

A BIGGER STRUGGLE SHAPES UP

UNLESS we mistake the signs, the recent victory over the appointment of 100 N. C. county election boards is just the forerunner of bigger things to come. Arthur Johnny, the Greensboro Daily News' reporter in Raleigh, interprets State Chairman Everett Jordan's hint that Governor Scott had influenced the board appointments as "a widening breach between Governor Scott and the man he chose to head the Democratic Party."

Another is control of the state delegation to the Chicago Democratic convention. The Governor is reported to see the delegation stick with Mr. Truman. Chairman Jordan is believed to favor Senator Richard Russell of Georgia in the early stages of the nomination. And finally, the control of the state party machinery is at stake. If Olive chose, he would name his own state chairman, and Everett Jordan would hardly be that man. If Unstead wins, Jordan may well move up to national committee man, vacating his post to an Unstead appointee.

THE RED CROSS PITCHED IN—HAVE YOU?

OUR NEIGHBORS to the West are still reeling from the effects of the tornadoes which caused over 300 deaths, more than 1,000 injuries and many millions of dollars in damage. A Red Cross official on the scene has a description of the stricken area to a co-worker here in Charlotte: "I have just completed a tour of the devastated area and want to give you my reaction to the terrible destruction and human suffering I have seen. Community after community—churches, homes, public buildings, schools, have been mass funerals of the dead of their communities. I have seen the human needs that stare out and make you want to do everything possible to relieve the suffering and help the living to rebuild their lives. Over 70 families already are known to need help—your help. "Keep the effort going. This is a job to help the young and the old—the living. This is a job of the unshattered communities and shattered lives."

was quickly on the job. One hundred doctors, nurses and staff personnel, and thousands of local volunteers pitched in. Emergency shelters were established. Disaster victims were fed in hastily-improvised soup kitchens. But the job of the Red Cross won't be finished in a week or a month. Rehabilitation requires time and orderly direction, as well as prompt relief. The Red Cross was in the middle of its annual fund drive when the tornadoes struck. The national goal has been raised from \$20 to \$80 million because of the new need. The Mecklenburg County chapter is trying hard to meet its quota of \$143,200; its blood collecting center needs only a little more than 100 pints of blood to meet its March quota. The Red Cross appreciates your help, as do the thousands of people who help through the Red Cross. Local fund headquarters is at 510 East 4th St. and the collection center is at 510 East Morehead, phone 43901.

A CHALLENGE HANGS FIRE

AT FIRST GLANCE it would appear that the Highway Commission is trying to stretch its dollars farther than they should go. The Commission called for two separate bids on the new four-lane 16.55-mile stretch of Highway 29 between Charlotte and Concord. The low bid for concrete pavement was \$975,709.05. The low bid for bituminous surface was \$862,620.65. A Commission withheld approval of either pending a final decision on the type of construction to be used. Chief Engineer W. H. Rodgers assures this News that the Commission will not lay an inferior road just to make its funds go farther. On the contrary, he explains that the bituminous road may eventually cost more or more than the concrete surface. Here's why. The bituminous road calls for a stone base (of what the engineers call "stabilized aggregate") of fourteen-inch depth. A light surface treatment is applied on top and left for a year or two, while the road bed settles under the pounding of traffic. Then an additional three-inch layer of stone is applied. When this new cost is added, the total is not much cheaper than an original investment for concrete. "Highway engineers differ over the relative merits of the two types of construction, but several recent studies indicate that the bituminous road stands up better over a period of years because the base has fully settled before the final surface layer is applied," Mr. Rodgers told this News. We're sure engineers will disagree. But highway writers had best stick to their wares. We won't take offense if the Highway Commission is honestly seeking to determine the best way to spend its money. But if any engineer gets the bright idea of putting down an inferior

HO-HUM DEPT.

U. S. Chamber of Commerce President D. A. Hulcy may have a point when he charges that proponents of the \$7.8 billion mutual security bill have a 9-to-1 advantage over those who oppose it. Mr. Hulcy complains that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, having given the Administration nine days to present its case, is planning to jam all the opposition into one session. The charge may have some validity, we can't get excited about it. In the first place, the arguments against the measure are cut and dried. They have been shouted so loudly and for so long a time that extended hearings for the opposition would quickly degenerate into dull and meaningless repetition. In the second place, the cards are already stacked against the measure. Virtually every Congressman and Senator up for re-election this year has sounded off in one way or another about "foreign aid." The Congressional Record is full of charges that we're pouring money down foreign ratholes, that our allies aren't doing enough for themselves, that we're making them dependent on our largesse, etcetera ad infinitum. The burden of proof is on the Administration. That's why we don't see any of our allies aren't doing enough for themselves, that we're making them dependent on our largesse, etcetera ad infinitum.

