

### THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

C. A. McKNIGHT.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1953

#### ON KEEPING FAITH WITH THE PEOPLE

igreed to forego the seas personal conjectern financing.
Nonetheless, we have two reservations about the decision.
First, it's too bad that someone didn't think of it earlier, so that the method now proposed might have been presented to the voters last December. Unquestionably the Commissioners have the legal authority to

ON KEEPING FAITH WITH THE PEOPLE

SINCE the County Commissioners are
charged with the financial responsibility
for new schoolbuildings, and since they are
subject to reclection each two years, we
shall not quarrel with their decision to pay
for the new \$75,00,000 building program out
of taxes in seven years, instead of borrowing money over a longer period of time.

It required political courage to stake the
step. The voters will not be happy when
they're hit with a 20-cent county tax rate
increase next year, and for the happy when
they're hit with a 20-cent county tax rate
years. There'll be hown. There always are.
Yet the Commissioners thought the maintenance of the County's favorable credit ratrate at which Mecklemburg bonds have been
said in the past, were so important that they
agreed to forego the less painful method of
long-term financing.

Brut axes and at the outset, it's a decision
for the proper in the property of the property of the property of the county's ability to bear the total load
sincrease.

ixxyayers, a burden that will be much heavier on each taxyayer now than it would be after the county's ability to bear the total load has increased.

But, as we said at the outset, it's a decision that the Commissioners have to make for themselves, and it has the backing of the Local Government Commission. So we wont. argue the point further, except to emphasize that it is always wise public policy to tell that it is always wise public policy to tell the policy to the p

would free the taxpayer of the annoying inconvenience of listing his personal belong

incentrement ing.

And while the committee is at work, it might profitably consider abolishing poll taxes and dog taxes. The former is not only undemocratic in this day of feminine equality, it is also non-productive of revenue, and doubtless costs the County sumuch in extra collection and bookkeeping the profits of the

moru in exira collection and bookkeeping expenses as it brings in. The latter could be handled more cheaply and more efficiently by placing it under a rabies inspector and combining it with the inoculation process.

WE HAVE already spoken our piece one bill before the General Assemb and will simply restate our position brie

and will simply restate our position briefly today.

The State Merchants Association has asked for an amendment to the Constitution permitting creditors to attach up to 10 per cent of the wages of debtors. A hearing on the proposal has been set for Feb. 11.

The measure should be killed for two reasons.

reasons:

1. The people of North Carolina will never approve a constitutional amendment permitting any private creditor to garnishee their

access to public-libraries.

Yet if our vast expenditures on public education and institutions of higher learning are to continue to pay dividends of enlightened progress in the future, it is not only desirable but essential to cement the keystone to our earch of learning. The public library, as Murphy says, is "the university of the adult years; it is the post-graduate school for the scholar just as it is the reservoir of wisdom and inspiration for knowledge-hungry youth."

The Library Commission's request is a modest one—an increase in state funds from the \$414.000 proposed by the Advisory Budget Commission to \$620,000 each year of the next blennium. A General Assembly alert to the needs of North Carolina will not

RESTATEMENT

#### PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX FULL OF DEFECTS

WHATS WRONG with the present syntem of taxing personal property in Mecklenburg County?

1. There is no way to nab the renter, unless he owns an automobile.

2. With the exception of dogs and automobile.

less he owns an automobile.

2. With the exception of dogs and automobiles, the taxpayer is permitted to set his own value on his taxable personal belongings. His estimate is apt to be ridiculously low, unless he is unusually patriotic

and honest.

3. The listing process itself is an inconvenience to taxpayers, and imposes a great burden of extra work on the office of the Tax Supervision.

4. It doesn't produce nearly as much money as it should.

How can the collection of personal prop-

How can the collection of personal property taxes be improved?

