



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Tell School Boards You Want Merger

THE CASE for consolidation of the public school systems of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County has been presented with convincing thoroughness. In a tightly-drawn yet well-documented report, a special Chamber of Commerce committee led by attorney Richard Thippen has illuminated both the necessity and the promise of a single educational system for the entire county.

Seldom has a public issue been examined with such painstaking and dispassionate care. Seldom has a single solution to a given problem seemed so satisfying to such a variety of interests. Attorney Thippen's group has done its job and done it well. The fact remains that its efforts were of a voluntary nature. The committee has no official standing in the governmental structure of Charlotte or Mecklenburg County. The burden of responsibility to act rests with public bodies.

That action should come at the earliest possible moment the enlightened response of the two school boards and the approval of a workable apparatus for the maintenance of a single school

system. It will require a special act of the North Carolina General Assembly. But there is an earlier requirement still. It is mobilized public opinion in favor of consolidation.

That opinion, we believe, is already strongly in favor of a merger. It must be even more firmly felt in governmental bodies.

The task is the people's. Government cannot be stronger or more tough-minded than the people. It cannot be more inflexibly committed to a task than they. It cannot be wiser than the people. An enlightened, active citizenry is always the best eradicator of timidity in high places.

What Mecklenburgers have at their fingertips today is one of the basic tools of democracy. It is the power to improve, the power to accomplish revolutionary things in an orderly manner, to alter old patterns to make them fit the changing needs of the people. Now is the time for Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to make profitable use of this vitality and flexibility in the interest of a better and more efficient public education system for all our children.

Mint Museum: Art Is Essential, Too

CHARLOTTE continues to astound outsiders who stray within its borders for a stealthy glimpse at a city on the go.

One such vagabond, who calls Des Moines or thereabouts home, peered incredulously at the community's cultural and recreational monuments during the recent holidays and wondered to his Mecklenburg host how Charlotteans ever found time for "such nonsense."

This is a business center, he coined, and the business of business is business. Why is there so much to-do about culture?

It was our visiting friend's contention that all the aesthetics that inhabitants of a business community need can be summed up rather swiftly: A firm appreciation of the nuances of taste and smell involved in hoisting a few bourbons-and-brandywater upon a Saturday night and the little cultural lift a golfer gets when his well-pegged drive soars straight for the pin on a par-three hole. This is culture's essence, he declared. But Charlotte has a broader base for its modes of living. That is one of the reasons its citizens support cultural institutions such as the Mint Museum of Art with such dedicated fervor.

Like members of every other community in America, the Queen City's inhabitants must concentrate a good deal of time on what is loosely referred to as "the essentials." These are the anxious

quest for a good house, a good car, a healthy body, money in the bank, a satisfaction of physical needs, food, clothing, shelter, security against want. These are important and they do come first. But, truly, they only prepare the way for what is of greater value—satisfactory cultural living. And for this last, beauty, harmony, symmetry and strength of soul are as necessary as health and comfort of the body.

The Mint Museum of Art, known familiarly to most Charlotteans as the Mint, helps fulfill these needs. Through its exhibitions, its classes, its drama and artists guild activities, its concerts, its dramatic recitals, its lectures, its art film screenings, its practical demonstrations and its many other activities, the Mint enriches the cultural life of the community immeasurably. Furthermore, it sends a shock of vivifying gaiety through what could be a dull, lifeless business community.

This week the Mint launched its annual drive for new members. It is through memberships that the museum is able to operate on such a generous scale and to give to the community as free for the entire community to enjoy. The fees are modest—as little as \$5 for a single membership. Obviously, as many Charlotteans as possible can should join, contributing a little to the Mint's endeavor they will be enabling the Mint to contribute a great deal more to the cultural well-being of the community.

A Few Zounds! For A Startling Future

QUAVERING earthlings being exhorted to get up there and inhabit that moon promptly are to be denied even the briefest respite in the future.

There was sweet promise to be sure, in the Associated Press' admission that it erred in reporting the Soviet already had colonized outer space with at least one rocket-powered comrade. A few days later what was thought to be the beginning of a new Soviet satellite turned out to be the stratospheric echo of an idling teleprinter or, if not that, of some housewife's eggbeater. It seemed for a moment that a man might safely flip a filter out of a crush-proof box, light up and listen contentedly to the homey sounds of traffic jams, winter jams, rock 'n' roll and the knock of the bill collector.

