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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1958

WE ASKED DR. ELMER H. GARINGER:

# Are Charlotte's Schools Ready For the Space Age?

A CHARLOTTE NEWS INTERVIEW

**INTERVIEWERS:** Why would a course in cooking be required of a Charlotte student?

**DR. GARINGER:** I don't think I have a whole course in cooking. I suppose you're talking about the home arts course in the seventh grade of the junior high school. It has several areas in it, all areas in which children must come in contact. The course runs for 18 weeks and in that time the children spend six weeks in the industrial arts course and six weeks in the home economics laboratory and six weeks in art. And, of course, they don't learn too much about cooking. They learn something about it and it gives them an orientation or a point of view that perhaps all of us men as well as women ought to know something about. I was over at Spauld High School the other day where the home economics teacher was conducting a class in this subject. She had them broken up into units. One group was working on nutrition, and very few men know very much about nutrition. Others were working in an area that was concerned with gadgets of the modern home, how they can be used and repaired and so on. I think this is one of those fields that would demonstrate pretty clearly that no time is being wasted and that the youngsters are doing things that have a functional value for them. And, of course, in doing all this, they have to write up what they're seeing and they have to talk about it and describe what they are doing. They are therefore learning skills in English and in expression and are becoming acquainted with some of the products of science in our modern-day life.



DR. GARINGER  
City School Superintendent

## The Fundamentals

**INTERVIEWERS:** Then you do think that in Charlotte schools we are spending enough time on the fundamentals?

**DR. GARINGER:** Well, I don't know that I'd ever say we were spending enough time because that's under study all the time. And raising the very question of half-days with our junior and senior high school principals going over our curricula for next year and raising the very question of whether we're doing enough. I think that's always necessary. As you know, our course of study in secondary science courses has changed a lot in the last few years. Physics certainly has. I went to college a long while ago, and it's quite different from the physics taught today. And mathematics was quite different, too, from the math that is taught today.

## They Don't Let Go

Now, in those schools, when they start a secondary school, they start at about the age of 10, 11 or 12, they don't ever let it go — they stay with it until they finish the secondary school. Now, we don't do that over here. Plane geometry, for example, is a 10th grade subject and we don't study it before or after. We drop it then. Physics is a one-year course, usually given in the 12th grade. Chemistry is a 11th grade course. That isn't true in these European schools or in our South American schools that follow the European pattern. When they take it up back in the period of youth, even before adolescence, they don't ever drop it. They will not take it, as we do here, every day in the week; they may take it once or twice a week, or three times a week. But they don't let go of it. It may be that they have an improvement over us in that respect. Actually, however, if you put down the amount of time that has been devoted over that period of time to physics for one of our European people, they ordinarily haven't put in more time than ours have in a concentrated one-year course. They may have learned more, although I think there's some doubt about that.

## Europe Does More

**INTERVIEWERS:** Last November, in a speech to the nation, President Eisenhower listed the requirements for a high school diploma in the Soviet Union. He said that when a Russian graduates from high school he has had five years of physics, four years of chemistry, one year of astronomy, two years of biology, 10 years of mathematics, through trigonometry and five years of a foreign language. Our schools obviously do not measure up in all of these requirements. How do you feel about these comparisons with European curricula?

**DR. GARINGER:** I think that sort of question is one that deserves careful consideration on our part, and some careful comparisons. The European secondary school is quite different from ours. It is a very selective institution, very selective. The selection begins when a child is in about our fifth or sixth grade, at about the time he's leaving the elementary school. And they make one selection after another so that by the

## How Much Science?

**INTERVIEWERS:** In this same junior high school group that is required to take the home arts course, how much work in science and foreign language is required?

**DR. GARINGER:** Well, of course, that is just one of six periods a day. The other five periods are given to what we call the basic subjects, such as English and mathematics and science. There is a six-period day and every period has a subject in it.

**INTERVIEWERS:** What are the basic requirements in the sciences for a high school diploma in Charlotte public schools?

**DR. GARINGER:** I think that is a good question. We have science all the way through the elementary schools — that is, grades one through six. And, of course, the first formalized be-

## Should The Supreme Court Be Curbed?

ALL assaults on the federal judiciary are not being mounted from below the Mason-Dixon line. The angriest and most irresponsible legislative haymakers ever aimed at the highest court in the land was plotted recently in the heartlands of Indiana.

It is Sen. Jenner's bill to deprive the U. S. Supreme Court of jurisdiction in five separate categories. Irked by a series of distressingly liberal decisions the Indiana conservative would, for example, bar the high court from appellate jurisdiction in all actions taken by congressional investigating committees in internal security matters, including citations for contempt against witnesses. Sen. Jenner would also cut off the right of appeal to the Supreme Court of any person dropped from the government payroll because of alleged subversive connections.

