

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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ROME IS NO PLACE FOR AN AMATEUR

DURING last year's Presidential campaign, the Luce, Henry and Clare Boothes, were in the Eisenhower camp. Henry's magazine, *Time* and *Life*, outdid themselves in behalf of the Republican nominee. And Clare Booth put out a memorable, if melodramatic, nationwide TV thriller about Communists in government.

After the victory, it was common gossip around the political circuit that the Lucas would get their reward. And in recent weeks it had been bruited about that the prize would be the Italian Ambassadorship for Mrs. Luce. Over the weekend the White House confirmed the rumor. Clare Booth's place will go to Rome, the U. S. Senate willing.

Let us hope that another rumor is true—that the change will not be made until after the Italian elections in the Spring. For we still quite easily, with one or two major blunders, lose Italy at the polls, and lose it under our own rules.

That is not to say that the Communists and their Nenni Socialist allies have any chance of getting an outright majority in the Spring elections. It is to say that the center coalition built on De Gasperi's Christian Democrats—plus the Social Democrats, the Republicans, the Liberals, and scattering support from the Nenni Socialists on the left and the constitutional Monarchists on the right—can easily fail to get the 50.1 per cent of the total popular vote that, under the electoral law now in effect, would give the government and fairly sure of passage. It needs to control the Senate and the Chamber.

Falling of this popular majority for the center, we shall have a situation in Italy approximating that in pre-First France, where a premier-designate will have to go hat in hand to a scramble of splinter parties to put together a parliamentary majority that may last a day or a week or a month. In other words, there will be political chaos, and the Communists and neo-Fascists will be the people to profit.

The Italian situation, just now, needs a fine professional hand at the American

Embassy. We had one in James Dunn, now in Paris, but slated to go to make room for another, political appointee, Douglas Dillon. We have a better one—though he's a political appointee and has been in the diplomatic service only two years—Ellsworth Bunker. But, even were he a worse one, he's been on the scene the better part of a year, and he has a fine team of professionals accustomed to working under him.

In this critical situation, the decision to change horses is of dubious wisdom. But even if a change is made, it would have been better to pick someone with the talents and pluck of President Eisenhower, who has chosen to send a rank amateur, with never a day's experience in diplomacy, and to send a woman, to a country which has not yet entirely accepted the emergence of women to places of prominence in public life.

So far, three important ambassadorships have been filled with political appointees: Winthrop Aldrich to London, Dillon to Paris, and Clare Booth Luce to Rome. Let us hope that political reward will not be the sole yardstick for key diplomatic appointments. Indeed, James Reston writes in the *New York Times* that career diplomats will not be overlooked. The table shows federal, state, local and individual tax collections in the state, and a percentage comparison of taxes and income.

Against these commendable selections, it is incredible that President Eisenhower has chosen to pay fast and loose with Italy, the country that, in the next six months, is going to be one of the most important in Europe.



The Cost Of Government

NC's Tax And Income Picture

By Congressional Quarterly

WASHINGTON Here is the picture on federal, state, and local tax collections in North Carolina, showing amount and percentage of income received by individuals in the state, and a percentage comparison of taxes and income.

The tax collection figures were gathered by Congressional Quarterly from these sources: federal data, Treasury Department, state, Census Bureau; local, "Pacific Northwest Industry," published by the Bureau of Business Research, University of Washington; Seattle.

Tax collections in North Carolina during fiscal 1931 the most recent year for which figures are available at all levels: federal, \$1,985,053,000; state, \$235,667,000; local, \$83,024,000. These taxes were collected from both individuals and businesses. They total \$1,985,053,000.

By comparison, income payments to individuals in the state during the calendar year 1930 totalled \$3,887,000,000. (State figures for income of corporations undistributed in the form of dividends are not available.)

Here is how tax collections from business and individuals compares with income received by individuals. The table shows federal, state, local and individual tax collections as a percentage of income, and the ranking of North Carolina.

TAX	OF INCOME	STATE RANK
Federal	32.34	6
State	6.58	4
Local	2.14	44
Total	41.06	5

The "federal tax collection-individual income" percentage is very high in some states because of relatively large proportion of federal taxes collected from businesses and because many corporations doing business in several states report the withholding tax from all their employees' income at the home office.

For example, Delaware, seat of many corporations, the federal tax-individual income percentage is 66.5.

Kentucky, with a federal tax collection-individual income percentage of 34.6 yields the federal government a large sum in distillery taxes.

Top ranking states in federal tax-income percentage are Delaware, Michigan, Maryland (whose state tax collection figures include the District of Columbia), and New York. Lowest are Mississippi and Arkansas.

Citizens of South and North Dakota, respectively, pay the highest local taxes in proportion to their income. Lowest in this regard are New Mexico and Delaware.

In Delaware, the total tax amounts to 72.8 per cent of total income payments to individuals. At the other extreme, in New York, the total tax amounts to 15.1 per cent of income payments to individuals.