Alas, it is not to be. A revolutionary new cigarette is now making its bow in the public prints. With the aid of "the new man in tobacco, the scientist," a startling new cigarette has been created. It is about 3 1/2 inches long, is packed with natural tobacco, has no menthol or strawberry jam flavoring whatsoever, and no filter at

all. These cigarettes are called "straights" and "cost no more than other cigarettes," it is claimed.

Obviously the inventors are in the saddle and, as by now, people must be braced for a constant succession of new wonders. Already there is talk that in just a few years automobiles may come equipped with an odd metal bar rising from the floorboards. This has been tabbed tentatively as a "gear shift" and it is thought that merely by moving this piece of metal the motorist will be able to exert some control over the engine. If that has the flavor of pure phantasy, what about the reports that advanced research in light bulbs will make it possible within a decade, or maybe even a shorter period, for autos to be equipped with only two front headlights?

Things will never be the same, friends. The next thing you know some visionary is going to suggest that homes of the future will have places for putting lamps other than on tables set in front of picture windows. And not the unhelpful abiding place of millions of people who fall into a profound despair because somebody else has an artificial satellite and they haven't.

It just might happen, too. Times are changing.

O SAY COMMA

From The New York Times

THE National Music Council, as reported in this newspaper, is interested in efforts now being made to "tune up" the national anthem. The Library of Congress and the Department of the Army are helping. Nobody asserts that anything is wrong with the grand old song, except that some of its time is hard to climb up to the high notes. The object is to get the words and punctuation closer to what Francis Scott Key intended and to make them fit better into the music written by John Stafford Smith for the Anacretion Society of London and subsequently entitled *TO ANACREON IN HEAVEN*. We are lucky that a tune written in honor of the poet of love and wine turned out to be a good national anthem; lucky, also, that Mr. Key, in September 1814, was able to make it go out to the British fleet, then in the Chesapeake, to interfere for his friend, Dr. William Beanes, who had been gathered in by a British patrol. What the revisionists would like to re-

capture, possibly, is some of the exaltation with which Mr. Key, held prisoner during the bombardment of the Baltimore forts, saw the flag flying, after a night of being held captive by the British. Mrs. Mary Young Pickersgill had made this flag, with the aid of her 14-year-old daughter Caroline; it measured 26 by 29 feet and could be seen a long way off, "by the dawn's early light." It was "spangled" with 15 stars.

If moving the commas around and getting an easier flow into the singing will help revive the old national song, the old faith, so much the better. We don't care so much for "triumph" any more—what is triumph, anyway?—but it will do us good to have faith that this still is "the land of the free and the home of the brave" and not the unhelpful abiding place of millions of people who fall into a profound despair because somebody else has an artificial satellite and they haven't.

—DID THEY 'GET' GAVIN?— Bucking The President Before Congress Is Dangerous

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
THE DEFENSE Department is making some very curious moves with respect to the service officers who are called as witnesses by the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee and put under oath to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

The dilemma is an old one, of course. The officers must not lie in the Congress, yet when they expose their differences they often appear to be in opposition to their commander-in-chief, the President of the United States.

It is perhaps more of a problem now, when the President is a career military man and therefore almost bound to experience an unusually keen emotional reaction to such a situation. That he has on past occasions been extremely emotional about service testimony before Congress is well known.

SOBER COMMENT

Right now, two officers considered by their respective services to be among their best and most dedicated brains are featured in incidents about which there is much sober comment here.

One is already lost to the Pentagon at this critical time. Lieut. Gen. James M. Gavin, chief of Army research and development, after blunt testimony before the Preparedness Subcommittee, said it did not help a man to



MESSRS. EISENHOWER, GAVIN AND BRUCKER
Four Stars And A Lack of Taste

be "frank and straightforward" in testifying before congressional committees and that he had decided to retire.

BRUCKER'S MOVE

At this point Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker moved in a manner precisely calculated to force any man of sense to go through with that retirement. Brucker publicly offered Gavin a fourth star and a choice of two major Army assignments if he



would continue the brilliant career begun as a private in 1924. The Army secretary is not viewed here as offering competition to J. Robert Oppenheimer in the cerebral department and his public utterances have frequently lacked taste. But it is not considered that this remarkable performance was the purely accidental reflex of a thoughtless man. The reverse is true.

Sitting close to the situation are satisfied that Brucker's was



a planned maneuver designed to force Gavin to retire. They know of their own knowledge that Gavin considered remaining on Brucker's terms until a friend pointed out to him the impossible position in which he would find himself.

