



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## Our Recreation Needs Are Countywide

THE countywide recreation system proposed Monday by an 18-member city-county study committee is a happy solution to a somber problem.

There was nothing particularly new or exotic about the recommendation. Metropolitan park planning has been urged before by visiting authorities in the field. It was, for instance, the foundation stone of a 172-page study of Mecklenburg's recreation needs made in 1956 by the Allen Organization of Bennington, Vt. What gave this week's proposal special significance was the fact that it was the gospel according to hometown thinking.

The study group, headed by Charles M. Lowe, read the evidence, studied the surveys, listened to the experts and then made its own investigations and came up with its own answers. What emerged was a plan tailor-made for Mecklenburg's own needs by her own civic tailors.

It may not be a foolproof plan. The proposals for financing a city-county park commission ought to be carefully scrutinized before any final decisions are made. But this clearly is a fine, forward-looking beginning. This week's proposals will almost surely form the nucleus for the metropolitan recreation system in its final form.

The committee's proposals will be presented Friday to the Charlotte Park and Recreation Commission and later to the City Council and County Commission-

ers. They should receive careful study by each official body but there is little time to lose in translating the ideas into affirmative action.

Charlotte has a creditable park system but the county has skimped on recreation for too long. As a result, new residential subdivisions exploding into rural Mecklenburg in all directions are without adequate recreation facilities. Let's face it. This mushrooming of population in recent times has run far ahead of the capacity of county government and of the awareness of civic leadership. Remedies are needed and needed quickly. Sites are being lost every day. Subdivisions have already absorbed many of the likelier spots in several sections of the metropolitan community.

The role of recreation in metropolitan life is well recognized now, so that the question before Mecklenburg is one of the standards. Shall the facilities be developed in accordance with the best practical ideas? Or shall we ignore completely urgent human needs? The choice between progress and decay is almost as important in recreation as it is in slum clearance, zoning and sewers.

The Lowe committee has done a commendable job in the best tradition of civic leadership in Charlotte and Mecklenburg. It has advanced a principle which should appeal to the entire metropolitan community. Its adoption is enthusiastically recommended.

## Charlotte: A Center Of Higher Learning?

TAKE our word for it: Charlotte is going to have the great four-year state-supported college or university it has been dreaming of for a generation.

The heavy vote in favor of community colleges on Tuesday renewed the last stumbling block to progress. It was such an overwhelming demonstration of collective faith in a single ideal that nothing could possibly stand in the way of final success now.

The immediate prospect can be sketched quickly and simply. Charlotte and Carver College may now accept \$575,000 in state matching funds for new buildings offered by the 1957 General Assembly. From the bond issue approved this week, it can raise the initial \$575,000 needed and another \$400,000 to purchase and prepare sites for the new buildings.

The total amount made available, \$1,350,000.

But that is not all. Having made such an important beginning in the field of higher education, Charlotte's young com-

munity college system will be eligible for a large share of a proposed state-wide bond issue for state-supported institutions of higher learning. This additional slice of state aid would make possible the installation of a full four-year program at a very early date.

Once it takes root, Charlotte's community college system should grow rapidly. In a matter of a decade or so, Mecklenburg could become one of North Carolina's most important centers of higher education. The population is here. The tremendous concentration of business and industry is here. The great need is here. There is no reason in the world why, at some future date, Charlotte's community colleges should not become a part of the state university system.

A gaudy dream? Not at all. It has all the earmarks of a practical reality.

Mecklenburg voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to make a modest local investment in higher education. It is an investment that will pay untold dividends in the future.

## Now, We're Up To Here In Progress

SCHELDOM has so much civic progress been shepherded into a single week.

Mecklenburgers not only took an enthusiastic look at plans for a countywide recreation system and invested \$975,000 in community colleges but also approved bonds for renovation of the courthouse and construction of a \$2 million county office building.

The final deed was doubly significant because it also represented the community's first tentative experiment in a kind of urban redevelopment. The building is to be located on a site to be sliced off the edge of slum-ridden Brooklyn. It is directly across from the present courthouse on East Fourth Street. If a full-

scale urban renewal program is activated in Charlotte, the structure may form a part of a giant governmental plaza proposed by the City-County Planning Commission.

To paraphrase the former secretary of defense, what's good for urban renewal is good for Charlotte. But approval of the bond issue has an even greater significance. Because it will relieve costly overcrowding in the present courthouse, it will make possible more efficient and more economical county government for all Mecklenburgers in the future. It was, all in all, an eminently wise expenditure.

## What Tar Heels Think Of JP Justice

THE resounding defeat handed a proposed constitutional amendment to increase justice of the peace powers was the best news court reformers have had in months.

