

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1953

COMMISSIONERS DALLY WITH TAX PROBLEM

In mittee headed by C. S. Reed made a very sensible recommendation to the Mecklenburg County Commissioners — to abolish the separate listing of residential personal property, exclusive of automobiles, and to substitute a flat percentage charge on real property.

The committee reached its decision after studying a large sample of personal property returns. If found many gross incongruities: for example, very expensive homes whose owners had listed less than \$300 worth, of furniture. It found other cases where wealthy and prominent citizens apparently owned no watch at all. "The appraisals of the personal property of some of our own friends were, to put it mildly, ridiculous," said the committee members.

members.

Furthermore, the committee pointed out that it was difficult to determine the value of personal possessions, since that value frequently shifts.

The committee recognized that its recommendations would require special measures for assessing the percentage tax against residents who live in rented quarters, especially multi-family apartments, but suggested a way around that difficultive.

The Commissioners sat on their hands for nine months as property listing time approached again. On Monday, Commissioner McNinch moved to institute the change, but could not get a second to his motion. Commissioner White, who is new to the job, expressed the opinion that more time is needed for an educational campaign to explain the move to the people.

campaign to explain the move to the peo-ple.

We suspect that the Commissioners, re-calling the hubbub over the countywide property revaluation, may fear that any other dabbling in tax matters would have unfavorable political repercussions.

Let us hope that is not the case. Not only is the present system of listing per-sonal property shot through with incon-sistencies and inequities; it is also disrup-tive of the honesty and integrity of prop-erty owners.

"There is a desire on the part of many people, not to evade taxes, but to be taxed the same as others," Mr. Reed's committee wrote. Other North Carolina counties, including Guilford and Forsyth, have found an answer to the personal property new incuming suilibrat and Forsyth, have found an answer to the personal property problem in the percentage system. Surely it would not be too difficult a task to work out the plan here, if the County Commis-sioners will put their minds to it.

A STEP TOWARD BETTER HOSPITAL FACILITIES

YESTERDAY Mayor Van Every procil of the United Community Services
study the Negro hospital needs of this
county and city. The County Commissioners approved his proposal. We heartily add
our endorsement to this plan of action,
and look to the City Council to add its
approval when the mayor's resolution is
presented to it tomorrow.

The Social Planning Council is the logical group to conduct this survey. Its
leaders have expressed an interest in the
Negro hospital project. Its experienced

reautrs nave expressed an interest in the Negro hospital project. Its experienced staff has access to a fund of information about similar projects in other communi-ties. The Planning Council's membership represents a cross-section of community views. Outstanding public-spirited citizens

lems.

The need for additional hospital facilities for Negroes has been well-established.
What this survey should ascertain is the best way to fulfill that need, the way to finance necessary new facilities. Then, when the Planning Council reports back to local government officials, actual fundraising and construction may follow.

raising and construction may follow.

The mayor's and commissioners' actions
indicate that this community is at last
coming to grips with the problem of Negro hospitalization. The project is worthy
of the efforts of any persons who may be
called upon by the Social Planning Council to help work out the answers.

YET ANOTHER BLOW AT THE KLAN

WHEN the FBI stepped in and nabbed Wilsa lalged former members of the Ku Klux Klan, most of them South Carolinians, it partially filled a law enforcement vacuum that has existed south of the Carolina border for several years.

In North Carolina and stale authority of the Carolina border for several years.

In North Carolina company of the Carolina border for several years.

In North Carolina company of the Carolina of the Carolina, and indeed originated there, responsible authorities of that state, from Gov. James F. Byrnes on down, appeared to look the other way. In the proceedings in North Carolina, 29 convictions were obtained after the FBI arrests in February, 1952. Later on, 81

additional convictions or pleas of guilty were won in state courts.

were won in state courts.

The FBI, often commended, merits still further praise for its persistence in tracking down the alleged pepterstors of the flogging of Mrs. Christine Rogers and herbrother. Ernest Bartield Rogers, who liye near Lake View, S. C. They were abducted on the night of Nov. 16, 1953, bilndroided, driven across the state line into Robeson County, and severely beaten. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said that the arrangements for the flogging were made by the Dillon Klavern.

The Klan is the enemy of law and one.

