



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1958

The Mayor Keeps Faith With A Vision

MAYOR JIM SMITH has presented Charlotteans with a series of New Year's resolutions that can and must be kept. Some of the points in the mayor's meat-and-potatoes municipal program are new, some are old; but all are designed to add to the strength and substance of Charlotte.

As with all such lists, it is likely that some of the resolutions will not be carried out completely. But in setting goals and directing effort there is much value to individuals and to cities. It is particularly encouraging to see on the mayor's list some goals—such as urban renewal—which have been set in previous years but have not, for various reasons, been reached.

The mayor was properly reluctant to assign priority numbers to his objectives. But completion of the grade-separation program, which drew the No. 1 position, deserved it as much as any of the 14 other goals.

Elimination of traffic blockages on main arteries is a basic part of a larger effort the city must make toward fast and efficient traffic flow. This effort is reflected elsewhere in the mayor's program. He calls for completion of an origins-and-destinations survey to chart the right locations for new thoroughfares, the pursuit of state and federal funds for building these thoroughfares, and for the widening of additional downtown streets.

The survey will improve Charlotte's chances of receiving federal and state aid for street widening. The widening of downtown thoroughfares, such as Fifth Street, is essential to the convenience of shoppers and workers and to the continued health of the heart of Charlotte's commerce. Although the shortage of parking spaces in midtown

Charlotte is not included on the mayor's list, a continuing attack on this problem must be made a part of the overall traffic program.

The perimeter area will have a large claim on the city's energies and efforts in the period leading up to its annexation in 1960. The mayor's renewal of the city's pledge to extend services and facilities to the area was fitting, and the pledge must be followed up vigorously. We hope his promise of full cooperation with the Park and Recreation Commission will spur that body's plans to remedy the lack of recreational facilities in the area.

A concern with essentials runs all through the mayor's program. He wants to see the current expansion of health and transportation facilities move ahead, in close cooperation with the Urban Redevelopment Commission, ask new efforts to find new sources of revenue and thus better distribute the tax burden. The mayor's program is, in sum, a precise prescription for the growing pains of a young metropolis. In reality it is not the mayor's program at all but Charlotte's program. Given a continuation of the past's effective teamwork between citizen and City Hall it will be carried out for the benefit of the entire community.

A combination of strong leadership and civic enthusiasm has made Charlotte a shining symbol of southern progress, and a wonderful place to live and work. But it will not remain that sort of place without vision and effort. Mayor Smith is to be commended for keeping faith with the vision of all of those who have built our city. Determined effort on the mayor's part to implement his program will deserve the support and encouragement of the entire community.

Administration Is Split On Course Of U.S. Economy

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

WARNING UNHEEDED

With the aid of the able staff of economic analysts in the Department of Labor, Mr. Mitchell had taken a reading of what the sharp cutbacks in defense spending could mean on top of the tight money policy, were likely to mean. But so intent was the President on cutting back from the unapproved rate of military spending of \$12 billion a year to \$5 billion that the warning went unheeded.

The nation's leading economists agree with the Mitchell rather than the Weeks forecast. At a meeting of top-level economists

in Philadelphia during the holidays, all were in agreement that the economy would continue to decline in '58. When Arthur Burns, former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, presiding, called for some optimism, not a hand was raised.

THE FIGURES

The figure for unemployment today is believed to be about 3.800,000. By the end of January, with certain seasonal influences, it is expected to go to 4,500,000. This compares with 2,800,000 two years ago.

For March, the total may be as high as 6 million. If it should go that high with Congress in session in an election year, the drive

for a tax cut will be almost irresistible. Although the administration is strongly opposed to any reduction, the pressure might be too great to resist.

PRICES DOWN

These are a few of the imponderables that make prediction hazardous. A further decline in the economy would have one beneficial effect. It would help to bring down prices. The outlook for prices in '58 is for an end of the price that continued throughout the past year.

But here, too, the unknowns are greater than the knowns. A slight rise in the cost of living at the end of 1957 was attributable to the increase in the cost of automobiles. But since new car sales are slow, dealers will soon begin to offer discounts again, and that should take care of this factor.

