



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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A Consolidated Educational System Will Keep County's Schools Strong

A DISCIPLINE as bleak and sinewy as certain political persuasions is said to solidify opposition to school consolidation in rural Mecklenburg. If such a phenomenon exists at all it must surely be melting today under the heavy pressure of truth and economic necessity.

County residents have nothing to lose and much long-range security to gain by supporting the proposal to merge the Charlotte and Mecklenburg school systems.

If a surge of suburban sentiment in Mecklenburg is not enough to tilt the scales in favor of consolidation, the fact that its center is undoubtedly Oliver Row. His skillful documentation of the necessity of such a move last week before the largest countywide PTA gathering in Mecklenburg history was a masterpiece of persuasive dissection.

Mr. Rowe, a distinguished citizen and good friend of public education, simply recommended consolidation now "as a practical move, while the county is in a strong position, and in order to assure that the entire taxable wealth of Mecklenburg County, including the City of Charlotte, be put behind each child's education."

It is not that the county school system has poor schools today. On the contrary, it has fine schools. But will it have fine schools tomorrow? If the richest source of supplemental financial support is removed? Will it have fine schools tomorrow if the balance of the system is disrupted by the disappearance of key educational units into the city system following the extension of Charlotte's city limits?

It is a fiscal fact of life that about one half of the taxable wealth of the county school district lies in the perimeter.

To lose the perimeter area would almost wreck the county school system.

Why? Mr. Rowe sketches some of the reasons with a few quick, deft strokes: "The one thing that makes it possible for the county to raise sufficient local money is because the perimeter area is in the county district."

"The assessed valuation within the city unit is \$442 million."

"Within the county unit it is \$200 million."

"The taxable property valuation behind each city pupil is \$15,000."

"The taxable property valuation behind each county pupil, including the perimeter, is \$9,200."

"If you should lose the perimeter from

the county system, with all the pupils therein, the valuation back of each county pupil remaining would be reduced to \$7,700."

There is another and perhaps more serious danger still. As Mr. Rowe pointed out, before the county developed the 6-3-3 system of schools it did not hurt to take away part of the territory and part of the schools. The schools then were small, self-contained units and most of them had grades one through 12 in the same building. The pupils came from the territory surrounding the school. But today, under the modern 6-3-3 plan, each school feeds pupils into another. You cannot even remove an elementary school from the system without its impact being felt in the junior high and high schools.

If the county school system loses the perimeter it loses eight elementary schools—and the system will lose pupils that now attend other schools. Think of it. The county system would lose 30 per cent of the students in West Mecklenburg Senior High, 41 per cent in East Mecklenburg Senior High, 30 per cent in Berryville, 25 per cent in Wilson Junior High, 22 per cent in Delata, 20 per cent in Statesville, 30 per cent in Idlewild, 51 per cent in Sharon, 62 per cent in McClellintown Junior High.

In short, the entire system would be disrupted. Of course, there is a chance that the county will be able to hang onto a substantial portion of the perimeter. But even small losses would be disruptive and in the long run great harm could come to the struggling county system.

The dangers are obvious. Mr. Rowe minced no words when he said, "The county system cannot continue to operate at a high level without the perimeter area."

It is said, of course, that the perimeter gives the county "bargaining power" today. In other words, the county can consolidate now as an equal partner. That is true, but the spirit of bargaining can be carried too far. One does not play too loosely with the future of children.

Actually, what consolidation promises is equal educational opportunities for all children—always. A single school system with uniformly high standards will help Mecklenburgers achieve that lofty ideal.

Welfare To An Era Of Stress & Strain

THE idea that now America can return to the piping times of Mayor Walker, Wall Street mergers and flapper sitters is a dangerous illusion," says Stuart Chase. "It's getting citizens off balance for the tangible evils which are hitting them and going to hit them. The world is passing through its greatest stress and change and turmoil since the break-up of the Roman Empire in the fifth century A.D."

If Mr. Chase thinks U. S. citizens are not seriously and deeply concerned about the current state of affairs then he just hasn't been reading the papers. Last week the New York Times reported that the Treasury was "swamped with protests" that a U. S. flag departed on the back of the \$10 bill has the stars placed at the bottom. It was also reported that U. S. congressmen are being "swamped with mail" on the question of television. Sen. Potter (R-Mich.) reports that he is getting mail demanding that Congress do something about Paris fashions. Just because Congress is not being swamped with mail on

education, nuclear fallout, social reforms, foreign affairs, presidential disability and defense doesn't mean Americans aren't concerned about these things. Of course, they are. They're just more concerned about money, television and fashions, that's all.