The Klan is the enemy of law and or-der wherever it exists. The FBI's latest blow at the evil organization will help prevent it from ever coming back to life in this area.

'WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE REGULARS?'

FROM the personnel standpoint, the na-tion's regular military forces are in

had shape.

At West Point, cadet resignations have doubled. The professional officer corps in the Army is 'rotally inadequate in size.'

The Air Force has been able to enlist an adequate number of pilots only by lowering educational requirements. Reservists today make up 82 per cent of the pilots in the all-important Strategic Air Force.

The Navy has only 32,500 career offi-cers out of a total officer corps of 80,000, and the Navy is losing 40 officers a month by resignation.

by resignation.

Moveover, all branches of the armed forces are losing non-commissioned officers as fast as they create new ones. The Army's re-enlistment rate has dropped from 60 per cent prior to World War II to 6 per cent.

to 6 per cent.

This is the indictment drawn by Hanson W. Baldwin, military affairs expert of
the New York Thates, in a recent Issue of
the SATURDAN EVENTSO FOST. "The end
results if the present trend continues,"
Baldwin writes, "can only be a triumph of
mediocrity and a sharp decline in morale."
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mediocrity and a sharp decline in morale.

Baldwin outlines many reasons why the military services have difficulty getting and keeping good men: (1) the belittling attitude of the public; (2) a smaller number of men coming of military age because of the downward birth rate during the depression; (3) competition from a bosoming civilian economy; (4) a psychological change that has clevated the desire for security above the daring of adventure; (5) a congressional economy wave that has cut many service benelits; (6) poor service personnel policies, including the rapid turnover in important assignments and the individual replacement system which makes it impossible for military groups to attain a continuing appril.

Much of Baldwin's prescription follows the diagnosis—le, if individual replacements damage the morale and esprit of a unit, then restore the old unit replacement system. But he appears to lay greatest stress on the restoration of the colorful trappings of the military—the bands, the battle streamers, the long swords for officers.

Baldwin is the ranking writer on mili-tary affairs in this country today. His anal-ysis should be given the closest atten-tion by those officials in Washington who are responsible for developing a tight, ef-ficient and spirited military force for these troubled times.

Wife: "I think married men should wear something to show that they are married."

married."
Husband: "I do. Look at this shiny suit."—Carlsbad (N. M.) Current-Argus.

Imprisonment sometimes gives a man a chance to find himself, says a judge. At least he knows right where he is.—Fort Myerf (Fla.) News-Press.



People's Platform

A Political Trick

GREAT FALLS, S. C.

Editors. The News.

GREAT FALLS. S. C.

ATTORNEY General Brawnch's bombshell at Mr.

Trimma just before the California election, that Mr. Truman promoted a Russian spy to a high office in his administration, could only have one purpose regardless of how untruthful as long as it worked.

The politicism, all is fair in politice, no matter than the control of the con

I knew that soon after the California elec-tion explanations would be forthcoming, that it was not meant the way it sounded. However, the damage was already done. That was all that mat-tered.

tered:
The public, I hope, will be wiser at the coming congressional election and not permit itself to be taken in by Republican politicians again.

—HENRY KAYE

Guilt By Association CHARLOTTE

Editors, Tor News:
WORLD affairs, reflected by the American preas,
creates an impression comparable to what we
the man who never satisfactorily and completely explained his acceptance of some thouands of foliars in his successful effort to reprecare a state is now representing the United States

More On Speeding Charge

French Not Strong Enough To Win The Indochina War

By JOSEPH ALSOP

operation put the position very parally.

"It was a real privilege," he remarked cheerily, "to see those fellows a real paralled property of the paralled property of the paralled property of the less, is that this usually invisible enemy is generally somewhere in the immediate neighborhood.

There may be a company of the breathing through bamboo tubes, the most paralled property of the paralle

bly folling in the neon may somewhave half any their grown breaking a britany and any their grown may be a support to the foreign and the load-Chinese war. Consider the street of the problem in the load-Chinese war. Consider the street of the problem in the load-Chinese war. Consider the street of the problem in the load-Chinese war. Consider the street of the str

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

against Alger Hiss, so that in the end poenas,"
Hiss was allowed to resign from the secretary
Vaughan

Committee 'Hassle'

Justice Vinson Blocked Firing Of White