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REDEVELOPMENT AMENDMENTS NEEDED

THE EVENTS of this week in Raleigh may well determine whether North Carolina cities get a chance to clear away forever the blighted slum areas within their borders.

Up before House Judiciary Committee No. 1 are several amendments to the 1931 Urban Redevelopment enabling act designed to make the law workable. Some of them are technical, and of a minor nature. One is the very heart of redevelopment, and unless the General Assembly approves it, the four city commissions in Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Greensboro and Fayetteville might as well close up shop.

The 1931 act grants the power of eminent domain, surrounded by many safeguards to redevelopment commissions so that they may acquire by condemnation, if they are unable to negotiate the purchase, properties within a blighted area. However, written into the definition of the blighted area, it prohibits condemnation of any single building or tract of vacant land that is not itself blighted. North Carolina is the only one of 39 states with redevelopment enabling acts to have such a provision in their laws.

In the opinion of the attorneys for the redevelopment commissions, this provision will prevent working out plans for redeveloping blighted areas. One or two buildings, or

several small tracts of vacant land, left as "islands" in the middle of an area would disrupt the relaying of utilities, widening of streets, and may well land use designs.

In asking that this restriction be removed from the power of eminent domain, the four commissions are asking only that North Carolina cities have the same chance to clear their slums that cities in 39 other states have.

A second key amendment is concerned with the method of reselling land to private developers. As the law now written, bids must be called for, and the sale made automatically to the highest bidder. The commissions are asking that they be permitted to negotiate through regular real estate dealers with potential purchasers in order that the best possible price and the most suitable use of the cleared slum area can be obtained. They point out that big companies will simply not spend the time and money working out preliminary architectural and engineering plans for major construction if they have to get into competitive bidding.

Both of these amendments are reasonable. With them, the N. C. enabling act would, without them, it will work unsatisfactorily. If at all, they should be approved, in order that North Carolina will not fall behind her sister states in the important task of eliminating blighted areas.

WHAT CHIEF JUSTICE VINSON REALLY SAID

SOME proponents of the Bricker restriction, who would dangerously restrict the President's powers to conduct international affairs, now argue that the amendment should be passed because some Supreme Court justices cited the U. N. Charter in justification of former President Truman's steel seizure. Chief Justice Vinson, who wrote the three-man minority opinion in the steel case, has been represented as saying that U. S. obligations under the Charter, coupled with the President's proclamation of an emergency, justified the seizure of the steel industry, though no statutory authority for the seizure existed.

Chief Justice Vinson did not so contend. He did refer to the U. N. Charter and treaties, noting that "the U. S. was instrumental in securing adoption of the U. N. Charter, approved by the Senate by a vote of 69-2... and that "our treaties represent not merely legal obligations, but show Congressional recognition that mutual security for the free world is the best security against the threat of aggression on a global scale."

HOW THE FBI OPERATES

NOT TOO LONG AGO the term G-man conjured up a vision of a tight-lipped operative cloaking in John Dillinger's name. From the summary the department heads never the FBI—make their evaluation of the individual's fitness for government employment.

FBI men do, however, qualify some of the material in the raw files in preparing the summaries. For example, speaking from their experience with various informants, they may say that the source of some of the material in the raw files is "questionable reliability" or "of doubtful value."

The fact that the FBI receives derogatory information about any individual does not necessarily mean that a file will be set up on him. If the charges appear credible, or if several derogatory reports about an individual are made, the FBI will track down the charges and, if facts seem to warrant it, institute a file on the individual.

Then, when the fingerprints of an applicant for a routine non-sensitive government job are forwarded to the FBI, the bureau checks to see if it has any derogatory information on the individual. If there is none, the applicant is promptly cleared.

However, applicants for many government positions in the so-called "sensitive" agencies, such as the Voice of America and Atomic Energy Commission, must be lawfully investigated by the FBI, even though they know Missouri politics well as the applicant. A full field investigation by the FBI is a quite comprehensive job, often involving about three months' time and inquiries by several agents.

Chief Justice Vinson argued that the seizure was justified by the power of the President to see that the laws are faithfully executed, and he referred to the world crises and the necessity of carrying out programs initiated by Congress as furnishing occasion for the exercise of this Presidential power.

