

Offstreet Parking Amendment A 'Must'

IN ITS APPROACH to a proposed off-street parking amendment to the zoning ordinance, the City Council is showing a traditional reluctance to tackle tough and controversial issues.

The first draft of the amendment was presented to the Council on Wednesday. It was discussed briefly, then laid aside for consideration at some indefinite future time. But in the past several months of the Council are cool to the idea of a rigid, realistic amendment and will insist on a watered-down version or nothing.

If there is any one clear lesson to be learned from the short discussion, it is that failure to require offstreet parking facilities in the past has been both costly and inconvenient to urban taxpayers. Moreover, in the larger cities, it has caused a sharp drop in midtown property values, usually the most productive source of municipal tax revenues.

It is an expensive process to go back and provide offstreet parking facilities in commercial and business sections that

are already heavily settled. Many American cities have been forced to take the step, and it is inevitable that Charlotte will have to do the same thing sooner or later.

But the creation of new parking problems at the fringe of the expanding midtown business district and in the new suburban business centers can be easily and painlessly avoided by requiring each establishment to provide its own offstreet parking facilities according to a fair and reasonable formula.

That is the proposal now before the Council. It is sound municipal planning. It also would be good business for the developer of such property, even though his initial investment be increased accordingly. Proof of that fact may be seen in the thumping success of retail establishments in this community that have had the foresight to provide their customers plenty of space for parking.

In the past, realistic plans for solving the parking problem have been permitted to gather dust at City Hall. The new amendment deserves a better fate.

Car Inspection Should Be Tried Again

SEVEN YEARS AGO the N. C. General Assembly passed a car inspection law. It lasted only until the legislature next met, two years later. There was one main reason why the law was repealed. It was poorly administered. Car owners grew angry while waiting for hours on end in inspection lanes.

However, poor administration of a law does not preclude its necessity. ACCIDENT FACTS reports that about six per cent of the vehicles involved in the 22,600 accidents next met, two years later. There was one main reason why the law was repealed. It was poorly administered. Car owners grew angry while waiting for hours on end in inspection lanes.

Both the car inspection law and reform of the jaypee system deserve vigorous advocacy. Both, we trust, will be included in the successful Mecklenburg candidates for the General Assembly.

A Way To Solve One Budget Problem

COUNTY Commissioner Sam McNeill's call for a job classification system for the county government is in order. The proposal is not new. It has been endorsed by all the present members of the Board of County Commissioners. It is the only feasible way to (1) remove inequities in the present salary schedule, and (2) free the county fathers from the recurring pressure for pay increases from disgruntled employees.

The practicality of the job classification system for county employees has already been demonstrated in Guilford County, where the system has worked well for several years. In fact, the Guilford plan would be a good starting point for fashioning a job classification system for Mecklenburg.

On Building A Sandbox

THE sound of lumber tossed on lumber was like the dinner evening bell. No sooner had the unloading begun than the backyard was filled with boys and girls of all ages, sizes, shapes. They were dirty and clean, anxious and hopeful, wise and patient.

The project was a simple one: the spring task of building a sandbox. It was an uncomplicated bit of construction. The requirements: Two pieces of six-foot planking, two four-foot pieces, a couple of corner braces, a few 10-penny nails, a bucket of red paint.

Or so it seemed. One missing ingredient: know-how. The neighbor's kids, the neighbor's neighbors' kids, their cousins and pals and school chums—all of them had a way to build it or knew a way Dad did it better.

PROTEST, CHALLENGE, QUESTION

IN A morning class recently with William Jones, the stimulating visiting journalism lecturer who is editor of the FRANKLIN PRESS, we were excited by a male student who said: "What difference does it make about Indochina? We're all going there to be killed anyway."

"The difference," we thought, is a vast one. It is reflected in the expressed attitude of the average citizen's feeling today—and the average student's feeling, too—that the government is something far away and uninvolved. That we, the directed, cannot challenge. The director, even though we disagree. This is a lonely fatalism which says we are propelled and guided without our consent.

Then we reflected on how conditioned we have become to accepting the government's word: about Korea, Indochina, communism, atomic energy—in other words, those vital areas that mean

Hard Drinking Kenyans Are Angry, Armed And Nervous

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NAIROBI, Kenya—PERHAPS the toughest town in the world today, in any way, is this little African city, which has for more than a year been the nucleus around which the vicious war with the Mau Mau has raged.

Kenya was always known as a tough piece of terrain, settled by tough people who lived hard and drank heavy. They occasionally shot each other or themselves in a fit of high spirits, and they always took the town apart on Saturday nights when they came in from their coffee gardens or cattle ranches or tea plantations.

But now, since the advent of the Mau Mau reign of terror, it's a real roly-poly town. The altitude always abated short tempers, which have now been whetted by nervous tension, overcrowding, and the presence of troops, police, reserve soldiers and refugee families.

The men are off on commando, or trying to work their crops short-handedly, or the women wearing guns, are trying to carry on while the menfolk are away in the bush.

