

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## A Chance In A Lifetime For Charlotte

TO THE Southern Railway, the spectacular fire that destroyed the midtown freight station Thursday was a disaster of major proportions, the full extent of which can be measured for weeks and months. As to any good neighbor who suffers a loss, our sympathies go to the Southern.

At the same time, the destruction of the two-block-long building open for the Southern and for the City of Charlotte opportunities of equally great proportions. For the Southern, there is the opportunity of rebuilding at the fringe of the city, away from the midtown traffic congestion that makes freight operations not only inconvenient but also costly.

And for the City, here is a long-awaited opportunity to eliminate what is probably the major traffic bottleneck in Charlotte. The freight station and the accompanying proliferation of tracks and other facilities completely blocked E. 1st and E. 3rd Sts., forcing their dead-ending. And the frequent movement of freight cars on the tracks crossed by E. 2nd St. made that street unusable much of the time.

If the freight station should be located at the outer edge of the city where it properly belongs, three highly useful grade crossings could be put in use at E. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sts. Over a period of time, the three streets could be widened, at least to S. McDowell St. And if officials of the Thompson Orphanage should ever decide to remove that fine institution to a rural setting, one way or more could be cut through all the way to Independence Blvd. and on to Morehead, thus relieving the congestion on E. 4th and Stonewall Sts.

And if setback ordinances were adopted for Bevard, Davidson, Alexander and Myers Sts., in the long-range future a vast new commercial area could be developed in what is now Brooklyn, an area that would probably become the future city of Charlotte's business district for the simple reason that it would have accessibility.

Moreover, if the City of Charlotte could arrange to purchase the property owned by the Southern in the vicinity of E. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sts., it would make possible the construction of several elevated public parking facilities to serve the S. College and S. Tryon Ave. as well as the section to the east of the railroad tracks.

The possibilities inherent in the transfer of the freight station to a fringe area site are almost limitless. Everybody would benefit—the Southern, the City of Charlotte, and the thousands of citizens who do business in the heart of the city.

## The Other Side Of The FHA Coin

A GOVERNMENT agency and the men who work for it can do a whole of a good job over a period of years without getting much credit for it. Then let scandal touch them and publicity is immediate, widespread and unfavorable, as employees of the State Department, Internal Revenue Bureau and Army can testify.

This certainty of unfavorable reaction to scandal—or sometimes only the suggestion of scandal—helps to keep these organizations on the ball. But a disproportionate amount of unfavorable publicity creates a distorted picture of an agency's work, and the caliber of men who work for it.

Thus we would like to take this opportunity to balance the record of one government agency, the Federal Housing Administration, whose twentieth anniversary today is being observed in Charlotte and other parts of the country.

We would not minimize the serious nature of the irregularities that have been uncovered recently in the housing program. Investigation is continuing — only yesterday two more FHA officials were removed from office. As is usual in gov-

ernment scandals, people outside the government are partially to blame for the wrongdoing. High-pressure home improvement and repair men toured the country persuading home owners that they must make certain improvements. The high pressure boys then did the work charged exorbitant fees, and moved back to the contractors to have completed the actual cost of the housing projects built, and pocketed the difference.

But these abuses should not obscure the value and accomplishments of the federal housing program. The FHA was established to encourage improvement in housing standards and conditions, to provide a home financing system, and to exert a stabilizing influence in the mortgage market. These things it has done.

These accomplishments have been possible only because the majority of FHA officials and the realtors, bankers and builders with whom they worked have been honest and able men. Here in Charlotte some of these men have helped lead the fight for slum clearance, urban redevelopment, better housing for all.

planning it are different matters, however. At stake is the more than \$400,000 in insurance money. There is a legal question whether these funds will become the property of the Park & Recreation Commission or whether they will revert to the city government. In either event, the taxpayers will be interested in how they are spent.

There is some sentiment on the Park & Recreation Commission in favor of using the insurance money to construct a new public arena. There is some sentiment on the City Council in favor of putting that money to other uses—perhaps new capital investment in sites and facilities for public playgrounds.

