

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher
J. E. DOWD, General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH, Executive Editor
C. A. McKNIGHT, Editor

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1951

SCHOOL BOARD NEEDS EXPERIENCE

AS A GENERAL RULE, Tax News doesn't take an editorial position for or against candidates in local elections. There are at least three reasons for the unwritten rule.

Oaks, an addition to West Charlotte High School, and two new cafeterias at existing buildings will be constructed.

In the case of the election for the City School Board next Tuesday, Tax News departs from its rule. A principle is at stake. The School Board is in the midst of a whopping \$8,198,000 postwar building program. A 1946 bond issue provided \$3,960,000, a 1950 bond issue \$3,550,000, and the State Government furnished \$668,000.

From the first bond issue, three new buildings and nineteen smaller expansion-improvement projects have been completed, and two other projects are yet under construction.

O'DWYER SHOULD BE RECALLED

LET'S FACE IT: anyone who stoutly insists against gambling, liquor drinking or even prostitution is likely to be regarded as the chink in the circles—and those circles are pretty wide.

It is intimated in the report that this is a U. S. A., 1951, is often shrugged off as an "naive reformer," though what is wrong with attempting to reform something that is had we do not know.

The Senate Crime Committee's report—the Kefauver story—made that clear. There is organized crime because there is no organized agency to prevent it, and the agencies are lax because there is no organized public demand to suppress organized crime.

This indictment is a serious one, so let it be remembered that it is an extra-legal one. O'Dwyer has not been brought to trial and, indeed, it may be that the only "crime" he has committed is perjury. The charges against O'Dwyer are not yet causes for imprisonment.

Though O'Dwyer cannot be killed for what he did or did not do, there is no reason why he should be left in a position of honor in the government of the United States. A man whose integrity is under a cloud of doubt should not represent the United States abroad.

We are aware that certain political commitments might make it difficult for the President to call O'Dwyer back to the show-down, but we feel that action must be taken.

IRAN AND OIL

ALTHOUGH it is hard to suppress a feeling that the opinion of Dr. C. R. Eberhardt (printed elsewhere on this page) on the possibility of retaining Iran in the Western orbit is optimistic, we have to think of the alternative. And after all, Dr. Eberhardt has but recently returned from that strife-torn, oil-rich land and that adds strength to his belief that the British and the Iranians will reach some agreement on the nationalization of Iran's oil fields.

As of today, however, agreement seems further off than ever, with British Foreign Secretary Herbert Morrison admitting resignedly that nationalization "presumably will become law."

Speaking before the House of Commons member, Mr. Morrison informed the House earlier this week, Mr. Eberhardt offers to take the Iranian Government into partnership in the operation of the oil concession

'THE CHATTERING SPHINX'

WITH that paradoxical phrase, the editors of The Reporter wind up the intriguing little fantasy, "Troubles in the Kremlin," reprinted elsewhere on this page. Nominally, one attributes enigmatical and inscrutable characteristics to the sphinx, and Mr. Stalin himself has emulated the mythical creature in his own international poker-playing so successfully that Russia's course of action is totally unpredictable.

When we don't know ourselves? What can the Russians expect when the isolationists shout for a full-scale war, when that "warmonger" Truman pleads for peace, and when in Iran—the rose-financier who profits from the British exploitation, the moderates who are willing to accept the new plan, the fanatical Moslem sect that will have no nationalism so long as many persons have been killed, the inept followers of the inept Shah, the Tudeh (Communist Party)—all contribute to the tangled political crisis to make decision to compromise or surrender or stand firm most unobtainable.

LONGEVITY IN THE U. S. S. R.

FROM Moscow comes the news that the Soviet Union has made considerable progress in its long list of achievements. According to Pravda, Russians are living much longer than unfortunates dwelling in capitalist countries. One collective farm member has reportedly reached his 145th year. He is reported to have insisted on walking to the election booth himself during the Soviet elections last winter—a somewhat quixotic gesture.

It is entirely possible that there are people in Russia who live longer than any candidate we could put up. But we in the free countries are not long for this world, which is something of a put in our favor.

An anecdote, logically enough, if the only thing that pays off by playing both ends against the middle—Greenwood (Misc.) Commonwealth.

General Bragg testified that he believed Chiang himself was honest, but that his troops, lacking leadership, long ago had lost the will to fight. For a while the war against the Communists in the Chinese mainland had been going on rapidly. The Chung Kai-shek Government has been forced to retreat to the island of Formosa.

Southern Pawns Gain Strength For Next Election

including dominating position in 1952. The strategic position of this group is extremely strong. The Southerners—such men as Senators Russell and Connally and Chairman Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee—are the only effective force standing behind the President and his attempt to force an arms reduction.

Ascherson's resignation has, of course, been frequently predicted, and the predictions always have been wrong. The President has remained loyal to him and only last week once again affirmed his loyalty to his harridan Secretary of State. But the mutterings of retreat and doubt among Democrats in Capitol Hill today have reached what may well be a new volume and this time the report comes from the inside.

With major changes in the Cabinet, the Administration would be wholly new look. Facing '52, the Democratic Party could conceivably resolve its internal dissension and agree on a compromise ticket that certainly would have in the No. 2 spot a Southern Democrat.

The integrity of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Bradley, who engaged the Southerners who congealed on the Tafft side of the fence. The Tafft attack, which was an indictment of the integrity not only of Bradley but of the three members of the JCS, brought down the curtain on the Tafft side of the fence. Tafft's assertions will not help the cause of either General MacArthur or the Southerners who are so ardently backing him.

Some close to the Southern bloc prefer to be able to spell out the terms of understanding with the White House. Some close to the Southern bloc prefer to be able to spell out the terms of understanding with the White House. Some close to the Southern bloc prefer to be able to spell out the terms of understanding with the White House.

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As Others See Us

Troubles In The Kremlin

The architects of Russian destiny are sitting around a big table, in the orbit of their all-night sessions. Gloom is in the air. Everybody is looking at everybody else with more than usual suspicion, but never losing sight of The Chief, whose face is drawn.

A Traveler's Viewpoint

Iran—The Spirit of Iron

A TRAVELER who has recently returned from the Middle East and a visit with the president of Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. believes that Iran can be saved for the West. Though nationalization of Iranian oil has in a sense been accomplished, Dr. Charles R. Eberhardt of Davidson College believes it is still possible that Iran can be saved for the West.

People's Platform

Sincerity Needed

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S ouster must, of course, be regarded with considerable comfort by those kindly souls who yet hope for peace without recourse to a third world war. But it is at least a stop-gap measure, rearranging the deck chairs on a sinking ship.

Quote, Unquote

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

A local man remarks on the fact that the biggest bankroll has the tightest rubber band.—Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

Another man, who can scarcely count on the fingers of one hand, says: "All right, let's not be too hasty. Let's tell the millions of comrades in enemy countries who have trained to act, let's tell them all: 'Sit back and relax. Or keep in trim, take some calisthenics. Talk revolution, but never try it. Mars said that violence was the only way to change the world. The way women bear children in America. Or perhaps a storm will carry the baby here and land it in our laps.'"

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