

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1952

A PERENNIAL PROBLEM APPEARS AGAIN

ALTHOUGH authority over Charlotte buses, routes, schedules and fares rests with the N. C. Utilities Commission, the City Council has more than a vicarious interest in any question involving buses. It is like to offer one or two thoughts that may help prevent the question from becoming a political football, as it has been treated by certain Councilmen in the past.

There are a few hard facts in the situation that have not been the subject of Council oratory. Fact 1: Duke is operating its busses at a big loss. Fact 2: N. C. law requires that each utility service operate on its own feet.

Fact 3: Duke would like to get out of the bus business, has tried to do so, but has been unsuccessful. Fact 4: To break even, much less show a profit, Duke must curtail services or raise fares or both.

If the members of the Council could detach public bus transportation from its related effects, and view it as a single project, an answer might appear. Unfortunately, public transportation is inextricably bound up with the city's traffic-problem program and with the whole houlal existence of the residential and business districts, and can be viewed only as a part of the whole.

Take the question of traffic and parking, for example. The Council might have made a major decision on off-street parking facilities. Demand for such facilities has come about because of the increased use of

motor cars for personal transportation within the city. The traffic volume has grown so much that curb parking has already been banned in many streets. Eventually all curb parking will have to go in order to permit the orderly movement of traffic.

At some point in the future, however, the traffic will reach the saturation point. Additional off-street parking facilities will be useless because the streets will not be able to handle any more cars. When that point is reached, public bus transportation will be the only instrument for avoiding complete strangulation.

To delay that day and, collaterally, to hold traffic congestion to a minimum, it is important to improve bus service, not curtail it. Any improvements in routes and schedules will attract increased patronage from the buses and thus reduce the use of private cars and the demand for parking space. Hence, we would urge the Council to resist any moves to curtail bus service, with the possible exception of isolated segments where figures clearly prove the operation is grossly unprofitable.

At the same time, the question of higher fares of more, but we believe that point has not yet been reached. As we see it, then, the Council should be very selective in endorsing any request to curtail bus service, and should be very reluctant to request any further increases when those requests are properly documented. For it is to the interest of every citizen and every official in Charlotte to provide a superior public transportation system for this fast-growing city. And there will be no incentive to provide such a system so long as it loses money.

ANOTHER GENERAL GETS OFF LIGHT

ONCE AGAIN the military has shown its reluctance to punish high-ranking officers. Maj.-Gen. Robert W. Grow, a former military attaché in Moscow, kept a personal diary, reportedly containing details for war and details of his spying activities. The diary fell into Red hands. This week General Grow was convicted on two counts—improperly recording classified information and failing to safeguard it.

His punishment—a "reprimand" and suspension from command for six months. Maximum penalty could have been five years' confinement, dismissal from the Army and forfeiture of pay and allowances. General Grow has a fine combat record. So have some other men, who have received greater punishment for smaller

offenses. And a general, particularly an intelligence officer, should have a better understanding of security precautions and classification of private diaries containing classified information than does an enlisted man. The super-serious surrounding General Grow's trial and the fact that he was acquitted of an unrevealed "more serious" charge contribute to the public concern over the seriousness of his actions. As with the case of Sgt. Byrnes, serious damage to the United States by inept officers was followed by light punishment and a shroud of secrecy, one wonders if the secrecy is not intended for hide greater blunders rather than preserve secrecy. Each time that a man is accused of the full story is published, submitted to Congressional or judicial review.

THE DEFENSE BUILD-UP LEVELS OFF

THE FREE WORLD'S defenses, like U. S. political parties, are tending toward moderation these days. After an extremely ambitious start toward rearmament, the goals are being watered down and stretched out. Some "gun" funds are going into "butter" production, or simply not being appropriated for economic reasons.

In this country, Congress appropriated about \$4 billion less than the amount asked by the Administration for military and foreign assistance expenditures. Strikes and bottlenecks added to the slowdown. Timetables were found to be unrealistic, and targets for Midway was changed from 1954 to 1955.

