

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

1888—Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Year—1953

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UP, UP, UP GOES THE PAYROLL

WHERE IT NOT so serious a matter to the taxpayers, the handling of the pay raise issue by the City Council would be downright ludicrous.

More than a month ago, on Feb. 11, the Council by resolution authorized the city manager to make a detailed job classification study. The purpose was to bring order to the municipal payroll by determining how much each job was worth.

The weeks and months rolled by. Budget-making time came. There were two or three attempts by individual members of the Council to put through salary increases of one kind or another, but a majority of the Council voted to wait for the job classification study. The sum of \$225,000 was set up in reserve to make pay increases retroactive to July 1 of this year if the classification plan, when completed, scaled salaries higher.

Monday, the completed job study in hand, the councilmen decided to wait until the beginning of the next fiscal year to put it into effect. Then they informally agreed on six per cent pay raises for all employees making \$3,600 a year or less, and three per cent boosts for those in the \$3,601-\$4,000 bracket. Above that—no raises.

And last night they veered still further from the right path. Because the Monday night percentage breakdown created many absurd inequities, the councilmen revised the whole pay scale upward, granting flat nine per cent increases for all members of the police and fire departments except the two chiefs, and handing out six per

cent raises for all other city employees except top executives.

The Council has been handling the payroll in this haphazard, unbusinesslike fashion since 1942, when city employees got a 10 per cent increase. In 1943, it was five per cent; in 1944, it was five per cent. In 1945, some minor readjustments in 1946, 15 per cent; in 1947, \$10 a month; in 1948, \$15 a month; in 1949, six per cent for some jobs, three per cent for others; in 1950, two and a half per cent for some jobs, readjustments for others.

And in 1951, the Council came up with a real lulu. It adopted this salary increase scale:

Under \$200 a month, a \$10 a month increase plus a 15 per cent raise after the addition of the \$10.

Between \$200 a month and \$4,800 a year, 15 per cent.

Over \$4,800 a year, five per cent.

Salary increases handed out in this loose fashion have no relation to (1) the experience or ability of the job holder, (2) the cost of living, (3) competitive salaries in private enterprise, or (4) prevailing standards for municipal employees elsewhere.

In fact, they have no relation to anything except the taxpayers' pocketbook, which is nicked heavily each time. And the taxpayers don't even have the satisfaction of knowing whether the increases are fair or equitable.

But so it has gone in the past, and so it goes today. And until the taxpayers let out a louder protest than they have made so far, it'll go on in the future.

SIDELIGHT TO A CONTROVERSY

AMONG the odds and ends of last week's "climax" to the Harry Dexter White case, there's an interesting little sidelight involving Whittaker Chambers, author of *Witness*, and the man who put the finger on Alger Hiss.

Chambers writes that in 1939 he told Adolph A. Berle about his association with the Communist Party. At that time, time was assistant secretary of state in charge of security. Chambers mentioned many names, but not that of Harry Dexter White.

In 1941, Chambers says, two FBI agents visited him at the office of *Time* magazine. At that time he gave them the name of Harry Dexter White as a fellow traveler who collaborated with the communist apparatus in Washington. A year later, he was an FBI agent briefly. "After that, I did not see another FBI agent for almost two years," he wrote. That would be 1944.

Chambers excuses this to the fact that "the FBI was gravely understaffed, and

that, during the war, its chief assignment was German, not Soviet espionage."

Yet on Nov. 5, 1945, Elizabeth Bentley told her story of communist espionage to the FBI and on the very next day a special letter to the White House, giving the name of that same Harry Dexter White.

Was the FBI skeptical of the Chambers account? Or did it make other reports on him prior to 1945, reports that were either ignored or suppressed by higher authority?

The Senate Internal Security subcommittee ought to look into this point. It also ought to call upon Attorney General Brownell to back up his Chicago statement that the FBI learned of White's espionage work early in his career (which began in 1934) "and from the beginning made special efforts to the White House, giving the name of that same Harry Dexter White."

BARRIERS TO HIGHER INCOME FOR TAR HEELS

THE 1952 figures on per capita income in the United States disclosed an anomaly. North Carolina ranked 15th among the states in total income, yet in per capita income, it ranked 43th.

Why this? Social Science researchers at the University of North Carolina set out to find the answer, and in a recent issue of the *University News Letter* gave the results of their analysis.

1. There are fewer breadwinners in North Carolina. In this state 44.4 per cent of the population is under 19 years of age, whereas for the nation the per cent is 33.9.

2. More than one-fourth of this state's population is Negro, and the lower per capita income of Negroes lowers the average for all.

3. The distribution of the population is unfavorable from a per capita income standpoint. One-third of the population is farm, and another third is rural nonfarm. Both groups have incomes lower than urban residents.