CITRUS COSTLY

The freeze in Florida in December has meant a sharp increase in the price of citrus fruits, and this may be reflected in the January and February index. Next fall, with a large crop of lemons coming on the market, the prices not only of pork but of all meats should drop. And the end of the year may see a fairly marked decline in the cost of living.

There is almost as much controversy over the meaning of what is happening to the economy as over what the future holds. The official view in the administration is that this is a temporary, pause, with the certainty that when it is ended the economy will move on to new heights. Various expressions have been used to describe it. One, a retelling readjustment on a high plateau, has come to have a slightly humorous sound as the adjustment has continued to roll.

SERIOUS VIEW

But economists out of the New and Fair Deals such as Leon Keyserling, former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, have taken a more serious view of what is occurring. And added



ARTHUR BURNS
No Hand Was Raised

would must be given to their opinion because at least six months ago they were saying that what was taking place was more serious than anyone had officially admitted.

In Keyserling's view, the trouble is the old familiar one—the capacity to make goods outstripping the ability of people to buy them. Prices and dividends in this analysis have been rising faster than wages. From January, 1956, to November, 1957, industrial production declined 2.5 per cent, according to Keyserling, while prices rose 4.5 per cent.

LABOR'S VIEW

This suggests the nature of the big economic controversy of the year. Labor is already saying that wages must go up so that the mass of consumers can buy the goods of industry, while industrial executives reply that past wage increases caused inflation and brought on the economic decline. This dispute, fought out on the picket line in strikes already visible on the economic horizon, will have a lot to do with what kind of a year 1958 turns out to be.

People's Platform

Government Branches: A Four-Way Split?

Clover, S. C.

Editors, The News:

WITH the Rockefeller Studies Group telling us how to reorganize the military, implying vast revolutionary changes generally—and as other foundations try to settle all our other problems for us, from segregation to education isn't it about time we got realistic and added to our customary three branches of government, executive, legislative and judiciary, a fourth—the foundations?

—RAYMOND THIGPEN

U.S. Has Never Been So Rejected

Editors, The News:

AND the Lord said unto Cain, "If thou dost well, shall thou not be accepted? and if thou dost not well, sin lieth at the door. If the United States doeth well she will be accepted; if not accepted there is a screw loose somewhere. To the present time, never has America been so rejected."

—TELLER SUTTLE

City's No. 1 Problem Is Traffic Congestion

Editors, The News:

Considering the outlook for 1958, the one thing outstanding is relief from traffic congestion. There are, of course, many others, but traffic is our necessary requirement for 1958.

The most dangerous proposal is that of a "consolidator"—city and county, and, too, this stand the lawyers are making for a county office building across Fifth Street. We have single use zoning for a building to be connected with the present county house.

Let the county buy a lot more land, then why not consider purchasing the corner that is for sale for \$7,000 instead of waiting for consideration which would perhaps take the taxpayers somewhere near half million?

If the lawyers want to buy and pay for the higher priced property, let them pay for it, however.

—JERRY BALL

Thanks To All For Polio Help

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

TEAMWORK is essential in any undertaking and without the contribution of time, money, and services on the part of the civic-minded firms listed below, the recent polio campaign held on the Square would have been possible.

—S. C. VAUGHN

Through your columns, kindly give credit to these companies:

Constructors: Equipment Rental, Parker-Gardner, Central Lumber, Baumco Radio and Sound Service, Starnes Sign, Police Dept., Jaycees, Ballard Leather, Carolina Transfer and Storage, Liggitt's, Petroleum Engineering, Trotter Agency, Robert Jackson and W. K. Wilson for his engineering service. Also credit the Charlotte Radio and TV stations and oh yes, The Charlotte News is deserving of some bold type for its public service to the March of Dimes!

The youngsters afflicted with polio were not the only winners! Anyone who contributed time or money to the campaign had that deep-down inner feeling of service to his fellow man. They also won!

I am deeply grateful for the fine response of those folks who contributed so generously to the campaign "in the air" at Independence Square.

—JERRY BALL

Quote, Unquote

"Dancing is wonderful training for girls. It's the first way to learn to guess what a man is going to do before he does it."

