# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## The Perimeter: The Joker In The Deck

SLOWLY but surely, a mountain of myth is being shoveled away from the issue of consolidation of the schools of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

All of the extraneous jealousies, outdated reasoning and lame excuses will soon be removed. When they are gone, credit Oliver R. Rowe as the first civic toiler to get to the heart of the matter.

Businessman Rowe has labored tirelessly in both the city and the county to promote the cause of a large economy-size school system for the two areas. His is not a "one-man campaign," as one newsman termed it, for others are working toward the same ends in different ways. But none has been more diligent nor talked more sense than Mr. Rowe.

His chief contribution thus far has been his ability to find and single out for public scrutiny the joker in the deck. It is, of course, the perimeter.

It had been widely assumed that when Charlotte extended its city limits in 1960, taking in this rich residential fringe, the city school system would automatically take over in the area as well. Not necessarily. There is no legal connection between the city limits and the city school district boundary.

The county school system must have the perimeter for financial and administrative reasons. To lose it would wreck the system.

But the city needs the perimeter, too, as a source of additional revenue. That need will grow as more and more Charlotteans move their residences there from urban neighborhoods which are deteriorating as business and industry take over.

A struggle will develop — a costly, bitter and wholly unnecessary struggle. The only sensible alternative is consolidation. Then the perimeter can be shared by both areas and the whole metropolitan community will benefit.

But if the county school system loses the perimeter, won't another perimeter grow up just beyond it—just as it always has in the past?

Mr. Rowe has a ready and provocative answer.

"The one thing that makes this perimeter different from all of the perimeters taken over from the county school system in the past is its size. It is larger than all of the other perimeters put together. It is as big as the present city. It contains 31 square miles.

"The value of property in this perimeter is greater than the true value of the entire city of Wilmington. It surpasses the valuation of Burlington, Fayetteville, Gastonia, Goldsboro, Kinston, Rocky Mount, Salisbury, Statesville or Wilson. In terms of valuation, it is surpassed only in North Carolina by seven cities — Asheville, Durham, Greensboro, High Point, Raleigh, Winston-Salem and Charlotte itself . . .

"You can prune a twig from a tree and it will grow back. You can cut a limb from the tree and it will overcome the operation. But you cannot cut off the body of the tree.

"A surgeon can take a man's toe off. He can take his leg off at the knee and he will live — maybe even at the hip. But if he cuts him in two in the middle, however successful the operation, the patient will die. The trouble is that the perimeter is too much the main body of the county school system to be amputated."

Such a blow to the county school system would undoubtedly rob it of the resources it needs to do an adequate job of educating the rest of the children in the county. The county is doing a good job of educating those children today. It is not going to give up the perimeter without a struggle. Such a struggle would be a waste of time, money and effort. It must be avoided.

The best way to avoid it is for the two school systems to join forces and share in the rewards of metropolitan growth and progress.

## Gen. De Gaulle's Encouraging Gambit

IT IS A strange spectacle to see a general putting the skids under his army. Yet that is what Gen. de Gaulle is trying to do at the moment as he attempts to repair the Algerian War's rips in French political fabric.

Traditionally, for all its mercurial shifts of allegiance, the French army has not actively played politics. But for the first time since Third Republic Radicals brought the military under state control in the 1870-1918 period, the Indochinese War brought on an urge for political tinkering among professional soldiers. After their defeat in Viet Nam these soldiers took to Algeria a grim resolution that France would not be humiliated again. The army officers in Algiers really kindled the revolt last May which overthrew the Fourth Republic and eventually brought on the Fifth last month. Their strange alliance with fanatic European colonials, who had economic interests at heart, helped upset parliamentary control.

Friends of French republicanism have been on a vigil, waiting to see what Gen. de Gaulle would do about army political power in Algeria. And knowing that until he could or would do something, the tangled domestic trouble would not begin to clear. This week Gen. de Gaulle has screwed up his courage and told the army to get out of Algerian politics, off the "committee of public safety" which has run Algeria since May, and to allow honest elections to take place. "The moment has come," he wrote to Gen. Salan, commander in Algeria, "for the military to stop taking part in any organization which has a political character."

This does not break the vigil for French republicanism. But it is an encouraging gambit. We hope the general has the power to checkmate.

## The Smoking Kit Of An American Lady

SEEKING to define a "lady" in his book, SURFEIT OF HONEY, Russell Lynes noted that it used to be thought horrible for a lady to smoke.

Or even to smell smoke, we gather from a 90-year-old sign which will be displayed at Henrici's restaurant on Chicago's Loop at its birthday celebration this week. It reads: "For the benefit of our lady patrons, smoking of cigarettes is not permitted in dining areas. Please! No pipes or cigars."