HEARING A GOOD BOOK

HAVE you been hearing any good books lately? For some time now Charles Laughon has been dishing about the country, reading Gettysburg Address and fragments of famous novels and plays. He's done so with equally distinguished colleagues—Charlie Boyer, Cedric Hardwicke and Agnes Moorehead—he has been reading, or pretending to read, "Don Juan in Hell." Not long ago, Emily Williams set her own side in a Broadway theater as a reader of Dickens' works. And John Carradine is acquainting the somewhat startled patrons of a Greenwich Village night club with the Bible and Shakespeare. The thing is developing into a craze. Whenever an actor hangs out a shingle and staggers through a stage door under a load of books people happily flock to the playhouse and buy tickets at a \$4.80 top. Four dollars and 80 cents, including Federal tax, to hear a man, or even three men and a rat, read Dickens, Shaw or Shakespeare, just as father used to do under the living-room lamp years ago, when we were children.

HEARING A GOOD BOOK

What has got into us? Is there something wrong with the television set? No, it's in fine running order and the turning of a knob, as usual, brings a complete play, full cast, costumes, and all, into the house free of charge. That's what you get when you get a good book. It's getting just a wee bit tired of mechanical wonders. Are things growing a little too miraculous for comfort and do we long to return to the cozy imperfections of the Victorian age? Will the time come when itinerant balladeers, warbling the day's events in limping jingles, off the key, will appear at the corners of our streets? We think not. We hope not. Still, a trend is a trend and will bear watching. An insurance company says the most domestic accidents occur in the kitchen and a lot of us have eat 'em—Greenwood (Miss) Commemorative. About now is the time when all good New Year resolutions will be carried out—and buried.—Dotan (A.L.) Eagle.



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writers name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Crane Column Rapped

Editor, The News: BRIDGEMAN as I am, my pleasures are limited. I tire easily of the maudlin mush coming over the airwaves and, my eyes being temporarily afflicted, I must select my reading matter carefully. After reading Dr. Crane's column in today's News (March 20), I think I shall never again waste my time on that particular column. Dr. Crane's column consists, except for an introductory note, of a letter regarding UMT from one Ariene, the wife of a high ranking naval officer. He introduces the letter by saying "Ariene's comments about UMT are certainly sharp. She pulls no punches. Re-read her arguments today, for they are in uniform age groups, because as so opposed to placing high school boys in the strait jacket of Europe's compulsory goosestepping."

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time, and this doesn't take into account the war. But the worst disaster of all which seems to be culminating into a near catastrophe, is from a small incident, the failure of a haberdasher in Independence, Mo. Paraphrasing the last paragraphs of your article I will state that truly "History turns on small incidents as well as small decisions. Mr. Truman went broke and became President." He also became acquainted with A. T. BERKLEY Eisenhower Group Pleased Editor, The News: I WISH to take this opportunity to thank you for the copy of your paper gave the Eisenhower for President Club in its recent efforts to nominate General Dwight D. Eisenhower for President on the Republican Party ticket. Without the support of your paper, we never would have been able to do the job we did. When we began work last January, this state through its official party, was prepared to cast 20 votes for Taft at the coming national convention. Through the efforts of a few people originally, this margin has been now cut to what looks like 14 votes for Taft and 12 for Eisenhower and we expect to have a majority of votes for Eisenhower before the convention meets. The people who have worked so hard for Eisenhower did so as a service to the people of this District and Mecklenburg County and not for any personal gain or reward. The active and moral support that your paper gave us greatly contributed to the efforts of these people and its success. Speaking of service to the people, I hereby congratulate you for the splendid service The Charlotte News is doing for its area. Yours is one of the few papers that is big enough in its heart and conscience enough of its duty to the public to take one side of an issue and then cover all sides of the issue thoroughly and without color and distorting the facts as produced by persons holding views contrary to their own. Newspapers are not measured by their size or their circulation, but by the service the newspaper does for the community. In this matter, The Charlotte News ranks on top of the list as a public servant. In closing, may I reassure you that the Eisenhower for President Club will continue to work for the nomination of General Eisenhower on the Republican ticket, and for Raper Jones for Congress. I should give you a few old contacts in the work for it is most difficult to judge the height of the mountain while climbing up its side.—JOHN O. WEST JR.

Once Again Government Seeks Solution Of Steel Dispute

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—Before the steel dispute gets more fouled up, it may get a run-down on how it got that way. Late last November Philip Murray's CIO steelworkers and the steel industry began talking about a pay increase. The CIO wanted a boost of about 13½ cents an hour, plus other benefits. The steelworkers now want a raise just under \$2 an hour. The steel industry said it couldn't grant a raise without a strike for about that length of time. But the union would have been forced to strike at least 80 days if no settlement had been reached in that time. Besides, Truman said publicly he doesn't like it. He so asked the union and industry to let the Wage Stabilization Board, which was set up to consider the case. And until the board gave an opinion, Truman said the union not to strike. It agreed. The 18-man WSB—six members represented industry and six public—held a number of sessions. And last week on March 20, the labor and public members made a recommendation: It should give the union, in industry terms, a pay boost of 17½ cents an hour, plus other money benefits and a union shop.

National Catastrophes

Editor, The News: THIS may be somewhat analogous with your "Fish story" editorial in the Charlotte News of March 17. This country has suffered many major disasters, some of which were the Chicago fire, the San Francisco earthquake, the so-called Cleveland and Hoover depressions, and many others, all in my life-

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onally considered the 1946 application of Brown & Bigelow for a (special) ruling, did you not? I fired De Wind. "I didn't personally consider it. It was considered by the Internal Revenue Service." "I may have seen the letter that went out." "The action record card in the Bureau of Internal Revenue bears the notation 'Commissioner interested,'" observed De Wind. "I never had any knowledge that they put those cards on file," said De Wind. "That is not the point," interjected De Wind. "But you had expressed a personal interest in the case?" "No doubt I must have to somebody," acknowledged De Wind.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

HERE is another installment in the amazing story of how to make a fortune while working for the Government. It tells the story of ex-Internal Revenue Commissioner Joe Numan, once in charge of the nation's taxes but who collected fat fees from companies that sought tax favors when they were in financial straits. The press and public were shocked out when Numan was called on the carpet by the King tax-fraud subcommittee, but this column is here to report exactly what happened. Here are the highlights: 1. Numan admitted receiving \$25,000 worth of stock from Brown & Bigelow Corp., a job of the Internal Revenue Service files on the case contained a special card, "Commissioner interested." Of course, the Commissioner at the time was Numan. After he resigned from Government in 1947, he was promptly hired by Brown & Bigelow. 2. The committee also cross-examined Numan about some stock that was paid to him by the Unexcelled Chemical Corp. The peculiar fact is that the stock was not registered in Numan's name at all, but in street names. Numan also failed to report the stock in his income-tax returns until the committee started investigating. 3. The House probes also questioned Numan sharply about \$25,000 in cash that he paid for stock in the Gaylord Container Corp., a St. Louis manufacturer of tin containers. The interesting fact is that he bought the stock while still the nation's tax chief and about the same time he signed a favorable tax ruling for Gaylord on an income-tax case.

Unusual Stock Payments

BUT Numan protested that the \$25,000 in stock was for his legal advice on a Securities & Exchange Commission matter. "Previous to that time had you appeared before the Securities & Exchange Commission?" demanded Wisconsin sharp-eyed Congressman John Byrne. "No, sir," answered Numan. "Did you have any familiarity with the SEC and the problems of security registration?" De Wind chimed in. "Not to my knowledge," De Wind said. "If you were not familiar with the SEC, you were unable to give... any advice," snapped De Wind. "Only advice as a lawyer might give," acknowledged Numan. As for his stock in the Unexcelled Chemical Corp., Numan explained this was payment for legal work on a labor case.

Nunan Probe Brings Amazing Disclosures

"What discussions led up to the decision to take stock instead of cash for your purchase?" De Wind asked. "I recall, Mr. Carl Waller (corporate president) said their cash position was rather bad, and would we take stock in the company?" "As a matter of fact, didn't Mr. Waller go out and buy this stock?" demanded the committee counsel. "It was Mr. Waller's personal check that was used to buy the stock." "I don't recall whether Waller went out and bought it or not," granted Numan. Political Crony AT this point, Congressman Eugene Keough of Brooklyn, a police captain and tax assessor, was asked if it was proper to go into all these questions. This stock was purchased for Mr. Numan's account in street names and the fee was not disclosed in tax returns and the fee was not disclosed in tax returns and the fee was not disclosed in tax returns. Numan flatly denied, however, that he had represented Unexcelled Chemical in any tax matter, but he admitted the demand for stock on his income-tax returns until he sold it in 1951. "Don't you know that was an improper way to handle the matter?" demanded the committee counsel. "Looking back on it, I do. Yes, sir," meekly confessed Numan. Later, Drew more defiant and refused to tell the committee where he got \$25,000 in cash to buy stock in the Gaylord Container Co., while he was still Internal Revenue Commissioner. "I am not a lawyer, Mr. Numan," drawled New Jersey's Congressman Robert Keane, "but I must say that when you were Commissioner of Internal Revenue and you gave up \$25,000 in cash, which you spend, and you refuse to state where you got the money, to my mind as a layman, it leaves the conclusion that you got it from some improper source."