THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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A BREAK FOR CITY TAXPAYERS

TO THE MEMBERS of the City Council and City Manager Henry Yancey must go major credit for the tight, businesslike City budget tentatively adopted Wednesday night. But a group of Charlotte businessmen, representing the Chamber of Commerce, merit a vote of thanks, too.

Prior to the report of the Chamber of Commerce study committee, which pointed to great percentage increases in postwar City budgets, there had been more than a mild groundswell of Council opinion for another big round of blanket salary increases for all municipal employees, a move that would have sent the budget and the tax rate skyrocketing once again. With the filing of the report, the proposal died aborning. And conscious that the taxpayers were watching their deliberations closely, the Councilmen went one step further and did some sharp pruning on other municipal functions.

The 1952-53 budget, as tentatively adopted, will call for a tax rate of $1.55 and a collection expectancy rate of 95 per cent. On the basis of a property valuation total of $340,000,000, the $1.55 rate will produce a tax levy of $5,006,500. That is $513,000 more than the $4,493,500 levied this year on a tax rate of $2.15 and a property valuation total of $220,000,000. Only $106,658 of this $513,000 increase however comes in the City's general fund. The rest is parceled out among schools ($178,860), debt service ($158,921.20), water and sewer debt service ($33,540.20), and Park & Recreation Commission ($26,600).

Thus the increase in the cost of the regular operations of the City Government lumped together under the general fund will be less than 3.5 per cent—a real accomplishment for a growing city in a time of inflation.

So far as we can determine, no essential City function or service will be seriously impaired by the reductions. There is some danger that the smoke abatement program may lose its identity in the transfer to the inspection department, but it must be said in all fairness that the program has not had the full and enthusiastic support of a majority of this Council anyway. On the credit side is the provision of $10,000 for improving and beautifying the W. 5th St. cemetery and $15,000 for the purchase of a crash truck for the Municipal Airport.

The Council made no specific allocation of funds for a job classification survey which would put municipal salaries on a fair and equitable basis. The survey was recommended by the Chamber of Commerce study committee and merits favorable action by the Council. It should be done, furthermore, prior to the convening of the 1953 General Assembly so that the system may be established permanently by an amendment to the City Charter.

EXPERIENCE

FIVE YEARS AGO Sen. Dick Russell of Georgia voted for the Taft-Hartley Act. When the President vetoed the bill, he voted to override the veto.

As late as last month, in an interview with *U. S. News & World Report*, Senator Russell declared: "I am not in favor of repealing the (Taft-Hartley) law."

Then the campaign warmed up. Senator Russell went to Chicago. He talked with delegates.

Tuesday the Senator did an about face. He came out for repeal of the law. Five years of experience, he said, have shown the law to be "weighted against labor" and to have "many weaknesses and inequities".

There's nothing like experience (with delegates, that is) to change a candidate's mind.

A LIMITATION ON FREE ENTERPRISE

LIKE MANY another issue in government, the McGuire Fair Trade bill that President Truman signed the other day is neither all good nor all bad.

The bill will require all retailers in a state with fair trade laws to sell brand products at the manufacturer's prescribed retail price if any one merchant in the state signs an agreement with the manufacturer to do so. The Supreme Court had held that nonsigners could not be compelled to sell brand products at advertised prices. The bill was an instrument for circumventing the Court's decision.

The manufacturer, who spends advertising money to establish his brand products, has some grounds for complaint against retail price cutters. He would like to keep peace in his family of retailers by having all of them sell at the same price. He would like to establish the price in the minds of potential customers.

Some of the small retailers, too resent price-cutting by big volume stores. Hence, proponents have managed to label the McGuire Act as a device to protect the small businessman.

Even so, the fixing of retail prices by the manufacturer, and the legal compulsion on all retailers to conform, is a fundamental departure from the traditions of free enterprise. When a retailer buys an item from a wholesaler or distributor, it becomes his property. He should have the right to sell it at any price he desires, or even give it away if he so chooses.