Memo To A Target

PRESIDENTIAL Assistant Sherman Adams, roundly rebuked by the nation's press for playing politics with the defense issue, has been selected as a major Democratic target this year. It was Mr. Adams' bitterly partisan speech in Minneapolis on Jan. 20 that turned the trick, Washington newsmen say.

For people in Mr. Adams' delicate position, there is an ancient adage of some sudden relevance. It's always a good idea to keep your words soft and sweet... because you never know when you may have to eat them.

From The Wall Street Journal

APPLESAUCE

MANY parents for some time now have been wondering about the "benefits" of progressive and semi-progressive education. And no wonder, if one is to judge by the results of a survey this newspaper took in such diverse places as New York City, Shaker Heights, Ohio, and Opa, Ala.

Some teachers are wondering about it, too. A New York City teacher says of her sixth graders that they're healthy, happy children. "Of course, they don't learn much at school," And a Bronx school marm chimes in about "critical reading," "citizenship," and "development of the whole child." Says she: "My children formerly had mastered grammar and decimals by the time they'd finished the fifth grade." Now her fifth graders are "terribly retarded" in grammar and are still on "concepts" in math. "In painting, clay-modeling and sewing, though, they're really in fine shape."

The result? At the University of Illinois 25 per cent of new freshmen must take a non-credit course in remedial English—starting with third grade grammar and spelling. At Portland State College's School of Education in Oregon about 60 per cent of the new students must take a course in "bonehead math"—starting with advanced fractions and

elementary algebra. Comments the head of the physics department: "A sorry situation."

Yes, indeed. And while educators some day might develop a better system than the Three R's, we think until a great many are using in place of reading, writing and arithmetic isn't nearly so good. And we don't see much room for improvement until the parents and the teachers raise their voices even higher about some of the things that go on in the academic circles.

Nor do we see very much chance for the youngsters so long as schools do as the New York City school curriculum says to do. Limit first grade kids to learning numbers from 1 to 10 but teach 'em to make applesauce.

Two oldtimers were discussing a mutual friend. Said one, "Poor Old John seems to be living in the past." "And why not?" replied the other. "It's a lot cheaper." —CARLSBAD CURRENT-ARGUS.

Another reason why we hope the Russians don't beat us to the moon is that it would leave our country little to promise at election time. —LEXINGTON HERALD.

People's Platform

Editors: The News: The growing ranks of unemployed workers in this and other states should be at cause of great concern.

As more and more workers are forced to leave their jobs, we



GOV. LUTHER HODGES
A Solution Offered

find someone purchasing power steadily dwindling.

I do not believe it would be unreasonable to say that the large number of unemployed was anticipated—and, possibly, planned.

But as it is, the full dangers of the Taft-Hartley law were not apparent to many people while there was relative prosperity. As early as July 4, 1947, David Lawrence, the business-minded newspaper columnist, said that the Taft-Hartley law will be "more effective if there is a little unemployment."

To further qualify my statement, the Dec. 18, 1948, issue of Business Week, a conservative publication of industry, admitted: "Given a few million unemployed in America, given an administration in Washington which is not pro-union, the Taft-Hartley Act conceivably could

Make It Murky

Jazz Is For Dives

By ROBERT C. RUARK

LONDON

I AM informed that Mr. Edwards, County Council member for Enfield, has been elected from his smoky cavern in New York's Greenwich Village and is now evaluating the midnight air from the elite East Side—330 East 58th Street, to be exact. I hope he'll be happy there, but I doubt it.

Mr. Condon, a professional minstrel who specializes in jazz and makes a bonanza of it, has been removed from his cave because New York University expelled all the real estate in Eddie's sector of the Village. I think this is wrong. Did they get the Mills Hotel as well? Did they encroach on my old digs in Minetta Street? It seems to me that tearing down the el and making a boulevard of Sixth Avenue has started an unhealthy trend.

ENEMY OF PROGRESS

I wish to come forth firmly as an avowed enemy of all progress. I would gladly give up the airplane and the automobile and the bus—wonderful machines back to work. I would abjure penicillin if it raised the market value of silk, paper and molasses.

Tell me that Dior squeal, and break out the pantealones. Mah pet name is Beaucard, honey, and oh don't aim to mess around with no television or gadget nissles, when we can hold hands in the moonlight and smell the jasmine fragrance a dead heat with the megaphones.

Nor do I like the way they are monkeying around with jazz, and especially the old-timey advocates like M. Scur Condon. Very serious.

