

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Real Estate: An Ounce Of Prevention

Few legislative proposals have been subjected to as much hot-eyed scrutiny and suspicious poking as a bill to create a real estate licensing board in North Carolina.

Its avowed purpose is to establish fair and reasonable professional standards among real estate brokers and salesmen for the protection of the public.

But the critics of the measure have decried it as a plot to squeeze out small operators in the hinterlands and turn the real estate business into a restrictive fraternity of realtors.

The fears are a trifle farfetched. The licensing system is designed to prevent mischief rather than create it.

It is a fact that shady operators and fly-by-nighters have proved upon hapless Tar Heels in real estate deals. Home buyers are often unconquered with the intricacies of deeds, mortgages and contracts. Their ignorance is an engraved invitation to the swindler.

It is also a fact that 45 states now have license laws to protect their citizens from grifters. In addition to North Carolina, it is still open season in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Under the terms of the act, brokers and salesmen would be subject to oral or written examinations to determine their qualifications "with due regard to the paramount interests of the public as to (their) honesty, truthfulness, integrity and competency." Those meeting reasonable standards would be licensed. Their license would be subject to suspension or revocation in the event any "improper, fraudulent or dishonest dealing" is proved before the board at a hearing. The right of appeal to the courts would be safeguarded.

Members of the board would be appointed by the governor. They need not even be members of the real estate business, indicating that no sly attempt is being made to set up a closed shop.

Even though real estate men presently engaged in the business in North Carolina would be licensed automatically under a "grandfather clause" in the law, they would be subject to the same discipline and code of conduct as newcomers.

Of course, the courts stand ready now to prosecute the swindlers and bunco artists. But it is a long, painful process to redress the wrong after it has been done. A preventive is simpler and cheaper.

Efficiently and conscientiously administered, a licensing law can serve an extremely useful purpose in North Carolina.

Mr. Friday Gets Down To Business

WILLIAM C. Friday said the right thing at the right time. Until the new UNC president rose to speak, the ceremonies of his inauguration in Reynolds Coliseum had been flavored mainly by the impressive unreality of medieval pomp and pageantry. There had been a cap-and-gown procession of dignitaries. The stage was crowded with the inevitable formal sprays of ferns and flowers. The ceremony was all very charming and traditional; it could have been largely meaningless if Bill Friday had made a charming and traditional address, full of abstract generalizations and flashy chronology.

For there is nothing abstract about the grave responsibility with which President Friday was being entrusted. In its institutions at Chapel Hill, Greensboro, and Raleigh, the university and its mission of leadership is being challenged by very real problems. There is nothing new about the problems, which are keeping good faculties together, preserving an atmosphere of freedom of thought and expression necessary for its work, and providing the physical facilities they require.

But if the university is to survive and to grow, there must be a constant newness, or renewal, of the determination of its leaders and of all North Carolinians to conserve its almost legendary influence for the good in this state.

Friday — in a candid, direct speech — made it clear that he has that determination. He pledged himself to fight to provide decent salaries for faculties. Equally important, he set himself firmly against any attempts at interference with the atmosphere of responsible freedom that surrounds our institutions: Freedom of inquiry, freedom of action, freedom of thought and freedom of speech. He recognized the necessity of new physical facilities to serve a growing university.

As an individual, President Friday can guarantee the university none of its physical and spiritual necessities. But as a leader in which Tar Heels can place their trust and confidence, he can provide the impetus for conservation and extension into the future of the great force of university's influence in the building of a better state.

Bill Friday talked like a man who wanted to sluck his ceremonial out and get to work on the problems that beset UNC. As he undertakes one of the state's most important responsibilities, he deserves the support and sympathetic attention of all North Carolinians.

These Volunteers Are Always Ready

FIRE is a fearful phenomenon — any day, any week, any month. But at least during Voluntary Fire Department Week, now being observed in Mecklenburg County, the phenomenon can be discussed with some perspective.

Certainly, due to the soothing presence of 20 volunteer fire departments, fire is not the threat that it once was in the county. It can be fought swiftly and efficiently in almost any section.

Mecklenburg's network of volunteer fire departments is still a model for the rest of the state. That network has grown remarkably in recent years. There were only eight departments in 1952. Today there are a score. Their equipment — including housing — is valued at \$500,000. Their personnel numbers 730.

Naturally, they account for tremendous savings in insurance. Last year, they answered 735 calls, excluding grass and automobile fires, to fires threatening property valued at approximately \$7 million, and with a saving of some \$4.9 million.

But it costs money to operate the departments that protect every property owner outside the city. Operating expenses are raised principally through membership fees ranging from \$5 to \$20 a year. A few extra dollars are also raised through fish fries and barbecues.

The job being done is tremendously important. It is public service in the best and most selfless sense. Mecklenburg County's volunteer fire departments deserve wide support — this or any other week.

The idea for daylight saving time came from an old Indian out in Arizona. Seems that he cut a strip off one end of his blanket and sewed it to the other end to make it longer. — LEXINGTON LEADER.