4. Even where there is urban population and industrialization, the state's three major industries—textile, furniture and lumber, and tobacco—the wages are below national industrial averages.

The various agencies of the state government, including the Department of Conservation & Development, have been giving much thought to ways and means of overcoming or circumventing these barriers to higher income.

There is little that can be done about the high proportion of young people. Indeed, our children are our most valuable

resources. They are the breadwinners of the future.

Certainly the state could do a great deal, by voluntary methods, to encourage better economic opportunity for Negroes, and thus raise their earning power. Among farmers, more emphasis on livestock and livestock products would fill a huge deficiency in agricultural income. And in seeking new industries, those with high average wage levels should get preferred treatment.

North Carolina's per capita income picture is roughly the same as that of all other states. There is evidence on all sides that the economy of the South as a region is booming, that the traditional patterns are undergoing swift and dramatic changes. North Carolina must not only hold its own, but must step out in front of this great and historic regional movement.

REPORT ON INDIA

THE CITIZENS of India are finding out, through their representatives in Korea, that the Communists are ornery, two-faced bums.

At home, the Indian government is having trouble with scholars it subsidized. They would rather stay on the dole than work.

And to top it all off, the temperance movement is going to pot here. Consumption of bootleg liquor is on the rise. Looks like India is proceeding faster than some folks realize with its pro-western orientation.

SPACE TALK

FOR SOME MONTHS now, we've felt the need for a "Parents' Guide to TV Space Talk," or some such book, to help bridge the communication gap between Dad, Mom and the kids.

Mortunately, Nick Kenny, the song writer, found that he was having the same trouble with his youngsters, so he got in touch with Video (on the space scanner) and made a preliminary lexicon of rocket talk.

As a public service to parents who feel that, too, have become "lunar lunk-

heads" (squares), we're reprinting a few of his translations:

"Blow up some meteor dust"—paint the town red.

"By the craters of Luna"—gee whiz.

"Jet Jaunt"—a trip.

"Neptunian gnat"—an annoying person.

"Blowing the wrong orbit"—confused.

"Unstable as a heavy rocket"—tetchy in the head.

"Zipping zephyrs"—for Pete's sake.

Now all you have to do when you want your junior back to earth is "unzip your jets" (start talking).

'We Can't Subpoena Him. I Think He's On Our Staff'



People's Platform

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

Death For The Kidnapers

Editor, *The News*: UNTIL recently, I did not believe that I would approve the death sentence in any case. I was wrong.

The cruel killers of Bobby Greenlease displayed a special type of depravity that probably would sicken the average layman. The condemned couple has forfeited every right to human companionship, even in prison for life.

Any penalty other than the one imposed would be a gross miscarriage of justice. Execution of the guilty is the only way to prevent future harm to some helpless child.

—ORA WILBERT EADS

Changes In U. N. Needed

Editor, *The News*: MUCH talk is going on about admitting Red China into the United Nations. Before considering acceptance of new membership, it would be advisable for the United Nations to take stock of its accomplishments and if there is enough sincerity for the future, the majority of the members should be permitted to exclude itself from participation without being subject to severe punishment.

To avoid a similar Korea incident and stop economic merely as a debating body, it would be wise for the U. N. not to delay any longer on this suggestion.

HENRY KAYE

Trial By Accusation

Editor, *The News*: DURING the French revolution and the reign of terror, a favorite method of trying suspected enemies of the state was by accusation or association with those already convicted of criminal acts. Any charge or accusation made by a high official was enough to place a private citizen in extreme danger, which, in the majority of cases, led to his arrest and ultimate execution. Even the most honest officials or citizens failed to come to the aid of the accused.

Today, with the great publicity given to the various investigations under way, namely by Senator McCarthy and Chairman Velde of the House Un-American Activities Committee, any American citizen or immigrant, is subjected to nationwide humiliation and ruin merely on the testimony of some former Communist or a charge on the part of the Senator himself.

Here again public officials act on the basis of defending the accused, because such defense brings them in close association with a "Communist," reason enough in the eyes of some to consider the defense as communitarian as well.

It is also interesting to note that, with the exception of Bishop O'Sullivan, none of those placed under

der investigation by the committee have been publicly cleared or been given a "clean bill of health" so that they no longer carry the stigma of being a communist for the rest of their life.

It is against the principles of our God-given freedom of religion and of our own democratic trial by jury and without his own adequate defense. This protection is afforded to every American citizen by the constitution which makes him an innocent man until proven guilty, not guilty and charged before he has a chance to prove his innocence.

It is the opinion of this writer that the Un-American Activities Committee is a fine and useful organ of the government when used and operated with the freedom of religion or the Protestant Church on the same grounds that it would charge and accuse an enemy of the United States.

I sincerely hope that the American people will awake to the danger of trial by slander and vilification. Our country has stood too long on the sound basis of individual rights to be weakened by fearful and suspicious domination.