It would seem the wisest course at the moment is to answer that question as not easy. Undoubtedly a smaller arena would be used, just as the Army-Auditorium was used through the years. Before the fire, there was no thought of leaving the Army-Auditorium idle after construction of the new auditorium and coliseum.

Keeping an old facility in use or replanning it are different matters, however. At stake is the more than \$400,000 in insurance money. There is a legal question whether these funds will become the property of the Park & Recreation Commission or whether they will revert to the city government. In either event, the taxpayers will be interested in how they are spent.

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# Honest Ezra Benson May Win Fight For His Farm Plan

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON  
THE HONOR of conducting the outstanding experiment in character in the Eisenhower administration belongs, at this writing, to Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson.

Mr. Benson is suffering from preliminary reverses in both the Senate and House Agriculture Committees. Both have beaten his flexible price supports and approved a one-year extension of 90 per cent of parity on basic crops.

Chairman George Aiken (R-Vt.) of Senate Agriculture, a Benson backer, claims they can win on the floor. A surprising number of reporters who specialize in farm news agree. If the Benson view prevails in the Senate, the House may be influenced and at least a victory in conference between the two houses is possible.

But this is not the point. It is too early to say with confidence

that the mighty farm bloc will bite the dust.

What makes Mr. Benson a stand-out is that he is fighting for the principles which he plainly described when he came to Washington, and has got President Eisenhower to fight with him against congressional leaders.

To say this is not to say they are necessarily right. The President is vulnerable in the charge of disingenuous campaign promises on the farm problem. And many good people who work hard to solve agriculture's ills think Mr. Benson lacks understanding.

No charge of inconsistency, deviousness or weakness can be made against the secretary of agriculture. His opponents not only like him personally, they admire him — some of them reluctantly. He has fought intelligently and openly. He talks the same out of both sides of his mouth, and when he leaves Washington, he repeats



EZRA TAFT BENSON Opponents Respect Him

elsewhere what he says here.

The question Congress asks is how in the world he has persuaded his opponents to go through so thorny a political issue as agriculture. It is not the pattern of the session.

The secretaries concerned with foreign trade—Dulles of State,

Humphrey of Treasury, and Secretary of Commerce—and the President have meekly agreed to a one-year extension of the reciprocal-trade program without a fight. Had the secretaries insisted on doing battle and been able to get the President's backing, they could have had a three-year extension.

The protectionist Republicans are no more entrenched or powerful than the farm bloc has always been. Of course, one never knows whether any bloc's legend of invincibility is true unless and until a genuine effort is made to defeat it.

Attorney General Herbert Brownell has demanded wire-tap and other security measures but the White House has not lifted a finger for him, and the prospect is for a similar fate.

HUMPHREY'S RETREAT  
The most unexpected and biggest retreat is that of Treasury Secretary W. M. Humphrey in the balance-budget and hard-money

field. The Treasury is acceding to tax cuts despite a budgetary deficit, it will soon ask Congress for a rise in the national debt limit, and it has sold by surprise, if not happily, while the Federal Reserve Board has eased credit for which there is no critical need.

And so it goes. But Secretary Benson has never faltered on his proposed piece of political suicide and many people are coming to believe he will win.

He has, of course, had a potent ally in the White House in Milton Eisenhower, the college president brother who like Benson is the brains of the family. But the party politicians are not keen about Benson.

In fact, he may be very unpopular if he wins and the election returns should prove adverse this fall. But nobody can take away from him, even if he loses, the credit for the hard-won strength for character at this session of Congress.

# Readers Discuss Guatemala, Teacher Bias, Segregation

## Negroes Want Chance To Lead Decent Life

Charlotte Editors, The News:

I AM a Negro girl just graduated from high school. I have been reading the letters in People's Platform. It seems as if some of the letter writers have the Negroes all wrong.