France, plagued as always by inflation, found that her defense funds would not produce as much armament as originally supposed. Outbreaks in presumed U. S. assistance have further retarded progress. Premier Pinay, in a drastic move to save the franc and restore economic stability, cut French expenditures on all fronts.

bringing the ex-mayor back to an eager grand jury. 2. Retired Maj.-Gen. Harry Vaughan, or gave him an assignment commensurate with his military ability.

3. Retained Tom Wallgren as an adviser, only on Pacific Northwest fishing, rather than as a consultant on foreign policy.

4. Told his Kansas City friends that, Buck Taylor's loyalty to the Pendergast machine notwithstanding, his opponent for the Senate nomination, Stuart Symington, is the kind of man needed in the U. S. Senate.

5. Declared that, even at this late date the administration of justice under ex-Attorney General Howard McGrath and Tom Clark warrants investigation—and by someone other than the Communist Party.

Gladly would Adlai view such action. But we don't expect it. Apparently a man who rises nobly to the requirements of his time in some actions remains chained to his past as the previous Ambassador was dismissed.

Now that General MacArthur will be drawing about \$120,000 a year, with his Remington Rand salary and full military pay, we may expect from him even firmer denunciations of such tactics.



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but will be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Young Russellite Grateful

I WISH to thank all of the fine people of Charlotte who gave me a ride to the office and to the support of the candidacy of Senator Richard B. Russell for the Democratic Presidential nomination. I feel that their wonderful response to the cause of Sen. Russell demonstrates to the people of our beloved nation that the spirit of 1776 still burns in Mecklenburg.

I sincerely hope that all of our citizens who supported Senator Russell will follow his example, and support the National Democratic ticket. In Governor Stevenson and Senator Sparkman, the Democratic Party will again have a winning ticket, if our people will follow them, which I feel certain they will.

—DAVID M. FOLEY, Youth For Russell Club.

Something Is Missing

To write what I really think of the Dog Hater whose letter appeared in your July 29 issue would probably be libelous, so that it will have to be left to the lawyers. Each time that a man is accused of the full story is published, submitted to Congressional or judicial review.

—LLOYD C. SMITH JR.

Battle Of Personalities

THE Southern delegation, by their selfish actions at the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, misrepresents the great majority of Southern voters. Any fair-minded voter would have taken the loyalty pledge without any hesitancy.

The South Carolina delegation reminded me of problem children misbehaving away from home. They deserved an expulsion whipping they almost received at the convention. I wondered for awhile if they were being so Republican since, not then why didn't they take that loyalty pledge. More than 40 other state delegations signed the pledge without wrangling and half-spiriting over technicalities.

My hero of the convention was the man referred to as the "Ohio delegate" who put our Jack F. Byrnes on the spot three times with the same question asking if the names of the Democratic nominees would be placed on the ballots in November. Each time Mr. Byrnes refused, and the yes or no answer he could have easily given, but didn't. Instead, Mr. Byrnes spoke what sounded like a prepared statement for such an occasion, saying that the state law provides machinery by which every political party can have electors

The Irretrievable

There's a new cologne being manufactured for men that smells like "the interior of a Cadillac."

That's How Hot

Speaking of hot weather, which everybody has been ranting about, my butter, Mr. Perkins, local tobaccoist, comes up with a nifty one.

Job In Ike's Cabinet

THEREFORE, he asked Wolcott to act as a buffer—a sort of mediator in deciding the seating of the Southern delegates.

In relating this to friends, Wolcott said that he did not feel qualified to be Secretary of the Treasury, though he was glad Wolcott had, and did so.

Why Summerfield Switched

It focused on their hectic baggage wire-pulling than the Republicans, some of the latter's dies are just coming to the surface.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

MRS. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of Teddy and one of the rulers of Washington society, is either getting benign or else has failed for the Eisenhower charm.

Alice Longworth, Taft Backer, Lies Ike

call from Summerfield to come to Chicago immediately. Arriving in Chicago, Summerfield told him he was being pressured by Tom Coleman, GOP leader in Wisconsin and a long-time backer of Taft.

War Prisoners

THE announcement of the bogged-down Korean truce talks led to a wave of interest in the war prisoners who are being held by the Communists.

