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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1957

Editorial Correspondence

The Status Quo Is Not Good Enough

By CECIL PRINCE
Editor, The News

WAVE after wave, the icy realities of North Carolina's social and economic condition slid across the General Assembly's conscience today.

The state's economy is not sick by any means; but there are a few spots that need treatment.

The segregation issue has been declared dead by many competent doctors; but it may not be dead, just shamming. The General Assembly's refusal to reposition its seats according to the constitution has not destroyed legislative democracy in North Carolina; but it has tarnished the body's honor.

Resistance to minimum wage legislation, reforms in the State Highway and Public Works Commission, expansion of community colleges, sensible traffic safety measures, independent status for the prison system, teacher pay raises and improvements in mental care has not stifled North Carolina progress completely. But it does limit the state's capacity to achieve the full fruits of its manifold destiny.

These are the opportunities and the responsibilities that some of the General Assembly's sincerest partisans began to ponder today in the wake of inaugural jollity.

But these are the very issues that are tangled in the brambles of political strife in Raleigh this year.

Some of the most respected legislators here shrug their shoulders with that typically unavailing gesture: "What can I do about it?"

And the dusty problems stand virtually inviolate.

GOV. LUTHER H. HODGES told North Carolina yesterday to respect the past but not live in it. "We have made progress, but so have others," he said. "We must not stand still."

He has touched on North Carolina's greatest need—the need to kindle a bonfire beneath the state's aged-in-mosses conservatism.

Spencer Bell: Able Man For A Big Job

HALF a hundred Mecklenburg citizens tonight will make a major decision for almost a hundred thousand registered voters.

The privilege of choosing Mecklenburg's new state senator imposes a special obligation on the members of the Mecklenburg Democratic Executive Committee. That is to choose a man most willing and able to serve the broad interests of all Mecklenburgers rather than the narrow interests of factional politics. For that matter, the committee owes the same obligation to itself and the future of the Democratic Party which can be secured only by efficient public service on the part of its office holders.

The News is bound to no candidate for the post. But as between the two reported leading candidates, we unhesitatingly favor J. Spencer Bell over Jack Love. The reasons are obvious as the known records and attitudes of the two men.

Spencer Bell's long record of public service is marked by a sympathetic and astute concern for a wide range of community problems. More important, it is marked by accomplishment.

Enactment of the perimeter zoning ordinance and moves to enlarge Charlotte's inadequate hospital facilities are due in large measure to his vigorous and articulate leadership. He has a well-

developed social conscience and a keen sense of individual responsibility to the community. And if there is anything obvious about Spencer Bell, it is that a political career wouldn't fit him.

Nothing argues against the selection of Rep. Love so well as his own reaction to the resignation of Sen. Jack Blythe. That was to get his "crowd" together to dictate selection of himself or his alternative choice, former Sen. Fred McIntyre whom Mecklenburg voters have already tested and found wanting. In the process he pronounced a summary, negative verdict on city limits expansion even before receiving the city's formal proposal.

Rep. Love's political reach exceeds his grasp of the very serious problems of Charlotte and Mecklenburg that await action in Raleigh.

A noted dexterity in precinct politics is no substitute for a primary interest in the proper discharge of public affairs.

Spencer Bell, of course, is not the only citizen with proved qualifications for the Senate seat. There are others, some of whom have been mentioned in a week of furious speculation.

But two factors should commend him highly to the executive committee. He is willing and he is eminently able.

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'Prithee, Lion—Trust Thou Art Lutherhearted'



Fancy Togs Tickle Hyenas

A Hearty Bravo For Berets

By ROBERT C. RUARK

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The beret, I discovered, is the only hat which keeps your bald spot from broiling whilst allowing your face to sunburn. It keeps your hair out of your eyes and does not blow off no matter what speed you are traveling. It weighs not a snag in bushes. It weighs nothing; you just stuff it in your pocket.

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In the old days you could climb into an old pair of pants, two sweaters, a leather jacket and a pair of bicycle clips and go presently skiing—even if, heaven decree, you like pneumonia and compound fracture as a sport. You slipped into something old and ugly to fish. For most sports, the ski clothes, the sloppier the man, the better.

But the same sort of people who lead the dolls down the path, fashion-wise, seem to have overhauled the hairy-chesters. You get to dress for it, Bud, or you are sneered at in the better bars in the ski resorts and yacht harbors, and even on the swimming beaches.

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High Court's Liberal Cast Will Be Increased By Ike

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON TIME and fate being what they are, it is almost certain that long before his second term is concluded President Eisenhower will have appointed a majority of the members of the Supreme Court.

The retirement of Justice Stanley Reed after 19 years of service gives the President his opportunity to appoint a member of the court.

