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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1953

FOR AN EMERGENCY, A COMPROMISE

AFTER nearly two and a half hours of talk, a good deal of it beside the point, the City Council yesterday went more than half way toward a workable compromise on the near-funct Firemen's Retirement Fund.

The full details have been given in the news stories. For our purpose, it is sufficient to note that the firemen agreed to freeze the fund for a two-year period, permitting no more retirements with the exception of one man who will reach 65. That will prevent the addition of 12 more retired firemen to the rolls, and thus relieve the fund temporarily of a sizable burden.

In return the Council agreed to increase its contribution from five per cent of the Fire Department payroll to ten per cent for those same two years. At the end of the period, a new actuary report will be paid for by the Council. If the condition of the fund at that time will permit retirements at not over 56 years of age and not less than 45 per cent of the firemen's average pay, a schedule of benefits within those limits will be adopted. If the actuary determines that there will not be enough money to pay for retirements, the Council will be asked to make a further schedule of benefits within the two limits, the whole controversy will be opened, with the Council being freed of the obligation of the extra five per cent.

A good many members of the Council seemed reluctant to pour any more money into the unfund fund to make a more realistic scale of benefits was definitely fixed. But after pursuing several lines of thought, they finally

agreed, five to one, on the compromise plan. Both the firemen and the City conceded something in the agreement.

No one questions that the City owes the firemen a fair deal on the fund, even though the City was not originally consulted when the 1947 Retirement Act was put into effect by the N. C. General Assembly. More than 200 families are affected, and the younger members of the department especially merit some guarantee that the money they are now paying into the fund will not evaporate before they reach retirement age.

The Council had one other alternative that no one mentioned, and it is not too late to suggest it to the delegation, by resolution. The main problem with the Firemen's Fund is that the City Council has no jurisdiction over it, even though the Council has to shell out large quantities of money. It would be in order, at this stage, to ask the legislators to amend the City Charter to give the Council the power to determine the scale of retirement benefits. With such authority, the Council could call for an actuarial report two years hence and put into effect a sound plan, without being caught in this unhappy political squabble between the Fire Department and the Legislature.

Experience with the fund so far proves that more home rule is needed. While the whole thing is under consideration, it would be appropriate to restore to the Council authority denied it back in 1947. That would end the controversy for all time, and put responsibility where it belongs.

BETTER THAN NO ZONING BILL AT ALL

COMMISSIONER Sam McNinch says he is "well satisfied" with the county zoning bill as now drawn. He'll go along with it also, but only as it applies beyond the fringe areas.

McNinch has been a sturdy advocate of zoning in the county. He knows a lot about zoning. He also knows the political temper of the Board of Commissioners, and of the people in the county. He knows the chances of getting his original bill carried, or moved for a vote of approval on a substitute drawn up by County Attorney Henry Dockery. It was endorsed unanimously Monday, and now goes to the Legislature.

The provisions of the bill should reassure any county resident who feared unreasonable and arbitrary control over his property by the County Commissioners. First the County must be divided into zones, and then, upon petition by 20 per cent of the registered voters in any district, an election is called. If a majority voting in the election favors zoning, the County Commissioners would then have the authority to zone it for trade, industry, and residence.

A Zoning Commission, to recommend boundaries of the various districts and other regulations, and a Board of Adjustment, to hear appeals are both provided for. Final authority, however, rests with the County Commissioners.

The effectiveness of the system outlined in this bill will depend upon two things: (1) the way that districts are outlined, and (2) the vigor of public information and education programs.

It would be easiest, in outlining districts, to follow township lines. Yet the township lines may not always conform to the more urgent zoning needs. It will be important to

the success of the program that zoning proceed on a first-needs first-served basis. If township lines suit this purpose, fine. If not, some other plan will have to be worked out.

Most essential requirement of all, however, is a forceful and adequate public education program. Many County residents still seem to think of zoning as a restriction on their freedom, when it is really a protection for their homes and farms from wild, unregulated industrial and commercial expansion. They need to be told this, plainly and frequently, until they fully understand it.

Having approved this step for rural zoning, the Commissioners should now endorse the bill giving the City Authority to zone those areas just beyond its limits. If they are not regulated soon, urban problems will arise to haunt the City in future years.

THE EDITORIAL

THE editorial is more than a mere literary impulse. An editorial should be a free expression upon the news or the tendencies of the day, written briefly and bravely by one who is not afraid to state his views and fear have no place in an editorial. They make for weakness, no matter how much they blur.