Tax Supervisor Rufus Grier has proposed the adoption here of the Guillord and Forsyth systems. In those two counties, the value of a home ower's personal property is fixed at 15 per cent of the assessed value of his residence. If he thinks that is too high, a tax lister will inspect his property and revise the figure downward iff he finds the compilant justifiable.

the figure downward if he finds the compilant justifiable. Mr. Grier's suggestion has been referred to a special five-member Commission for further study. Undoubtedly it would be a substantial improvement, though the precise percentage figure may be open to debate. But is it the best answer? We think not. Mr. Grier's proposal, as we understand it will not remedy one of the basic defect, but is the present system. The only practicable way to catch renters under his plan, would be to assess the personal property percentage levy against the owner of rented property. He, in turn, would have to collect out of the renter through higher rents. That is done in New Jersey, but there is some question whether that would be legal in North Carolina.

Why not simply abolish the personal

Why not simply abolish the personal

# wages. 2. Nor should they do so. The extension of credit is the creditor's decision, and the responsibility for collecting is his also. There is recourse through the civil courts for any creditor who cannot collect for merchandise he has sold. He needs no garnishee law, and deserves none.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES—RESERVOIRS OF WISDOM POR THOSE of us who have competed access to public-libraries. Far an outprise that Spencer Murphy of the Solisbary Post won the annual editorial writing contest again. Such elequence merits reward, whether it is found on the editorial page or in the wrball ples Murphy.

the text of which will be found ensewhere on this page.

But the eloquence of his presentation does not interest us so much today as do the hard facts. North Carolina, far from matching national averages, has not even achieved regional leadership in public library service. There are more automobiles on the highways of the state than there are books in public library shelves. Eight counties, with five per cent of our people, are still without

From The St. Louis Post-Dispetch

#### STYLISH TO THE END

in persected that their wear-out factor will githen to such an extreme that normal placement business will be in jeopardy." ing freely translated, this means they y last so long the customer will not have buy new ones as often as he has been

OUR HEART goes out to John M. Reeves, is a mirscle aware. Let them who will wear president of Reeves Bros. Inc., manufacturers of testilies. Mr. Reeves is worried. He is worried about the new "miracle" fabrics (presumably the synthetics, though he codes not specifically say 50.

"Some say," says Mr. Reeves, "that the miracle fabrics will eventually become so well perfected that their wear-out factor will testable 16, such as a scheme that normal

When Senator Morse collapsed after talking against confirmation of Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson, physicians said the Senator was suffering from a horse's kick. Or was it the elephant's?

What's a few hundred thousand dollars' loss to Defense Secretary Wilson? After he leaves the Pentagon he can sell his memoirs for that much or more.

Publishers of lurid sex books, defending their output at a House inquiry, claim their works are no worse than some of the classics. Maybe so, but they're easier to understand.—Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.

# A Stirring Plea For Better Public Libraries

(Note: Spencer Murphy, editor of the Salisbury Post and the only three chim whiter of the most part of the salisbury Post and the only three chim whiter of the salisbury Post and the only three chim whiter of the salisbury Post and the only three chim whiter of the salisbury Post and the only three chim whiter of the salisbury Post and the only three chim whiter of the salisbury Post and the post of the North Carolina Library Association and a treate of the N. C. appeared before the point appearance of the North Carolina Library Association and a treatment. Eds. The North.

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Editors. The New New York

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We do not ordinarily complain to editors about what they carry in their columns. In line with the carry in their columns, in line with the carry in their columns. In line with ling correction of Mr. Pearson's long continued mispreparations of our company. However, in this most recent case, the misrepresentations was, becompelled to call it to your attention.

Apart from, the damage caused to us this statement of Mr. Pearson was particularly irritating because (1) the Tuttor on which he based his price had alregally been chased down and discreting the price had alregally been chased down and discreting the control of the trumor on which he based his price had alregally been chased down and discreting the control of the formal time of the control of the formal time of the control of the formal time of the formal time of the formal time of the control of the formal time of the formal time of constructive pregram to get the GI's home for Christmas.