This effort to "curb" the court is being made, ironically, in the name of conservatism. Actually it would alter rather than conserve a time-tested institution of American democracy, an institution that is the keystone of American liberty under law. It is, whether Mr. Jenner realizes it or not, an act of disturbing radicalism.

What this radicalism threatens is change of the most undesirable sort. It would operate in one way or another to lessen the judiciary's independence and subject it to the control of one or more of the other governmental divisions. No one who believes in America's delicate system of checks and balances really wants this to happen.

**CRITICISM** of the court and its decisions is perfectly proper. No institution of government — including the judiciary — stands beyond the reach of criticism. In 1898, Justice David J. Brewer, a member of the Supreme Court, said:

"It is a mistake to suppose the Supreme Court is either honored or helped by being spoken of as beyond criticism. On the contrary, the life and character of its justices should be the objects of constant watchfulness by all, and its judgments subject to the freest criticism. The time is past in the history of the world when any living man or body of men can be set on a pedestal and decorated with a halo. True, many criti-

cisms may be, like their authors, devoid of good taste, but better all sorts of criticisms than no criticism at all."

"But," David F. Maxwell in 1957, "the emphasis should be on the constructive-ness of the criticism."

When the attacks are so reckless in their abuse, so heedless of the value of judicial review, that they tend to undermine the public's confidence in judicial remedies then they should be repudiated by thoughtful citizens.

**CERTAINLY**, the judiciary can be improved. No human institution is beyond improvement. We share the opinion of many of the Supreme Court's critics that politics is too big a factor in federal judicial appointments, for instance. We share widespread doubts about the wisdom of certain of the court's decisions over the years. But we also share the uneasiness of many political scientists over the prospect of hasty legislation to alter the court's appellate jurisdiction.

Sen. Hennings (D-Mo.) recently drew an important distinction that should be observed scrupulously by the Senate subcommittee now conducting hearings on the Jenner bill.

"Mr. President," said Sen. Hennings, "while I think free and open criticism of the court's decisions and opinions is healthy and desirable, I deplore, and earnestly caution against, any hasty or ill-considered attempt to limit the powers of the court by changing its basic structure."

"The governmental system established by our forefathers almost 170 years ago has served this nation well, and should not be changed except in unusual circumstances, and then only after the most careful study and thought."

"Certainly it should not be tampered with in a moment of passion or temporary pique."

**MEN** come and go. Issues come and go.

What must remain constant is a democratic system that guards deeply cherished constitutional rights regardless of the stress and strains of the times and the passions of the moment.

This is true conservatism.

## Sen. Byrd Brings Honor To His Breed

**BEING** essentially an aristocrat, Virginia's Harry Flood Byrd simply had no defense against widespread pleas that he forego retirement for another six-year term in the U.S. Senate.

Arguing against his acceptance of a fifth term was a sixteen-year-old pledge to his wife that they would return to Virginia next year. Quite possibly there was a personal desire to quit, arising from the fact that his philosophy of government is in general eclipse in Washington. Either way was a substantial argument, but neither was compelling in the face of his state's obvious and earnest desire that he continue to represent it in the Senate.

Sen. Byrd's decision to continue is an accurate measure of his strong devotion to public service and of his conscientious regard for duty. These are admirable qualities in the man and in the senator. As a deliberative body the Senate would have been weakened by his retirement. Doubtless there will be elation over his

decision among both liberal and conservative members of that body.

Certainly there should be. The Senate, at its best, functions as a place where ideas are put to tests other than that of shifting popular favor. By reason of his sincerity, intelligence and industry, Harry Byrd has been able to serve responsibly and honorably those who agree with his views and, by putting opposing philosophies to the stern test of his arguments, he has served the general welfare as well.

In order to admire Harry Byrd's character it is not necessary, thank goodness, to accept Virginia as the center of southern enlightenment nor to worship at the figurative shrine which ruling Virginians have erected to him. Aristocracy, in other words, has its vices as well as its virtues.

But by his willingness to serve at personal sacrifice and by his abilities to serve, Harry Byrd brings honor to his breed.

## Judge Parker: A Wrong Remembered

**THE** excess of political fanaticism which cheated Charlotte's Judge John J. Parker of a seat on the Supreme Court — and denied the nation the full benefit of his great competence and character — is an old and bitter tale in these parts.

It is illustrative of his character that Judge Parker himself was made neither old nor bitter by his disappointment. But the memory of wrongs is a strong safeguard against their repetition. Thus we noted happily the other day that the Senate's injustice to Judge Parker 28 years ago still is fresh in the memory of Washington.