—Christopher Morley

'Never Mind About Trees And Soil— Make Us Some Fruit'



Housebreaking Males

The Tyrants In Slacks

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain

I HAVE been regarding the spawn of my friends lately with apprehension not unshared with pity, since it appears that the teenage male is being housebroken—just, spirit-broken. I should say—before the poor little blighter's barely warmed My sympathy, naturally, is with the male.

I hear tell from one of those surveys, and also from personal observation, that the business of going steady starts in the early teens, and progresses duly toward the grave. The little women, I am also told, choose the haberdashery, preach against smoking, and even take over the male yearling's allowance, doing out the dime on a budget basis.

"And," says the Youth Research Institute with a note of alarm, "the strange part about all this is that the boys fight fiercely for independence from parental control, and then in many cases will turn around and meekly hand hard-on victories over to their girl friends."

TRICKY GROUND

As a serious thought for 1958, it should like to submit that this is tricky, not to say dangerous ground, because once they get you trained to answer the whistle, you're lost, lad. I was on my way 22 when I first submitted to female ground rules, and it took me 15 years to become the rampaging old goat who finally has achieved a mile of respect in the house. The scars on the psyche are vivid.

I do not recommend striking women, except in self-defense, but I do heartily recommend baling them for every inch of ground that intrudes into male prerogative. Remember, my fuzzy-chinned friends, you wore the beret first. Shucks for women were but an insidious bid for

when you emerge in the small, figured, dove-gray number of your own choice, look lofty and remark that their dinkil still lacks a je-ne-sais-quoi.

GEORGE WINGS

The dolls are reversing nature's ancient law that the bats chased the girls, seized them by the hair, and drug 'em off to a cave. It is a sad fact that most of the predatory activity is initiated today by the females.

In longer times, the ruffed grousers beat his wings, and stomped his foot when he fain would a-courting go, and the chick stood demurely by for to see and to admire. When the stags are bugling, the object of the serenade took a back seat and waited to see how the horn clashing would come out before she cast down her eyes and said: "Yes, dear, and ain't you the big strong boy?"

A LITTLE VARIETY

It would seem to me, gentlemen, that this society-study business is unhealthy. Once you get married, you are going steady the rest of your life, until divorce does you part, and then the whole divorce process starts all over again. A little variety in the young buck stage might prevent you from a session with the lawyers, later.

Now you take me—20 years on the border come August, and I'll be a dinner's ready! Coming, dear, O, course, dear, I didn't realize that.

That's what happens when they catch you too young.

—Dinner's ready!

Costello And Taxes

A new pie-in-the-sky method of using income taxes to pay into the lives of prospective jury members has, New York attorneys up in arms.

Income taxes are supposed to be a

favorable sign.

2 Col. John Nickerson, who protested against alleged favoritism to General Motors by Secretary of Defense Wilson, was court-martialed.

3 Eger V. Murphree, special assistant for missiles, also exalted. Murphree had been in charge of Esso Standard Oil's gasoline experiments with the Nazi cartel, I. G. Farben, before Dr. Arthur H. Compton, who had been in charge of the standard Oil conspiracy with I. G. Farben to withhold vital information from the U.S.A.

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Ouster Set For Pentagon Missile Boss

WASHINGTON

Another important purge is due in the Eisenhower guided missile department. This time it's missile czar William H. Rouse Johnson who is getting out.

To replace him, the administration is trying to entice Bert Burgess, former assistant secretary of defense and former president of Trans World Airlines, back to the Pentagon. The others are: Defense Department and TWA, but finally crossed wires with TWA owner Howard Hughes.

Steady Stream

Holaday's exit will climax a steady stream of missile experts who have either resigned or been fired or otherwise come a cropper in the Eisenhower administration. The others are:

1. Trevor Gardner, missile executive for the Air Force who resigned in protest against the administration's slow

Tar Heel Justice: A Boat Awash

SIFTING through the perplexities North Carolina will face in 1958, Gov. Luther Hodges paused significantly in his annual "report to the people" on the problem of judicial reform.

"We now have at hand the means to make a long overdue and substantial improvement in the administration of justice in the courts of North Carolina," declared the governor. "I urge the support of this opportunity and I urge the support of every citizen."