Treaties were referred to only as showing the obligations assumed by the United States in its effort to protect the free world from aggression and to defend itself, which led up to the Congressional programs. There is no mention of an emergency or of any treaty which could of itself enlarge Presidential power.

Incidentally, John W. Davis, who represented the steel companies before the Supreme Court and who presumably understands the steel decision and implications to be drawn from it, has joined Secretary of State Dulles, Attorney General Brownell, Mutual Security Administrator Stassen, Charlotte's Judge John Parker and other knowledgeable authorities in opposition to the Bricker amendment.

These raw files are complete, unexpurgated, partially unverified data on an individual. They include tips the FBI has received, reports on conversations with the individual's friends and business associates, gossip, any hints that may indicate or provide clues for agents probing the person's loyalty. These raw files are guarded zealously by the FBI, because of the damage they could do to the person under investigation as well as to the informant. Senator McCarthy intimated a few weeks ago that he knew what was in Mr. Bohlen's files, and that it was derogatory. However, the FBI claims that it was never had a look from its files.

These raw files are thus summarized by FBI men. Names of informants are deleted in the summary, which accents unfavorable information, draws no conclusions. The sum-

bers of the Legislature to do a better job for the state as a whole. In other words, after a few years of experience with home rule, citizens of one state attach great significance to it. In North Carolina, concern over the numerous proposals now in the lap of the General Assembly may obscure the perspective, now available to Missourians, as to what is really important. Far-sighted state legislators, who may bring home rule to North Carolina cities and counties without a constitutional convention, will thoughtfully consider the long term benefits of home rule in these urgent closing days of the General Assembly.

Overhead: "She belongs to the ages—the middle ages."—Rocky Mount (N. C.) Telegram.

"Next to being shot at and missed, nothing is quite as satisfying as an income tax refund.—Sundersville (Ga.) Progress.

'Let's See — What'll I Look Into Next?'



U.S. Losing Ace Diplomat In Retirement Of Kennan

By JOSEPH E. STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON THE BEST way to illustrate the real meaning of the retirement from government service of George F. Kennan is to take an incident which occurred in mid-Summer, 1947. The Marshall Plan, which had saved Europe from the black incubation stage. A last, crucial question remained to be answered: Should the Soviet Union be invited to join the plan?

Asking the Soviets to join presented certain very great political advantages abroad. Yet, if the Soviets accepted, they could wreck the plan from within. Secretary of State George Marshall advised. Without hesitation, Kennan planned Marshall to ask the Russians to join. There was not, he said, the slightest chance that they would do so.

Marshall decided to accept the risk — and the Kremlin's violent refusal and savage disciplining of the Soviet satellites helped to solidify the West. This was one of this country's first major postwar diplomatic victories.

There are many such examples of the extraordinary prudence of the extraordinary prudence of Kennan. He has repeatedly displayed. Kennan also warned Marshall and others: for instance, that a strong Soviet reaction to the Marshall Plan was inevitable — and he said that this reaction would be a warning to take the form of a Soviet-organized coup in Czechoslovakia. Precisely this took place.

After the Inchon victory in Korea, as these reporters can personally attest, Kennan was almost wholly alone in predicting flatly that either the Russians or the Chinese Communist would enter Korea. He was right. The Chinese were openly if the United Nations effort were pressed close to the Sino-Soviet borders.

More recently, when Kennan was American Ambassador in Moscow last Summer, he reported to the State Department that the existence of a powerful inner group in the Soviet government, which favored a major change in tactics towards the West. He outlined in substance precisely the course the Kremlin is now following. This is not mere crystal-gazing. It derives from a lifetime of experience and study. Perhaps Kennan's most enduring contribution was his brilliant analysis of the nature of the Soviet state, contained in his now famous 1946 word cable from Moscow in 1946. This, remember, was still the

time of the great illusion, when it was still a fashion to believe (notably among those who now make political living denouncing others for "softness towards Communism") to regard the Soviet Union as a conspirator, a power that would behead democracy. In his long cable, which he sent as ambassador of the Moscow Embassy, Kennan warned that the Soviet government was "committed fanatically to the belief that there can be no permanent modus vivendi with the United States. He warned that this government wished to see "our traditional way of life destroyed" and that it would seize any "opportunity of extending Soviet power."