We aren't looking for something for nothing. We just want a chance to lead a decent and civil life. If we receive half the chance we deserve, I'm sure it will prove worthwhile.

How do you think it feels to have to ride at the rear of a bus when we pay the same fare, to be waited on last when you know you arrived first? I've asked the question, but I'm sure none of you can answer.

All we have been trying to get is equal rights and equal opportunities. I wouldn't want my children to attend mixed schools any more than the whites do, because I'm sure they would be mistreated.

I wish everyone would consider the fact that God created us all. The color of the face doesn't determine a person. The character

within is what determines an individual.

—LALLAGE MCCONNELL

## U. S. Inspired The Attack On Guatemala

Pittsboro Editors, The News:

I WANT to supplement what you said about the Guatemalan government and the country's difficulties generally. In the first place, I must commend you for not attempting to deny the nature of what is happening down there.

Our State Department as usual is by no means frank about the situation. It is "aggression" pure and simple, and it is not composed of excuses either. Furthermore, our State Department must know that arms that we have sent Guatemala's neighbors are being used by the aggressors. The truth is that this attack on the Guatemalan government is of our inspiration.

We simply do not like the current government because it has not "heeled" as we wish. I hate communism from the ground up, but I love truth. We have had trouble in Latin America since the birth of this nation, and very little

of this trouble has been of foreign origin. Russia and Red China may be chucking over what is happening now in Guatemala, but that is far short of sustaining the current Guatemalan government.

I approve of what Mr. Lodge told the Russian delegate: "Stay out of the American hemisphere." But I must confess that the Russian delegate missed the finest opportunity, one ready made, to tell Mr. Lodge, and through him, the American people, to stay out of the Asian hemisphere.

This hypocritical, double standard, foreign policy of ours is going to cause us to be subjected to more than aluminum, to be reduced to size and put in our place.

But let's get what the editor of the Laredo (Tex.) Times said on Jan. 28 about the propaganda respecting the Guatemalan government (and this is a rightist Texas daily speaking): "Everyone has been reading about Guatemala being the center of world communism for the western hemisphere. The story goes that Communist headquarters are set up in Guatemala with the idea that a Communist Guatemala would

dominate Central America as well as any and all countries in the western hemisphere. This is the silliest and biggest mistake to come out of anyone's mind. In the first place this same story has been told over and over about countries that it is getting a little shoppeworn."

And the editor cites Mexico City as formerly the alleged center of Communist activities, but that it developed that Mexico City was more anti-Communist than the State Department at Washington.

He concludes that this propaganda is boomeranging against the U. S. "because it is coming from the friends of three U. S. corporations. These corporations' whole purpose is to control Guatemala and get a foothold over here."

And he names the three, U. S. Fruit Co., American Power & Electric Co., and the Grace Steamship Line.

Like many other countries to the south of us, Guatemala is open to economic penetration upon foreign sources. She made this mistake of trying to break out of her fetters, for which I blame her rather than condemn her.

—JOHN W. HESTER

## Teachers Should Not Have Racial Prejudices

Charlotte Editors, The News:

WE have three school age children. We are Southerners whose ancestors settled in the South in 1774. We will be glad to see the end of racial segregation in the schools.

However, my purpose in writing this letter is not to engage in debate regarding the merits of the Supreme Court decision banning segregation in public schools. Neither do I wish to argue my own point of view regarding segregation.

My purpose in writing in the People's Platform is to call attention to the need for training and reorienting courses for our present public school teachers in light of the Supreme Court decision.

When our oldest child started to public school in Georgia we were shocked at the time, she came home reciting the hateful doggerel: "Eeny, Meeny, Miney, Mo, catch a nigger by his toe. We assured her that this version was incorrect—that it really was, "Catch a cracker by his toe."

She learned the substitute version which she has taught her and, in turn, taught it to her younger brothers. Therefore, we were somewhat annoyed when, just a couple of months ago, our eight-year-old boy who is going to school in Charlotte came home and told us that his teacher had corrected his rendition of the doggerel and told him that "nigger" was the proper word.