A newspaper has one obligation, and one only: to tell the truth as best it can. It is its duty to tell the truth as candidly and as kindly as it is humanly possible, never forgetting to be merry the while, for after all, the law and the cheat are the same. The editor is a smaller offender than the solemn ass.

—William Allen White

HOW SILLY CAN YOU GET DEPT.

FEELING under the weather these days? The old ticker acting up? Shortness of breath? Worried about the waistline? If so, don't go to the M. D. No, go to the photographer instead. Have him take a picture of you and send it to the health department. They will let it make their diagnosis and, if you're important enough, the newspapers too.

This new diagnostic technique may sound preposterous, but newsmen and doctors employed it in Nashville yesterday with a straight face. The Nashville Tennessean asked 15 internal medicine specialists to look at Soviet Premier Georgi Malenkov's pictures and then comment on his health. Six answered, for publication, like this: "right have a glandular experience," said one.

"May be a cardiac," said another. "He doesn't," averred a third doctor, "look unlike people with Cushing's disease." And so the comment ran. "Liable to blow a fuse under pressure..." "Life expectancy of a man that much overweight (five-foot seven and 250 pounds) in his 50's is cut 40 per cent."

Well-padded little Georgi has been in office less than a week. Little is known about him, even in his own country, let alone the

West. But already he and his regime have been analyzed, scrutinized, explained and characterized by multitudes of pundits and sages who, like us, aren't quite sure how to pronounce his name. Now, as we look on in poppycock, the doctors are wishing him to his grave.

One could point to many instances of avoidousness-laden but seemingly useless statements. Churchill, at 78, is still running Britain and, some say, the United States too, despite his overweight and inordinate intake of cognac and nicotine. Beef-eating Electric Charlie Wilson, former Defense Mobilizer, was well into his teens when Malenkov was born. Sen. Pat McCarran, of the pomposity punch, is 77, still going strong.

Americans, once again, are trying to wish their way into a better world, to put down, in neat rows, all the answers to problems posed by Stalin's death. As the Netherlands ambassador to this country aptly observed yesterday, "It is too early even for the Russians to know what will happen."

That is what we mean. We add an orchid for the nine of medicine specialists who kept sensible silence. And a plus to the Tennessean, for making the "story," to the AP, for moving it, and to all the newspapers, including this one, that carried it.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

WHAT UNCLE SAM'S MEN DO IN N. C.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION figures show that 27,146 residents of North Carolina work for various branches of the Federal Government.

Take away 8,850 who work for the Post Office Department and that leaves 18,296.

Take away 2,747 who work for the Veterans Administration and that leaves 15,549.

Take away 11,565 who work for the Defense Department, and that leaves 4,984 who collect the taxes, tend to all the agricultural programs, health, welfare, labor, public relations, foreign affairs, Federal courts, weather

bureau, air safety and narcotics. However you add, subtract, or divide these employees there are a lot of them. It is significant, however, that if the business or collecting, sending and distributing the mail is taken out of the picture, the balance of the state and future years even in the present state of North Carolina amount to 14,352 of a total of 18,498.

Keeping house is like stringing beads with no knot at the end.—Morton (Ill.) Journal-Gazette.

'Any Other Important Funerals Coming Up?'



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.

Favors Car Inspection Law

MORGANTON

Editors, The News: I WANT to say a few words in favor of an automobile inspection law.

We had a good inspection law passed in 1947. It made me safely conscious. It cost me about \$40 in 1948 to bring my '38 Buick up to inspection standard in the way of headlights, replacing clouded glass and worn front wheel assembly, and it was worth it in better visibility and electric ease.

The 1947 law had one bad defect at the inspection lane, which would have been easy to remedy in 1948 to bring my '38 Buick up to inspection standard in the way of headlights, replacing clouded glass and worn front wheel assembly, and it was worth it in better visibility and electric ease. The 1947 law had one bad defect at the inspection lane, which would have been easy to remedy in 1948 to bring my '38 Buick up to inspection standard in the way of headlights, replacing clouded glass and worn front wheel assembly, and it was worth it in better visibility and electric ease.

I saw new cars, bought in January, with inspection stickers on them in February.

N. L. NORTON

CHAPEL HILL

Editors, The News: CHILDREN contain many small things.

