

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Statewide Roads Concept Endangered

the philosophy and the design of the legislation.

When Sen Claude Currie's study commission submitted its recommendations Dec. 18, one guiding principle outshone all others. It was simply and succinctly stated.

"The highway commission should be concerned with the needs of the state as a whole, rather than with the needs of any particular area of the state."

This principle was reinforced with a plan to reduce the number of members of the highway commission from 14 to 7 "and by specifically providing that their appointments shall not be such as to represent any particular section."

tion."

This represented Sen Currie's view as chairman of the study commission and as sponsor of the original bill. But on Wednesday, Mr. Currie offered the Senate Roads Committee an amendment. It provided that the seven members of the new commission be selected from different geographical districts. Under the new arrangement the governor and the commission would be directed to designate each member an area in which he would be responsible for public relations and handling liaison between the commission and the people.

people.

The amendment was approved by

the committee.

The language of the bill still pays impressive lip service to the ideal of statewide planning. The wording of the amended version restate's the administration's intent "to reduce the sectionial interests that at times now dominate.

the commission."
But so does the language of Section 136-1, General Statutes of North Carolina, under which the present high-

desires of any mission.

Talk is, unfortunately, theap The ideal was abandoned because the 14 present highway commissioners soon became caretakers of their own sectional interests rather than the interests of the state as a whole.

Something quite similar could occur again if commissioners are permitted to become wedded to the political interests of a particular geographical area—and no other.

That would not have been quite so likely under the terms of the original bill. It is quite possible under the terms of the amended version.

Footnote

ONE entire section was summarily deleted from the Highway Reorganization Act this week by the legislature's Senate Roads Committee It had to do with limitations on the political activity of State Highway Commission

There can be but one justification for the action: That the proposed rules be salvaged for use later in a separate bill applying to all state employes, not just highway workers.

Saga Of A Stoplight And Four Votes

COUNCILMAN Herman Brown was

COUNCILMAN Herman Brown was tright.

Four votes on a seven-man City Council is enough to hang a stoplight anywhere, even on the tip of a crescent moon. The majority rules, he was saying. "There's no skin off anybody's ears where we put a traffic light if we got four votes." It was, withal, a very democratic, colorful and stimulating statement in defense of a stoplight hanging on W. Morehead St. at Jefferson Pl.

Certainly there were no abrasions on the ears of Traffic Engineer Herman Hoose. He had investigated the advisability of hanging the light and was ready to advise Council against it. Council is paying Mr. Hoose \$8.688 a year to advise it and to supervise the spending of

a budget of about \$350,000 But. as we said, Mr. Hoose was ready to advise Council if Council wanted advice. And his ears are in good shape.

The purpose of expert reports on traffic matters, of course, is to provide Council with the basis for policy decisions. But Council didn't want a policy. You make the policy. Councilman Brown said to Councilwoman Evans, and we'll do the voting. Quite. Mr. Brown had four votes, all you need to hang a stoplight.

Now there is a question as to whether overall traffic flow will be facilitated or hindered by the stoplight.

We don't have the answer.

Council doesn't either.

It had four votes.

The Budget: George Won't Do It Either

M.R. Humphrey is one man who doesn't want to "let George do it."

George is George Humphrey, sec-ary of the Treasury, and he wants igness to do it; that is, cut the na-nal budget.

congress to do it; that is, cut the national budget, It is Mr. It is Mr. It is Mr. Breitent Eisenhower's, and he's terrified of it. He says the volume of spending it represents will bring on a "hair-curling depression". Herbert Hower, Margaret Chase Smith and others of his party agree with him.

One of the nation's most successful businessmen. Mr. Humphrey qualifies, if anyone does, as an economic profunction. Moreover, he is "confident" big cuts can be made without impairing security or public services.

But in one of the most amazing exhibitions of political footwork since the Tar Heel solon rose in the House to "speak to Buncombe," Mr. Humphrey al-

ways manages to be a knife without a blade.

ways manages to be a knife without a blade.

Although it's his budget, he wouldn't cut it: although be's certain that Congress must in the interest of fiscal sanity, he won't say where to cut it. He only says in gloomy tones that it must be cut, and Congress must, do the job.

He said that, that is, until this week when he said "basically it is the job of the American people" to cut government expenditures. So it its. So is the building of the earth satellite.

But we remember that the American people delegated the job of budget-cutting to Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952 and he, in turn, delegated it to George Humphrey. And, goodness knows, no Republican claimed a Democratic Congress could be trusted to do the job.

There also was a lot of talk in '52 about the need for more businessmen in government.

Why not bring 'em on?

From The Raleigh News & Observer

THERE is usually an old clock stuck in the face of most of the courf-houses in Eastern North Carolina. In the early morning hours, just after daylight, when the square is empty and still except for the distant furtive barking of hounds and the crowing of roosters, the ghosts of the past gather around the clock. The town is still askeep, but the clock goes on chipping off fragments of time to the hollow and empty square. The ghosts of 200 years cavort upon the grass in front of the courthouse. They sit cross-legged on the iron benches and call up the little gossip and sundry incidents of storied times.