Furthermore, the elimination of price differentials removes from the area of competition one of its biggest elements. The customer, in a free enterprise system should have the right to shop around for bargains.

Also, the act opens the door to an indirect sort of price collusion among manufacturers that, without the law, would constitute conspiracy to fix prices. There will be nothing to prevent any manufacturer from making his price identical at the retail level with that of a competitor.

Finally, U. S. business has been forthright in its denunciation of government meddling in private enterprise. It comes with ill grace for business to seek government meddling in the free market.

Fair trade laws may be unconstitutional, despite the permissive legislation passed by Congress and signed by the President. So far as we know, the laws have not been challenged on the basic constitutional right to buy and possess property and dispose of it as one wishes.

Meanwhile, the customer has some protection. If the Fair Trade laws are as iniquitous as their opponents contend they are, consumers can band together at the state level and knock out the laws in the 45 states where they have been adopted. State legislatures are sensitive to public opinion, properly organized and focused. They will hardly maintain a device calculated to favor a relatively small number of businesses if the great masses of consumers object to it strongly.

SENATOR WILEY'S SUGGESTION IS SOUND

SENATOR WILEY of Wisconsin, ranking Republican member of the Foreign Relations Committee, continues to show signs of increasing stature as a spokesman for the bipartisan foreign policy. His latest suggestion is that foreign policy experts of both parties consult regularly during the remainder of this year.

Because Congress is not in session, because the national administration may change in January, because the campaign will encourage irresponsible and reckless charges, it makes sense to have some of the wiser and cooler heads in both parties maintain the bipartisanship which still characterizes our foreign policy, and which will be sorely tried in the months ahead.

Secretary of State Acheson has spoken but guardedly on the suggestion, waiting on word from the President. It may be that the President and other Democrats would deem acceptance of such a proposal as a sign of weakness, an admission on their part that the GOP may win in November, that the Republicans are merely being briefed for their role of leadership.

It is also true, however, that some Republicans would view such consultations as a sign of weakness. Despite their nomination of a man who agrees with much of the Administration's foreign policy, they would like to be as free as possible to lambast the Democrats on all issues, and these consultations would serve as a reminder that the GOP continues to have an important part in the formation and execution of foreign policy.

Thus partisans in both camps might object—often the sign of a fair proposal—to the Wiley suggestion. We hope the President welcomes the idea and implements it.

From The Monroe Journal

HOG PSYCHOLOGY

AN article in the *Hertford County Herald*, informs us that a farmer in that locality used psychology on a sow. We hear these days about the use of psychology psychiatry, and all the other isms on people but did not know that it had been yet applied to hogs.

Two sows belonging to the farmer had pigs at the same time. One had 14, which were too many. The other had six, which were too few. The farmer tried to divide them evenly between the two sows, but it was no go. So, said the article, the farmer decided to apply psychology. Thus:

"Cooke sprayed all the pigs with kerosene and then divided them between the two sows. At first the sows thought they could recognize their own pigs and began to chase away some of the little swine. But this didn't continue for long. The sows had to admit they had been tricked, and reluctantly accepted their adopted brood."

Not being a psychologist we hesitate to express an opinion on this phenomenon. But from this distance it looks like it was the application of the kerosene and not the psychology that worked the trick.

Newsprint is getting so high that one might think it was edible.—*Rocky Mount (N. C.) Telegram.*

What it costs these days to feed a person who is hungry as a horse ain't hay.—*Ellisville (Ga.) Sun.*

Criticisms Not Justified

Public And Private Medicine Relationship Well-Balanced Here

By VIC REINEMER
Associate Editor, The News

SOMETIMES one hears criticisms of Charlotte's City Health Department. The Department is encroaching, it is said, into private medicine, particularly in these three ways:

1. Immunizations and vaccinations are given at public expense, instead of by private practitioners.

2. Lots of families get "free" (tax-paid) service at the city's well baby stations.

3. The Department solicits visits to it and its clinics, at the expense of private practitioners.

First, let's see what the city health officer, Dr. M. B. Bethel, says about these charges.