CITY BOOMING
 Yet, the city growth has sprouted. Its traffic is unbelievable, and new buildings are popping up everywhere. Its prices, as they always do in wartime concentrations, have leaped commensurately.

Mingled with the anger is despair, because there has yet been no clear way out of the mess, and no indication that there may be. The most recent government attempt at settlement has been abandoned as useless.

In the end, they are clawing at the problem piecemeal, and it was published early in February more, bickering more, and, sometimes, weeping more. It is a sad city. Not even, however, everybody does put on a dinner jacket on Saturday nights, and go forth to tear up the town.

Jenkins, Hensel Unknown Quantities In Army Fuss

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
A MEMBER of the Senate subcommittee which is investigating the McCarthy Army disloyalty has received a pile of mail containing suggestions for the conduct of the hearings. He sends his correspondents a form reply as follows:

"I am grateful for your interest. I know of no way to set up a hearing which will insure that the bull in the china shop will break only the blue china."

"This is one way of expressing what all the subcommittee members accept as fact. It is that a United States senator is a hard nut to restrain at best, and when he is Joseph R. McCarthy who has never displayed any terminal illness whatsoever, it is next to impossible, rules or no rules."

In short, the senators expect McCarthy to carry on as before unless he should be persuaded that it was hurting him to do so.

Democratic strategy in the hearings will be directed at only two things:

1. Making an awful hash of the atmosphere in which the public will get to see, hear and read all about it. No matter how rough the going becomes, the minority will expect executive sessions.

2. Giving both sides equal rights in the hearing, by allowing the Army to take the same liberties McCarthy does.

So far there are only two new and unknown quantities in the picture. One is the picturesque subcommittee counsel from the Times, the columnist Ray H. Jenkins. The other is the fireproof in McCarthy's last-minute diversionary attack on Assistant Defense Secretary H. Struve Hensel.

A big man physically and a big frog in his little puddle, Jenkins just conceivably could become a popular voice of conscience in this inquiry in the manner of the late Sen. Tobey in the Kefauver-Crime Committee hearings. Like Tobey, Jenkins has a homespun personality which befits such a role. He has said that he has his own "hot" can down here from the mountains to get the truth.

A somewhat more sophisticated senator did a double take on that one but it now is almost ready to be let. It is to the counsel's advantage also that he is a fresh face in this weary capital.

Hensel, McCarthy's new target, held important Navy posts both in the Roosevelt and Truman administrations. He left here in 1946 but returned as general counsel to the defense segment in 1953 and was nominated by President Eisenhower Feb. 17 as assistant defense secretary.

The mysterious charge against him by McCarthy is substantial and pivots on the grave accusation that he used his Republican connections to enrich himself in wartime.

Hensel's former Democratic associates will be brave about his present trouble with a Republican senator. In a recent issue of the Harvard Business Review, Mr. Hensel's former superior, a Republican letter to the new President who had brought him back to Washington. It took the form of an article telling how wonderful it was to be in the Defense Department these Republican days. Comparisons with the past were freely drawn, all odious.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
THE secret of the Atom bomb was carefully guarded at Los Alamos, but not more so than the whereabouts of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the man who presided over Los Alamos. Five life magazine photographers and newsmen have been scouting the area where Oppie is supposed to be hiding out, but so far not a hair of his shaggy mane has been seen.

All week the Oppenheimer loyalty hearing has been taking place in Washington, but there nobody knew the whereabouts of the doctor himself can be located.

Lloyd Garrison, attorney for the atomic scientist, just as mysteriously as his client. He shuns hotels, is hidden out in a private residence, goes occasionally to the home of his partner, ex-Attorney Counselor Randolph Paul. Photographers have finally hit on the strategy of looking for him at Paul's office to talk him home.

However, though the Oppenheimer hearings are a better-kept secret than the hydrogen bomb, word has leaked out that the three-panel board has been giving Oppie a rough time. First, they raised Cain with him for releasing the secret his reply to Atomic Energy Commission charges—though it had been specified in writing that he had every right to do so. The White House also was irked at the release. So now they have demanded that Oppenheimer be like the proverbial brass monkeys—say nothing, do nothing, see nothing.

Two key witnesses at the hearing have been Gen. Leslie Groves, wartime head of the entire atomic energy project; and Gen. Fred Osborn, U. S. delegate to the Atomic Energy Commission. Both were former favorites to Oppenheimer. Osborn testified that when he was appointed to the Atomic Commission, he was sure that the Russians were trying to steal the secret of the atom bomb and to be on his guard.

Washington Pipeline
 Pentagon reports persist that a deal is in the works to save face for Joe McCarthy. Roy Cohn, brilliant burbling counsel of the McCarthy committee, got the ax, also John G. Adams, counsel for the Army. Adams' skirts are in clear view on one thing. His sense of humor has a low boiling point. He'll wince at the drop of a paper clip. And his wisecracks, when recorded on tape, are like telephone wires, don't come over as wisecracks. Some of them are going to come out in Senate hearings and may embarrass the Army.