The Capital grapevine goes further. It describes Eisenhower as ordering Brucker to "get Gavin." There is no evidence whatever that this is true. There is equally no evidence that any private, or

greet effort to save face on all sides but retain Gavin's services was undertaken.

FIRING LINE

Last weekend found a key Air Force figure, Maj. Gen. Bernard A. Schriever, head of its ballistic missile program, moving up to the firing line. Gen. Schriever, under oath, testified that he regarded the Defense Department's space arms board as a costly duplication of work already performed in this field.

The President had praised the agency in his State of the Union message as an example of improved organization. The contrast between the Eisenhower-Schriever views is being headlined as part of "a generals' revolt."

A 'MIX-UP'

For a few hours the Defense Department attempted to say that it had not cleared Schriever's testimony for publication, that the Air Force had done it. Defense Secretary McElroy at first risked too "mix-up," but after personal investigation said Defense did clear it after all.

It seems at least possible that the Defense Department, after such a blunder, preferred to leave the President irked at Schriever for testifying rather than risk too high a Defense for releasing the testimony.

U.S. Army Is Out-Manned And Out-Gunned By Russia

By STEWART ALSP

WASHINGTON
HUMAN motives are always mixed, and there may have been personal motives in Lt. Gen. James Gavin's desperate decision to retire from the Army. Gavin was certainly aware, for example, that President Eisenhower bitterly resented Gavin's outspoken role in the Army's behalf.

The President's resentment inevitably meant that Gavin could not be Chief of Staff as long as Eisenhower was President. Gavin is generally regarded as the Army's most brilliant senior officer, and the feeling of being blocked off from the top Army post cannot have been pleasant. But there were other, impersonal, and far more important reasons for Gavin's despairing gesture.

One way to understand those reasons is to go back and examine the photographs which appeared in the newspapers and magazines of the parade of the Red Army in Moscow on Nov. 7th, the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. With the space satellites already launched, all sorts of new surprises were anticipated.

When the Soviets failed to hit the moon with a hydrogen bomb, or bring the dog Laika down alive on Red Square, there was a certain sense of anticlimax, and the parade was billed as "unsensational." But to a professional infantry soldier like Gavin, the parade was by no means unsensational.

The Sovietists actively encouraged Western photographers to take pictures of their tanks, troop carriers, tactical missiles, and so on, much as Hitler used to do in the pre-lunch days. The reasons were similar. In virtually every category the ground warfare weapons displayed by the Soviets were decisively superior to anything in the possession of the United States or its allies.

One qualified military specialist, Garrett Guncill, has already described some of the Soviet infantry weapons in an article for the

Washington Post. To cite a few examples:

During the parade, the Soviets displayed huge "tank tanks," each mounting a pair of powerful new anti-aircraft guns. The only American counterpart is a light tank mounting much less powerful guns first designed in 1936. The NATO ground forces lack even this protection.

The Soviets also displayed a new, improved heavy tank, with heavier armor and artillery than anything in the American arsenal. They are known to have several thousand such tanks. This country is building 300 heavy tanks, the last of which will not be delivered until 1959.

NEW RIFLES

The tactical missiles displayed by the Russians were clearly both more powerful and more mobile than anything in the American forces. The Soviets even have new, lightweight rifles and other infantry weapons, which render their individual soldiers far more mobile than American troops.

In short, the Soviet ground troops are unquestionably far better equipped than their American or NATO counterparts. The story does not end there.

PENTAGON STEP-CHILD

As Gavin said, there were 27 divisions in the American Army when he came to Washington, and there are fifteen now. What he did not say is that only nine of these divisions — a ridiculous number for a great power — are fully equipped and combat-ready. The official estimate of 173 Soviet divisions is probably exaggerated. But the Soviets undoubtedly have 65 armored and mechanized divisions, fully equipped for atomic war, plus an equal number of infantry divisions, all resting on a huge mobilization base.

The Gathier report, the Rockefeller Fund report, and other competent authorities have stressed that the ability to fight limited wars is as important an element in the world power balance as the ability to fight suicidal all-out nuclear wars. Yet throughout the presidency of that

product of the Army, Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Army has been the Pentagon's stepchild. There have been no Sputniks to dramatize Soviet superiority in ground forces, but that superiority is incontestable.

DESPAIR SHARED

It may be charged that the Army leaders — notably Eisenhower himself — have been too eager to expend the Army's resources on such things as space platforms. It may also be charged — with justice — that the Army's proportion of men to combat units is still much too high. Yet if one examines such facts as those listed above, it is easy to understand Gavin's despair, which is shared by many other dedicated officers.