When and if Toots Shor moves his joint to make way for progress, I cannot imagine that it will be moved one door away. And that is the same staid magic which made the Sher establishment the warmest nest in the city.

YOU DIG?

I hope that this doesn't happen to London, that persuasive gentleman who is a better writer than he ever was a guitar player, and who speaks a prose that can only be described as architecturally modern. He called me once and said, quote: "Meet me at the numerical place at the rock man's dawn, and we will have our psychics haloed."

This I translated correctly as: "Meet me at the 21 Club at 6 p.m. and we'll have a drink."

I sincerely hope that progress does not get in the way of galloping blues, and that the hoodlums and thumpers won't go up on one just because they take a fresh location. This has happened before when you take the boys out of the honkedicks and introduce them to shoes.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON NEWSMEN covering the Moulder Committee probe of invading inside the Federal Communications Commission have been laboring at the manner in which four Republican and three Democratic congressmen have gone out of their way to bullyrag their own counsel and protect FCC witnesses.

Who's On Trial?

The seven congressmen have heckled Drew Pearson, their own counsel, and have been investigated, not the FCC commissioners who took travel expenses from the radio-TV industry, then

Do Tar Heels Really Have 'Right To Work'?

wreck the labor movement. We hear that the unemployment figure may soon exceed the five-million mark. What can be done about it?

I offer this solution. Section 1418 of the Taft-Hartley Act was birthed to the so-called "right-to-work" laws. North Carolina has such a law on the statute books (H.B. 229 passed in 1947).

This law with the high-sounding title supposedly guarantees the individual a statutory right to a job.

If this be the case, I urge you to use your paper and your influence to seek Gov. Hodges' action in invoking the so-called "right-to-work" law and give the thousands of unemployed North Carolinians jobs.

Perhaps we will find that the "right-to-work" title is a fraud and a misnomer. Perhaps it doesn't guarantee a man any right at all.

—J. R. GRAHAM.

A Reader Questions

Democracy's Strength

Editor: The News: THIS IS democracy—1938 style—U. S. A.

Sunday, Jan. 26, 1958: The Charlotte Observer prints an anonymous and fraudulent advertisement purportedly giving the pay TV story to the city "Pay TV Comes to Charlotte." ... We will offer you a get-out-of-jail-free card by tuning Channel 3 and Channel 5 Monday night.

Monday, Jan. 27, The Charlotte News prints the same anonymous and fraudulent advertisement.

Monday, Jan. 27, 9:30 p.m.: Stations WBTV and WSOC-TV present dramatization of "possi-

ble extremes" pay TV could lead to. "Facts" are given and public is then told to urge Congress to outlaw pay TV.

Thursday, Jan. 28, AP dispatch from Washington states "letters, telegrams and petitions are pouring into offices of Carolina members of Congress in opposition to the idea of pay television."

Thus has the democratic process worked in our day!

The pay TV side of the problem has not been presented with objective facts and permitted to make the proper decision.

Instead, by means of anonymous and fraudulent newspaper advertisements, by means of an

Of Times And Issues

That Face The U. S.

Arlington, Va.

Editors: The News:

ON APRIL 27, we, who live in the East, including New York City and Washington, will set our timepieces ahead to Atlantic Standard Time and call it

Daylight Saving Time. On Oct. 26 we do the same thing in reverse to get back to Eastern Standard Time.

This upsets most radio and television network programs, but Congress cannot interfere with purely local time issues, except in Washington.

However, Congress can put all interstate commerce and communications under the Standard Time Act without reference to local time by a carrier or network.

—J. CLYDE NESOM

'A Thousand Apologies, Gentlemen. He's A New Man'



False Hopes Revisited

Dialogue At Tempelhof

By JOSEPH ALSOP

BERLIN

THE SCENE is the rather Berlin restaurant at Tempelhof, the great airport that was like a great artery nourishing all Berlin throughout the Soviet bloc of this city. The time is shortly after the bitter foreign policy debate in the German Parliament.

Supping at one of the restaurant tables is the man who most passionately denounced Chancellor Adenauer in the Bonn debate: Gustav Heinemann, once a member of the Adenauer cabinet and now a neutral Socialist. In his pale face, good intentions dimly, unmistakably shine from the pale, prominent blue eyes.

Heinemann's questioner, who perhaps lacks the same other guarantee of virtue, is your correspondent. In the resulting dialogue, the most significant passage runs approximately as follows:

ABANDON WEST BERLIN?