Connoisseurs of the exotic will note that in Scandinavia it has never been deemed unladylike for ladies of any age to light up a fat cigar with their cherry heering after a meal. So will anthropologists, who will call it "cultural relativity" or something. Since the end of the petticoat-peekaboo era with the 17th Amendment, "ladies" in America puff cigarettes and a few years ago dainty jeweled pipes hovered on the edge of respectability. But if a lady lit a cigar in public—we can hear the sniffs now.

The sniffs can no doubt be laid to American females themselves who for all their devious plans have never been quite daring enough to adopt a new thing until they get the go-ahead signal from men. Men may not wear the pants anymore, but they do buy the tobacco.

There are ample clues that ladies would take up cigars if they thought they could get away with it. That is if they thought gentlemen would approve. Ladies pretend they wouldn't be caught dead with a cigar but they strangely allow they like the tang of cigar smoke better than cigarette smoke.

It's clear: The lady tobacco revolt will not go beyond cigarettes or rhinestone-studded pipes until an authority from the male side of the house gives the high-sign.

Gov. Luther Hodges is fond of "weeks," and we can think of no better place than the home of the world's finest weed to put the cigar in power in the parlor. Gov. Hodges therefore ought to declare "Lady's Cigar Smoking Week." Don't forget, Governor, it's *ladies* not women.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

## THE MOON & MASON JARS

MAYBE we'll make the moon in 1958 or soon thereafter. It will be a wonderful achievement undoubtedly. Yet here is the possibly solitary opinion that when John Landis Mason invented the Mason jar in November 1858 he probably did more for the happiness and hopes of mankind.

No such plaudits and publicity as that received by the soldiers who shot at the moon attended Mr. Mason's invention of the familiar glass container that could seal in the harvesttime freshness of fruits and vegetables. But the time had come when dreary winter diets could disappear. Then, for the first time, housewives could keep the harvest on their shelves for good eating long afterward.

Of course, we have come a long way in the preservation of foods since John Mason wrought his jar. Furthermore even in 1858 more attention was paid to the laying of the Atlantic cable that year. But the 26-year-old young metal worker with a beard big enough to fill one of his jars really started something. We can only hope that we will find half the blessing when and if we make the moon.

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How could that banking expert conclude the United States is joyriding to bankruptcy? We don't see where anybody's getting any fun out of it.—NEW ORLEANS STATES.

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Several years ago certain of our American universities took positive action toward de-emphasizing football. Not much has ever been heard of them since.—DAILY OKLAHOMAN.

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All it takes to make a successful farmer is faith, hope and parity.—CARLSBAD CURRENT-ARGUS.

## People's Platform

## Should Bus Strikes Be Banned In Charlotte?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

OUR LAWMAKERS, whether from the City Council or the General Assembly, should learn a good lesson from the bus strike in the City of Charlotte.

It would be nice for them to picture a situation where servants of another branch of the public utility might go on strike. Such as the garbage collectors, the police, the power men, even the telephone help. In what a dangerous position the people of Charlotte would be placed! I cannot imagine a greater despair, next to bombing our city.

**A law** must be enacted to prohibit strikes in any branch of public utilities, punishable by imprisonment to those responsible for the situation. But the same law must also make provision for a compulsory, reasonably agreed, satisfactory settlement to all concerned.

**The same law** should include a provision that both sides must select a settlement committee of three and this committee, in turn, must agree upon an impartial chairman within three days; the decision of this committee being considered final, effective and acceptable, with the settlement to become retroactive to the date the grievances were presented to the employer.

**In the meantime** there must not be any interruption or disruption in any of the public utility services, viz., bus, police, garbage collection, power or telephone service.

The public must be protected at all times no matter what grievances may arise and in whose concern.

However, the help in all these services is also entitled to proper and reasonable consideration as to their livelihoods.

—HENRY KAYE

### Bus Drivers Asked To Return To Jobs

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WANT to express my opinion in connection with the strike that is in progress in our great City of Charlotte. We the citizens who use the bus for transportation to and from work are very anxious to see them in operation again.

We are paying fares ranging from 65 cents to $2.50, one way. Some have lost their jobs. Some have jobs they cannot afford to pay the price of a fare to get to.

**Our teenagers** who have to go to school by cab service are having to go to their penny banks and use their Christmas savings to pay the fares. Mr. Bus Driver, do you think you are giving that child a fair deal, or do you care anything about that child's education?