Every party in power likes to have a court with a majority of its own choosing. Yet the character of the appointments which the President so far has made shows that an Eisenhower court is not going to be much different from the court with a Democratic majority.

LAST BASTION

The Supreme Court in the first Roosevelt term was the last bastion of confirmed conservatism in the federal government. Beginning with the appointment of Hugo Black, President Franklin D. Roosevelt set firmly out to change the character of the court. With the failure of his so-called court-packing plan, he had to wait out "nine old men" who were blamed by liberals with holding up progress.

Succession of modern-minded lawyers he appointed to the court completely changed its philosophy and direction, culminating eventually in the abandonment of the "separate but equal" doctrine which earlier courts had round the Fourteenth Amendment.

PARTY LABELS

A decade ago there might have been a good sufficient strength among Republican ultra-conservatives to attempt a counter-revolution in the court if they had come to power that time in the past. Party labels among the justices mean little if anything today. This made it possible for the President to pick William J. Brennan Jr. a New Jersey Democrat, as his most recent appointment.

Of the last two Eisenhower appointees have been from the East and Chief Justice Earl Warren, the other appointee, comes from the West, the speculation is that the new justice will be a Middle-Westerner. Someone with judicial experience who would be able to power the time is past. Party labels among the justices mean little if anything today. This made it possible for the President to pick William J. Brennan Jr. a New Jersey Democrat, as his most recent appointment.

Justice Brennan will have to be approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman is Mississippi's James O. Eastland. So far, he has announced no hearings on the appointment.

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People's Platform Sacrificing Firemen

Charlotte Editors, The News: Recently I had my first opportunity to observe the operation of one of our county volunteer fire departments. The occasion was a fire in my own residence. I am impressed with the efficiency and courtesy of the volunteer fire fighters. I take this opportunity to publicly thank you for the specific service rendered to me and for the service which they are performing every day.

I find it rather refreshing to know that in our volunteer fire departments there are men who are willing to serve their community in performing a vital and necessary function without monetary compensation. On the contrary, these men are doing their duty at a personal sacrifice of time and of their own interests. This is indeed unusual in our time, and I feel that in their rendering of aid in time of trouble to the citizens of our community service is being preserved.

Many thanks for publishing many worthy opinions that you do. —ELEANOR S. BITTERSAMP

Picture And Stories Please Local Singers

Charlotte I would like to express my thanks of our organization to your newspaper and its staff for the publicity you accorded our organization during the past several weeks. May I personally thank Miss Parks for her help and interest and Mr. Walters for his rendered picture.

As we all know, we need the efforts and support of our local newspapers to make our programs a success, and you generously devoted numerous articles and pictures to our organization. We are indeed grateful. —HELEN SORTON, Vice President, Oratorio Singers of Charlotte

Let's Make Radio A Tool Of Culture

Charlotte Editors, The News: I am happy to pen this note to your editorial page. Sincerely, I, as a participant in much of the musical life in Char-

Case Of The Missing \$67 Million Suit

charge was made against the U. S. Government is interesting.

Big Push The Navy's contract for Arabian oil was signed in June 1945 after the war in Europe had ended and when the Navy was getting ready for the big push against Japan. It was considered cheaper to pick up the oil in the Near East, than to haul a haul halfway around the world.

The two Naval officers who signed the contract were Lt. John Walsh, later with Standard Oil, and Lt. E. Bodenschatz, later with General Petroleum.

Balked At Price When Aramo asked a price of six cents a gallon for gasoline, \$1.05 a barrel for fuel oil, and \$1.65 a barrel for diesel oil, the two lieutenants balked.

In 1941, James Moffett, formerly of Standard Oil, representing the Aramo, had written a letter to the Navy offering oil at three cents a gallon, fuel oil at 40 cents a barrel, and diesel oil at 75 cents.

The two naval officers knew that the prices asked by Aramo were identical with the prices quoted at the Gulf of Mexico. In that week, Aramo refused

to give the Navy any reduction for picking up the oil in the Near East instead of hauling it halfway around the world. The Navy was determined to get any reduction as promised by Aramo in 1941 in return for loans and lend-lease advanced to King Ibn Saud in return for an estimated profit to the oil company.

Out Of Line The two young naval officers refused to accept the higher prices the negotiations dragged. Handling the negotiations for Aramo were H. G. Denham, Jr., and W. Barthelme.

Later Barthelme, no longer with Aramo, informed this writer that he considered the price asked by his company far out of line, even disregarding the loans and grants to King Ibn Saud.

Large Profit "The Government paid the Arabian-American Oil Company a sum in excess of \$20,000,000," Barthelme said, "in return for an estimated profit to the company over and above production, royalty, and manufacturing costs of approximately \$15,500,000."

Despite this, high prices in the Navy overruled the two lieutenants and signed a contract with Aramo for high-cost oil and gasoline.

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