This cable, which is summarized in the Foreword Diaries, is one of the great state papers of our time. By the same token it is a measure of the greatness of the American government in Kennan's retirement.

NO POST OFFERED In the State Department's announcement it was implied that Kennan retired by his own wish. This is true as far as it goes, for Kennan retired by his own wish. The whole truth is that Kennan would certainly have accepted a responsible post if one had been offered him—but none was offered, and this is no doubt understandable.

Through no fault of his own, Kennan has been a victim of the recent campaign. Much semantic nonsense was then spoken and written about the "policy of containment," with which Kennan's name was identified, versus the "policy of liberation" which had been nominated for an important post, the Congressional know-nothings would doubtless have attacked him as an "Acheson stooge" — despite the fact that Kennan resigned as Chief State Department policy planner, largely because he disagreed with certain basic Acheson policies.

With the big battle over, the Administration leaders had no choice but to take the lead in the unequalled knowledge of the Soviet state and the intuitive brilliance of George Kennan as assets which the American government could not replace at any price. It is to the credit of the Administration that it has not so far replaced him as an expert non-political government servant must give his loyalty, not to the government but to the people, and the political party he thinks most likely to win the next election.

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.

A Public Service

WASHINGTON, D. C. Editors: The News: Your editorial entitled "Mr. Hoover's Unwanted Role" which appeared in The Charlotte News on March 31, 1938, has been brought to my attention, and I did not want to let the opportunity pass without expressing my appreciation. You are performing a real public service in bringing facts as they are.

J. EDGAR HOOVER

You Write And They'll Fight

KOREA Editors: The News: I've been in Korea four months and so far have received only six letters from people other than my mother. My buddy feels the same way I do, and we would like to hear from girls from 17 to 20. We are both true. Try Heels and give very proud of our state—at least we were united in receiving a letter from a girl in Durham. She says she doesn't like to write so she asked me to stop writing. I know I don't like to write but you can believe me I don't like to fight. What if we decided to stop fighting like people back home stopped.

PFC. DON R. COCKERHAM, 1249777 FFC. JIMMY W. BROWN, 1286453 Ho. 211st Marine Div. FMF % APO, San Francisco, Calif.

Negroes Urged To Vote

CHARLOTTE Editors: The News: WE are fully aware of the need for more taxicabs in Charlotte and we are aware of why we don't have them. We are in a position to meet every legal requirement to operate taxicabs in Charlotte but we have been denied the right to do so because of the monopoly and peculiar political maneuvering of present councilmen.

We are urging every Negro vote to take the right to operate taxicabs, the right to live and work like other people to the ballot box in this election.

WILSON MORGAN, Chairman Citizens Committee.

Opposes Bricker Amendment

ALEXANDRIA, VA. Editors: The News: Thanks for your excellent editorial on April 6, regarding the proposed Bricker amendment to the Constitution. You sum up the issue in your last sentence: "The Senators who seek passage of the Bricker amendment are wanting in faith, embittered or simply misguided."

And yet I think you prove too much—for you imply that these 64 out of 96 Senators do not represent the American people, us, that is, I think the real trouble is that they do—they reflect us very accurately. If we had not already lost much of our faith, then Senator McCarthy et al. could not have their power. But because we are bored and because we are

Likes The News

GAFFNEY, S. C. Editors: The News: WE are writing to tell you that we really enjoyed your column, "Lenten Guideposts." It was a spiritual blessing, and an inspiration to us. If it is a source of joy to you, please read "Lenten Guideposts" or a column of similar title, but same content, in your paper every day.

Also, we enjoy your feature page. For the last 30 years we have been reading your paper. We highly commend you and your excellent staff for such an enlightening and intelligent paper.

MR. AND MRS. J. B. BROWN AND FAMILY

Traveling Man's Observations

SHELBY Editors: The News: I traveled through North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland. Here are some things I notice. Virginia has car inspection. The people like it. It is a good idea. It can drive any kind of rattle trap on the highway.