It clearly mirrored the distrust and revulsion most Tar Heels share with regard to the lowest of the state's lower courts.

Furthermore, it can be interpreted as a mandate to the General Assembly to get to work quickly on the program of judicial reform advocated by Sen. J. Spencer Bell's Committee on Improving and Expanding the Administration of Justice in North Carolina.

Reform of the so-called "courts of limited jurisdiction" is one of the Bell committee's primary objectives.

To have increased justice of peace jurisdiction in claim and delivery pro-

ceedings from \$50 to \$200 would have been foolhardy indeed. There are more than 1,000 magistrates now handling both civil and criminal jurisdiction in North Carolina. Almost without exception, these magistrates have no legal training whatsoever and many have little or no general education. Advises encouraged by the vicious fee system and other built-in defects, have been too numerous for comfort.

Some reasonable system for handling small claims is urgently needed. But the proper remedy ought to come out of a comprehensive system of unified courts.

After Tuesday's vote, legislators cannot ignore the popular demand for action on court reform in North Carolina. It should be one of the first orders of business when the General Assembly opens in February.

From The Macon (Ga.) News

## BELTS VS. SUSPENDERS

THE august Times of London has seen fit to observe a trend away from the use of suspenders (traces in Britain) to hold up man's trousers. Suspenders have always been pretty standard items on our British brethren. To the Times, their decline is sad and seems to reflect an "unjust prejudice." To us over here, the funny thing about this trend is that Britons aren't switching to belts. They never have cared much for belts.

What they're doing, if the Times is reliable on this point, is going for stiff fitting trousers that the retailers say

require no support at all. In other words, they're skipping the belt stage altogether. Speaking for a nation wedded to the belt, we're a dancier in this. With the Times, we fear that the British may lose something by it.

An old fellow wanted to be a centenarian but was told by his doctor to give up drinking and smoking.

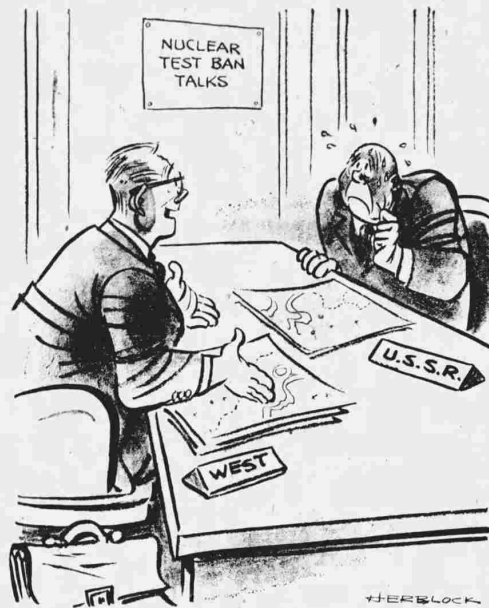
"Will I live to be 100?" asked the patient.

"No," said the doctor, "but it will seem like it."—CARLSDAD CURRENT-ARGUS.

## 'How About This—Will You Agree To Admit Inspectors If They Don't Bring In Any Books?'

## He's Sitting Pretty Nixon Eyes 1960

By JOSEPH ALSOP



WASHINGTON

THE most interesting single feature of the 1958 campaign was the role of Vice President Richard Nixon.

Despite all the stir Nixon's campaigning caused, very few people realized just how much he really did. For example, he must be credited with raising more than \$1,000,000 for his party, and this at a time when the Republican campaign committees all over the country were suffering from severe financial anemia. His pulling power brought over \$200,000 into one \$100-a-plate dinner in Indianapolis and a single day of Nixon pep talk to only 20 Chicago fat cats produced checks totaling more than \$25,000.

Again, Nixon's persuasions as well as Nixon's example played a big role in propelling President Eisenhower on to the rostrum as a "fighting campaigner." The President's distaste for his highly uncharacteristic appearances—ghosts of a repellent past, his California a tub-thumping partisan is a matter of common knowledge. But Nixon and the Republican national committee, Meade Aderon, got Eisenhower to go through the unpleasant motions all the same.

### MAIN EFFORT

These achievements were wholly secondary, moreover, to the vice president's main effort as his party's chief stump speaker. It was a most extraordinary effort. Nixon took the stump in earnest from the end of September. From then until voting day, he hardly passed for breath, criss-crossing the country to answer any call for help, bursting into New York where his help was not exactly needed and a very much less down-to-earth approach. He was to campaign, of course, but he was to campaign as one somewhat above the dusty struggle—as a Republican statesman rather than a Republican partisan.