**It is up** to you, Mr. Driver. We the 48,000 to 50,000 people who use bus service daily don't think you are justified in bringing about this strike with wages from $360 to $400 per month. I know many other job-holders here in our city with large families who do not receive near that much and yet live nicely and have a nice bank account. And they don't belong to a union, either, Mr. Driver. The best thing you could do would be to tear that union card up, call your boss and tell him you are ready to resume operations. That card you are carrying won't get you anything but trouble and loss of friendship.

**There is no** doubt but what 75 per cent of the drivers are ready and willing to go back to their job. But union bosses are holding them back.

Think it over. You may hold out and get a few pennies — four or five, maybe — but you will lose in the long run.

— L. L. CHILDRESS

### Founding Fathers Are 'Moderates'

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

THE "Order of Founding Fathers, Inc.," is dedicated to the maintenance, through political activity, of schools to which people, who do not want their children subjected to the ordeal of integration, may send their youngsters if they so choose. The policy followed in attaining this objective will at all times be legal, lawful, and moderate in its approach. We are not extremists in our views as is vested in the fact that the "Order" recently invited prominent Negro leaders, who believe in separation of the races, to form Negro chapters and collaborate with us on the matter.

Our ranks already contain varied representation as to religion and creed; so whether a man be Protestant, Catholic, or Jew, he will find only compassion for his beliefs in our organization.

**Realizing** the great diversity of sentiment within our ranks, it was deemed wisest to confine our program to the one topic of maintaining a school system to which separationists may send their children. We are not "anti-integrationist!" There can be integrated schools in every county in North Carolina and, though we might not approve, we will not make it an issue as long as there are state-supported or indirectly subsidized schools in which children may attend racially separated schools by choice.

In short, we are moderates who are fighting, not law and order, but the forced implementation of what we consider a dictatorial decree, which is foreign to the majority of people affected by the decree, through use of bayonet and other vulgar means.

—SYDNEY F. CROFT

### Give Two-Party System A Try

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I SEE that Messrs. Bell, Kennedy, Snepp, et al are doing a little talking these days. They don't say much, as is the case with most of our Democratic candidates, but it's refreshing and stimulating to hear an occasional gesture on their part to earn votes. It presents quite a contrast with the serenity we formerly associated with county elections.

**However**, over at Sedgefield Elementary, scene of the most recent gestures, I daresay the folks can see through those Democratic gems of wisdom. How does Mr. Bell expect the Republicans to show a record of accomplishments in our area when our representation in Raleigh has been solidly Democratic for lo these many years. I notice he doesn't say much about those areas in which we do have some two-party representation.

**On the state** and local level just give us a chance, Mr. Bell. Let's see what happens when Mr. Coira and the other champions of two-party government have been in office for awhile. We don't think it will take near as long to improve things as it has taken the Democrats to foul things up. Let's see what the other side can do before you become so vehement in your criticism.

**Nevertheless**, I can tell you a few things they haven't done. They haven't made an intra-party deal to give us a part-time solicitor. They haven't consistently put party before service to the community. Mecklenburg voters will remember these facts at the polls.

Cast your votes for Bud Coira and the two-party system. With men such as him we can have progress because of our leaders, not in spite of them!

— D. T. WILLIAMS

Memories Of Things Past: Rush Hour At The Bus Stop

## Today's Politics

## A Broken Record

By DORIS FLEESON

CHICAGO

REPORTS of the congressional elections are starting to take on a broken phonograph-record aspect. It is disconcerting to observers who have still to find any exceptionally remarkable personalities among the Democrats whose political prospects appear so rosy.

Nor do issues leap to the eye on a reportorial pilgrimage. Plenty of sensible people are deeply conscious of inflation, the costly burdens of the space age and the whole complex of problems arising from the fact that an expanding America is stampeding to the cities.

**BELLY ISSUE MISSING**

The lack of leadership in Washington is not questioned by politicians. Students of the underlying trends—social and economic, which find expression in political developments — show alarm. But no real "belly issue" of an emotion-packed problem seems to be swaying the voters who are so widely reported to be intending to register a great protest vote against the administration.

There is much truth, too, in the charge made so plaintively by the political partisans that there is little difference today between the parties. Perhaps if Democrats were not doing so well that they hesitate to rock the boat, this might change. But even in California they only try now to hold what all present portents indicate is theirs. It is enough, they argue, so why do more?

**NO IDEAS**

Possibly President Eisenhower and Vice President Richard M. Nixon may change all this. They possess the White House and all the vast prestige of their great offices.

But so far it seems that they have no ideas to express, while in the language of partisanship, the Democrats beat them to the draw. Months ago that brilliant, instinctive politician, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, advised all his fellow-Democrats to just run against the Republicans, and most of them have taken his advice.