You can buy whisky and beer in Virginia and Maryland, and North Carolina's wet counties. You can't in North Carolina's dry counties. But I notice just as many drunk drivers in dry counties.

AN OBSERVER

Paging The Foster Boys

BROOKLYN Editors: The News: I am trying to locate two of my buddies who are against turbulent Joe McCarthy. They are in the 8th Engineers, First Cavalry Division, in Japan and Co. 8th Engineers. Their names are Wallace and Sam Foster. I'd like to get in touch with them.

BILL KOKOL 1971-76th St. Brooklyn, N. Y.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON Margaret Truman does not plan to forsake her singing career, but she does plan to take on an additional career. She is going to follow in the footsteps of her famous father and take up politics.

She has her eye on the Congressional seat left in the old home town, Independence. Mo.—a seat now held by Congressman Jeffrey Phipps. Her man here, who knows Missouri politics well as she does, thinks New York is the best place in which to live, though Mr. Truman would prefer to do it in Washington.

Margaret Truman May Run For Justus

WASHINGTON Young Vice President Nixon was the boy who privately kept his fingers out of the political dice last week and stopped the growing flood of Eisenhower resentment against turbulent Joe McCarthy.

In fact, it was Nixon who threw the administration completely into reverse and managed to cut the ground out from under Security Administrator Harold Stassen after Stassen had delivered the toughest speech against McCarthy yet given by an Eisenhower spokesman.

It was also Nixon, who well before the week-ending had sold the idea of getting along with McCarthy, the Jenners and the Velde. This was early in the Eisenhower administration. But as McCarthy began to pop off his pyrotechnics, and staged his bitter battle against Ambassador Bohlen, White House advisers began to wonder whether Nixon was right.

New Foreign Policy Shift May Slow Allies' Rearing

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON THE CHANGES in basic policy being effected by this Administration are striking deeper than the public has yet begun to realize. In foreign policy it is a shift away from a policy on which the rest of the Truman-Acheson program was founded.

That base was the fixed conviction that a point of maximum danger lay in the word American readiness in terms of Soviet readiness would be greatest in 1954.

That concept of a time of maximum danger is to be put aside. According to all indications, this is the word American readiness will take to the forthcoming NATO meeting in Paris. How revolutionary the step is can be judged from the fact that the whole American emphasis has been on gooding up European readiness in the fastest possible rate for readiness for a time of peril.

With this urgency moved those who have watched the uncertain course of NATO are wondering what forces will bring the organization on the rails and moving toward an indefinite goal of general security. The British are wondering if they give a strong cue to neutrals and others in Western Europe who have not been invited to such a date was necessary.

But quite apart from the new Soviet line, a strong case can be made for this major change of emphasis. To begin with, most of the NATO allies were in recent weeks sent in highly confidential reports to the effect that the requirements for such a program had been too hard and too fast. It has meant an impossible economic strain.

In this there is nothing essentially new. The British have been saying more or less just that for a year or a half or longer. But the fact that the British have said so in the past is not the point. The fact is that the date of readiness for maximum peril was set for 1954.

What is new in the picture is that the European insistence on a slow-down in the pace of an administration in Washington pledged to make substantial economies. This is the word American readiness in terms of Acheson foreign policy.

To go on insisting that the West could not afford to have a program for an agreed-upon buildup is to open the way for a pointed reply that the West cannot afford to have the implication is: if we can't do it, and yet you say we must, then you must pay for it. The Department of State will have been advanced into an indefinite future.

PERSPECTIVE ON HOME RULE

IN 1945 Missouri held a constitutional convention, out of which came a number of changes in the basic structure of the state's government. The other day one of the men who had taken part in these changes was asked which one he considered the most important. His answer: "The provisions which give the people of a community the privilege of determining, themselves, the kind of local government they shall have."

Commenting on and agreeing with this conclusion, the director of the St. Louis Government Research Institute gave the most revealing reply: "These provisions considered home rule so important. The reasons are: 1. The people who live in a community are the ones best qualified to know what kind of government they need and want.

2. Home rule for cities is an effective means of checking the drift toward centralism. Home rule is a vital part of the program to check the drift toward centralism. Home rule is a vital part of the program to check the drift toward centralism.