The hour for the ghosts is from 6 a.m..

7 a.m. They come from the back alleys and streets of the town where they have and streets of the town where they have been pushed by the sweeping surge of time and history. This is their hour to sport upon the courthouse square: for commerce is still at home, either be neath the covers or making a pot of coffee. And the ghosts sift for an hour, calmly taking the town apart inch by inch, brick by brick. Then they put it back together so that it will be intact

THE COURT HOUSE CLOCK

HOUSE CLOCK

at 7 a.m when the first hardy flesh and blood souls venture out to sweep the sidewalks in front of their stores.

The old clock runs down the hill from 6 to 6:20, putting on brakes to keep from emulating a run-away horse. Then he begins the arduous climb up the long, sun-specked slope to 7 a.m. He flexes his muscles in the first warm sunlight, stiffes a yawn, and musters all his strength to proclaim seven long, sun-specked slope to 7 a.m. He flexes his muscles in the first warm sunlight, stiffes a yawn, and musters all his strength to proclaim seven long, sharp strokes. Footfalls echo from the packen and the packed and the packed and the packed and the square. The ghosts return to their places in the back alleys and streets. They've had an hour of rare, good sport, talking about the ballots they once cast at elections, about the pretty girls they kissed, about the families they reared and the battles they fought, and all the fun they once had with marbles and kites and fiddles and fishing poles.

About the smartest thing the pioneers did was fo stuff the covered wagons full of so many things that their descendants could wire up as lamps. — ASHEVILLE CITIZEN.

Reapportionment: A Fuzzy Word With Sharp Meanings

Editors' Note: Welmar Jones, editor of The Frankin Press and ane of the state's most distinguished newspapermen, is a member of the North Carolina Comission on Legislative Representation. This challenging article is excerpted from a speech he will deliver tonight to the League of Women Voters at Southern Pines.

LEGISLATIVE representa

Rights Of Citizens

Complex Formula



'Should One-Seventh Of The People Elect One-Fourth Of The Senate?'

Plain Mandate

Some Comparisons

Another group of seven the senators.

Another group of seven districts contain one-fourth the state's population. But they elect only one-seventh of the senators.

One-seventh of the senators, one-fourth of the senators, one-put in terms of population, approxim at let | \$60,000 people, through their senators, can outvoice nearly a million — and by a margin of almost 2 to 1.

Now when 60,000 people can outvoice 1,000,000 by two to over law of the spectacle of one over law of the spectacle of

Old Truth

CLEARANCE

PROJECT

'Well! It's About Time'

Unimportant War?

Reasons Given

Problem Studied

Problem Studied

Well, in compliance with a resolution of the General Assembly itself, adopted two years and the following the state of the General Company of the following the state of t

Unwritten Letters

written.

What is the explanation of the public apathy about this thing? Again we can hazard some guess-

Again we can hazard some guessFirst, of all, I suspect, most people don't know the facts about the situation. Second, they are discouraged from inding out. This thing, which should be simple, has been made terribly complicated. Let me read you something, and the suspect of the proposition of the state, exclusive of the top the state, exclusive of the top the state, exclusive of that comprehended within those counties which do not several the state, and the state of the state, and the state of the state, which is the state of the state, and the state of the state, and the state of the state of the state, and the state of the state, and the state of the state

Surface Symptoms

An Old Jealousy

Cynical Assumption

why so many of us react to any superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems. The superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems. The superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems. The superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems. The superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems. The superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems. The superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems. The superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems with a superimental problems. The superimental problems with a superimental problems. The problems with a superimental pro

Poetry As Knowledge

Estheticism Has Its Place

IT SEEMS to me that my verse of the poem. I have copressed to anybody else's is merety a way of knowing something:
If the poem is a real creation, it is a kind of knowledge sake. There is probably nothing
that we did not possess before. It
is not knowledge "about" some thing else; the poem is the fullness of that knowledge. We have
superstanding the poem is the fullsays, that we can restate. In a
manner of speaking, the poem is
tis own knower, neither poet nor
reader knowing anything that the
poem says apart from the words

Loud Demos Quietly Kill Tax Relief Bill Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

TROOPS TO

WITHDRAW

What They Did

However, let's see what the Demo-crats, who yelled the loudest, did about small business

No Reductions

No effort was made by either party to reduce the tax on small business. No small-business witnesses were heard. The speed was such as to arouse suspicion. Afterward, the tax bill was given a gag rule by the Rules Committee, which means that it cannot be amended on the propose a lower tax for small business and get it voted on.

Why The Rush?

Oily Smell

However, here is the very significant development regarding the tax bill after it was rammed through the Ways and Means Committee. At first it was sent to the full House for action during the week of Feb. 18. Then suddenly it was withdrawn. It is now being held in abeyance until a few days hefore the taxes are due to expire on March 31. The rea are due to expire on March 31. The rea being the summer of th

the structure of the st