FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1954

'An Opportunity For Gov. Umstead

IT IS QUITE APPARENT that the U. S. Senatorial primary campaign prompted Gov. William Umstead's decision to delay appointing a successor to the late Clyde R. Hoey. Now more than two weeks have gone by. The list of potential appointees has grown to large proportions. And there are some good men on the list.

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of potential appointees has grown to large proportions. And there are some good men on the list.

In his previous appointments, Gov. Umstead seems to have placed greatest emphasis on loyalty to him and activity in his behalf. That is an established rule of politics, with origins dating back to the beginnings of the modern American party system, but it is not always productive of the best possible appointments. And like every rule, it should not be inviolate.

The appointment of a successor to Mr. Hoey calls for more than personal loyalty. Not in recent petitical history has the United Euqualities that make for states with the state of the state of

position of influence. He should have a mind that is elastic enough to be stretched around the many complex issues of the day and yet agile enough to parry the thrusts of senatorial debate. He should have established, by his own record, that he will be a success at whatever task his hands are turned to. He must be a vote-getter, if he is to be re-elected. He should have the courage of his convictions, and yet understand the art of compromise. And he should have, along with all this, a healthy sense of humor and the knack of making himself popular.

There may be several men on the list of potential appointees who meet most, if not all, of these qualifications. And it is with no intent to disparage any of them that we suggest to Gov. Umstead, and to the people of North Carolina, that Robert Lassiter Jr. of Charlotte possesses them in generous measure. In fact, it is he, precisely, whom we have been describing.

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fact, it is he, precisely, whom we have been describing.
Young (42), vigorous, with a big and agile mind, a success scholastically and athletically at Yale University, a Navy flyer in World War II, a popular and influential member of the N. C. House of Representatives, head of a fast-growing law firm, Bob Lassiter is made of the stuff that the U. S. Senate needs. And he not only looks good on paper, he looks good in the flesh.

In commending Bob Lassiter to Gov. Umstead, we speak from the conviction that he is unexcelled in the field of potential appointees.

It's The Voters' Public Trust

A FAMILIAR PHRASE, particularly A around election time, is that "public office is a public trust". It apparently derived from a phrase used by President Grover Cleveland. He said that "Your every oter, as surely as your chief magistrate, exercises a public trust". His remark was a truism that is not fully appreciated in North Carolina. And it isn't appreciated in Mecklenburg County as fully as in other parts of the state.

County as fully as in other parts of the state.

In the 1952 general election, 87 per cent of the eligible voters in sparsely-settled Utah went to the polls. But only 82.53 per cent of the eligible North Carolinians made the trip. In Transylvania County, 92.50 per cent of the eligible voters turned out. But here in Mecklenburg, for every five persons who exercised their right, three did not.

A large percentage of the 47,000 Mecklenburg citizens who stayed home had definite ideas about the issues and the candidates. But because they failed to vote, they lost their best opportunity

How To Handle Cohn And Schine

SECRETARY of the Army Stevens is getting much gratuitous advice these days on how to handle obstreperous young congressional staff members and Army privates.

Army privates.
It was suggested that he should have
dressed down Roy Cohn in the manner
of the late Secretary of War Stimson,
when Cohn "declared war" after being
excluded from a Ft. Monmouth laboratory.
That treatment would have been in
order. And regarding Pvt. G. David

Schine, in whose behalf Stevens was contacted 65 times, the secretary should consider the example set by the Confederate cavalryman, Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest.

The Mamphis Press-Scimitar recalls that a young lieutenant wrote Gen. Forrest requesting a leave. It was denied. The lieutenant wrote again, and was again denied. Undismayed, he submitted a third letter.

On it the general sprawled this reply: "I tole you twict,—dammit, NO!"

From The Wall Street Journal

THE PROBLEM OF THE SUPREME COURT

Intervolute of the number of Supreme Court justices from nine to seven. The motive of this move was to prevent President Andrew Johnson from filling two existing vacancies with persons friendly to his policies.