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ALBEMARLE

Editors. Tur N'ews:

YOU poobably won'trad this letter, but I shall

YoU poobably won'trad this letter, but I shall

the shall be shall be spoint out a feet

things about the Democratic Party that a certain

game and the shall be stored. I don't remembe his

name, but he wrote a very stupid letter about Governor Unstead and Governor Scott. He had better

nors, who use the State's money for our benefit,

instead of spending it on halls and inaugurations.

Yes. I am speaking of that "good" old "the", Who

does he think he is to spead a million follars to

does he think he is to spead a million follars to

does he think he is to spead a million follars to

ting, and many of them going hungry?

As for the last 20 years administration, well,

you haven't starved to feath, have you't haven't,

but I card asy as much for own for the revol
the resembles Hoover a lot, especially in that hom
burghat.

Wellow, that peet term you be a sandidate for

wowernor. But if you get elected, and if it be God's

will that I'm still alive. I'll say good-by to old

North Carolina. I shall want to keep living.

—MRS. DALE 6, LOWDER.

Too Many Multimillionaires
CAMPOBELLO, S. C.

Editors. THE NEWS:
WHAT is the difference now in our Democratic
and Republican platforms? Can you tell any

People's Platform

NEW YORK

the two parties really stand for. W. J. Bryan gave us that in his speech at Kings Mountain long, long ago. He said the Republicans believed in beginning at the top and coming down, and the Democratis believed in beginning at the bottom and going up. Tabra's ii, in a nutble.

For the past 20 years, the common people have had a chance to make something, and the rich that the second of the common people have had a chance to make something, and the rich that the second of the s

tem even at the expense of a bond issue.

Our wise expenditure of multiple millions upon multiple millions of measure of importance has a served by been generally recognized has made North Carolina's progressiveness a by-word throughout May I suggest that our particular of the measure of importance has a served by protect all our investments which are outgrowth of enlighteems with public libraries, even so poorly situationed as they are in comparison with public libraries, even so poorly situationed as they are in comparison with public libraries, even so poorly situationed as they are in comparison with public libraries, even so poorly situations of the server in the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of enlighteems with a comparison of the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of enlighteems with a comparison of the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of enlighteems with a comparison of the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of enlighteems of the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of enlighteems of the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of enlighteems of the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of enlighteems of the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of the server to protect all our investments which are outgrowth of the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments which are the server to protect all our investments wh

## Ghost Of Wilson Controversy To Hover Over Future Issues

By MARQUIS CHILDS

Platform

and address must be given, but may be withheld the News reserves the right to condense.

WHILE the matro Charles E. Wilson confirmation to be continued by the contract of the contr

# Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Ike To Ask For Stand-By Control Powers

of the advisers to banish all controls immediately.

Most eager advocates of taking the lid off.

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Most eager advocates of taking to lid off.

Most off.

Most off.

Boston banker, and Secretary of Arriculture Benson, the Utah cooperacture. However, the President himself has been reluctant.

In New York, who urges that some kind of stand-by controls be kept in case of emergency. Barneth, an adviser through two danger of inflation, also the difficulty of getting Congress to set in a hurry.

Judging from the way like's mind ta run-Cohinet meeting, you can predict that he will move to end wage and price controls within 30 days—but ask Congress for stand-by power in case of emergency.

New Air Chief

DEMOCRATIC Senators aren't quite sure
how to react to Harold E. Talbott as
Secretary of the Air Force. They think
he's the weakest member of the defense
quartet Eisenhower has sent to the Hill,
but some think it might be smart politics
to let his weak points show up later. They

MOST important question discussed by President Elemenhower at his infirst Cabinet meeting was whether to abolish price.

Most of these expire sutomatically April 50 but there's sutomatically April 50 but there's beautomatically April 50 but 50

ries weight en Capitol Hill.

Talbott unfortunately has a strike against him — a report by Charles Evans Hughes and a Congressional investigation of airplane failures during World War I. Hughes to the construction of the const

Stock Ownership