



—THE BACKGROUND—

Why Should We Combine Our Schools?

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Consolidation of the city and county school systems? Who wants it? What good would it do? What does it mean, anyway?

The subject was resurrected at yesterday County Commission meeting and found rapid support—more vocal support than it has ever had before—from both the educators and the politicians.

If the Charlotte and Mecklenburg school systems were combined tomorrow, this would be the situation:

There would be one school system of about 50,000 children, nearly three times as large as any other system in the state.

This school system would own about 88 buildings (50 in the city, 38 in the county).

It would also inherit utter confusion in the form of two complete administrative systems, a big difference in teacher pay and in such special programs as music, physical education and remedial reading.

No Doubt: It Is Going To Cost More

That would mean increased cost for the whole county. Rural residents would have to pay school supplement from the present 20 cents on the hundred dollars to equal the city's 50 cents. Since city property evaluation is greater, 50 cents on the hundred in the county still wouldn't amount to as much as it does in the city. Rural residents would have to make up the difference.

Big Obstacles To Be Flattened

That is the reason the two school systems won't be consolidated tomorrow. There are important differences which must be ironed out.

Yet, as far back as 1949, an Institute of Government team from Chapel Hill which studied the Charlotte school situation made it clear how it felt: Consolidation was desirable.

Also on record in favor of consolidation are City School Supt. Dr. Elmer H. Garner, County Commissioner Sam McNinch, County School Board members J. Murray Atkins and Levy Ransom and County School Supt. J. W. Wilson, with certain reservations. A number of other local educators and politicians are understood to favor it.

Dr. N. L. Engelhardt, city-school consultant, has told school officials privately he thinks consolidation would solve a lot of Mecklenburg's education problems.

Arguments For Consolidation

Here's why all these people want to see the school systems combined:

1. They think it would help bring the county's rural schools up to the city standard by increasing teacher pay and increasing the variety of subjects offered.

2. They think it would make for more efficient school construction planning—since Charlotte's rapid growth knows no boundary lines.

3. They think it would ease the "squeeze" on children in the metropolitan area—attending county schools in double sessions, though city schools just

Greater Advantages For All Our Pupils

Rep. Frank Snepp spoke for the proponents of consolidation yesterday when he said a merger would mean greater educational advantages for all the children of the county.

The Institute's report says, "An essentially adolescent community, rapidly growing in size toward metropolitan status, it is imperative that plans for future educational development be made in terms of the geographic area, in terms of all the children and in terms of total resources."

Bell Pleads Need For Redistricting

RALEIGH—A Mecklenburg Senator declared today that if the Legislature fails to act on the re-apportionment issue, he will hand the Republicans the means to turn the state into a Republican administration within the next 10 years.

Sen. J. Spencer Bell, whose (More legislative news on pages 4A, 11A, 12A, 13)

when they reached his committee. Bell said Kerr should bury his "conscience" too, since the state constitution says the legislature should reapportion after every

See BELL on page 2-A

BOY STARTS 7 FIRES IN RALEIGH AREA

RALEIGH—A 15-year-old boy armed with a rifle, a butcher knife and a book of matches kept the Raleigh Fire Department busy for a while yesterday. Police said he touched off seven fires before they caught up with him.

The police declined to identify the youngster who was placed in the Wake County Juvenile Detention Home until he was released under \$200 bond. They said he later admitted setting the fires.

The officers said that in quick order a fire was set in a resident's tool shed, causing some \$500 in damage; then some trash was set ablaze and then a fire at five homes were set afire.

Minister Sees Officer-Dad Killed, Slays Bank Robber



Scene, Staff Photo by Tom Franklin—Liamon SURE HARBINGERS of spring are these (right) models, brought out on a bleak afternoon to pose in frilly finery under the bare boughs of trees still in wintry bloom. Mrs. Leslie G. Berry (left) and Mrs. Clifford W. Kissiah are members of the Opt. Mrs. Club, sponsors of a fashion show March 28.

Brewster Vague On Expense Money

WASHINGTON (AP)—Frank W. Brewster, West Coast Teamsters Union boss, said today "I can't remember" whether the son of his race horse trainer traveled by air at the union's expense.

