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A 'Real Desire' To Clear The Air?

THE offer of Cincinnati's Coal Producers Committee for Smoke Abatement to conduct a free survey of air pollution in Charlotte is step No. 1 in a long civic journey.
But Jack Vogel, organization manager for the committee, added a significant kicker. "The only thing we ask," said he, "is that a city evince a real desire to do something about its air pollution problem."

The smoke problem is curable. But it will take a great deal of grit and determination on the part of the City Council to make a new smoke abatement program stick.
One big issue must be squarely faced. Smoke abatement is essentially a community problem and must be solved in a cooperative, community manner.
Air pollution is something to which nearly everyone contributes. The smoke stacks of plants and factories are not the only guilty factors. An automobile engine that is running improperly and a pile of leaves burning in the back yard contribute to air pollution too.
The first task then is education—a thorough understanding of the problems involved. Next, joint action under the firm supervision of a competent smoke abatement engineer.
Air pollution is not a total mystery. Considerable research has been done. Ways to lick the problem are known. All that remains is the unswerving determination to put them to use—cooperatively.

The Inner Agonies Are Exposed

SUDDENLY a torrent of epithets washed the halls of Congress: "Low," "evil," "loathsome," "soundless," "animal in human form."
Not since Harry Truman made his famous crack about the U.S. Marine Corps had there been such a righteous roar from the Republican benches.
All Democratic Chairman Paul M. Butler had done was discuss newspaper reports about Mrs. Eisenhower's health and their possible bearing on President Eisenhower's decision to run in 1956.
To GOP leaders it was like tracking mud through the holy temple. It was, to horrified liberals, "a personal attack upon the Eisenhower." "An out-and-out smear."

merited all the thunder and lightning.
But both the rather wistful nature of the Democratic chairman's comment and the rather unimpressive nature of the attack. Certain inner agonies were revealed on each side of the party fence.
Rather neatly, the incident illustrated:
1—The Democratic fear that Ike will run again.
2—The Republican fear that he won't.
Ambitions seem to be fairly general in Mr. Butler's party today that the President will not only run but win. Aside from Adlai Stevenson, who is always limbering up in the paddock, no Democratic candidate is being groomed for the race. In fact, the Democrats are doing little but hope—some, like Mr. Butler, hoping out loud.

North Carolina—Any Way You Slice It

THE syrupy voice on the other end of the line said, "I'm doing a theme for my high school civics class. Can you tell me what district Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are in?"
The call wasn't unusual, for high school and college students have long found the newspaper's morgue a substitute for energy. But this was a deadline and the temptation was to say "Tenth Congressional District."
Too bad her name wasn't Virginia, for we could have said, classically, "Yes, Virginia, we are in the Tenth but we're also in the Western District, the 20th District, the 14th District and, I guess, I know what other districts."
And as the girl on the phone kicked off her shoes and got comfortable, we launched into a sermon long overdue.
What district is Charlotte and Mecklenburg in?
We're in the Tenth Congressional.
We're in the Federal Western Judicial.
We're in the 14th State Judicial.
We're in the 14th State Solicitorial.
We're in the 20th State Senatorial.
There, Virginia. Had enough?
But Mecklenburg's no different from any other section of the state. The strange way North Carolina is whacked up into crayzilly district lines has for years caused confusion to the voter and harassment to the political reporter.
There's often more of this mumbo-jumbo:
There are 100 county lines to contend with and these counties send 120 men to the House of Representatives. Fifty members go to the Senate from senatorial districts.
Eight counties get two representatives in Raleigh, three get three and Guilford and Mecklenburg get four. Fifty senators hike to the capital and five counties—including Mecklenburg—have a senator all their own.

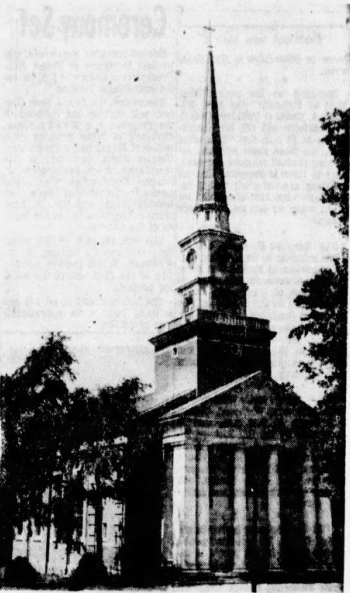
Twelve congressional districts cover the 100 counties and each district sends a man to Washington. The state judicial districts are numbered and also set into eastern and western districts, while the federal judicial districts are eastern, middle and western.
Just to keep things interesting, the General Assembly re-arranged the judicial districts last week—increasing them from 21 to 30—without rearranging the heretofore corresponding solicitorial districts.
Trying to figure out how the lines are drawn on a Tar Heel map is like playing Scrabble with missing letters. Mecklenburg, for example, is in the Tenth Congressional with Lincoln, Catawba, Burke, Avery and Mitchell.
In the State Senate, Mecklenburg stands alone, while Lincoln, Jones, Catawba and Iredell to form the 25th. Burke joins Caldwell and Alexander to make up the 28th, and little Avery and Mitchell join the 48th.
The 30th Mecklenburg, as we said, stands alone—not as the Tenth, but as the 20th.
Until the General Assembly rewrote the book last week, Mecklenburg joined with Gaston in the state judicial setup. Now Mecklenburg is, judicially, all alone but solicitorially partners with Gaston.
The rest of Mecklenburg's Tenth District associates find themselves in other judicial districts—in bunches and assortments too complicated to go into now.
Yes, Virginia, it's a mite confusing, but don't get the big idea that things may get simpler some day.
As North Carolina grows, there will always be new moves to tamper with district lines.
But every time a new district is roned off it's just another attempt to improve the efficiency of that mighty complicated mechanism called government.
So, call back when you're a freshman in college.