QUESTIONER: No doubt you have noticed, Herr Heinemann, that the Soviets keep saying they only want to negotiate "on the basis of the status quo." Obviously, the status means some kind of Communist rule in East Germany, and it is even hard to see how the status quo can be considered without the abandonment of West Berlin. Would you advise the Western allies to consider such conditions?

HEINEMANN (with horror): Of course not.

QUESTIONER: What do you think the Western allies should do, Herr Heinemann, if the Soviets again blockade Berlin?

HEINEMANN: Start another appeal course.

QUESTIONER: But the new radar jamming devices will certainly prevent all-weather landings here at Tempelhof. So an airlift will not work again. What then?

HEINEMANN: After a long

pause: Then you should relieve Berlin with an armored column.

QUESTIONER: That was the idea of Gen. Clay. But you yourself, Herr Heinemann, are an ardent advocate of the so-called Rapacki Plan, which would have the effect of depriving the West of all access of tactical nuclear weapons while leaving such weapons in the hands of the Soviets. How can we send an armored column in these conditions?

HEINEMANN (indignantly): I have always said the Rapacki Plan must be controlled. I would not have one side give up atomic weapons unless the other side also gives them up.

CONTROLLING THE REES

QUESTIONER: Well, Herr Heinemann, we have had some experience in Korea with "control" applied to Communist armies. No control of the Rapacki Plan could possibly be relied on unless Western control beams had the right to open every track and railroad car entering Poland and East Germany. Do you think the Soviets would accept that kind of control?

HEINEMANN (after another long pause): No, I do not think the Soviets would accept it.

QUESTIONER: Most assuredly the President of the United States could not accept any weaker form of control after the Korean experience. Otherwise he would have to assume that the other side possesses nuclear arms while our own forces did not and he would therefore be morally bound to withdraw the American divisions from Germany. Do you favor such a unilateral American withdrawal, leaving the Soviets of course in the East?

HEINEMANN: Certainly not.

QUESTIONER: Am I mistaken then, Herr Heinemann, in supposing that you favor the Rapacki Plan?

HEINEMANN: I have only said I favor it as a basis for negotia-

tion. Maybe it is not a good plan. Maybe as a plan it is worthless. But I think we should take it as a starting point for talks.

QUESTIONER: But in publicly endorsing the Rapacki Plan and urging negotiations on this basis, without ever once hinting that the plan is worthless, are you not greatly deceiving your own people by raising all sorts of false hopes?

HEINEMANN (with triumphant accusation): And yet are you speaking the language of the cold war. I believe in ending the cold war. Throughout this curious dialogue, a sword is held. Heinemann is visibly enraged with discontent every time he was asked to consider any of the hard facts of Germany's "real" situation. The point about the Rapacki Plan, the world, in truth, is that they are really deceiving their own people by raising all sorts of false hopes.

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REASONS FOR HOPE

If you study the foregoing dialogue, with all its cynicism and false hopes, you will also find in it reasons for real hope. On the one hand, even such a German leader as Gustav Heinemann retains a kind of vestigial sense of public reality. He has not reached the ideologically warped stage of favoring unilateral disarmament, for instance.

On the other hand, Gustav Heinemann is still, in Germany at least, an extreme and isolated case. In contrast, Socialist leaders from Germany to the Soviet Union are other advocates of nonstop-intransigent-sake are still rarely thought of under their political surfer. So long as Germany, there is no need to fear any really damaging permissiveness of the kind that would only make the West further demoralized by further great delusions.

Congressmen Heckle Their Own Counsel

to settle them in the Dominican Republic. Between six and seven hundred accepted his invitation but were given nothing to do and a mosquito-infested area near the Italian border to die in.

Finally they rebelled, and 10 of them were thrown in jail. The balance then stormed the jail and released their leaders. The Dominican Army then attacked.

However, the Hungarians, using sticks and stones, the same weapons they used against Russian tanks in Budapest, came to the aid of the Hungarians and put in the embarrassing position of firing against unarmed refugees, retreated.

After so many months of the Hungarians decided they preferred the dictatorship of Khrushchev back in Hungary to the dictatorship of Trujillo in the Caribbean. They went back to Hungary.

Washington Pipeline

It will be interesting to watch how Oklahoma Congressmen vote in the future on New Department appropriations. The Navy fleet Oklahoma congressmen to the State Gridiron Dinner at Washington. However, the Navy fleet Oklahoma congressmen, ranging the junior... Congratulations to a former Tulsa Tribune editor, who is of the long-term FCC commissioners who refused to accept a color television set and free service from the radio-TV industry.