In 1937 President Roosevelt attempted to increase the number of Supreme Court justices from nine to fifteen so that he might appoint new judges favorable to his political views and overcome the existing majority that had overruled as unconstitutional several of his legislative measures. In this case Congress refused to change the size of the high Court.

fixed to change the size of the high Court. Recently the Senate approved a proposed amendment to the Constitution which, among other things, would fix the number of Supreme Court judges at its present figure of nine. Therafter, if the amendment is adopted, Congress would no longer have the authority to change the number by simple legislative action. The purpose of this amendment is a sound one. Attempts to juggle the number of judges on the Court merely to implement political views cannot fail, where they are successfully carried out, to weaken the Supreme Court and thus one of the bulwarks of orderly government. The people ought to have some safeguard against this kind of tampering with the Court.

But there is no magic number for the

ng with the Court.

But there is no magic number for the
tize of the Supreme Court. Perhaps
tither seven or nine is too few and fifeen too many. Nor is it beyond argunent that the way to protect the Court
s an absolute prohibition in the Constiution against changing its size. And it

is certainly arguable whether the Senate has considered all of the problems in approving this particularly amendment. The number of judges on the Court has been changed at other times when the motive was not political. It may be advisable to enlarge the Court again in the future because of the pressure of legal business. We are talking of adding new states and all the time the Congress is grinding out new laws while old ones are being altered to make them more complex. It is a quession whether any-one can say now that nine judges ought to be an immutable number, and we certainly ought not to pick the number merely because it happens to be the present number.

The study of the question was rather desultory. Less than a dozen witnesses testified at the Senate hearings. Only two Senators spoke at any length in the debate and they before only a handful of Senators on the floor. The amendment received very little publicity and most of the public must have been outle surprised to find that it had passed the Senate. This contrasts very sharply with the wide publicity and discussion of the recent amendment to limit presidential terms and the proposed Bricker amendment, both of which were chorourly aired.

The problem of protecting the Surgeme Court is a serious one and it may require a Constitutional amendment. But we we suggest that full consideration be first examined before any arbitrary number be frozen into the Constitution.

Candidate Gives His Position

McIntyre Answers Editorial



FRED McINTYRE

I must agree with my supporters that The Charlotte News, in publishing 30 column inches of pro-Blythe and anti-Mchirye edifaith and for the public interest. This piece was written or extrainty authorized by Mr. Pete Mchight, who serves two masters. At once he is editor of the news and the column of the mean of the me

and prosecuting attorney. Heaven help the cittiers who faces such a control of the people of Mecklenburg. The people of Mecklenburg County know fair play—and foul play—when they see it. When The News published the Blythe platform verbatim, exactly as it appeared in the newspaper's own advertising columns, it was print-appeared in the newspaper's own advertising columns, it was print-positions of trust," and falled to ask me for my platform and positions of trust," and falled to ask me for my platform and positions of trust," and falled to ask me for my platform and was indeed derelled in list duty to opportunity to compare platforms and to compare the background of the candidates: only Mr. Blythe's was listed. Mrs. Rea, an important candidate in her own right, was quickly dispatched with three short patronizing para-

three short patrenizing paragraphs.

HALF-TRUTHS CHARGED

Enough of knuckler apping. Let us get to the half-truths and untruths that the editors of The News have allowed to be printed under their good masthead.

The News editorial stated that The News should be printed to the country Police Department. The volution abolish the efficient Country Police Department. A few weeks ago, in the "Across the City Desk" column. The News said that I was "still out to abolish the Country Police Department." Three days later. The news and the Country Police Department." Three days later. The country Police Department." Three days later. The six the malicious statement with the rural police force to police work instead of patrel work."

This is the malicious statement Wr. Blythe and his friends are spreading, thanks to the snowball

(The News is glad to publish in full today the following statement by Sen. Fred H. Micharyer.

