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Annexation: The Target & The Timing

IN a feat scarcely as sinewy as a twist of the wrist, Mecklenburg's legislative delegation has tentatively readjusted the sights on the city's entire annexation program.

Caucusing without Rep. Jack Love, members considered postponing the date of an election on city limits extension and the effective date of any annexation approved by the electorate. A final decision will not be made until next Monday, but the proposed changes have considerable support.

Has the city's aim been spoiled? Has a civic goal been unduly and mischievously transfigured?

Not at all. Despite some incidental anguish on the part of annexation's more impatient proponents, the chances for orderly extension of Charlotte's city limits might actually be enhanced by a strategic delay.

Faced with the prospect of anti-annexation delaying tactics, pro-annexation forces would be stary-eyed indeed to suppose that they could not necessary legislate through the General Assembly in time to mount a suitable campaign before the April 29 municipal primary.

Discretion being the better part of valor, it would perhaps be better to shoot for some later, and safer, date.

But more important is the matter of the actual effective date of any annexation approved by the voters in an election. Considering the nature of opposition to annexation it would seem preferable to provide for the city to begin installing

services to as many perimeter residents as practicable ahead of the arrival of city tax bills.

There is good reason to believe that this could be done without any great stress or strain on the city if a little more leeway were given. At the same time, one of the principal warcries of the anti-annexation brigade could be answered.

The Council had proposed an effective date of Jan. 1, 1959. Some delay would not be unreasonable—provided that annexation could be accomplished in time for Charlotte's newly expanded population to be registered in 1960 census figures.

To achieve the larger goal, a change in the timing of annexation would be completely justified. It is significant that four out of five members of the Mecklenburg legislative delegation have actually found little else to link with in the city's plan. Charlotte, consequently, should be grateful for large favors. After all, the target is vastly more important than the timing.

Gas & Peace

CHARLOTTE has another gasoline price war. It has plunged prices down as much as a nickel a gallon. Gas, as always, is to be desired—but not peace at any price.

Let's have peace at this price.

Ramon Magsaysay: Grief Without Fear

CERTAIN "necessary friends and allies" represent to many Americans the bitterest fruit the cold war has borne. It is far more physically than spiritually comforting to be committed to the upkeep of one kind of totalitarianism, such as Franco's, in order to contain another kind, such as Khrushchev's.

Sometimes—notably during the visit by King Saud and proposals for a visit by Marshal Tito—the country's conscience rises against its logic. There are demonstrations and blunt rejection of the niceties of diplomacy. A sense of shame is made manifest.

Toward other of its allies Americans feel the kinship and constant sympathy of true friendship.



Ramon Magsaysay

An Immortal Man Grows A Tulip

THE man of the house smiled indulgently. The girl child, it was plain to see, had reached the cut-out stage.

She was cutting, tongue between teeth and with great concentration, along the dotted line of the white paper. Recently, with a few unattractive indications on the petals and with a severed stem, a paper tulip emerged from her efforts.

His gentle lecture on the need for neatness and carefulness on the part of young ladies dampened briefly the enthusiasm of her achievement. But she asked about colors anyway.

He suggested red because he had planted Red Emperors along the front walk. And in the further interest of neatness and carefulness on the part of young ladies, he decided to tell her how much painstaking effort is required to produce a perfect tulip.

The soil, he pointed out, had been poor and at great effort he had hauled bones dirt to partially replace it. He explained that woods dirt consists mainly of rotted leaves from thousands of trees. Then, he said, holes were dug to the depth prescribed by horticulturalists. In the bottom was placed bone meal which was made by grinding up the bones of animals which had departed this world, and on top of this was placed a tulip bulb imported from master growers in Holland.

Then, he explained, the hole was covered and, in its time, the tulip had come up and bloomed.

He looked at her paper tulip again, a little disturbed by the severed stem. "Come," he said suddenly, "look at my tulip."

He looked at her paper tulip again, a little disturbed by the severed stem. "Come," he said suddenly, "look at my tulip."

