THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION NEEDS STUDY

THE County School Board having agreed to an election on extending the City school district into the Sharon-Amity section, the final decision now reverts to the residents of the area. Beyond that, however, a broad policy question is involved that will not be settled by this vote.

The pros and cons of the Sharon-Amity controversy have been well aired by the various delegations that have appeared before the city and county school boards. Those who favor joining with the city system and those who favor remaining in the county system have strong convictions, and we doubt that many votes will be changed between now and the Tuesday set aside for the election.

For the rest of us, the issue points up more clearly than before the problem of managing a dual system of schools in a fast-growing metropolitan area.

Will the Sharon-Amity vote become a precedent? Will other fringe areas also ask for elections? If so, will the city school district be extended here and there in salient fragments, until the boundary follows no logical line?

If this should happen, it would only further complicate the already confused pattern of school building projects. Neither the county nor the city could proceed in a very orderly fashion to choose their sites for new buildings if the boundary is to be shifted constantly.

THE NEWS believes that the time has come for the formation of a citizens' committee composed of residents from the city and county which would pursue its own independent study of school consolidation, using the Institute of Government's report as a basis for its study. Two alternatives readily present themselves for consideration:

1. Complete consolidation into one county-wide school system, with one school board and one countywide supplementary tax.

2. Extension of the city school district to include all the fringe area that is essentially urban in character. This line would range up to several miles beyond the city limits in certain places.

Thoughtful consideration of these alternatives, and others, cannot be much longer delayed if the costly school construction program is to be managed wisely, and if higher standards for all the children of Mecklenburg County are to be achieved.

THE CONTROVERSY AT NEWTON GROVE

THIS newspaper's position on the controversy which has grown out of an order to abolish segregation at the Holy Redeemer Church in Newton Grove can be stated very simply.

In general, THE NEWS is in sympathy with any action that tends to break down racial prejudices and make the Brotherhood of Man more of a reality.

It believes, further, that race prejudice must be overcome in the churches before it can ever be overcome in secular life.

At the same time, we hold to the conviction that prejudices cannot be legislated or ordered out of existence by higher authority, either secular or religious, and that the only true development of the human spirit and the human personality in this sphere comes from within.

From the religious standpoint, the Newton Grove controversy is a matter for the Catholic Church. The Church has a perfect right to set any policy it wishes for the conduct of its services.

From the secular standpoint, it is essential that peace and order be preserved at all times. When a group of men tried to force their way in the church to talk to Bishop Waters of the Raleigh diocese, serious trouble threatened, but was avoided when a priest barred their way and persuaded them to see Bishop Waters in pairs.

It is the duty of local and state authorities to preserve the freedom of worship without outside interference. Until emotions in the Newton Grove area have calmed down, the necessary arrangements should be made to prevent further disturbances on or near the premises of the church.

UNEXPECTED DIVIDEND FROM TRAINING ROKS

DURING the campaign last year, Republican orators urged that the training of South Korean troops be stepped up vigorously and that ROK units be used exclusively to man the front lines in the Korean War. By this step they hoped to hold further American casualties to an absolute minimum.

Much progress had already been made in the training of ROK units by the time the U. S. election campaign got under way. And, presumably, the pace has been even faster since January. Currently, however, the United Nations command has received an unexpected dividend from the policy. The South Korean Government, having strong forces at its disposal, does not like the latest U. N. compromise proposal, and threatens to use its forces to prevent the proposal from being carried out.

The Syngman Rhee government objects basically to any truce that would leave Korea divided. When Rhee was informed of the terms of the compromise, he ordered Maj. Gen. Choi Duk Shin to boycott the meeting of the truce delegation at which the terms of the compromise were given to the Communists. And his government has said that the minimum terms it will accept must include the immediate withdrawal of all Chinese troops from North Korea, and the outright release of 32,600 North Korean prisoners who don't want to return to Red territory. Still later, South Korea threatened to use its troops to prevent the landing of Indian forces which, under the compromise, would administer the repatriation settlement.

Yesterday President Rhee sent the U. S. a four-point proposal which amounted to this: You promise to give us military and economic aid so we can fight on, then we will agree to a truce. Apparently President Eisenhower addressed a sharp note to Rhee in reply, for this morning the Korean sounds chastened, in a mood for compromise.