Don't cut it fine, Humphrey counseled in effect, and don't talk about us because we really haven't been able to take the initiative from the President and never can, so just harp on what a sorry lot the Republicans are. The senator also sensed that the Republicans who were cutting up Eisenhower would be of great help to the opposition, and he was aware, as all insiders long have been, that the state GOP organizations were beset with feuds.

Significantly, the only outstanding Democrat who is in real trouble, Gov. Averell Harriman of New York, has not been following the Humphrey rule. Harriman, of course, has a fresh, vigorous personality opposing him in Nelson Rockefeller, but he has played Rockefeller's game by talking about Rockefeller rather than emphasizing that he has in Democratic eyes, the fatal flaw—he is a Republican.

**OUT OF STYLE LOOK**

Should the election story turn out far differently than is now forecast, the pulse-takers will have to face the fact that their techniques have the old and out-of-fashion look they have been attributing to the GOP. In 1948, they were mistaken about the fortunes of one man—former President Harry Truman. This year they have been examining the cases of many men from coast to coast and reporting with near-unanimity that Democrats are headed for amazing triumphs.

The politicians if an upset occurs, will also have proved that in 1958 they know very little about their own trade and the American voter of today.

## Quote, Unquote

"Ennui, felt on the proper occasions, is a sign of intelligence."—**Clifton Fadiman.**

"There is no fury like a woman searching for a new lover."—**Cyril Connolly.**

Good men do not always think alike, the worst cause has often been illustrated with the most heroic virtue, and the world owes some of its greatest debts to men from whose memory it recoils."—**William Stubbs.**

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

## U. S. Put On Diet Of 'Soothing Syrup'

WASHINGTON

OPERATION Soothing Syrup, installment II, has now begun. After the first Russian sputnik, October 4, 1957, left U. S. leaders stunned, there was discussed at the White House a plan to admit the truth to the American public—namely, that we have fallen far behind Russia in missiles and satellites, that we are in danger of becoming a second class power.

This plan to admit the facts was called Operation Candor. To his credit, Vice President Nixon pushed it. Sherman Adams and others close to the President did not. Adams blithely announced, "The administration is not interested in serving a high score in an outer space basketball game." And in the end, Operation Candor lost out.

### Lulling The People

Operation Soothing Syrup took its place—a campaign to lull the American people regarding the administration's failure to keep abreast of Russia.

With the launching of the American moon rocket last week, the second installment of Operation Soothing Syrup began. It continued with the unveiling of the X-15 on Wednesday. For the White House wanted publicity. November 4 was approaching. The Democratic tide must be turned.

### Take A Look

Let's take a careful look at operation Soothing Syrup II and compare the propaganda with the facts.

Our moon rocket was hailed as a great technological triumph. Yet it carried a payload of only 40 pounds compared to the 3,000-pound monsters Russia has slammed into space. The reason the moon shot failed was partly because the automatic pilot fixed on a wrong course, partly because of insufficient rocket power. The launching missile generated 150,000 pounds thrust, a weak blast compared to the 350,000 thrust Russian rocket engines are known to generate.

Air Force scientists are now working frantically to boost the power of the moon rocket by beefing up the smaller booster rockets in the third and fourth stages. They hope to be ready for another shot at the moon by November 7 or 8. Meanwhile our technicians admit candidly it will take at least a year for us to match Russia's present rocket power.

The unveiling of the new rocket ship X-15 was carefully arranged before the election, although the manufacturer won't even turn the X-15 over to the Air Force until next spring. Then a team of fliers, headed by Capt. Robert "Bob" White, will push the ship to new altitudes. With a boost from a Navajo rocket, they eventually hope to fly the X-15 into orbit around the earth.

### Russia First?

What the press releases won't mention, however, is that Russia is expected to beat us into orbit with the first man by at least a year. This is the sober conclusion of Air Force technical intelligence which claims Russia could send a man aloft in a sputnik and bring him back alive right now.

The Air Force will try again before the election to shoot its intercontinental ballistic missile, the almighty Atlas; sister missile, the Titan, will also be given preliminary tests at Cape Canaveral before November 4.

### Sobering Truth

Yet the sobering truth is that the Russians have already fired over a dozen intercontinental missiles the full distance. The first came two summers ago. Our radar has tracked the warheads 4,500 miles and watched them re-enter the atmosphere over the Okhotsk Sea, just across from Alaska, without burning up.

Administration spokesmen are pointing with pride to the spectacular undersea record set by the atomic subs—the Nautilus, Skate, and Seawolf. This is our most spectacular postwar naval achievement. Yet the Navy has warned the Joint Chiefs of Staff that our 110 submarines, old and obsolete, are no match for Russia's 600 submarines. All but 13 of our subs are over 12 years old. Since World War II, we have built only 21 new subs while Soviet shipyards have turned out 350.