Criticism No. 1—Certain immunizations, such as diphtheria and whooping cough, and vaccination for smallpox, are required by law, he points out. Children must have them before they can enter public schools. Therefore, he sees no alternative but immunization at public expense of those who go to the department, instead of their family doctor.

The Department encourages persons to go to their family doctor. But if those parents who cannot pay, or think they cannot pay, don't get their children immunized, and vaccinated, it is not only the law that is broken. The purpose of a public health system is defeated, in that communicable diseases will likely increase.

EVERYBODY PROFITS

As he puts it, "my child profits from your child's vaccination". He wonders if the public would accept a requirement that doctors must be paid for all immunizations. He grants that the ideal system would be for all who can pay to pay. This would require the setting up of some screening machinery, to determine a man's ability to pay. He has some doubts as to the workability of such a plan by which compulsory payment would be added to the complexities of communicable disease control.

Criticisms No. 2—Ideally, he believes parents should take their babies to their family physician. "But", he adds, "lots of them don't". He knows there are instances where work is taken away from pediatricians, although most baby doctors have all or more than they can do.

"We plan how", he says, "that we're sending them much more work than we take away from them." This applies, he says, to other fields as well as pediatrics, and he backs up his statement with statistics.

For example, five years ago the filling of children's deciduous teeth was alarmingly low. The Health Department started a vigorous campaign to get children into a dentist's (preferably the family dentist's) chair. The result—a substantial increase in fillings.

In 1948 there were 47 deciduous teeth filled per 100 five-year-olds. Last year there were 106 fillings per 100, a gain of 125 per cent in three years.

In schools, where the educational campaign was conducted with particular emphasis, the increase was even greater — 145 per cent.

A private pediatrician corroborated what Dr. Bethel said:

"When you have a good (well baby) clinic", he said, "it looks like they're taking business away from you, but actually they're building up your practice, because they're making the people public conscious. Furthermore, every time one of those nurses goes into a schoolroom she helps private practice."

And, he added, "our Health Department bends over backward to not get into private practice."

Criticism No. 3—This pediatrician thought alleged Health Department solicitation of business. "Human nature being what it is," he said, "people invent stories that you should go to the public health department, so they have an excuse not to pay".

Thus any offhand remark by a city nurse or doctor mentioning the availability of services, even though they first emphasize that the patient should see their family doctor, might be construed as a "solicitation".

A Charlotte radiologist had a pertinent comment on this solicitation. He favors the health department's free survey work in TB control — taking chest X-rays. But he noted that persons whose X-rays show suspicion of TB are requested to return to the Health Department for another picture, or check at the Mecklenburg Sanatorium.

"If they would just say see a private radiologist or go to the City Health Department or the Sanitorium, they would probably get more co-operation from radiologists in reading X-ray pictures," he said.

POINT WELL TAKEN

A Health Department official, when told of this comment, said the point was well-taken and he would check into it. The usual procedure of the Health Department in similar cases is to advise the patient to see their doctor or check with the Health Department.

"We don't try to get anyone to come to us from a private "practitioner," said Dr. Bethel. "We do everlastingly try to make more and more people health conscious".

He would take "strict disciplinary action", he said, against any member of the department who would cut in on a private practitioner.

Whether to go to the family doctor, and pay, or the Health Department for "free" service in those fields in which it offers them, such as immunization and vaccination, chest X-ray and well baby care, is a problem which each family has to decide for itself. One doctor told of a mother who was taking her child to a well baby station but had previously gone to him—and paid him for every visit. When he found out that the father earned but $37.50 a week, and had three children, he stood in awe of the sturdiness of that family. Others, making more money, are not so sturdy.

The important thing of course, in the view of private and public medicine, is that persons go to a doctor, see a nurse, learn how to take care of themselves. If they go to a private doctor fine, but better that they get some treatment and advice, private or public, rather than none at all.