Business Aid For Colleges: Voluntary Or Involuntary?

From BUSINESS WEEK

IF BUSINESS firms do not voluntarily go to the financial aid of higher education, there is every prospect that they will be providing more financial support for higher education involuntarily, through taxation.
The prospect materializes, one of the basic elements of a well-balanced system of higher education—a strong array of independent colleges and universities—may well be dangerously weakened if not destroyed.
The independent colleges and universities are the backbone of higher education in the United States. They are the institutions which have been the first to agree that their position is strengthened by a strong system of independent institutions, supported privately rather than by political agencies.
What is the evidence that in one way or another, voluntarily or involuntarily, business will be giving more financial support to higher education? One impressive part of this evidence is provided by the recent rapid increase in the proportion of college and university students attending tax-supported institutions.
In the fall of 1952 tax-supported colleges and universities enrolled about 75 per cent more students than the independent institutions. In 1953 this percentage was doubled. And in 1954 the tax-supported institutions enrolled 26 per cent more students.
In the case of students entering college for the first time the relative growth of the tax-supported institutions recently has been even more striking. In 1952, the number of beginning students in the tax-supported schools, as reported by the U. S. Office of Education exceeded those in the independent colleges and universities by 35 per cent. In 1954, just two years later, this figure jumped to 49 per cent.
Why? THE REASON WHY.
They are the proportion of students attending tax-supported colleges and universities been increasing so rapidly?
There are many reasons. But a dominant reason is that, in order to keep going at all, the independent institutions have been forced to make large increases in the prices they charge for instruction. The purchasing power of their endowment funds has been cut in half by price inflation. The capacity of the wealthy to supplement their endowments by gifts, as they have done in the past, has been greatly reduced by high taxes. As a result these schools have been forced to rely increasingly on higher prices for instruction (tuition as it is called in academic circles) to make both ends meet.
Since 1940, the independent colleges and universities have raised their tuition fees by an average of about 60 per cent. This is considerably less than the increase of about 100 per cent in prices generally since 1940. And it is nowhere near enough to prevent the faculty members of the independent colleges from facing miserably low salaries, a matter of major national importance to which we shall return in this series. But the increase in tuition fees of the independent colleges has been much greater than the increase in the fees charged by the tax-supported schools. And that price differential increasingly tends to shift students into the tax-supported institutions while the tax-supported institutions charge, on the average, about \$340.

A large increase in the total enrollment in our colleges and universities during the next decades is in prospect, particularly when the great increase in births during World War II is reflected in the number of young men and women of college age. With a total of 2.5 million students at present enrolled in our institutions of higher learning, it is estimated that the total will be over 3 million by 1960.
If this trend continues most of the anticipated increase in college and university enrollment will be concentrated in tax-supported institutions. Indeed, if the shift toward tax-supported institutions that has occurred in the last three years were to continue over the next six years at the same rate, about two million of the three million students anticipated in 1960 would be in tax-supported colleges and universities and one million in independent schools. In 1950 there was a 50-50 division in enrollment. This shift would mean, of course, a corresponding increase in the tax bill for tax-supported education. And of this bill, we can be sure that an ample share would be assessed against business firms.
NO EASY SOLUTION
The best way, of course, to put a brake on a soaring tax bill for higher education is to help the independent institutions get in shape financially to carry a larger share of the student load. For most companies the development of a mutually satisfactory program of financial aid for higher education is a complicated process. In fact, it is so complicated that some companies with an initial disposition to provide financial help are inclined to despair of working out a mutually constructive plan.
If, however, the leaders of business will contemplate seriously the only available alternative to their extending voluntary help to our independent colleges and universities, their determination to work out a plan will be strengthened. For that alternative involves a grave weakening of our system of higher education by business.



DAVIDSON COLLEGE CHAPEL Independent Colleges Need Help
The increase would come through higher taxes. Contemplation of a fleet of 775 buses that had 1,500 children. There hasn't been a fatal school bus accident since the kids took over.

Are Teenagers Bad Drivers? Not These Young Tar Heels

MORE THAN 6,000 young people between 15 and 24 will die in traffic accidents this year. Youthful (under 25) drivers have five times as many accidents as some adult groups. In one out of four fatal accidents, a youthful driver is involved.
Looking at the figures, you conclude that young drivers are a menace on the highways. You'd be partly right. Before you conclude that young drivers are, though, take a look at the good ones. The ones, for instance, who drive the school buses in North Carolina.
About 450,000 pupils ride school buses in North Carolina more than 7,000 buses, and more than 6,000 of the drivers are high school students. Their safety record is one of the best in the country.
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