Then there's the one about the husband who received a card from his wife, vacationing in Florida: "Having a wonderful time dear, wish you were here!" — LAMAR (Mo.) DEMOCRAT.

Husband to wife: "If we continue to save at our present rate, when retirement comes we will owe exactly \$244.899.64." — CARLEBAR CURRENT-ANGUS.

"Never," counsels Lilly Dache concerning the perfume "If I spray your living room and entrance hall with your personal perfume before your guests arrive for a party." If that doesn't bewitch 'em, balance a bucket of the stuff over the front door to douse each newcomer. — RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER.

People's Platform

Halt The Testing Of Major Atomic Weapons

Editors, The News: CHARLOTTE

WHEN is the nation going to come to its senses and halt the testing of major atomic bombs? There must be an end to these tests. More and more scientists are agreeing, substantiating A. J. Stevenson's courageous stand during the last presidential campaign. The cumulative danger from fallout is too great a risk. And condemnation of innocent people in other parts of the world is a political hazard in international affairs which should be considered.

What possible gain could be realized by continued testing of these lethal weapons? The United States already has the capacity of total destruction of large areas. Surely this is sufficient to act as a deterrent.

Would not the halting of further testing demonstrate to all peoples our belief in moral principles and international goodwill?

There can be no argument about the testing of smaller bombs such as are used in our guided missile program. This should be continued. But for major bombs we must call a halt.

—EVERETT B. SWANSON

Truth Of Pearson

Column Challenged

Editors, The News: CHARLOTTE

FIRST, I want to thank you sincerely for printing my letter about Sen. McCarthy. Your willingness to present a disagreeable view indicates to me the existence of at least a grain of true liberalism in The News. Of course, you could strengthen my faith by occasionally smuggling into your pages an item by Sokolsky, and dare I say it, Pogler?

Now I do not intend to impose on your good space by indulging in or perpetuating a series of letters on the pro and cons concerning Sen. McCarthy, but I would appreciate opportunity to comment on the Drew Pearson article in your May 7 issue.

No one has ever seriously accused Pearson of burdening his literary offerings with such tricks as integrity and truth. The Washington Post prints him in the company of such of the best of their fiction. But Tuesday was low even for him.

Who could really imagine Joe ever apologizing to him? There was no reason. His fraudulent pretense of sympathy reminds me of a remark my dear old Mammy has made about the type of person who would "cut your throat and then give you handgates."

That Sen. McCarthy is remembered by his friends is illustrated



"Look, Lady — You Don't See Me Worrying"

by the monumental response to Fulton Lewis' suggestion that a hunt be set up for Mrs. McCarthy and their child.

Mr. Pearson says that McCarthy "never did find that one Communist in the State Department." This is a typical subterfuge. For from the first day Sen. McCarthy appeared before the Tydings Committee he expressed his concern over what he clearly classified as security risks, as well as out and out Communists. Incidentally, it is not in a long series of denials and lower handling of fact. You must admit I'm being pretty charitable with the old boy.

Tuesday's Pearson column is only out in a long series of denials and lower handling of fact. You must admit I'm being pretty charitable with the old boy.

Freedom of the press carries with it a correlative duty of truth and integrity. Under these standards I submit that Drew Pearson is "not fit to wear the honored mantle of a newspaperman." Censure is cheerfully welcomed.

—GEORGE A. FITZSIMMONS

Reds And Liberals

Destroyed McCarthy

Editors, The News: STANFORD

THEY called him a liar—they who live the philosophy that truth is relative and changing. They called him a demagogue—they who enkindled against

him the base passions of racial, ethnic and nationalistic prejudice.

They called him an enemy of the free press — they who scanned the people's right to know the details of the 1954 White House plot against him and applauded the President's censorship of that foul deed.

They called him an enemy of free speech — they who praised the Senate's condemnation of his right to speak in defense of himself.

They called him an evil man — they who sterilize the hands of cappel children of God.

All this they called him, and more. For he fought against communism.

Against the diabolic Communists, their supporters, deniers and associates he fought, a magnificent fight — and he almost won. He opened the eyes of many to the corruption of American ideals in government. In the press and in the colleges. And as his campaign moved forward, "liberalism" became scared.

The "liberalism" that does business with tyrant Communist masters, and ignores the suffering masses around under heel, the "liberalism" that side down with blood-drenched Communists and says, "Let's build together a new United World," the "liberalism" that hides the depth of Communist penetration of government — that "liberalism" became scared of the rise of one who "would kick the brains out of anyone protecting Communists."

And so "liberalism" took action against Sen. McCarthy. With the approval and assistance of the liberal-dominated press, radio and TV, they set the stage for another "investigation" — this one a charge that the senator obtained privileges for one lone American private. Three times before his enemies had investigated him, because he sought communism — this time they really gave him the works.

In this fifth investigation the position of the "leader" was turned against the stalwart Communist fighter, and "liberalism" and communism achieved long-sought and much cherished desire — the political destruction of Sen. McCarthy and his campaign against communism.