The state of North Carolina got the most revenue from taxes on motor fuels and general sales, which yielded \$121,469,000 during the year ending June 30, 1932 according to the U. S. Census Bureau.

Although the state took in \$278,482,000 for the year, the same time, the federal government collected \$1,985,053,000 during the year ending June 30, 1932. The Internal Revenue Bureau reported.

Major tax yields in North Carolina to both the

state and federal governments, and the total of all taxes are listed below.

STATE TAXES	
Tax Source	Amount
Motor Fuels	\$69,000,000
General Sales	\$1,821,000
Corporate Income	\$2,564,000
Licenses	\$3,554,000
Individual Income	\$3,468,000
TOTAL	\$278,482,000

FEDERAL TAXES	
Tax Source	Amount
Individual Income	\$383,048,000
Corporate Income	\$2,668,000
Other Taxes	\$1,577,000
TOTAL	\$1,985,053,000

People's Platform

'Powerhouses' Vs. 'Hot Rods'

CHARLOTTE

Editor, The News: We have followed the news items in your paper concerning the proposed law pending in Raleigh which would make it a misdemeanor to change a car's design without the manufacturer's intended it to be.

We are not worried about the sports car owner and driver. With a very few exceptions, he knows what he is doing with his car or he wouldn't change a car's design. He knows the "hot rod" owner. He usually builds his own car and knows its capabilities.

But we are worried about the average driver who doesn't know very much about his car, nor does he care. He doesn't know what will happen to the machine if he changes it, and he doesn't know the emergency conditions. We are worried about the average owner who now has all the horsepower (140, 160, 200, 250) he can get and doesn't know what to do with it.

In order to make a deadly weapon (a gun or rifle) you must have good character, education and a good reason why you need it. The high-powered automobile of today has become a far greater deadly weapon than any type of rifle or revolver, especially in the hands of a novice driver who, with his newly acquired "powerhouse," is not only a danger to himself and his family, but a danger to the community.

Let's be fair. Why not? Anyone can. You are not asked for character references, unless it's to get a license. You are not asked for education, unless you need all this power? No, you take delivery without the least interest in your car's potential drawbacks. Turned loose on the highways, you have a four-wheel weapon which is guided by the pressure of your hands and feet on the steering wheel and the accelerator, and more power into their standard vehicles. They're getting faster and faster. Nowadays, it's not enough to have a "hot rod" or a "powerhouse" to compete with standard automobiles, or off the highways. Actually, there isn't any need for "hotrodgers" to soup-up their cars. They can purchase a 1933 "Powerhouse" and you've got a ready-built "Detroit Hot Rod."

Any automobile which is still being sold in Detroit is not "hot."

—GEORGE W. DRUM, Director, Crysler Car Owners Club

View Of The President And The Men Around Him

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSO

HISTORY is shaped, perhaps more than history ought to be, by the personality of the President of the United States, and by the way he works. The President of the United States, however, is particularly interesting, since he is a military man taking over the greatest civilian job in the world. This is a preliminary report on the way the new President is tackling his tremendous task.

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A WAY TO ORGANIZE THE BUDGET

WAY BACK in the good old days, when the budget and the debt both had at least six fewer zeros than they do today, Congress appropriated money to run the government in one big bundle, instead of in dribbles. Then, in 1794 someone decided to appropriate money for the militia and the civil establishment separately, and a year or two later established—and it got a separate budget. By 1880, it took 13 separate annual appropriation bills to finance government.

And in recent years, Congress has approved "individual" appropriations, "deficiency" appropriations, "emergency" appropriations, "second supplemental" appropriations, "emergency" appropriations, "permanent and indefinite" appropriations, "urgent deficiency" appropriations, "contract appropriations," and "borrowing authority" to an extent that Senator Byrd, Budget Director Joseph Dodge, Comptroller Lindsay Warren and the several "watchdog" committees don't know how much we're spending, or what it's going for.

The new administration has promised to straighten out this mess. We hope it will. And one of the best ways to start making sense out of appropriations would be to have Senator Byrd's latest proposal—a streamlined version of the single-jackpot appropriation bill.

The Byrd proposal should not be confused with the omnibus appropriations bill Congress tried three years ago. It merely collected all the regular appropriations between the covers of one bill. The Byrd proposal, on the other hand, would.

1. Provide that Congress consider all appropriations in one package, so Congress would be able to see the whole picture as the spending side of the budget is enacted.

FIVE PERSONS VOTED—THREE STAYED HOME

THE state-by-state breakdown of voter participation in the November election has been taken up, and provides some interesting comparisons. Checking the number of actual 1932 voters per 100 potential voters with comparable turnouts in previous elections, as compiled in Dr. George Gallup's Political Almanac, we find that:

Seventy per cent or more of the eligible voters turned out in 22 states. In 1948 only four states—Utah, Delaware, Colorado and Kansas—equaled or bettered this percentage.