And there beside the walk, its roots in the moist earth and its head turned to the warming sun, stood the perfect tulip—his tulip.

Welcome, spring!

It is the only time a man can play God and get away with it.

From The Washington Daily News

HOW BIG IS TOO BIG?

A BANKER we know has a shiny, good-as-new 1929 Studebaker which he keeps in a beautiful mosaic-decorated \$10,000 garage.

He said this is the newest comfortable car that will fit it and he'll be danged if he'll run \$10,000 worth of masonry just to get something with stratospheric fenders and an airplane tail.

But suppose one has no '29 Studebaker? Well, numbers of motorists with pre-war garages are staring ruefully at the weathered hind parts of new cars no longer garaged, but merely hoisted.

Since 1937, the American car has grown about two feet; from 15.10 to 16.8 feet parking in 1937, to today's 17 to 18.5 feet.

Now the crunch comes within 3.5 to 5 feet unless the fellow is cheating in the next space—and he usually is.

Couldn't Detroit do drivers and itself a big favor by putting some sort of limit on car sizes?

There could be a rule like the one in the bathtub industry which says don't build anything too big to go through the Panama Canal—only, in this case, make it read the American garage.

Research scientist told the United States Brewers Foundation that a supply of canned beer would be a good stop-gap substitute for water in case of atomic attack. It should make the bomb shelters a good deal livelier, too.—ANKASAS GAZETTE.

'We've Got To Stop All This Spending On Essentials'



Antidote For Complacency

PETerson Peers Into Hell

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON FOR going on four years now, Val Peterson, a genial Nebraska politician, has been peering intently into hell. The results of his peering seem worth describing, if only as an antidote to the queer mood of national complacency which has been described in Time magazine as "The New Normalcy."

Peterson, as chief of the Federal Civil Defense Agency, recently needed the President and the National Security Council on the results of his peering. He said, in effect, that the government would have to spend about \$2 billion if the country really wanted a serious civil defense program.

Back in 1953, when Peterson was appointed to his job, he took a good hard look at the real nature of the nuclear weapons—the first of the nuclear weapons to do so. He summed up his unhappy conclusion in four words — "The cities are finished."

SAVING THE PEOPLE The cities being finished, the problem remained of saving some, at least, of the people in the cities. Peterson was assured by Air Force experts that a forward detection system should make it possible to give the major cities a minimum of two hours warning time before an attack. Until early 1955, therefore, Peterson's planning was based on pre-attack evacuation of the cities.

At a specific time, Peterson's Commission Chairman Lewis Strauss belatedly reported on the phenomenon of noxious, radioactive fallout from a hydrogen bomb explosion, covering some 7,000 square miles.

This grim information, which Strauss had attempted to bottle up for almost a year, knocked all Peterson's evacuation plans into a cocked snuff. Obviously, it would do no good to evacuate the populations of the cities, only to have them killed in the countryside by noxious fallout. So Peterson started all over again.

SHelter PLAN With the evacuation solution blocked, the only other conceivable answer was shelters. Again, elaborate studies went forward. A specific city, St. Louis, Mo., was chosen as guinea pig. Suppose all the people in St. Louis were in shelters capable of withstanding a pressure of 30 pounds per square inch, how many might survive a hydrogen bomb attack? As many as six in 10, was the answer given by Peterson's experts. (Without shelters, virtually all would die.)

Saving 60 per cent of American urban population in case of nuclear war seemed a useful objective to Peterson and his staff.

People Taxed To Aid State's Lawbreakers

Charlotte

Editors, The News: I notice the lawmakers in Raleigh are still taxing the people to run a welfare department to pay mothers for the upkeep of their illegitimate children.

This is like all the other taxes that are forced on the people although the law is not enforced on its violators. If each person who brings illegal children into the world would be forced to spend five years in the pen for their adultery the people would not have to be taxed to keep them.

—MRS. J. D. BIGGERS

Advertising Mistakes

The Lady Fought Back

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON SEN. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine has encountered an old acquaintance in the sensational story that the crown prince of Teamsters Union tried to beat a senatorial investigation with the help of bribery.