Congratulating the National Conference on Citizenship for its selection of Judge Parker as its new president, the Washington Post made these eloquent and fitting remarks:

"Twenty-eight years ago, when Judge Parker was nominated to be a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States,

he was made the victim of one of the worst psychological lynchings in which the Senate has ever indulged. Because he had followed an unpopular decision of the Supreme Court and because certain factions were determined to embarrass President Hoover, Judge Parker was pilloried as a foe of labor and minority groups, with virtually no regard for the distinguished record he had already made on the bench. Rejected by a vote of 41 to 39, the judge accepted the decision without bitterness and continued to gain stature as a liberal-minded jurist of rare quality. Over the years he has won the respect of even the groups who fought him the most bitterly. As he presides over this far-flung conference of citizen groups, he will have the satisfaction of knowing that the conscience of the nation has reversed the narrow, politically inspired decision of 28 years ago."

Here is an editorial judgment, we think, to which there will be no dissent.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

## INFLATION IN BRASS

**TRANSATLANTIC** news dispatch the other day brought the word that some Britons bemoan the growth of bureaucracy in the armed services over there. The Sunday Graphic pointed out that there were 144 admirals, 132 generals and 100 air marshals. That seemed a lot of brass.

Our British cousins mean easy. They don't know anything about inflation in rank. The latest figures from the Penta-

gon are that the United States has 508 Army generals, 63 Marine Corps generals, 424 Air Force generals, 297 admirals in the Navy.

We may lack missiles but we certainly have no insufficiency in brass to argue about them.

A dictatorship is a government under which a man who tries to get ahead may miss up losing his head. — LAUREL (WIND) LEADER-CALL.

## 'By The Way—What Course Are You Steering?'



## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

**NEWSMEN** covering the President were a bit rough with Jim Hagerty over Ike's 3,000-mile detour to take Mamie and two friends to Elizabeth Arden's slimming resort in Arizona. But you can't entirely blame Jim. The astute and agile White House press secretary has been having one of the roughest times of his five years in office.

## Wary Of Worry

Reason is that his boss has been more wary of late and more less concerned about public opinion. For a long time Gen. Eisenhower was more preoccupied with relations than with any recent president, and completely agreeable to Hagerty's suggestions. But lately he

hasn't been. Perhaps it's because this is his last term and he's tired of worrying too much about what the public thinks. Hagerty was fully aware of the bad publicity that was charging against him when he was with Mrs. Ellis Slater on a slimming detour for which commercial airlines charged \$500. But he had nothing to say about it.

## Col. Moore Involved

In view of course that Mrs. Gordon Moore, the President's sister-in-law, was right in the public eye as a result of Col. Moore's name being involved in the congressional investigation of Channel 10 in Miami, Col. Moore has also been mentioned in connection with the CAB award of a route to his old firm, Trans-Caribbean Air Lines, and in connection with

deals with Dominican Dictator Trujillo. Mrs. Ellis Slater is also not the most politic guest to take on a free trip, because her husband, former head of Frankfurt Distillers, is a Trans-Caribbean subsidiary, is given credit for helping influence the oil leasing of the Lacassine Wildlife refuge in Louisiana.

## Giveaway Precedent

This lease was given by the Eisenhower administration to Slater's subsidiary company, Frankfurt Oil Co., and set a new precedent for oil leasing on government wildlife preserves. Prior to this, Democrats Harold Ickes and Oscar Chapman, as secretaries of the interior, had refused to permit oil companies to lease game refuges.

Republican subordinates in the Interior Department also vigorously opposed opening up the Lacassine preserve to Slater's oil company but they were overruled from on top.

## Heavy Contributors

Ellis Slater contributed \$2,500 to Eisenhower's reelection campaign last year and has been one of his closest bridge-playing partners. He was with him most of the time at Thomassville, and is a member of the executive group which built the Augusta golf quarters for the President at no expense to him. Mrs. Slater's friends are giving Mamie and friends the nonpaying guest treatment at her Arizona slimming resort, also contributed \$2,500 to Ike in 1956.

can Field Service. We have had them for the past two or three years. A boy last year from Denmark took chemistry with us down at Central, a very bright boy. He told me that he thought that the course he got in chemistry at Central High School was better than the course he got in his home in Copenhagen.

## Ours Measures Up

It is very easy to check with these youngsters here. They represent the very best of twelve secondary schools. They have been screened and they've been sent over here for a year's study. And they're bright. But we haven't found that they know so much more than our own youngsters. Of course, they have a language difficulty, most of them do. But ours, who are good students to begin with and work at the job, show up quite well in a competitive basis with these youngsters.