Time-For-A-Change Slogan Has Its Own Counterweight

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON — The time for a change—will be used to the utmost by the Republicans to put across the Eisenhower-Nixon ticket. After four more Democratic years, with scandals making almost daily headlines that there will have greater force.

But on this issue of change for the sake of change, there is a powerful counterweight. It is the vested interest in officeholding of a large group for whom the habit has become intransigent. This applies not alone to Federal officeholding but to a great deal of the structure of the government movement supporting the Democratic Party.

This was shown in striking fashion in the maneuvering that centered around Vice-President Alben Barkley during the Democratic convention. But the whole story reveals the consequences of the vested interest organization for which "Democratic Party" is an inadequate label.

At a meeting in the White House a few days before the Democrats met in Chicago, a decision was taken to give Barkley his chance. The Republicans seemed about to split in two. And when they were split Barkley's age—he is 74—would not be the handicap it would otherwise be.

Barkley would unify the Southern and Northern factions of the party as well as himself. Democratic National Chairman Frank McKinney and Barkley plumping for "harmony" and Barkley.

At the same meeting it was tentatively agreed that Secretary of Interior Oscar Chapman should be Barkley's running mate. Chiefly responsible for this designation was Republican Chairman who has a high regard for Chapman's ability both as public servant and politician.

No One Has It So Good As Ex-Kings With Heavy Dough

WE NOTE with considerable awe the way that a few ex-kings, heavy hibernics, King Farouk, has just sailed majestically into Capri on his yacht, which appears to have been tested in the plimsoil with 40 feet of delay and without any and enough tennis, golf and fishing gear to keep Fud's bad boy and some of the crew from making a mess of it.

It seems to me that in an angry, muddled world, a deposed king has the finest of all jobs. His worries are over. He gets to eat and drink as much as he likes and has a ship a packet of lost head of him. He is free to lounge in the sun, play golf and do whatever he pleases him, and accrue hangovers without bothering his aching head about anything.

The Mediterranean is stiff with deposed monarchs today. There must be half-a-dozen in Portugal alone. They never seem to be broke or disgraced, in public anyhow, because they fetch along the yachts and rent the biggest villas and are the talked-about guests around the crap tables at the casinos.

If they have a queen they get a queen who is rich and wears the crown jewels, and they always seem to be amply staffed with equerries and valets.

I never ran around much with any kings except a few odd cannibals with filled teeth and a high class of rancid cream butter. I used to sit and watch old Carlo with envy when he was sitting out his teeth in the hospital, and was loaded with dough, and he had Lupeescu after the Pekeesines along, and a stiff-necked doctor to help him maintain his dignity and keep the climbors off his neck. I never saw a guy have it so good.

He had the biggest suite in the Casino, and he was in luck when he came every night with his Hapsburg lip draped over the rim of a glass of Scotch. He didn't have to roll his own dice, and he didn't even have to dance with his old

lady, Margit. There was always a bevy of young bucks hanging around him, but he kept them reasonably and painting to rip off a rumba with the king's retarded girl friend. Every time a heavy somebody propped him up, and when they feuded the joint they were fed a deluge of cash.

The only comedown in his kingly existence was that he couldn't find anybody to manœuvre the nails of those bugged-up little Pekes, because Cuba was having a heavy attack of dignity at that time and the "hole" he was involved with ideas about the duties of servants. Carol sent for a bellhop named Flung and he took care of his money, and he took care of their nails. The bellhop drew himself up to his full five feet and spoke thus:

"I am, Your Majesty," he said, "I am a son of a bitch. I do not cut the toenails of dogs. Cut them yourself, sire, but include me out."

That's the way that a few ex-kings, heavy hibernics, King Farouk himself has been unintelligent about increasing the royal pile through bottle shakedowns here and there.

Just hope he controls his passions about other folks' finances, though, because it is his wife's womanhood held still for it, but one of those fiery Italians is apt to let a little daylight through him with a shiv if the royal eye wanders too far afield. Even with that potential hazard, I still can't feel sorry for a young man with a lifetime to loaf.