Involved with James R. Hoffa, Teamster vice president, in the bribery presentation to a federal grand jury here is Hyman Fischbach, Fischbach is a one-time counsel for congressional committees, but that is not where his fame is secured by vivid memories of him.

Sen. Smith was one of the rare victims of the sleazy book, "U. S. Confidential," who had the courage to fight back. She sued for libel in May, 1952, and won an out-of-court settlement for \$15,000. In addition, the publisher and surviving author, Lee Mortimer, had to run paid advertisements in the Maine newspapers saying it was all a mistake.

TWO-DAY GRILLING

But the settlement did not take place until after Sen. Smith had been grilled for two days in a pre-trial examination by Mortimer's attorney—Mr. Fischbach.

That was during Sen. McCarthy's heyday when he was being received at the White House and the author of the "Declaration of Conscience" was getting the silent treatment there and in other arenas. Mr. Fischbach took the senator from Maine over her voting record, repeatedly demanding that she justify voting in ways or eight changes in the McCarthy CONFIDENTIAL STYLE

The Mortimer book, in the best confidential style, had tagged Sen. Smith as an associate and sympathizer with Communists, pro-Communists and fellow-travelers. Fischbach's apparent theory was that any deviation from McCarthy would tend to prove the allegations.

He dealt in the pleadings he drew up for Mortimer with the embarrassing fact that many of the Washington columnists admired Mrs. Smith as much as they detested Sen. McCarthy. The columnists, said Fischbach, were

People's Platform Annexation Pales

Charlotte about the wisdom of agreeing to annexation. —R. L. LEON

Marine Cry Babies To Be Remembered

Washington

Editors, The News: THE present crop—with some exceptions, of course—of the 17-and-18-year-old boys are not qualified to be Marines, mentally, physically or morally. They generally evading the probation officer.

Cry babies are recognized in the Marines just as "homesickness" is recognized and the training is designed to make these boys men. However, men like those who were "slurred" by the drill instructor and cried, eventually land in the "slop chute soldiers" category.

The fathers of these boys who cried with their darlings should take them home, but they won't for the probation officer is waiting for their darlings. Nevertheless, these fathers should remember that these "crying babies" will never be allowed to forget the day they cried, in or out of service.

The new commanding general of Parris Island is a recognized soldier and won't tolerate abuse, but neither will he have any stomach for a "cry baby."

—MARTIN A. MCGRODY U. S. Marines 1910-1945

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON IF you know the full inside story of the negotiations which followed, the French suggestion that instead of getting a flat guarantee from the U.N. or Egypt that the Egyptian army would go back into the Gaza Strip, Israel might base its withdrawal on a series of assumptions which would be approved in advance by the United States and France.

Thin Finger

Israel had been adamant that the thin finger of land extending 26 miles up along the Palestinian coast should not be always been a part of Palestine and that its unnatural borders resulted from the fact that the Israeli Army was halted there by Britain and the United States

'Anybody Care To Have A New Look At Civil Defense?'

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List Drawn

As a result of the French suggestion, a series of "assumptions" were drawn up by Israeli Foreign Minister Golda Meir. One "assumption" was that the civil and military administration of the Gaza Strip "will be exclusively by the U.N."

Another assumption was that the U.N. administration would continue until "there is a permanent settlement." These and other assumptions were studied carefully in writing and agreed to by John Foster Dulles. He made six or eight changes in the wording. These Israel accepted.

Israel Victim Of Grand Double-Cross

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Dulles In Reverse

When Dulles spoke, however, he changed the signals. Instead of calling the assumptions "reasonable" as agreed, he called them "not unreasonable."

He also went out of his way to emphasize that Israel could exercise control over the Gaza Strip. This was what made the Israeli government "reverse itself and not get out of Gaza after all. An earlier meeting of the Israeli cabinet debated a reversal. They were fibbered that the United States should have agreed to the terms of withdrawal, and then renege on them.