So total and complete was this destruction that today, despite their loss in membership, the Communists once again ride high.

In politics, the Supreme Court is one case struck down the state sedition laws, and in another case rendered a decision in the opinion of the majority, "might leave the government."

— PETER J. KING



SEN. JOE MCCARTHY

No Reds In Heaven?

penetration of the Middle East as a result of the disastrous Geneva Summit Conference.

Viewing this resurgence of Communist prestige, Sen. McCarthy must have realized his fight against communism was far from the present. So the Lord Jesus sent him home. Home from the land of tranquility, where college boys steal women's underwear and the crime rate increases much faster than the population rate. Home to a place where there is no room for communism, pragmatism, rationalism, and hypocrisy — those cancerous sores that are eating out the vitals of this great nation.

Decline And Fall

McCarthy's Magic

By ERIC SEVAREID
 In A CBS Broadcast

SOME say that things will not seem the same with Joe McCarthy gone. For his friends, this will be true. For Washington as a whole, it will not be true. McCarthy, the political force and symbol and distinct from McCarthy the human being, died three years ago when his fellow senators formally passed their adverse judgment on his conduct.

One of those many men with no friendly memories of Joe McCarthy, former Secretary of State Dean Acheson, would offer on this Latin maxim: "Say nothing about the dead except good." But history cannot adopt this pleasant rule of grace. Nor may those who write and speak the first draft of history. They must, as they will, tell it all down, the good and the ill.

Sen. McCarthy had a certain magic brilliance about him, his I.Q. must surely have registered very high. But his brilliance outran his knowledge, and his ambition outran him both. He was a sudden rocket in the sky, enveloping some, frightening others, catching millions in a kind of spell that dissipated only when the rocket itself, as a rocket must, spluttered, went cold, and fell.

SHORT CUTS

What drove him on and on at reckless speed, his intimates and the psychologists must one day piece together. McCarthy could never wait. At the start of his career he leaped from one political party to another for faster results. Always he took the short cuts. As a lawyer and judge, he got in trouble with the organized bar of his state; as a Marine during the war he was restless in his Pacific Ocean intelligence job and flew to Washington as the rear gunner's seat. The very war was too slow for the pace of his life, and he quit the war before it was ended to run for office. His short cuts were risky, and could have ruined a lesser man. He spoke publicly of shrapnel wounds, that were accidental injuries, and he got many medals by requesting them.

But the Senate seemed to smother his drive, and it was pure chance that shot him to fame in 1950 as Communist Hunter No. 1. He had not the slightest proof of his original charges, but he fought it through, won the support of millions, broke distinguished careers, had whole departments of government almost at his mercy. Never once did he uncover a person in government proved to be a Communist. Yet millions believed with him that "Where there's smoke there's fire." And for a time the devil theory of politics was established — the theory that a few individuals in this vast government were responsible for giving whole nations over to the Red Army of Communist control.

Washington respects power and power alone. When McCarthy had power, the highest officials attended his wedding. When his power was gone, though the human being was the same, he was cut dead socially. If history finds that McCarthy used his strength in a wrongful manner, it will find that the weakness of others was part of the fault.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

FOSTER Furcolo, dynamic young governor of Massachusetts, paid a call on Sen. Eisenhower yesterday. He laid before him a plan for the federal government to set \$3 billion aside for the next five years, to be used at 2 per cent interest to build school buildings and various public works.

Sky-High Interest

What the 49 states are up against, Mr. President, explained Democratic Gov. Furcolo, is the highest interest rates in years. We have to pay 4 or 4 1/2 per cent on bonds to build schools, hospitals and highways.

"However," continued the governor of Massachusetts, "if the federal govern-

ment set aside \$3 billion from which the states could borrow at 2 per cent, we would probably lower their interest rates."

Furcolo told like that he had queried the other state governors on the idea and about half seemed to favor the plan.

President Eisenhower, however, was noncommittal. He listened attentively, but made no comment.

Later the Massachusetts governor tried the idea out on Speaker Sam Rayburn in his Washington, D.C., office.

Lyndon Chafes Democrats

Democratic leaders made no effort to hide their irritation with Sen. Lyndon Johnson, the so-called Democratic leader of the Senate, for leaving Washington

'Onward! Upward! Modern Republicans!'



Smathers Being Groomed

WASHINGTON

In addition to being liked at Lyndon's behest they learned that he is secretly grooming Sen. George Smathers of Florida to replace him as Democratic chairman when Butler retires to run for the Senate from Indiana.

Loud, Long Boos

Smathers did come to Tampa and sat on the platform. When asked to take a bow he was greeted with long, loud and continuous boos.

This is the man Lyndon Johnson wants to push as chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Smathers made not one speech for Stevenson, did not lift a finger in that election. Finally toward the end of the campaign he was asked to introduce Stevenson at a Democratic rally in Tampa, but refused—unless he were permitted to make a speech during his introduction explaining why he differed with Stevenson. In brief, he wanted to make a speech against Stevenson before Stevenson spoke.

This was rejected.

— PETER J. KING