For the rest of us, it might be well to remember that the world is not a simple place. It is not a simple place, and to remember also Gavin's warning: "These are our brothers. We don't know them. They are going to die. If anyone is to die, we want it to be the other guy. We've got to give them the equipment they need."

'I Meant What I Said And I Said What I Meant, An Elephant's Faithful One Hundred Per Cent'



What Was The Real Failure At Harding?

Editors, The News-Charlotte

I HAVE waited in vain for the reopening of school after the Christmas holidays to see an article reporting the return of Dorothy Counts to Harding High School.

I imagine it is now safe to assume that the Harding students will not follow the suggestion of Dr. Graham that they ask her to come back, and that she will not come back on her own account.

There have been many things written about Miss Counts' increase in becoming the first Negro student to enter Harding, but most of them seemed to have missed several points.

One is that while Miss Counts' reception was hardly polite, neither was it as bad as might reasonably have been expected. I do not mean to imply that I admire their heartless behavior, but I must admit that it could have been much worse.

I recall a story I once read about Branch Rickey. When he was considering bringing Jackie Robinson to the Dodgers, he called the Negro star into his office. Rickey called him "nigger" and abused him in other ways, but Robinson sat quietly. Rickey finally said, "If you can take that, I think you'll make it." Jackie did take it, many times afterward on the playing field, but he probably owed more to his race than to any other person of his generation. He was not only a great ballplayer, he also had the courage to bear the awful responsibility of being "the first."

The great failure of the Harding school was not that the students who jeered and spat at her, nor the policemen who stood by and watched while the whole thing was going on, nor the school administration.

People's Platform

The great failure was Dorothy Counts. It was, understandably, rough on a young girl to submit to what she had to endure. But if she did not have the courage to take a great deal more than she actually suffered, she should not have gone in the first place.

Dorothy undoubtedly made her own life easier when she ran away to the quiet of a Philadelphia school. But she did her own race a disservice with her lack of courage.

—S. M. HEDGECOCK

Scrambling Eggheads: Task For The Future

By R. S. MONTGOMERY

Editors, The News-Charlotte
I read with great interest the letter by Mr. J. R. Cherry Jr., the letter about Mr. Dulles, our greatest secretary of state of all time. I am sure glad Mr. Cherry put my "intellectuals" in your place.

We common people, the backbone of America and the supporters of a free, foreign policy, may be stupid but, thank God, we are not crazy. Keep on the good work, Mr. Cherry. Who knows—some day we may scramble the eggheads!

—BURY HELMS

Prosperity Propped By Rumors Of Wars

By GUNTER S. C.

Editors, The News-Charlotte
NO, Eisenhower, Dulles and Adams are not going to engage in any peace talks as long as their economy is sagging, for it is now propped up with war-rumors of wars. America for the last several years has kept a semblance of prosperity under a war scare, and to drop that scare now would let the bottom fall out.

—TELLER SUTTLE

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

BEGINNING today a non-scheduled airline for the first time in the history of the United States has a certificate to fly a regularly scheduled air route. President Eisenhower's brother-in-law has been the vice president of the line getting the route.

For years the non-scheduled airlines have battled against American Eastern, United, TWA, and the big regularly scheduled lines, to get regularly scheduled routes. But the Civil Aeronautics

Board, which flies out the air routes with White House OK, has refused.

So, it's quite an event in aviation history that a non-scheduled line now gets a certificate to fly regularly—once a day between New York and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

It also may be significant that the company making this history is Trans-Caribbean, whose president, O. Roy Chalk, has been the close friend and benefactor of Ike's brother-in-law, Col. Gordon Moore.

Col. Moore is the affable, easy-going

brother of Mamie Eisenhower's sister, who frequently sees around the White House, either at such exclusive dinners as that for Queen Elizabeth or in the background of Ike's telecasts to the nation.

Back in 1952, before Dwight D. Eisenhower had clinched the Republican nomination, Col. Moore was a retired Army officer, with lots of personal charm and not much of a financial future. His colonel's retirement pay is not sufficient, and experiences abroad in the Army does not always qualify for the

tough stream of business competition. So he looked for a time as if the Moores would have to sell their home in Washington.

Then suddenly, in February 1952, Roy Chalk, head of the United States Military Air Transport Association, offered Col. Moore a \$65,000 job in charge of public relations.

Chalk's Trans-Caribbean got the coveted New York-San Juan route from the CAR and the White House despite the fact that several long-established airlines were bidding.

Mamie's Brother Finds Brighter Days