**INTERVIEWERS:** If the school becomes more and more of a social agency won't it, more and more, find it necessary to offer different courses of instruction reflecting the differences in the backgrounds of students and the capacities of their teachers to train them? In other words, won't curricula have to become more and more specialized and segregated, reflecting the realities of the students themselves?

## Fewer Electives

**DR. GARINGER:** Well, I think that is true, even today. A few years back, of course, the elective system just ran wild. In every high school of any city or town, we had a great list of elective subjects. But we've gotten away from that. There are not as many electives today as there were 10 or 15 years ago in a good city high school. There ought to be enough electives, however, to do just what you indicated — electives that would take care of both the needs of the individual so far as his capacities and his interests are concerned, and also the needs of the state. I don't think we can overlook the fact that the state, the local community, has certain requirements in the way of good citizenship, of behavior on the part of its youngsters, and somebody must take care of that. The school has the youngest for certain hours of the day and ought to know something about it.

## Grouping Children

**INTERVIEWERS:** Do Charlotte schools group children on the basis of their varying capacities?

**DR. GARINGER:** Well, I can't make a positive answer either way. We have been doing it at Central High School for years. I suppose, 25 years, and it's been one way in some of our other schools to some extent—that is, the number that do it is increasing.

**INTERVIEWERS:** It is increasing?

**DR. GARINGER:** Yes, in the junior and senior high schools.

## No Opposition

**INTERVIEWERS:** Would you say that parents generally approve or disapprove of such grouping?

**DR. GARINGER:** We've never had any difficulty at Central at all. I do know that there has been some opposition to it in some school systems, but we've never had any opposition to it here that I know of.

**INTERVIEWERS:** Do you think this grouping will continue to increase?

**DR. GARINGER:** I think so because it seems to me that it is useful to put children who have a high degree of academic ability in a class with those who have a very low degree of academic ability. It gives those groups the content and the theories that would be suitable to them; that is, it either has to be watered down so much that it doesn't interest the gifted or else it's so difficult that it's beyond the comprehension of the others.

## Who Picks Courses?

**INTERVIEWERS:** Who determines the required courses in Charlotte schools?

**DR. GARINGER:** I would say that the leadership for that comes through our principals' organization, working with us at the central office. Of course, that always has to be approved by the Board of Education.

**INTERVIEWERS:** Does the state hand down any requirements as far as curricula are concerned?

**DR. GARINGER:** Yes, it does.



"It's a long, hard pull."

The state gets out a handbook and they have books on each area of the curriculum. Just the other day we had two people come here from the state department of instruction to work with us on physical education and athletics. And they will work with us in terms of the state requirements, minimum requirements, and talk to us about the wisdom of expanding that program. Now, the state gets its objectives, of course, by having state committees made up of representatives of the public school system, and they usually bring in some lay people. When a document is finished, it has the approval of its committee members who are representative of the people at large.

## Over-Emphasis?

**INTERVIEWERS:** Do you think that there is danger that, during this period of concern about courses in science and mathematics, we could overemphasize them in our schools and throw the school system off balance?

**DR. GARINGER:** Yes, I think that's true. And I think it would be most unfortunate if that did happen, because as you and I well know, there are other things—like justice. What good would science do, for instance, if in training people to be young scientists we forgot that there is such a thing as theories of government? While we are working on our science, Russian, or some other science, may be working on a theory of government, and be able to take us in when we are least expecting it.

## Crash Programs

**INTERVIEWERS:** We hear a lot about crash programs in education. Can you produce an educated man on a crash basis?

**DR. GARINGER:** No. It takes a long time to produce an educated man, I think. And I think those people who live to an age of 70 or 80 know that their life spans have been able to modify and adjust their own thinking because of the experience and help that they've gotten from contact with other minds. I don't think a crash program will bring the millennium at all. It takes a long, hard pull.

## Behavior

Incidentally a book has come out in the last few months, published really under the influence of the College Entrance Examination Board, and the director of it is Dr. Will French, who was then a professor at the Teachers College (Columbia University) and his son was our first principal at Myers Park High School. The title of the book is "Behavioral Goals in High School." A group of very learned people were behind this, and they are trying to look at education as a thing that concerns itself not with learning certain subject matter but learning certain types of behavior, that behavior is the important thing, and subject matter comes in just as it influences behavior, whether that behavior is toward conforming in certain social conventions or making a living or whatever it might be. But a school to us in education today is something far more than just teaching a few packages of academic subject matter; it must have something to do with the whole boy and girl.