The thing to note about this truly daemonic performance is that it represented a total change in the vice president's own plan and strategy. The original Nixon script for his election called for a much more reserved approach. He was to campaign, of course, but he was to campaign as one somewhat above the dusty struggle—as a Republican statesman rather than a Republican partisan.

NEW SCRIPT WRITTEN

The motive for this earlier strategy was obviously to conserve the structure in case the vice president had previously been making an appeal to the voters. Associated with those who are closest to Nixon, the old strategy was torn up and a wholly new script was written at the moment when the vice president began to suspect that his party was likely to suffer a real-life demoralizing defeat.

According to the same persons, the real key to the new Nixon approach, and the real key to the revised Nixon plan for 1960 was to be found in the vice president's many administrative references to "Mr. Truman's campaign" in 1948. To the extent that this was possible, all these references to President Truman were designed to put heart into the Republicans.

Nixon: A Shrewd Plan

his time. But above all they were determined to persuade the Republicans that even if they suffered a disaster this time, they could rely on Nixon to win for them two years from now with a real twist, no-holds-barred attack.

### EXAGGERATION

To this reporter, the widespread Democratic charge that the vice president has been campaigning in the gutter seems decidedly exaggerated. His brief renewal of the old charge of disloyalty in the State Department raised ghosts of a repellent past. His California speech on national defense was both a flat denial of his own excellent defense record and a thoroughly tendentious presentation of the ugly facts of our national strategic situation. It was even enough to be shocked by this sort of thing, especially because it was so inconsistent with the style Nixon had adopted during the last two years.

### A SINGLE DANGER

Yet even the two cases cited, though they alienated a good many people who had been impressed by Nixon's change of style, did not greatly transcend the limits of the same people have allowed Nixon's opponent in campaign after campaign. Nixon's entire campaigning performance left him in just the situation he aimed for. Most Republicans who will have seen the vice president and Sen. Jack Kennedy of Massachusetts, the single danger, that now besets Nixon can still be very formidable indeed.

## Life Without Father Both Parties Are In Trouble

By MARQUIS CHILDS

MUCH of what has been said and done in the 1958 campaign now ended was aimed at 1960. Both Vice President Richard M. Nixon and Sen. John F. Kennedy were busy improving their stance, so were other hopefuls looking to the presidential contest two years hence.

In the face of the national troubles that overwheeled the party Nixon added little to his state. This may have been because by its very nature the task he fell heir to was an impossible one. That was to rally the right without giving too much direction to the moderates and the independents. In short, it was to straddle the extreme holders up the globe of party unity for all to see.



Eisenhower: An Old Spell

CHANGING COLORS

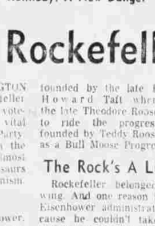
His attacks on the Democrats as radicals, reckless spenders and Socialists revived among the independent Republicans about the old Nixon and his chameleon-like ability to change coloration. And to be elected President in 1960 Nixon must have the votes of independents and some voters who call themselves Democrats.

But it is on his own base that the greatest damage was done to his candidacy. The split in the party is deep and so deep that it is hard to see how it can be healed. Sen. William F. Knowland's followers on the right will never forgive Gov. Goodwin J. Knight for endeavoring to save himself by refusing to endorse their hero. The extreme isolation employed by Knowland alienated the moderates in his own party and the moderate Democrats of the independent voters who's the party globe.

### KENNEDY'S IN FRONT

As for the other party, Kennedy is generally acknowledged to be the front runner of the Democratic sweepstakes. He and his followers, friends and family have been making very great efforts for two years or more and if the national convention were to be held tomorrow he would come in with the largest number of delegates.

This is far from a guarantee that he will get the nomination come the summer of '60. The fact that he is the front runner at this point is in itself a loan of luck. But by speaking for Democratic candidates in a dozen states around the country he has definitely helped himself in the campaign now ended.



Kennedy: A New Danger

HONEYMOON'S OVER

To put it as starkly as possible, what the nation's No. 1 Republican has done on a job is like nothing from here on out. It was made for 72 and 76, the kind of magic that appeals to the independent voter who's not a party globe.

Nixon exerts nothing like the same spell in spite of the extraordinary buildup he has had. It

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Peace Treaty

This was expected under Eisenhower. Rockefeller was among those who expected it. It didn't happen. He beat the GOP dinosaurs who tried to nominate Taft at the Chicago convention in 1952. Then turned round and accepted a peace treaty with the dinosaurs when he signed the so-called "surrender" statement which Taft had before him at that Morninside breakfast in late 1952.

The Rock's A Liberal

Rockefeller belonged to the liberal wing. And one reason he got out of the Eisenhower administration was first because he couldn't take the dovish policies of Mrs. Oetzel-Camp Hobbs, his chief as secretary of health, education and welfare; and later, when he joined the White House staff, couldn't take the split personality which influenced its faltering decisions.