He may continue to tax Eisenhower's skill as a negotiator. President Rhee is a fiery super-patriot, and he appears to have the full backing of his people. Further, he is a man of strong will. And he has strong and vocal supporters in the U. S. Congress.

Somehow, the conflicting viewpoints must be brought into harmony before any truce can be effective or lasting. If sacrifice and the number of casualties are to govern a nation's voice in the U. N. talks, South Korea certainly deserves to be consulted fully. But Syngman Rhee must be made to realize that so long as the United Nations is in charge of the fighting, he cannot dictate policy. After all, had it not been for the United Nations, and more particularly the United States, Rhee would be in exile today, with no government and no Army and no hope of having either any time soon.

LONG LIVE DEPT.

SEVERAL zillions of words on the subject having already been poured out to the American audience by press and radio, we shall content ourselves today with the briefest of comments on the London coronation.

We're happy that the English are having such a big time today. They deserve it, after all these years of war and austerity.

We like Queen Elizabeth, think she's an exceptionally fine lady and that she'll make an exceptionally dignified and popular Queen of the British Empire.

For her, we wish much good luck and happiness. And for her people, we hope that better days are ahead.

From The New York Herald Tribune

WALK AROUND THE TREE

THE case of the two sugar maples in Greenwich presents a problem in human values. The facts seem simple enough: the huge trees obstructed the sidewalk. Pedestrians had to walk around at the curb's edge, with resultant protests that this was a menace to safety. The exact amount of danger seems to have been very much a matter of individual opinion. But to all those people who do not like to be pushed around, even by a tree, and who like the convenience of a straight line, there was no doubt. The trees had to go.

In Greenwich, however, there are citizens who sometimes prefer to leave things as they are—especially trees. They contended that it was not absolutely essential to cut down the maples. It was always possible to keep on walking around. This seems little enough discomfort. The trees, after all, were there first. As between trees and unimpeded sidewalk, the tree lovers were willing to compromise. It was a small price to pay for a pair of 70-year-old maples. This view has been fortunately upheld by Tree Warden Joseph A. Dietrich, a unique dispenser of arboreal justice, who examined all the evidence and decided that the trees should stay —at least for the time being.

Apparently there is some fear that the trees may yet have to give way to the New England Thruway. But that is uncertain. Perhaps a super highway cannot bend around so easily, which is something for the engineers to think about. Yet the old sugar maples have won at least one victory. In Greenwich it has been affirmed that man's progress is not necessarily in a straight line. It is always possible, for instance, to walk around the tree.

A Swiss Mountain climbing expedition recently gave up trying to scale Mt. Everest, something over five miles high. Here at home, our Mt. Spending (budget expenditures, Federal, in fiscal 1952) if translated into a stack of silver dollars, would tower majestically 98,000 miles high.—*Tax Outlook.*

A cheese maker says that if it weren't for cheese, apple pie would not be such a popular dish. Just like, if it weren't for the 19th hole in golf, the other 18 would be much less attractive.—*Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.*

Now is the time to be trying to recall who it was that borrowed your garden spade.—*Laurel (Miss.) Leader-Call.*

'Sometimes I Wonder What's In Those Darn Things'

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.

Firemen Grateful

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE Mecklenburg County Volunteer Firemen's Association is indeed grateful for the coverage your newspaper gave the recent celebration of Volunteer Fire Department Week.

Through the press and over the air waves, thousands of persons read and heard of the Volunteers, and the surrounding communities became better acquainted with their respective departments. And in the parade they saw for the first time the many pieces of fire-fighting equipment used for their protection. They saw men who are well-trained, who are specialists in their departments and who take great pride in community protection and betterment.

The success of the event has resulted in a large increase of paid memberships. But there are many more persons in the county who should support financially their Volunteers. They should buy a membership now. The Volunteers have shown that they deserve the support of the people of Mecklenburg County. The memberships cost so little and the results are enormous.

—MALCOLM E. GLENDENNING,
Chairman, Volunteer Week.

Note Of Appreciation

HUNTERSVILLE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE publicity committee, the principal, faculty and students of the Huntersville High School, wish to express to The Charlotte News and its editorial staff, our sincere appreciation for the news coverage given to the happenings and programs of our school.

—I. T. GRAHAM, Principal
Mrs. Fannie Wallace, Publicity Chr.