—DAVID HOLMES

Negotiation Urgent In Near East

Editor, *The News*: MEMBERS of the Charter of Hadassah are seriously concerned about the position taken by our State Department in joining with the United Nations in condemning the actions of the Jewish Agency in the Near East. Also, we understand that there will be no recommendations for direct violence, we sincerely hope that our State Department will reconsider the step it has taken and after it summons the parties to immediate peace negotiations. Otherwise, we believe that this would be a retreat from our past position and a grave disservice to peace.

We feel deep sympathy for the innocent victims of the many border incidents perpetrated by both sides, yet we are sure that the only way our government can seek to remove their cause is by striving for a just and lasting peace.

Britain too shares this responsibility, as Britain is allied to Jordan, which would collapse without British subsidies. Britain therefore shares moral and political responsibility for Jordan's actions. Armistice agreements must be transformed into honorable and just peace treaties as quickly as possible in the vital security interest of the United States which should use its enormous prestige to make Arab-Israel peace the main objective in current discussions before the U. N. Security Council.

MRS. DAVID HOFFMAN, President
Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

Hopes No One Steals Dog

Editor, *The News*: ACCORDING to a letter in the People's Platform Nov. 21, some person has been attempting to steal Mr. T. D. T. T. T. I hope that never does happen to my dog.

—J. HELMS

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IT WAS Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey himself who leaked the story that the Eisenhower administration would slash the budget by another \$6 billion dollar next year—most of it in the defense area.

The identity of the news leak in this case is important. For it took only a few minutes for the Eisenhower administration to cause a couple of miles down Constitution Ave. and across the Potomac River at the Pentagon, the largest of the labyrinth of offices—the largest in the world—to seethe with activity.

And the public activity had its effect. Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey hedged just a little on his leak. He did not hedge on the \$6 billion cut, but he did tell newsmen two things: (1) that the military would not be cut at the expense of national safety; (2) since the military spends about 75 per cent of the budget, they will have to bear that proportionate share of the cut.

Actually, the above jockeying between the Treasury and the Pentagon merely

brings to the surface a debate that has been going on backstage for weeks. It also puts in direct opposition to each other the two chief and biggest political newsmen in the Eisenhower Cabinet.

Humphrey, who demands the military be put out of commission by a single different corporation, comprising the Mark Hanna Co., founded by the famed GOP boss who elected President McKinley. He is the Cabinet member like listens to most.

Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, who opposes him, was head of the world's largest corporation, General Motors. He too is close to the President, but not as close as Humphrey.

Backstage Battle

THE backstage battle between these two men and their subordinates actually got down to brass knuckles at a meeting of the National Security Council about six weeks ago, at which the military men brooded over their "new look" for the armed services.

This "new look," supposed to permit

McCarthy Took Issue With Both Eisenhower And Truman

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON SENATOR MCCARTHY has not only offered himself as a national political issue, but has also traduced President Eisenhower and is attempting to force Eisenhower's hand in foreign affairs.

The Wisconsin Republican last night combined a television-radio reply to former President Truman's blast at "McCarthyism" with his strongest yet for political action.

McCarthy was left on the sidelines when the Eisenhower administration took over. Gen. Brownell, accused the Truman administration of laxity in riding the government of Communists.

This was the charge McCarthy had been making for years. But once Brownell moved in, it was McCarthy's subcommittee on internal security—headed by Sen. Jenner, Indiana Republican—which picked up the ball and ran with it, and McCarthy's Senate Investigations subcommittee.

Last night McCarthy must have disillusioned anyone who thought he would stay in the wings while Brownell's sensational accusations were being examined and investigated.

From the time he took office last January Eisenhower has avoided any public head-on clash with McCarthy, even when the senator tried to block the president's nomination of Charles E. Bohlen as ambassador to Moscow.

If Eisenhower hoped a collision with the senator could be avoided by the constitution which makes him an innocent man until proven guilty, he was wrong. McCarthy last night criticized not only the Democrats but Eisenhower's administration as well.

The contradiction of Eisenhower's hands was as vital and to be expected, for not getting Communists out of the government was the Eisenhower policy. He told the Republicans had done "indefinitely" better. He pointed to 1,456 "security risks" fired under Eisenhower.

But then he said he wanted to look at where the Republican administration's batting average was what he called "worse."

He pointed to John Paton Davis—diplomat still in the government after McCarthy's long efforts to get him out. Then he said that "failure of my party to liquidate the foulest bankruptcy of the Democratic administration. He cited a Chinese Communist announcement, after the true signing, that the Chinese were not to be released.

At the same time, he said, American allies, getting American aid, are trading with the Chinese Communists. How to force the Chinese to stop trading with the Communists? He said: "The solution: shut off trade with them."

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