opera Association would never have accomplished its degree of success.

We are happy to announce that the production was financially a success. For a non-profit organization, this means that the opera "paid for itself."

It gave Charlotteans a chance to enjoy Music Theater at a nominal cost—what, after all, is our basic purpose.

Please offer our thanks to every member of your staff who helped in any way.

—MRS. H. V. CARSON, President.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON  
GENERAL EISENHOWER may find himself in the embarrassing position of getting the Democratic nomination for President in 1952. The Truman administration of the White House after a private remark made by President Truman to a political adviser, who had told him about a plan of anti-Truman Democrats—including Jim Byrnes and Gen. Farley—to nominate Eisenhower.

Mrs. Truman's reply was a bit plaintive but apparently sincere.

"Well, if I like him," he said, "I'll nominate him myself."

This coincides with a statement by Speaker Sam Rayburn that Eisenhower could have the Presidential nomination on the Democratic ticket—a statement made by a man who does not often give words of praise to the Republican side. Friends are urging the General to get the nomination from both parties and force a realignment of American politics. One friend expressed his way: "The time demand a great man with wide personal appeal. Ike is the only man on the American scene who can command this kind of following, and the public knows it. There would be some who are angling up against him, but the public pressure will be so great in 1952 that nothing can stop him."

Better Korean Intelligence  
THERE have been two highly important developments regarding the Korean war. No. 1 is a vast improvement in our intelligence. No. 2 is a series of backlogs coming out of the vital question of advancing beyond the 38th parallel.

U. S. intelligence is now so good that Gen. Matt Ridgway knew exactly where the Chinese were going to hit when they staged last week's drive on the central front. He also knew when the Chinese would hit and their ap-

## Losses To Money Inflation False Economy Demonstration

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP  
WASHINGTON  
AT LEAST \$2,000,000,000 out of the \$10,000,000,000 appropriated for the defense of the United States since the Korean aggression has gone up in inflation, which should send shivers up the spine of any sensible man, propping up the right hand of the understanding the vitally important issues in dispute between MacArthur and the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder.

GREED AT WORK  
The same process is at work everywhere in the economy. Eccles and his numerous supporters, including many reputable economists, are convinced that this inflation is essentially a money inflation, deriving from the fiscal policies of the Government itself. Rearmament has not yet taken a really serious bite out of the whole economy. In the last seven months, moreover, the Government actually has been collecting more in cash than it has been spending. Plainly, human greed no doubt accounts for part of the inflation, but greed cannot possibly account for the whole. The real explanation, according to Eccles and his supporters lies in the annual budget, which must be included in the annual budget, can be kept as low as possible.

This sounds sensible enough on the face of it. But Eccles contends to do the most effect is precisely the same as though the Government printed tons of greenbacks, and injected them into the economy. The money then goes into the hands of the stream, adding to total deposits in banks. The banks then loan the money, thus multiplying the amount which is equivalent to cash in purchase power.

The mere fact that the Government has already lost to money inflation some two billion out of every ten billion defense dollars appropriated is enough to demonstrate how false the Treasury's brand of economy is. Quite aside from the inflation on the whole economy, this inflation cancels out several times over what might be saved through the financing of the public debt. Fortunately, the Federal Reserve Board has the legal right to do what it desires in respect to a majority of the open market committee of the Board, which makes the final decisions, is now probably being Eccles. Thus the chances are that an issue which deeply affects both the security of the nation and the pocketbook of every American's pocketbook will probably at last be settled, before the entire economy gets out of hand.

## Henry Morgan, Radio Misfit, Finds A Niche In Television

By ROBERT C. RUARK  
NEW YORK  
HENRY MORGAN, the man who has been howling in righteous indignation while two comedy maids harp on the radio, has found an expression to "Tennessee Waltz" (you should excuse the perversion of the world waltz).

Brainer, it should be said, won the popularity award over the Brooklyn Cossack, the speller-played by a man who has been allowed air to escape. The applause was recorded seriously and enthusiastically indicated at least to me, that a great many people go along with Brainer in his reaction to the current trend toward the ludicrous in popular songs.

Morgan treats all this nonsense as his common sense, as his common sense to the constancies who make asses of themselves for a small fee on the radio. He finds nothing unusual in the fact that a dog makes up one third of a girl trio; he finds nothing unusual in the fact that a man does not play a rubber glove if the mood strikes him.

There appears to be a great deal of fun in making merriment of ordinary nice people. The mixed question gets the yuck; embarrassment wins applause. It is the age of Mortimer Snerd.

Morgan is a man who has a professional stride finally by sanctifying the foolish. That he has tongue tucked in cheek is not important, but the fact that he has no mean accomplishment, and like Brainer, the Chihuahua, will impulse is to howl.

## Ex-Senator Wheeler

WHEELER of Montana, long one of the most powerful figures in Washington and the Northwest, has been itching to get back into politics. Already he has been maneuvering for a possible Senate comeback since the end of his term for recent blow-up inside the Office of Price Administration.

Senator Wheeler, a thorn in the side of Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and later Franklin Roosevelt, cleaned out the Harry Donnell case in 1934 and put across some of the most important New Deal legislation. But after a quarrel with the Administration, he was defeated in 1946.

But the other day, when Adm. John Hoover resigned as a bluff as chief price enforcement officer, it was up to Wheeler. Those in the know that the powerful hand of Wheeler was behind the resignation of Burt Wheeler.

For Wheeler, in order to attract GOP support, had arranged for the appointment of two Montana Republicans, Ernest Immel, and Ernest Immel, to important jobs in price stabilization.

Wheeler had cleared these with his old friend, Harry Truman. But as an afterthought a White House aide called Senator Wheeler and told him that he was the brother of Harold Macdonald Copper Co., biggest backer of ex-Senator Wheeler.

## 38th Or 39th Parallel

NERVOUS State Dept. conferees, considering the crossing of the 38th parallel, were almost bowled over when handed a recommendation from General Ridgway that he be allowed not only to cross the 38th but proceed to the 39th parallel.

Ridgway argued that there is a bottleneck at the 39th parallel which U. N. troops could hold much easier against Chinese counter-attacks than at the 38th parallel where the bottleneck is a narrow strip of land. The Chinese would mean recapturing the Korean capital of Pyongyang and opening the ports of Inchon and Wonsan.

General MacArthur, when consulted about the proposed advance, was cautious. He didn't favor sticking out into the Communist den of North Korea, proposed limited patrols above the 38th parallel instead.

In Washington, the joint chiefs of staff were inclined to go along with Ridgway's proposal regardless of both the State Dept. and MacArthur. Meanwhile no definite instructions have been sent him and until he receives an observation, as commander-in-the-field, is to use his own judgment.