Taft's View On Korea Explained

PITTSBORO

Editors, THE NEWS:

THERE are two items on your editorial page of May 29 that interests me. Any honor that comes to Judge John J. Parker both interests and pleases me . I have known him for now 49 years, was one year behind him at Carolina and roomed in the middle entrance of the Old East building with him for four years. The Di and Phi Societies at Carolina reflected honor upon themselves in honoring him. And your editorial re President Eisenhower's "soft answer, but firm" to Senator Taft's Cincinnati speech is also interesting.

Now, there is no hard and fast formula by which to judge the value and correctness of man's judgment or wisdom. I am willing to admit that the timing of Taft's speech may have been bad, though future events may prove it to have been most timely. However, you have treated the matter with becoming dignity in comparison with some editorial expressions that I have read, as some have described the speech as the "gutteral utterances of a frustrated, old man".

It so happens that I am in general accord with what Senator Taft said in the Cincinnati speech. If I were not, it would be both unwise and unfair to conclude that what he said was an expression of a tired and frustrated man. Senator Taft has made a place for himself in the life of this country and he has done it the hard way. In attaining his current political stature he has been forced to fight every inch of the way. Most of the time the fighting has been against great odds, against political trends that were tidal in their sweep and force; but he has always won except in his bids for the Presidency.

Now, I definitely recall Senator Taft's opposition to the Lend-Lease aid for Russia, and, having been unsuccessful in his efforts to persuade President Roosevelt not to give if, he went on the air and warned the people that aid to Russia would not only not advance the cause of freedom anywhere, but that it would endanger that which already existed. He spoke even better than he knew; he spoke as a prophet. He has never advocated going it alone in the sense of what is generally designated "isolationism". He has always been willing to co-operate in the advancement of freedom. Like Washington, he has been opposed to entangling alliances by which our freedom of choice and action has been denied.

But why should he be bound and shackled because he said we should by-pass the U. N. in our dealing with the Korean situation? To date, we have furnished more than 12/13 of the material, and, barring the South Koreans, more than 12/13 of the manpower in waging the Korean war. I think he was merely stating that we continue doing what we have done thus far, but in the future without the handicapping restrictions of the U.N.

Certainly, he was only being factual when he reminded us that we had by-passed the U.N. in the defense structure of Europe, for by no stretch of the imagination can NATO be considered the U.N's child. He does not wish to destroy the U.N.; but he is unwilling to let the American people remain under the delusion that the U.N. can preserve the peace in the world. It is nothing more than an international clearing house, which, as such, may be very useful.

This further: Since Red China entered the Korean war the latter part of 1950 there has been no objective to the fighting there other than wearing down the Reds until they were ready to call it a day, that is, until the Reds became sick of the slaughter. This, of course, meant that we were willing to quit the fray where it began—substantially at the 38th parallel, leaving the country bisected. This meant that every life subsequently sacrificed on both sides was literally for nothing. But we built up the South Koreans into a real fighting force and much of the defense line was then taken over by the South Koreans, and all this was done without disclosing to the South Koreans that all hope of uniting the country under their leadership had been abandoned, though that was the objective as set out in the U.N. resolution at the beginning of the war. Furthermore, we sent our last and final truce proposals to the Reds without consultation as to the terms thereof with the South Koreans or even their knowledge of what they were.

Actually, this is perfidy, for which I have no vocabulary adequately to describe. I never dreamed that my country could do such a thing. What, oh God!, are we coming to?

—JOHN W. HESTER.

Germans Wonder About Nazi Methods Employed By U. S.

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

PROBABLY the best way to begin this report is to explain who the July 20 Germans are. In brief, they are the survivors of the group of German staff officers and other still-independent-minded patriots who shared in the plot to kill Adolf Hitler on July 20, 1944.

Most of the men of July 20 were executed in the last great blood purge, after Colonel Von Stauffenberg's briefcase-bomb failed to achieve its purpose. Those who live on are among the very few Germans who never for a moment lost their power to look the world in the eye as free men, without groveling, or whining, or bombast.

One of these men of July 20, who is a friend of these reporters, came to Washington the other day. He is a violent and intense man, passionately German, passionately anti-totalitarian, passionately European too. He still bears the harsh marks of the wounds he suffered on the Russian front; yet his constant pain seems to mean nothing to him. Building a free German future has been almost his only preoccupation since the war ended.