A favorite toy, a playmate, a pet. A child's world contains many important things too, his mother, his father, his friends, his world of play, his world of discovery, the satisfaction of competitive play and the joy of ex-

changing ideas with his parents and friends.

This is surely every child's right, but what about the thousands of crippled youngsters whose handicap makes these simple things impossible. What can and what is being done for these children?

Because Americans voluntarily assume responsibility for their neighbors welfare, there is an answer to that question: good action. All of us help to answer when we contribute our dollars to the annual Easter Seal campaign now being conducted in Charlotte. Our dollars provide the surgery and medical treatment; the convalescent care; the physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, special education, recreation, and many other important services crippled children need.

The greater part of every dollar you contribute — 917 per cent — works for crippled children in North Carolina. The remaining 63 per cent goes to support a nationwide three-point program of research, education and direct services.

—MRS. H. J. JOYCE

Editors, The News: THERE are three of us in this squad from North Carolina. We are all insured.

We have found that making good is a lot of work after we have been in Korea for a while. We would like very much to be here from anyone from North Carolina.

—Sgt. RICHARD H. HANSEN, 1911443
—Pfc. HERMAN D. STUTZ, 1911157
—Pfc. LARRY LOCKWOOD, 1911881

Anti-Tank Co., 7th Mar. Div.,
Fleet AFPO, San Francisco, California.

Editors, The News: Tar Heel Marines Want Letters

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Does Congress Have Power To Investigate Schools?

By ROSCOE DRUMMOND
In The Christian Science Monitor
WASHINGTON

THERE is a vital, perhaps a controlling, question concerning the congressional investigations of Communism in the schools which thus far has been neglected and obscured.

The question is this: Since the nation's educational institutions are either wholly independent of government, like the private schools and colleges, or are fully under the authority of the states and cities, like the public schools, by what right and for what purpose is Congress assuming to put its hands on the admission and the teaching of the schools?

This question is not raised to prevent investigation, but to determine what arm of the government — whether Federal or the states — should accept responsibility for any needed investigation.

This question is not raised to shield Communists, but to force carefully at where the authority to investigate Communists in the schools rightfully belongs.

RIGHT QUESTIONED The question is not raised to suggest any improper curtailment of congressional authority to investigate, but to suggest that Congress does not possess the right of unlimited investigation and must use all-pervasive investigation as a means of seizing legislative power that does not possess under the Constitution.

Historically, Congress possesses the right to investigate and this right has been upheld by the courts. Congress has the right to investigate any area of policy and action over which it possesses the right to legislate, and to conduct testimony in order to acquire information for that purpose.

This gives wide investigative authority to Congress, but it also places a boundary upon its investigation: power. Congress has the power to investigate wherever it can legislate, but does it have the power to investigate where it does not have the power to legislate? Congress always has investigated corruption in the Federal

government — Taft and Dore and internal revenue irregularities — because Congress provides the money for the Executive to spend. Congress has investigated Communists in government — Alger Hiss and others — because Congress has legislative authority in all these fields. Congress has investigated Communists in labor unions — because through the Taft-Hartley Law Congress has legislated against Communists in labor unions.

The questions which, for one reason or another, the congressional investigators of Communists in the schools have not been facing are these:

Are these investigations into the problem of Communists in the schools — the Jenner and the Velde investigations — undertaken to prepare legislation dealing with the public schools?

STATE PROVINCE If these investigations are for the purpose of the denial of a Communist investigation, to inspect the Federal Government, to control administration and conduct of the public schools which are the exclusive province of the states?

Under the new administration elected, in part, on the premise that the trend ought to be away from Federalism and toward state functions, should be left to the states?

Already some witnesses have reported to their constitutional rights of refusing to answer certain questions which the investigators have propounded. Congress will very likely have to use these rights of Congress in refusing to cite these witnesses for contempt and to Congress in requested to answer the questions.

Under the circumstances, Congress runs a serious risk of being unable to protect its investigative power. Congress has the power to investigate wherever it can legislate, but does it have the power to investigate where it does not have the power to legislate? Congress always has investigated corruption in the Federal

North Carolina's Share Of Federal Housing Projects

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON

THE Federal Housing Administration has announced that it is allocating to North Carolina 1,383 housing units.

Created in 1934 as a self-sustaining agency whose operations are financed by bonds issued by its insurance programs, FHA at the end of 1952 had insured 1,383 housing units.