Nixon's Scar Tissue

It is inevitable that a politician who has been in the limelight for some time will have accumulated scar tissue. He does not know. Those enemies leave scars. When Frank J. Roosevelt remained in office the more scar tissue he acquired. Like Roosevelt with Truman, the man who has acquired the most scar tissue in the

Democratic Woe

Looking to the Democratic face problems almost as great as the Republicans. Torn by factionalism the national committee is so hopelessly divided that it has been trying to attach the visible assets. The conservatives would like to remove National Chairman Paul Butler who has not hesitated during the current campaign to take a strong civil rights stand, thereby angering the southernists and their allies who want to keep the issue submerged if possible.

The divisiveness of both race and religion can threaten any Democratic unity based on a national stand by the whole party. The viciousness of the attack centered around Proposition II on California's complicated ballot to tax private schools—showed how close to the surface is the issue of over religion.

While some Democratic leaders are aware of how old faces out of the past tend to dominate the picture there has been little recognition that the voters may be disillusioned with the same old voices repeating the same old shibboleths.

When a public hearing squares too much scar tissue he becomes less effective candidate. Eventually he becomes a political liability. Nixon is heading in that direction. A lot of people voted for Rockefeller in New York State simply to block Nixon as the Republican nominee for president in 1960.

Potential Liability?

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Potent Friends

Nixon still has potent friends in the GOP. He has done favors for dozens of Republican national committeemen and state chairmen. He has helped out many GOP candidates. These leaders will be called upon to pay off their debts in 1960.

## People's Platform

### Buses Should Run Strike Or No Strike

Charlotte

THE New York City councilmen have struck in over and the buses are running again but it could happen again tomorrow. We the citizens of Charlotte ask you to have one of the best attorneys in Charlotte, Mr. John S. Shaw, draw up laws, rules and regulations so that we can never have a bus strike again.

The legislature will be in session in a few days. Let a bill be passed saying the bus company can never discontinue bus service in Charlotte. That while arbitrating the pros and cons as to grievances the buses must continue to run. Pass a law saying that if the company permits the buses to not operate it will cost the bus company and the union each \$1,000 a day so long as the strike lasts. Put teeth into the law. Let it read, "The buses shall operate strike or no strike." Let's never get caught like this again.

I never caused me any personal trouble. I am speaking for the people who elect the Council and may as well all get citizens in every way of life.

— W. C. MCINTIRE

Financial Pressures

These were the factors which switched delegates from Taft to Eisenhower during that bitter 1952 battle over delegates in Chicago.

It was financial pressure through F. S. Steel which switched Gov. John F. Dewey, who was eliminated Len Hall, Overall Heck and other Republicans who wanted to run for governor of New York last summer, and those pressures are all set to put Nelson Rockefeller in the White House in 1960.

### One City Can Do It Why Not Another?

Charlotte

REGARDING the local bus company asking for a raise in the bus fare from 15 cents to 20 cents, for the past 20 years I have seen the bus fare increase from 5 cents to 15 cents on up to 15 cents and then 20 cents in some cities.

I live in New Orleans, La. Bus fare there is 7 cents. In 1948, they got a raise from 5 to 7 cents and have not asked for a raise in fare since. Neither do they charge extra for a transfer.

Old the New Orleans Public Service Co. can carry passengers for 7 cents who must other transit companies increase fares to 10, 15 and 20 cents? Why?

— JAMES L. BOONER

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THE emergence of Nelson Rockefeller as the nation's No. 1 Republican contender does something very vital and long overdue to the Grand Old Party.

If not only gave Richard Nixon the political life-jackets but it is also certain to win sweeping the dinosaurs from the ranks of Republicanism.

## Rockefeller Has Dinosaurs On The Run

WASHINGTON

Rockefeller belonged to the liberal wing. And one reason he got out of the Eisenhower administration was first because he couldn't take the dovish policies of Mrs. Oetzel-Camp Hobbs, his chief as secretary of health, education and welfare; and later, when he joined the White House staff, couldn't take the split personality which influenced its faltering decisions.

Republican Party this is Richard Nixon. He has been scared first because he switched from Taft Republicanism to Eisenhower moderation then back to Taft Republicanism. (This is one reason he's called "young man with a wet finger" the word of people who have been scared because he's stuck his neck out far more than Eisenhower.)

On the other hand, behind Rockefeller is the most potent political machine in the U. S.—that which twice nominated Taft. Behind it are the money trusts, Rockefeller in the White House. It has behind it the Chase Manhattan Bank, Guaranty Trust, U. S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, the Pullman Company, General Motors, and the Standard Oil empire.