Robert F. Kennedy, investigating the Senate Rackets Committee, asked Brewster documents which he said indicated that a "Bobby Eisen" made trips costing \$16.99 and another \$55.22—by air in California that

Brewster said Eisen's work as well as the father traveled at union expense.

FOURTH WEEK The testimony marked the start of the fourth week and 12th day of public hearings by the committee.

In advance of the session, Kennedy told reporters that the questioning of Brewster might have a "vital" bearing on a later inquiry involving President Dave Beck of the Teamsters Union.

Kennedy also said that Beck's story of borrowing some \$300,000 to \$400,000 of union funds "is not as simple as our informant."

Brewster said Eisen's "intelligence was very much above the average," and that he chose him for the job as "a young man I thought would develop."

He said Eisen also had picked up some organizing experience at the Park & Recreation Commission, where grounds and parking lot attendants discussed labor problems with Eisen.

Brewster said Eisen was interested in organizing stable grocers, but that a prior effort to organize them "fell flat" and he was "skeptical" about another attempt without information such as he believed Eisen might get for him.

UNION PAID Chairman McClellan (D-Ark) asked whether it would be true that prior to that, the union paid

Negro Unit Calls For Assignment

A group of Negro school patrons asked for an opportunity to appear before the City School Board tomorrow morning to discuss the assignment of students in certain grades and to consolidate Carver Negro college with Charlotte College.

A letter requesting a conference with members of the school board was addressed to Dr. Herbert Spang, school board chairman, by Mrs. Mary McClain, secretary of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Association on Education.

Kelly Alexander of Charlotte, president of the North Carolina chapter of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, will be a member of the delegation.

COMMITTEE CONCERNED Mr. Alexander said today that the committee is concerned, particularly with those students now in the sixth grade at Myers Street School who next year will be transferred to the new Negro junior high school near Southside homes off S. Tryon St.

Mr. Alexander said that these students living in the Brooklyn section will have to go halfway across town to attend the new junior high school.

While he did not specifically mention this school, Alexander Graham Junior High, a white school located on the edge of the Brooklyn Negro section.

STATE FINANCING In the light of the 1954 U. S. Supreme Court's decision, Mr. Alexander said he could not see the feasibility of current discussion of state financing of two institutions like Charlotte and Carver Colleges.

And because of that situation, Charlotte school patrons are anxious to discuss with school officials the possibility of combining the two institutions, Mr. Alexander said.

The committee had not heard today whether it would be received but was pointed out scheduled meeting of the school board tomorrow morning in a public hearing at which any citizen may appear.

Our Weather

Partly cloudy and mild today. Fair and cooler tonight and tomorrow.

Low tomorrow morning — 45
High today — 62
High yesterday — 66
High tomorrow — 66
Sunrise today 6:29 a.m.; sunset today 6:34 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

What's Inside

- Business — 13A
- Classified — 8-11B
- Comics — 7B
- Crossword Puzzle — 12B
- Earl Wilson — 9A
- Editorials — 8A
- Everyday Counselor — 9A
- Memo to Caesar — 6A
- Obituary — 12A
- Radio-TV — 8B
- Serial — 12B
- Sports — 6B
- To Your Good Health — 10A
- Theaters — 11A
- Women — 24B
- Worry Clinic — 6A

—TWO NAMES ADDED TO LIST—

These developments came today as Councilwoman Martha Evans announced her plan to have present at tomorrow's City Council session the five women proposed by a committee from local women's organizations.

The emergence of women into places of prominence came in the wake of announcements from Mrs. Evans told the News today that she has no intention of nominating one of the five women proposed by the clubs. Those five women are Mrs.



"AAB," SAYS THE mayor, Dr. George E. Furich examines the throat of Robert Driscoll, lord mayor of Dublin. The Boston hospital checkup came after the Irish personality had a heavy speaking schedule for St. Patrick's Day.

Doctor Confident As Witness Talks

LONDON (AP)—Dr. John Bodkin Adams beamed with confidence today as a star prosecution witness, conceding the rich old lady died.