Its record year was 1950, when it insured 1,383 housing units. In 1951, it insured 1,383 housing units. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Largest of the FHA programs is that for home mortgage insurance. From 1935 through 1952, FHA insured 1,383 housing units.

In 1951, most recent year for which complete statistics are available from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, FHA insured a total of \$174 million in home mortgage insurance.

Second largest FHA program is that for insurance of public housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Third largest FHA program is that for insurance of private housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Fourth largest FHA program is that for insurance of public housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Fifth largest FHA program is that for insurance of private housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Sixth largest FHA program is that for insurance of public housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Seventh largest FHA program is that for insurance of private housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Eighth largest FHA program is that for insurance of public housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Ninth largest FHA program is that for insurance of private housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Tenth largest FHA program is that for insurance of public housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Eleventh largest FHA program is that for insurance of private housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Twelfth largest FHA program is that for insurance of public housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

Thirteenth largest FHA program is that for insurance of private housing projects. In 1952, it insured 1,383 housing units.

national Mortgage Association advance mortgage commitments.

By January, 1953, on the basis of reports received by the Housing and Home Finance Agency, a total of 73,735 rental and 16,152 sales units have been started in North Carolina.

Of these 89,887 units, 1,383 have been programmed for private construction in "critical" defense areas. However, some defense areas had not reported, HHPA said.

In North Carolina's "critical" defense housing areas, 1,383 rental, 16,152 sales and 1,383 sales units have been programmed, and 1,602 rental and 408 sales housing units are under construction.

Of these 1,602 rental and 408 sales units, 1,383 have been completed and made available for occupancy.

Under the 1951 act a total of 65,890 rental units and 21,152 sales units have been approved. Of these, 1,383 rental and 16,152 sales units have been started, and construction is well completed on 19,244 rental and 1,383 sales units.

Of these 20,627 units, 1,383 have been programmed, and 1,602 rental and 408 sales housing units are under construction.

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Stalin Decided

How other members of the Politburo depended on Stalin for decisions came out

Drew Pearson's Merry Go-Round

During a unique conference between Johnston and Stalin, at first Stalin sat glowering behind his desk, doodling with a pencil and answering questions in monosyllables. He was not happy at being interrupted. One of his doodles looked like a woman doing contortions, and seeing it, Johnston asked:

"What is that you are drawing. Generalissimo? Miss America in distress?"

"No, what?"

"Because I'm in distress myself," Johnston replied. "I was invited here as the guest of your government, yet I find myself being treated as an intruder."

Stalin put his pencil down, glowered at his American visitor, then finally said:

"No, Mr. Johnston, I'm a safe old man. There was a time when I was pleasant. But now I have the problems of the Soviet Union, of Soviet production, of the Soviet Air Force all on my shoulders."

"Molotov can afford to be pleasant," Johnston pointed out. "He's got a lot of money. He doesn't have to make decisions. I make them for him."

After the Johnston came relaxed and pleasant, answered all of Johnston's questions. He showed an amazing knowledge of

Eric Johnston Found Malenkov Silent

Industrial production of other countries, and when Johnston asked what Russia intended to do with its new steel output after the war, he replied:

"State automobile. We have a long way to go. You made \$500,000 a year before the war, whereas we made only \$50,000."

"We made only \$500,000 a year," Johnston corrected.

"No, you made \$500,000," Stalin insisted. "I'm a businessman and I should know."

"Have it your own way," replied Stalin, "but the figure is \$500,000."

Later Johnston looked up the figure, including both trucks and automobiles, Stalin was right.

Presidential Golf

THE less said about my golf game, the better. President Eisenhower took a luncheon of 21 Congressmen after he returned from Augusta, Ga. It was a good thing and I was getting pretty good. Then I carried an eight for each of the next four

One of the President's golfing partners, John Haycock Whitney, the famous sportsman, told him that he had a horse, Straight Face, running in the rich Florida Stakes at Hollywood Park on the same day. Straight Face won a record purse of \$116,400.

He had the news when he got back to the club house in Augusta, the President told the Congressmen, "but it didn't excite him. He was the same old horse, worth \$116,400. He must have a lot of money."

There was a period of suspense following the luncheon when the Congressmen were waiting for the President to say what he thought of the horse. The President finally said it was a low floor room number and was being repaired. The looked relieved.

"The pearls are the real thing," he said. "I had it insured for \$500,000."