The New Tar Heel History

By WALTER SPEARMAN

IN THE STATE OF North Carolina, it should be Dr. Hugh Talmage Lefler, who has taught history, North Carolina and American, to North Carolina students for 23 years and has now written a book about it in collaboration with the late Dr. Albert Bay Newsome.

The book is "North Carolina—The History of a Southern State," published by the University of North Carolina Press.

HIS NORTH CAROLINA
 When asked "What do you consider the essential characteristics of North Carolina?" Dr. Lefler traces back through the various periods covered in his 675-page book. "A spirit of independence has characterized North Carolina from the beginning," he said. "Several governors under the Proprietors were forced out of office by angry citizens. On April 12, 1776, North Carolina took the first official state action for independence from England. From the close of the American Revolution until about 1835, North Carolina was extremely backward economically, socially, and culturally. But from 1835 to 1860 the state surged forward. Railroads and plank roads were built; old cities were reborn; new ones began; public schools began; colleges were founded, and the state universally achieved national prominence. North Carolina led the world in the production of naval stores for more than a century; it was the leading gold state for a half-century, and it contributed bright leaf tobacco to the world.

After the Civil War North Carolina was sometimes called the 'Rip Van Winkle State' but in the twentieth century there was an urgent surge of progress. North Carolina became the 'Good Roads State' as well as the nation's leading producer of tobacco, and the Speaker of the House in 1901. In many respects, it became the leading state of the South in both agriculture and industry."

SMALL FARMERS
 "North Carolina has always been essentially a region of small farms," he said. "It is politically more democratic than most states. It was less aristocratic than Virginia, and less dominated by plantation aristocracy. It has been a state of low per capita income because of the large number of small subsistence farms and the fact that its leading industries are generally low-paying."

"North Carolina has over-emphasized cotton and tobacco. It produces food but does not have enough food processing industries to raise the per capita income."

"North Carolina has never had a first-class port like Norfolk or Charleston or a good east-west railway. It has the most dangerous coastline on the Atlantic. A lot of the 'nature's handiworks' have made transportation difficult. This is one of the reasons so few foreign-born have made their way into the state."

But the state is beginning to wake up, Dr. Lefler declares. In the closing chapters of the new history he and Dr. Newsome laid great stress on the economic and social progress of North Carolina during the twentieth century. In an effort to present a "balanced" history of the state, they included developments in agriculture, industry, transportation, trade, education, religion, literature and social life as well as the state's political and military history.

"We did not try to 'debunk' history," says Dr. Lefler. "We have simply tried to present an accurate narrative of the origin and growth of North Carolina, its institutions and its people. As far as practicable we have let the state speak for itself by numerous short and pertinent quotations from active participants in the state's development."

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People's Platform News Helped Promote Political Responsibility

Charlotte
Editors, The News:
AS we near the end of the first year of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte, I would like to express our appreciation for your consistent cooperation throughout the year.

We have had the benefit of your sympathetic coverage of our program on all three levels, national, state and local. We recognize this as a valuable contribution to the furtherance of our purpose: "To promote a political reconstruction through the informed and active participation of citizens in government."

—MRS. W. LAWRENCE MASON
 President

Physicist, Loyalty Board 'Disappeared'

Roly-poly Sen. Mundt of South Dakota has announced that the charges against the Army, Roy Cohn, and Sen. McCarthy are acts of corruption punishable by law.

However, the general gentleman from South Dakota did not study law at Carleton College. Like Dick Nixon, he majored in public speaking and is today president of the National Forensic League, editor of The Rostrum, and associate editor of the Speaker's Bureau. He is using his forensic talents in the tough job of presiding over the McCarthy probe, he should also retain a good legal adviser to see how many laws Cohn, McCarthy and the Army may have violated. If so, he will find that they may well have violated no fewer than 12 different statutes. Here are part of them:

Section 1505 of the criminal code makes it a criminal offense "by threats or force" to endeavor "to influence, intimidate, or impede any witness in any proceeding . . . in connection with any inquiry or investigation being held by either House or any committee of either House." Messrs. McCarthy's and Cohn's threat that the Army would get smeared unless Dr. Secretary Stevens would lose his job if Private Schine was not transferred back to New York, would seem to come under section 1505.

Section 1913 forbids use of government funds "to pay for any personal service . . . intended or designed to influence or attempt to influence any member of Congress." If either Secretary Stevens or Army Counsel Adams gave any special favors to Pvt. Schine, this statute might be involved.

Section 371, as interpreted by the Supreme Court in Haas vs. Hankel, "1946," covers any conspiracy, "with the purpose of impairing, obstructing or defeating the lawful functions of any department of government." If Pvt. Schine's military duty was used as a power in negotiations between McCarthy and Stevens, this section may have been involved.

Section 201 covers offers of any "thing of value" to influence either a government department or a congressional committee. If Adams was offered a valuable law partnership as indicated in the allegations, in return for transferring Schine, this section might have been violated.

Section 205, 215, and 217, cover the same question of influencing a government official with a job offer, such as a law partnership.

Section 873 covers extortion. If McCarthy's charge that Pvt. Schine was held as a "hostage" is true, then extortion would be involved.