The 58-year-old society doctor seemed at times almost in a jaunty mood sitting in the dock at Old Bailey, and broke into faint smiles as his sharp-tongued chief defense lawyer hammered at testimony by nurse Helen Stronach.

Adams is charged with murdering Mrs. Edith Alice Morrell, wealthy 81-year-old widow whom he was treating. The prosecution charged the doctor killed her with drugs after winning her confidence, with the object of benefiting under her will.

Nurse Stronach also testified the aged patient had attacks of great irritability which the nurse attributed to the "great amount of drugs she had had."

Opening his case yesterday, the prosecution charged the doctor administered massive doses of drugs to her although there was no indication she was "rambling" at times and complaining of pain a month before her death.

Miss Stronach, one of the nurses who cared for the old lady in her final days, said she was "rambling" at times and complaining of pain a month before her death.

Dr. Adams smiled and looked around the historic courtroom and took a fleeting glance at two witnesses on the stand.

See WITNESS on page 2-A

Indiana Bank Cash Recovered

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. (AP)—A fleeing bank robber killed a veteran state police officer at a roadblock yesterday and then died in a gun duel with the officer's friend, a Methodist minister.

Sgt. Marvin E. Walls, 40, a veteran of 19 years' state police service, was killed by a bullet that entered his forehead while William Hassett, 25, of Louisville, was dropped by two shotgun charges fired by the robber.

The New Albany minister through the rear window of the robber's car.

The New Albany minister through the rear window of the robber's car.

He and Walls were returning from looking at fishing sites in the area of Sellersburg, a community north of here, when state police radio broadcasted that the Sellersburg State Bank had been robbed of \$1,600 by a gunman.

Although it was his day off, Walls was directed to a roadblock four miles north of here and Gingery accompanied him.

STOPPED BY POLICE Hassett, stopped by Walls, got out of his 1947 car and said, "I hope this thing won't take too long."

The trooper searched Hassett and found nothing significant but when he looked in the car, he spotted a brown leather jacket, a key item in the description of the bank robber.

"I've got a subject here that matches the description," he radioed his post. "Give me that description again."

Gingery said that Walls then returned to the bandit's car with the suspect.

"I could see Walls bending down as if looking under the front bumper," said Gingery. "Then I saw the man jerking around in the seat as if he was after something. I could see them scuffling and I heard some shots. I didn't see Walls after the shooting but the man got out of the car and ran around the other side."

CROSSING ROAD "Then I saw him crossing the road and me with a gun..." Gingery said he then picked up the pump-action riot gun from the police car seat and leveled it out the side window.

"He saw it and ducked," Gingery said. "He ran around behind the car. It was a good thing I tried the trigger, but nothing I saw."

See MINISTER on page 2-A

Quincy To Bring You Kansas City 'Inside'

What did Will the Still act to make him grow so tall? Is Michigan State capable of dumping North Carolina's Tar Heels—after Frank McGuire's club has set a record of 30 straight wins in one season? What are scorpions asking for tickets the already sold-out Kansas City arena?

These and other inside stories will be found on the pages of The News all this week, Tomorrow Sports Editor Bob Quincy explains for the NCAA playoffs and will make his headquarters at the Hotel Continental with the Tar Heels.

For complete tournament coverage—the kind you'll find enjoyable as well as informative—follow the sports pages of The News into the NCAA battle zone.

Schwartz Out Of Council Run

Lambert Schwartz, linen supply executive who had intended to become a candidate for the City Council, said today he will be unable to run.

Developments within his business in the last 48 hours indicated that he will be prevented from offering for the council, Mr. Schwartz told The News today.

Several weeks ago Mr. Schwartz announced his intention of becoming a candidate for the City Council. He had filed his name for the April 29 primary and May 7 election.

Mr. Schwartz' withdrawal adds further complication to a lagging municipal campaign in which every indication pointed to a successful effort by him.

See MINISTER on page 2-A

Evening Prayer

Our Father, 'who doth bring forth in hearts open unto Thee the fruit of joy; through intimate companionship with Thee may we know gladness supreme that Thy joy might remain in us and our joy become full. Through Him who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross. Amen.