In this task, he has lost himself and forgotten his own losses; and because of this curious quality of dedication, he commands a very special respect in the small and somewhat ingrowing political community of the West German capital of Bonn.

Being magnificently impatient of the progress that always seems to him too slow, he is a ruthless critic of Germany. Yet he has never fallen into the common European habit of blaming his country's post-war ills on the unwisdom of Americans. It was all the more surprising then, to find him suddenly preoccupied with American rather than German problems.

'HAVE YOU GONE MAD?'

"What has happened in this country?" he burst out, almost before greetings had been exchanged. 'Have you gone mad?"

Why did he ask such an extraordinary question, was the only possible reply. Thus checked, he explained himself in a calm tone that only made his words more mordant.

Germans like himself, he said, had inevitably experienced mixed emotions when "You Americans set out to teach democracy to the German people." There was the humiliation of being instructed. There was also the occasional vulgarity and silliness of the teaching, "for you cannot 'sell' a love of freedom." Yet for his part, he admitted, the experience was valuable and even inspiring.

"You did foolish things, but you did good things too," he said, "and one felt, at least that these Americans, preaching freedom and democracy to us, truly and deeply believed what they preached. For them, one was sure, there would never come the knock on the door, the unjust accusation, the life of the inquisitor-state."

But now, he accusingly asked, what has been happening in Bonn? In the American community there, the inquisitor-state is hard at work. The secret police, whose evils were once the highest theme of the de-Nazifiers, now haunt the American government's official representatives. Agents of the American government ask the German servants of American officials to spy upon their masters. Germans as well as Americans are called for interrogation—are even bullied and threatened — to secure evidence that America's representatives in Germany are men unworthy of their trust.

"What do you suppose we Germans think," he inquired, with quiet irony, "when we see and hear these things? How are we to feel when the de-Nazifiers Nazify themselves before our eyes? It is a small city, Bonn, and everything that is done is known. The cook says in the market that the new American Gestapo has asked her to tell lies about her master and mistress, or it gets about some other way. We Germans know."

It did not help much to explain that these were the manifestations of the State Department's security program, directed by authorized security officers. The Germans, the answer came back, had heard this sort of explanation before. And what had been the results of this new American security program?

Charles Thayer, the first American diplomat in Bonn, who came when the new government was struggling to establish itself, and soon acquired such influence that he was a not inconsiderable figure in German politics in his own right, had been railroaded into resigning. So had Theodore Kaghan, the best and wisest information officer the Americans ever sent to Germany. And John Davies, who had so completely won the confidence of Chancellor Adenauer's staff, had been exiled to Peru.

"Remember," he burst out, "We Germans in the Bundestag and in the ministries and in the press do not grow intimate with your Clays and McCloys and Conants. They are too busy. But we know the Thayers and the Kaghans and the Davies; and we know you have driven out your three best men. What are we to think of that?"

There was no answer to that particular question. There was no answer, either, to the horrified inquiry of a foreign representative here in Washington, who was called upon by the local gumshoes, and subjected to sharp questioning about the loyalty and security of the head of the American delegation to the United Nations, Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.. And John J. McCloy has no answer, either, to the many troubled Germans who are now writing him, to ask whether America has forgotten what freedom means. But it is time that such questions should be answered, and by deeds, not words.

Lobbies Locked In Struggle Over Trade Agreement Act

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON

THE FATE of America's reciprocal trade program appears to hinge largely on the outcome of a tooth-and-nail lobby fight now reaching its climax.

This battle is between interests seeking as-is extension of the 19-year-old Trade Agreements Act, and high-tariff advocates who are making their biggest pitch in a decade for new trade restrictions.

Time is running out on the present Trade Act, which lapses June 12. As the deadline neared, neither the House nor Senate had acted to extend it. Some of the seven earlier extensions of the program, begun in 1934 under the leadership of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, produced bitter floor fights and the current bid for a turn to greater "protection" seems likely to touch off one that, when it comes, may top them all.

Expiration of the current law would not affect the 38 U. S. agreements which have been negotiated with 50 nations, but would remove the President's authority to enter into new ones.

Paradoxically, many high-tariff interests want part of the present law continued. These are the "escape clause" and "peril point" provisions, under which industry can seek adjustment in existing tariffs which it feels are "injurious."

These interests are plugging right up to the deadline for enactment of a bill sponsored by Rep. Kenneth M. Simpson (R-Pa.). It would extend the Act one year, but provide import quotas on oil, lead and zinc, and place new restrictions on the President's power to negotiate lower duties.

LEADS "RECORD" EFFORT

Important in the current fight for passage of the Simpson bill is a brand-new group called the Nationwide Committee of Industry, Agriculture and Labor on Import-Export Policy.

Headed by J. R. Strackbein, an ex-Tariff Commission official, this group was organized March 21 for the specific purpose of making "the largest effort on record" to block tariff reduction.

It includes some small and medium sized businesses, and certain farm and labor interests, who fear import competition — particularly since they believe a domestic recession is possible.

Leaders of this group are said to have been consulted in the drafting of the Simpson bill, which reportedly incorporates the views of the protectionist industries.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

BOB JOHNSON, former head of Temple University, now head of the Voice of America, last week told President Eisenhower the following story about the difference between irritation, aggravation, and frustration.

"Two Marines were celebrating rather late at night," Johnson told Ike, "when one of them heard the other knew the difference between irritation, aggravation, and frustration.

"'No,' replied the second Marine.

"'Well, I'll show you the difference,' said the other, and it being 2 A. M., he picked up the telephone and dialed Oliver 2-2525. A sleepy voice answered the phone, and the Marine said, 'is Mr. Goldberg there?'

"'You've got the wrong number,' said the voice and hung up.

"'That,' explained the Marine, 'is irritation.'

"Fifteen minutes later he dialed the same number and the same sleepy re-awakened voice answered. Again the Marine asked: 'is Mr. Goldberg there?'

"'I told you Mr. Goldberg didn't live here. Now don't bother me any more I want to sleep.'

"'That,' explained the Marine, 'is aggravation.'

"Fifteen minutes later, the Marine dialed the same number. This time he asked: 'Are there any messages there for Mr. Goldberg?'

"'Go to hell!' replied the voice.

"'And that,' explained the Marine, 'is frustration.'

"And that," continued Voice of America Director Johnson to Eisenhower, "is exactly the way I feel."

Hustle Vs. Frustration

WHEN Robert Livingston Johnson was a hustling vice-president of Time Magazine, and later a bustling president of Temple University, he never worried about red tape. When he saw something that needed doing, he did it. He might have been irritated but never frustrated.

Reporting to Eisenhower after weeks of trying to see him, Johnson told him how he was now stymied by red tape, wanted to take the State Department's propaganda and information services out of the State Department, set them up as an independent agency.

What Johnson didn't tell the President was that six times he had threatened to resign as a result of vacillation over whether he would remain under the State Department or become his own boss.

Here is the complicated story of what Johnson has been up against:

Congressman Taber of New York, the renowned GOP economizer, and his GOP colleague, Four Cliff Clevenger of Ohio, have decided that the Voice of America and the State Department's propaganda activities should remain in the State Department. They think Johnson is doing a poor job, argue that setting up a separate agency would create duplication, overlapping, cost more money. And since these two Congressmen dominate the House Appropriations Committee they have a lot to say about reorganization.

But Johnson has been cuddling up to Senator McCarthy, has McCarthy's OK to transfer most of his propaganda activities to an independent agency by Presidential decree. This would need no act of Congress, would go to McCarthy's committee for emphatic approval.

But, though McCarthy encourages the transfer, some of Johnson's advisers point out that he has to get along with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which passes on all foreign policy matters and which has already recommended that the Voice remain in the State Department. Johnson, therefore, is being urged not to bypass and offend the Foreign Relations Committee.

These are some of the problems he threshed out with the President. Eisenhower gave an immediate OK, authorized an executive order taking all propaganda activities out of the State Department.

What Johnson may not realize, however, is that, whether he works through McCarthy or through the Foreign Relations Committee whether he is under the State Department or independents, in any case he will need appropriations. And when his budget comes before the House Appropriations Committee, penny-pinching Chairman Taber indicates privately that he will assign the matter to a subcommittee. That subcommittee will consist of the same unfriendly Congressmen—Taber and Clevenger.

Meanwhile, with only 29 days left before the fiscal year expires, not one cent has been appropriated by Congress for the Voice of America, for student exchange, for the information services or any other propaganda activity.

No wonder Dr. Johnson is irritated, aggravated, and frustrated.

VOA Chief Exasperated By Red Tape