How much more disturbing incident occurred a couple of weeks before the end of the school term. Our boy came home and quoted a teacher as having told the class that, "according to the Supreme Court decision we may

have to take 'niggers' in this class. If a white child and a colored child should have trouble, it is your job to think that the colored child was at fault."

It seems to me that regardless of whether segregation is ended next year or not, it is never ended, this sort of attitude by teachers who are entrusted with the highly responsible task of educating our children, the social attitudes of young minds, should be corrected. What this one teacher said so openly is probably true of many other teachers, and may be sensed by the children without being spoken by the teachers in a great many other cases.

Instead of utterances and attitudes which tend to convince our little conservatives that racial hostility is right and proper, we should have a series of explanations and difficulties for the children who have been pumped full of this racial poison.

It is our duty to correct racial attitudes among the present teachers, and in the event of occasional failure, should relieve such teachers of their responsibility and employ others whose minds have not been closed by prejudice.

—J. D. PEDIGO

## Negro Prefers To Be With Own Race

Monroe Editors, The News:

I AM a Negro and when I read the recent Supreme Court ruling I was glad. The Negro is coming into his own, I said. That was weeks ago. After listening to all the "blow-boys," local "shysters" and "run-of-the-millers" I would rather that my children went to school with the devil rather than the whites.

I work six days a week with white neighbors and we get along splendidly.

I feel no hate for these fellows, but when my work is finished, I want to be with people of my own race. We do not want to eat, sleep or mingle with whites. Please try to understand that, and for goodness sake, keep God's name out of this mess.

—JAMES E. WILLIAMS

## Quote, Unquote

This is a true story about a Texas reporter who had to write up a debate between two freshman members of the Texas House of Representatives, each of whom loved the sound of his voice.

He wrote: "Representative Blank and Representative Blank engaged in a heated combat today. Both were unarm'd." —Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

From The Mattoon (Ill.) Journal-Gazette

## THE FIRST WEEKEND OF CAMPING

ANY MOTHER of a 11-year-old taking off for his first weekend of camping deserves the weekend off herself. In the first place the adolescent mind has planes of inflexibility that would try the patience of Job. The list says (a standard generalized list which might be used as a pre-camping guide in New York, Arizona, or the Amazon basin) anti-mosquito lotion. Try and explain patiently that mosquitoes don't hang around much on high ground in the cool of May.

There's the question of taking a fishing pole (to supplement what will be a high protein diet) or a hatchet, or both. The status of the available fishing grounds argues against the former and proclaims the latter. Meals for two days, cannily packaged and labeled in individual paper bags are neatly ruined in the rucksack when a smuggled bottle of milk opens. Finally the burdened child is pushed gently toward a waiting car full of small, roistering humanity.

It's heaven-sent, perhaps, that parents can't win the play-by-play of the camping weekend. But much can be pieced together from the condition of child, clothes, and equipment once he returns. A poplin jacket, riven at the back from neck to bottom seam, shows where a

barbed wire fence won a decision. The child smells most strongly of wood smoke—but then it is unmanly to sit on the windward side of a damp, smoky fire for a whole weekend. He returns either ravenously hungry or he is violently toxic.

The rehabilitation of the child and clothes will take at least two days. But how can parents get their own lives further trips when from the depths of the bathtub the patient warbles: "Gosh, I feel awful—but I've never had a better time!"

We note in one of the business publications that inventories are now being "decurtated." That old dequitive-in-stinct, h.

If mankind keeps on making and exploding more and more powerful bombs, those people who in the time of Columbus maintained that the earth was flat may yet win the argument.—GREENVILLE (S. C.) PIEDMONT.

First old maid—What kind of time did you have in New York?  
Second old maid—Daylight Saving Time.—GREENVILLE (TENN.) SUN.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

SHORTLY before Winston Churchill arrived for his talks with Eisenhower, the National Security Council seems to be making the chief foreign affairs decisions these days, drew up an extremely important new policy for the Far East.