This reporter, after watching mothers with little knowledge of nutrition or health habits bring undernourished children to the well baby clinics, there to get basic education as well as immunization for the youngsters, after following a public health nurse on her rounds, cheering, advising and ministering to her charges, after talking with private physicians and health officials, thought the private and public practice relationship well-balanced, and that Charlotteans have a Health Department in which they can take pride.

News Staff Photo by Tom-Franklin Studio

Little Delores Harriet Unzueta looks like she has some reservations about the "Health Department services, but the vaccinations and immunizations she gets will protect her from major communicable childhood disease. Above, Dr. Maude Pressly, director of School Health and Child Welfare, administers a shot while Delores' mother, Mrs. Larry Unzueta of Piedmont Courts, looks on.

CONGRESSIONAL QUIZ

(By Congressional Quarterly)

Q—What was the point of passing a special law to allow Federal prosecution of crime committed in airplanes?

A—Congress wanted to plug a legal loophole that kept the Government from convicting a man for assaulting several persons during a flight from Puerto Rico to New York in 1948. To take care of the "third spot" in the law, Congress July 2 passed a bill to include planes as well as vessels in statutes authorizing prosecution of a crime over the high seas.

Q—Will the new GI Bill apply just to veterans who actually fought in Korea?

A. No. The bill will provide education and loan benefits for all persons who served in the Armed Forces after June 27, 1950.

Q—What educational benefits does the GI Bill provide?

A—Length of schooling: for veterans with 90 days service since the start of the Korean war, a day and a half for each day of service, up to 36 months. Amount the Government pays: for full-time GI students, $110 monthly with no dependents, $135 with one dependent, and $160 with more than one. Time limit: veterans must start training by Aug. 20, 1954, or two years after discharge, whichever is later, and finish in seven years.

Q—What came of the proposal to let 18-year-olds vote?

A—The Senate Judiciary Committee July 1 approved a resolution calling for a Constitutional amendment to lower the age to 18 (only Georgia now lets 18-year-olds vote). To become effective, the proposed amendment has to be approved by two-thirds of both House and Senate and by three-fourths of the states.

Democratic Delegates Fail To See Winner In Candidates

By MARQUIS CHILDS

CHICAGO

A MOOD of pessimism and even defeatism afflicts many of the delegates assembling for the Democratic National Convention. This is true, in particular, of the calculating professionals who are not taken by the claims of any of the visible candidates.

They do not see a winner. That is the simplest explanation for the private gloom that is only partly marked by public expressions that all is for the best in the best possible of parties.

Governor Adlai Stevenson has at last succeeded in eliminating himself. That, at any rate, is the verdict of the powers in the party who have been first puzzled and then angered by the governor's determination to play the reluctant bride.

ARVEY'S HANDS TIED

Because of this grim determination, his good friend and patron, Jacob Arvey, boss of the party in Illinois, has had his hands tied. The draft he might have engineered now seems highly improbable. Stevenson's latest statement asking the delegates not to work for him, coming minutes after General Eisenhower's nomination, was the final damper.

The weeks that have passed since President Truman bowed out at the end of March have brought little change. The party still has a number of fractional candidates; pieces of candidates who appeal to this or that bloc, but none with the broad formula to cover all the diverse elements under the Democratic tent.

What may result if this mood persists is a caretaker ticket. That type of choice is being seriously discussed in the event that no agreement can be reached on any one of the three or four candidates with delegate strength. Such a ticket would have the No. 1 place go to Vice-President Alben Barkley and the No. 2 place to Secretary of Interior Oscar Chapman.

Barkley would be honored for his life-long loyalty to the party and to the Roosevelt-Truman Administration. It is interesting to reflect that in this same spirit of conferring a crowning, if somewhat empty, honor Barkley was nominated for Vice-President four years ago. Few believed that the Truman-Barkley ticket had even a ghost of a chance.

The choice of someone like Chapman, a younger man who has gone right on vigorously championing the New Deal and the Fair Deal, is obvious. Few such champions are left. As a younger assistant caretaker, Chapman would help to keep alive the party of FDR and Truman.

It has been suggested that Truman himself would accept a last-minute draft rather than permit such a fate to befall his party. This reporter has believed that under no circumstances would the President consent to run for what would be, in effect, a third term. That, too, is the conviction of some who are closest to him.

TRUMAN DISILLUSIONED?

Persons close to the President represent his attitude toward the party as that of a somewhat disillusioned father toward a wayward and spendthrift family. He feels that he has done all that he should be called upon to do. Someone else must now take up the burden. If the children cannot agree among themselves, then that is just too bad.

This overlooks, of course, his deep loyalty to the party. If the Democrats should go down something of the tormenting bitterness that wracked the Republican convention, then he might be persuaded to throw his chance for a peaceful old age and his family into the fire of another campaign and another White House term. Few who know Harry Truman believe that this is at all likely.

There are, moreover, many delegates who believe Truman would carry into a campaign the grievous handicaps of all the revelations from the small peccadilloes to the big tax scandals. Against Eisenhower, in the light of the "stolen" delegates, this would be a heavy handicap.

The circus interludes of sound and fury will sweep through the Democratic convention as they did through the Republican meeting. That is the old-fashioned stuff of which political conventions are made. But their artificiality promises to be even more apparent than it was in the rally of the opposing political clan.

It's Kefauver Or Defeat, Hunch-Player Ruark Holds

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

LONG S I been playing this thing with my elbows so far, we will stick with the hunches and reckon as how the Democrats are almost certainly stuck with Kefauver if they are looking for a strong ticket to compete with the Eisenhower charm. And this has certainly settled down to a charm contest.

This is a big year for poll-side charm, because it is probably the biggest participation season for the ladies since somebody handed them the vote. This is also a year for youth among the leaders, it would seem—youth of spirit if not actually of years. Ike is no boy at 61, but he seems as nearly youthful as Kefauver in his 40's. And, of course, Dick Nixon, the VP candidate, is the youngest ever recorded at a mere 39.

I imagine Kefauver will be a bitter pill for some of the old jackass drivers to swallow, but his showing in the past year, his lead in delegates, and the over-all sourness of his competitors on the public tongue have almost got to make him a common-sense candidate.

CAL'S PHRASE TOPPED

They were high on Adlai Stevenson, the most unwilling candidate for distinction we have met up with lately, but I imagine that Mr. Stevenson's last gag about shooting himself if nominated would scare off his most fervent support. This set an all-time high in negation of a top job, and should supersede the more demure quote: "I do not choose to run," which made Silent Cal immortal.

With Kefauver they've got a chance. He is enormously known. He is young and Lincolnesque. He has come out strongly against crime. He has shown amazing strength in the primaries. He has a coarm-doll of a wife, who has looked at the land over many a TV screen and got off Life's cover. He has a magnificent brood of young'uns.

I would bet you a pretty that out of the current swarm of hopeful the average guy would be unable to give you a fast rundown on Average Averell Harriman, on Senator Richard Russell, on all the rest of the eager beavers save Gray T. and Kissin' Alben Barkley. Mr. Truman has said he won't play. The Veep wants to play, but his hoary years are agin him, in addition to other defects of qualification.

There does not seem to be much left, for a competitor to a popular-acclaim candidate such as Ike but another popular-acclaim candidate. The Democrats have prided themselves in past on commonsensical politics. At least Kefauver is somebody somebody knows, and knows well, and feels kindly about.

MAY CONCEDE IT

The other angle I am feeling in the busted bone which hurts when it rains is that the Republicans are of a mind to concede this one, and hence might be anxious to kill off a guy like Kefauver, who could really become a power in the next four years. They just might feel that Ike's got it made, and so let's rub this upstart Kefe out and clear the way for one of our lads with less of the maverick in him for 1956.

I will make you a small bet with no money involved that the lanky lad with the coonskin tiara gets the bid next week in Chicago. And a second bet that if he doesn't, the Democrats will get murdered in November.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

BEFORE Vice-President Barkley became an active candidate for President, his family discussed the matter and came up with varying opinions. One daughter, Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, whose husband is a nephew of the General, was emphatically opposed to having her father run. She feared it might shorten his life.

The other daughter, Mrs. Max Truitt, wanted her father to run, while the new Mrs. Barkley was also in favor of the Veep's throwing his hat in the ring.

The candidate in question is 74 years old. And though General Eisenhower at the age of 61 is the oldest Republican ever nominated, and though the oldest President ever elected, William Henry Harrison, at the age of 68, died two months after taking office, it's an indisputable fact that the Vice-President is one of the most vigorous men in Washington.

It is also an indisputable fact that, based upon faithful service to his party, Alben Barkley deserves reward. For years in the Senate, Barkley watched his friends get promoted to the Supreme Court or to the Cabinet while he patiently continued the thankless job of pushing the Administration's bills through Congress.

Row With FDR

PROBABLY Roosevelt would have rewarded Barkley had it not been for a bitter speech he made attacking the President for vetoing the 1944 tax bill.

With the war at its peak, Roosevelt had asked for a record tax bill. Congress gave him a watered down version instead, and Roosevelt vetoed it. Whereupon the Kentucky mountaineer that lurks in Alben Barkley's soul flared to the surface in a virtriolic denunciation of FDR, the man whose program he was supposed to uphold.

Naturally, this played right into Republican hands. It also cooled relations between Barkley and FDR, perhaps prevented Barkley's becoming Vice-President in 1944. Instead, Harry Truman became Vice-President, and American history became different.

Roosevelt had secured Barkley's appointment as majority leader after a battle with Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi—a battle between the Southern conservative forces within the party and the New Deal. Barkley, a progressive, won out by a scant single vote. That vote was cast by Senator Dieterich of Illinois, who switched from Harrison to Barkley after FDR pressured Mayor Ed Kelly of Chicago, chief controller of Dieterich's re-election.

Having secured Barkley's election as majority leader, and having campaigned the length of Kentucky when Barkley faced a tough re-election fight from Happy Chandler, FDR was miffed. And that flareup of Kentucky temper over taxes probably affected U. S. history more than any other Senate speech in half a decade.

Mellower Man Now

AS the years have passed, Alben has become mellower. A few years ago his tongue was one of the most caustic in the Senate. Once he referred to his good friend Senator Tom Connally as "that boob Senator from Texas". And once when Tydings of Maryland was demanding a processing tax on shoddy (wool) Barkley remarked: "The Senator ought to know something about shoddy, since that is something on which he is an expert."

Once when the famed Huey Long was bragging to the Senate about his education, Barkley interrupted to ask: "did the Senator ever study music?"

"A little," replied Huey modestly.

"Then suppose," shot back Barkley, "that the Senator sing a little."

Barkley's Age Is His Chief Handicap

Barkley's Handicap

THERE are some weak spots in Barkley's political armor at which the Republicans would be sure to aim if he got the nomination. One is the fact that his son worked for the Garssons, who with Congressman Andy May of Kentucky were convicted of defrauding the Government on war contracts. Barkley's son was not involved. However, the Garssons unquestionably hired young Barkley to help get the inside track around Washington, and this would be played up by GOP campaigners in connection with the Veep.

The Veep's son-in-law, Max Truitt, also might cause Barkley some embarrassment in a Presidential race. Truitt has represented the three top dictators outside Russia—Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, Franco of Spain, and Peron of Argentina. For a man whose chief job before he married Barkley's daughter was counsel for the Missouri Fish & Game Commission, this is really jumping up the lucrative legal ladder. Naturally, having an important father-in-law helped.

Barkley's Presidential promoters, in justifying his age as a candidate, point out that Winston Churchill is 78 while the Veep is only 74. However, they overlook the mounting tide of British criticism even inside Churchill's party that he step aside for a younger man; plus the fact that Secretary of State Acheson recently reported that Churchill's age was such that he could hardly follow a conversation.