Mr. Hodges could not have chosen a more deserving subject for public concern. Talk of new judges, solicitors, courtroom facilities and regulations is all very well. But until the basic structure of the judicial system is examined for fundamental defects the addition of administrative bria-brac here and there

will contribute very little in the way of lasting good. When a boat is already awash and almost swamped, the immediate remedy is not to add more oarsmen or new oarlocks. You have to bail out the water and plug up the leaks. If she still isn't seaworthy you may have to redesign the hull.

The distinguished committee of the North Carolina Bar Association, at work on the problem is headed by Mecklenburg's Sen. J. Spencer Bell. Its task is monumental. But the job will be worth the doing. The administration of justice in North Carolina is far from perfect. We feel confident that Sen. Bell and his distinguished colleagues will prescribe appropriate remedies without tampering with the jury system or suggesting that any fundamental rights be abridged in the interest of "efficiency."

Charlotte Shares Mr. Dowdy's Honor

CHARLOTTE can share with pardonable pride the honor accorded George W. Dowdy in New York yesterday by the National Retail Merchants Association.

His election as the organization's president is a mark of distinction for the entire community.

Mr. Dowdy, executive vice president and general manager of Belk Brothers Co., is the second Charlottean to hold this high office. The late David Owens of J. B. Ivey & Co. was named the association's president in 1934, becoming the first southerner to head it.

Mr. Dowdy is one of several southerners who have gained national prominence in the field of retail merchandising since the mid-thirties. He succeeds a

Georgian as president of the national association, Atlanta's Edward H. Rich.

In returning to Charlotte, the presidential mantle falls upon particularly deserving shoulders. Mr. Dowdy is one of the South's outstanding practitioners in a particularly demanding field. He has been active in the national association for many years. In addition, he is past president of the Charlotte Merchants Association and of the North Carolina Merchants Association. In 1955 he was president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Any number of important civic organizations have benefited from his vigorous and imaginative leadership.

Charlotte is proud of Mr. Dowdy and proud of the honor he has brought to the community.

From The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

WHEN YOU SAY THAT, DON'T SMILE

THE country's missile program, Sen. Johnson said in a recent interview, needs the supervising hand of "some sundowners." He defined sundowners as "men who run a tight ship, who keep their back aboard at sundown, and are ready for any fight."

The term is quite as salty as the senator implied. As naval men use it, however, it comes closer to describing a cankerworm than an efficient skipper. Lovette in NAVAL CROSSINGS, TRADITIONS, AND USAGE, gives this definition: "Derived from the strict captains who once required that all officers and men be aboard by sunset, now used for a martinet or a strict disciplinarian." Noel in NAVAL TRADITIONS DISSEMINATES echoes: "An unreasonably strict disciplinarian; a martinet."

The exact origin of the word sundowner is dimmed by the mists of many years and many harbors. The Lovette version is the popular one, however, sometimes it is suggested that the prototype sundowner gathered his "boys" back aboard at sundown, and are ready for any fight."

was spread on the decks half an hour later, at eight bells, in those days—and kept all hands turned to tilt night came over the bulwarks.

Surely a sundowner was the captain whom Gallagher, foreman-stamp in the loomroom, describes in Room to Swing a Cat, a book which Frederick J. Bell, a Norfolk native, wrote while a naval lieutenant. Gallagher fell overboard during a midwatch, was rescued by boat, and brought aboard dripping wet. His reception was to be ordered tried up and given a dozen lashes with cat-o-nine-tails. This punishment was earned, the old man explained once it had been administered by the boatswain, "because you left the ship without permission."

But, as Sen. Johnson is persuaded and as Bell would agree, there is a place for the sundowner. Where so much power is vested in one man, the personality of the captain determined the happiness, the smartness and the efficiency of everyone on board. The Norfolkian noted in his nostalgic volume, "He could be quick to punish and quick to hold the respect. It was not the love of his crew. But if he showed indecision, or lost his wits in a tight spot, then his usefulness was over, for while a crew would stay with a driver, a sundowner, and a hard captain, they had no use for an old woman on the quarterdeck."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

Another important purge is due in the Eisenhower guided missile department. This time it's missile czar William H. Rouse Johnson who is getting out.

To replace him, the administration is trying to entice Bert Burgess, former assistant secretary of defense and former president of Trans World Airlines, back to the Pentagon. The others are:

Defense Department and TWA, but finally crossed wires with TWA owner Howard Hughes.

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