N. C. Sales Sease in Inomerow's Democratic primary election. Eds., The News.)

[PMIS STATEMENT is in reply to the Misses of the May 1: editorial in the May 1: editorial in the Charlette News attacking me as "clear and present danger" to Mecklenburg County. We in Misses with the May 1: editorial was two weeks following publication of two weeks following publication of two weeks following publication of the Misses of the Mi

well and effectively. One fellow feat me Saturday. The simple fact in that Good and the state and let the country police spend full time in meressary pelicing of Meckleburg County. Why should the farmers of the state and let the country police spend full time in meressary pelicing of Meckleburg County. Why should the farmers of the state Hall-have present the suggestion for saving many tax odiars.

The News states that I republicate the suggestion of the state of the state

Chevalier Comments On The Oppenheimer Probe

By MARQUIS CHILDS

The Oppenheimer Probe

By MARQUIS CHILDS

The overlier and crite. Has a control of the first of the first of the first of the series of the brilliant Oppenheimer was denied emphatically that he had cere sought information to any other time. Chevalier is one of the many intellectual friends of the brilliant Oppenheimer whose interests extended far beyond sitted and their friendship has continued down to the present.

"I never talked with Opple," Chevalier told me, "on the basis of providing information to any open the first of the providing information to any open the first of the fir

President Asked To Umpire Differences On Farm Policy

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER on
Wednesday get the bad news in person that the best deal in person that the person to the legislation is a compromise.
He was warred also that farm policy by veto was not the answer and would be politically in the person that the President would veto was not the any farm bill conclaiming high increased that the President would veto was not the any farm bill conclaimed high for make automatically effective a flexible price-support which would make automatically effective a flexible price-support which would make automatically effective a flexible price-support and that would contain planning of the kind needed to convince farmes that their interests are important to the Republican administration.
The President's callers were reapply that the present of the prese

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Colleagues Kid TV Star Mundt

Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

KARL MUNDT, the perspiring, unenwived senator from South Dakota who presides over the McCarthy hearings, got aboard the little troiley car that runs the Capitol the other day. With him was ex-Sen. Ernest McFarland of Arizona, former Demoratic leader of the Senate.

"Karl," said McFarland, "you ought to vision for weeks. Everybody knows you. You've had a tremendous build-up, You ought not to waste all this publicity. You've so to run for President." South Dakota looked both sheepish and reluctant. He gave the impression of one who wanted to shu the McCarthy hearings, shun the presidency, even shun the troiley. But his friend from Arizona persisted. Turning to Sen. William Fulbright of Arkansas who had just boarded the ear, McFarland said.

resident?"
s," said Fulbright, "either for Presor for a hole."

Behind Frankie Costello

Behind the recent conviction of Frankie
Costello for income-tax evasion is a long
history of backstage government maneuvering, some against Costello, some aimed
takeeping him out of jail. It dates back
takeeping him out of jail. It dates back
about seven years. The men who really

deserve credit for convicting the kingpin of the gambling world are Justice Tom Clark, former attorney general; Harry Anilinger, the indefatigable narcotics commissioner: and Sen. Refauver, whose the indefatigable narcotics of the subject of

relio and Costello alone who carried a suitcase out to Ellis Island to bid farewell to Luckv Iaciano when Gov. Dewey well to Luckv Iaciano when Gov. Dewey the Luciano out of a 90-year ap in Sing Sing.

Costello's Lobbyist

Of the many, many stories I have written about Costello, there is one I rest. It teld of Costello Washington followers.

that of the cigarette sales chart."

However, the substitute story also contained a statement quoting Dr. Oebsner as saying: "There is no conclusive proof that smoking causes cancer of the lung."

Dr. Oebsner informs me that he does not remember making such a statement, intermember making such a statement, inwas devoted to dis address at Denver
was devoted the smoking does induce cancer of the
lung.

In brief, the AP did carry a modified
story on Dr. Oebsner's remarks, after
"eliminating" the original story. In fairmes both to the AP and Dr. Oebsner, I am
delighted to publish the above details.