The Northwest and Northeast continued to get out a large percentage of voters. Utah again led the list, boosting its turnout from 74.78 to 86 per cent.

Hard on its heels were Delaware—79.1, Idaho—78.5, New Hampshire and Rhode Island—77.8, West Virginia—77.4, and North Dakota—77.2 per cent.

Four states trailed between 69 and 70 per cent of their voters. The only states below New Mexico's 63.3 per cent were Maryland—57.5, Arizona—52.6 per cent, and behind them, like 11 call schoolboys in the back of the room, the South.

But before lamenting our region's habitual and inexcusable apathy, as Time will undoubtedly call it one of these days, let's look at the South's improvement, vote-wise, since 1948.

vote participation more than doubled last year—with 30.7 per cent, by far the greatest percentage increase of any state. In Mississippi and Alabama less than 25 per cent of the potential voters turned out, however that was an improvement over their 1948 record.

North Carolina, beatfully, led the South, with 52.1 per cent. Here's how the Southern state percentages compared with their 1948 and 1940 records:

STATE	1952	1948	1940
N. C.	52.1	38	43
Fla.	50.0	39	40
Ark.	46.2	30	31
Tex.	42.8	29	29
La.	40.4	28	27
Miss.	38.1	25	26
Ala.	34.3	23	22
Ga.	30.8	24	18
Okla.	28.1	21	10
Cal.	24.9	14	14
Kan.	24.3	17	15

Close-wide, 69 per cent, the ellipsis voted last year, a record for recent times. But that percentage is still way below par among democracies. It's hardly topped, with from 12 to 30 percentage points to spare, by Italy, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, France, Finland and Canada.

The increased vote is impressive, but we still have a long way to go.

About the easiest thing in the world is for Stalin to outlive his doctors—Memphis Free-Pressman.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

(Ed. Note—Drew Pearson is now on a trip to Berlin and Paris to check on the progress of John Foster Dulles in unifying our allies.)

It may not seem very important when I compared with the other problems facing the world today but European chattering here isn't like the flock of half-American leaders it is reported to be sending

Even though the American ladies are playful, brainy and celebrities, European foreign editors don't want to be taken by the nose only to the beautiful Clara Booth Luce, who is slated for appointment as U. S. ambassador to London, and who is slated for appointment as U. S. ambassador to London.

Brain trust under President Dwight D. Eisenhower carefully had figured that with Holland governed by two Queens in succession it would be entirely appropriate to send Mrs. Houghton to the Hague. Hollanders think differently. Last week one of the Dutch diplomats visiting the Dutch Foreign Office said to me:

But pointed language "we put up with Bertha Sturges" and "I think we've suffered enough. If this lady is sent here it means war."

Please, Says Europe, No Lady Ambassadors

Naturally the Dutch diplomat didn't really feel the same way about Mrs. Luce. He was just being playful. Mrs. Luce is just as communicative as a Chesapeake Bay oyster. Finally, at Bonn, the German Foreign Office said that the wife of one of the nation's most potent politicians, but even so, European governments still put the lady ambassador on a no-matter who she is.

The de Gasperi government fears Mrs. Luce's appointment would give ammunition to the Communists and Alcide de Gasperi is fighting the battle of life to defeat the Communists in the European national elections this spring.

Nevertheless, the German Foreign Office thumbs-down attitude on lady diplomats is Mrs. Marie Mista. Actually Mrs. Mista has done a good job as minister plenipotentiary but the publicity breaks have gone against her. The musical comedy "Call Me Madam" murdered not only her dramatic career, but also the career of any future ambassador. The only exception was Mrs. Eunice Anderson of Win. Minn., who has been one of the best ambassadors sent to Denmark in many years.

Dules Conversations John Foster Dulles tripped through Europe with lightning speed, every minute was allocated in advance to a specific purpose as rigidly fixed as an American Express

Company tour. One by-product of the speed was the fortuitous opportunities to play and laugh with the French. Dulles is just as communicative as a Chesapeake Bay oyster. Finally, at Bonn, the German Foreign Office said that the wife of one of the nation's most potent politicians, but even so, European governments still put the lady ambassador on a no-matter who she is.

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Dulles struck a spark of indignation in the French when he told French Foreign Minister Rene Mayer that he should delay his planned visit to Washington to see President Eisenhower. He said that if Eisenhower had time for a long visit with Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, the French would be of France on the main objective of Dulles'

own trip, namely a united European Army. It is too early to report on the final results of Dulles' trip at this time, but more will appear in these columns later.

Stalin's Successor

U. N. indicate the high-level Kremlin battle over who is to be Stalin's successor. It was obviously decided that Beria was the Secretary of the Communist Party, Georgi M. Malenkov. For some time the Kremlin has been looking for a successor to Malenkov. For some time the Kremlin has been looking for a successor to Malenkov. For some time the Kremlin has been looking for a successor to Malenkov.