In brief, here is the new policy adopted by the National Security Council. The United States has now drawn up three defense lines. If the Communists step across one of these defense lines, the United States will fight only with the cooperation and support of the United Nations. If the Reds step over the second defense line, we will fight in alliance with any of the countries involved regardless of the U.N.

If the Communists step over the third defense line we will fight whether we have any allies or not.

## Where We Fight

Defense Line No. 1—Indochina—Here we will fight only with U.N. backing. If the United Nations acts to support the three small countries of Indochina, the United States will fight only with the U.N. Furthermore, if the Red Chinese push across the border in numbers, we will urge the U.N. to intervene. In this case we would retaliate directly against Red China. Line No. 2—Includes South Korea, the Philippines, the island chains down through the East Indies,

# U. S. Has Three Far East Defense Lines

including Formosa; also embracing Thailand, Burma, and Malaya. If any of these countries are attacked, we will invoke our defense treaties with them and go to war. If we have no defense treaties at the moment, we will endeavor to sign some shortly. Efforts will be made to bring all these areas within the Pacific NATO.

Defense Line No. 3—Includes all U. S. territories, U. S. trusts and U. S. possessions in the Pacific, plus Japan. This last is significant. It means the United States would go to war to save Japan whether our allies join us or not.

This is the reason President Eisenhower spoke so candidly about trade with Japan during the newspaper editors dinner this week. For today, the key to our entire Far Eastern policy is Japan. The National Security Council has decided to encourage a strong and friendly Japan to counterbalance the China-Russia alliance.

That is one reason why Burma, Thailand, the Malays and Indonesia are so important. They have been big Japanese markets in the past.

The above strategy comes much closer to presenting the views of all members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, most of whom disagree with their chairman, Admiral Radford, than Radford's now retracted from his proposed immediate interven-

## No Senate Segregation

A small Negro boy looked longingly at a candy counter through the open door of the Senate restaurant. Finally he stopped a passerby.

"Do they 'low colored boys in there to buy a chocolate bar?" he asked timidly.

"I'll say you can go in there," replied the stranger. "You're going in there with me."

The boy picked out his candy and pulled a lonely dime out of his pocket. But the stranger had already paid for it. The boy brightened up and he dashed off happily without asking his benefactor's name.—Sen. Dennis Chavez, Democrat, of New Mexico.

## Will Germany Repeat?

A high-level diplomatic conference took place in London the other day which pinpoints one of the main problems of the world today. Eisenhower are now discussing.

## U. S. Has Three Far East Defense Lines

tion in Indochina and is willing to accept the above three-defense-line policy.

It was a meeting of top U. S. ambassadors from western Europe, including Winston Aldrich, ambassador to London; Douglas Dillon, envoy to France; and Dr. James Conant, U. S. high commissioner in Germany. Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce was not able to come from Italy

## U. S. Has Three Far East Defense Lines

because of poor health. She has been nervously upset by Communist inroads upon Hitler's position in Austria. Her

assistant secretary of state for western Europe, flew to London especially for the meeting on June 15. He was Commissioner Conant's report that unless Germany was given the right to set up her own army, the master would fall some time this summer.

German rearmament, therefore, has become one of the top priorities of the U. S. and England—despite growing German haughtiness and the likelihood that an independent Germany might "re-treat."

Some time before he left London, Winston Churchill called in top atomic advisers, Lord Cherwell, Lord Salsbery, and laid down a British policy that it was better to lose all Indochina than to let the atom bomb. Reason for the meeting was word that Adm. Radford had a plan up his sleeve for A-bombs to Indochina. Churchill, on the contrary, argued that the A-bomb would alienate the people of all Asia. John Foster Dulles is fit to be tied over the British Labor delegation who plans to visit Red China. He says the British could at least have tipped him off in advance. Dulles is planning to go to London. He will draw permission for the trip, but the old gentleman of No. 10 Downing St. will probably tell Dulles to mind his own business.

HERB LOCK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST