



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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### End Mecklenburg's Duplex Bureaucracy

WHY should Charlotte and Mecklenburg County maintain separate tax offices when a single, combined operation would be more efficient, more economical, more convenient?

Why should there be two complete governmental structures at all in an area where one would do quite nicely?

Must taxpayers support into eternity two political leviathans with duplicate facilities and two public servants for every public function?

Is a duplex bureaucracy really necessary in a single, interrelated metropolitan area?

These are questions City Councilmen and County Commissioners should answer today for the mutual benefit of their own public consciences and a taxladen citizenry.

Possibly they will be considered impolite—even impertinent—inquiries into political institutions traditionally left undisturbed. Perhaps these are sacred preserves, guarded by custom and the quaint conviction that the structure of government in Mecklenburg is inviolable.

This is nonsense, of course. Government in Mecklenburg has become so big, complicated and costly that it demands

constant scrutiny—and constant attention to the possibility of improvement. Flexibility is the saving grace of our system. It is the power to improvise to alter government in an orderly manner to make it serve the changing needs of the people.

It is time that more Mecklenburgers gave their government a few hard stares, however uncomfortable they may be to the occupants of the padded leather chairs on East Trade Street. The Chamber of Commerce has set a useful example. Others should follow.

Consolidation of the tax departments of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County is possible now without undue stress or strain. It can even be accomplished without stepping on any political toes or thwarting any runaway ambitions.

Furthermore, action to merge these operations would no doubt speed the day when the entire government of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County can be consolidated. This should be the ultimate goal—when individual political interests can be subordinated to the common welfare through the vitality and flexibility of a metropolitan government.

### Keep Runaway Bombs On Their Leashes

THE Pentagon, quoting two billion-to-one odds against accidental nuclear explosions, found some statistical comfort in the fact that there was none following the A-bomb drop near Florence, S. C.

There's room for all kinds of comfort and thanksgiving in the fact. But more to the point is this question: What are the odds against accidental dropping of bombs of any sort?

These must be considerably shorter odds since this was the second nuclear device to get away from their keepers within recent weeks. The TNT that did explode near Florence injured six people. Had fortune been less kind, it could have killed them and many more besides.

In other words, let the military keep its cargoes in its planes—whether they be hauling rocks, blockbusters or A-bombs.

Doubtless much can be learned from the incident to prevent recurrence. And in fairness, it must be said that a great deal already has been learned and put

to use. The fact that atomic weapons are carried often in planes, ships and trucks during maneuvers and practice alerts reflects the wealth of information gained from bothersome tests the Atomic Energy Commission is forever holding in Nevada and the Pacific. And these maneuvers and alerts must be held if defense forces are to remain on their toes—as they must.

There will be no hysteria in these parts as a result of the accident. Carolinians have enough confidence in the military and enough knowledge of the necessities of security to prevent that. And perhaps the general calm that followed the incident will serve to shame some of the British fire-eaters who felt affronted by U. S. defense of their territory with planes carrying A-bombs.

But if Americans do not get hysterical about such accidents, they do expect the military to get excited about them—and to prevent them. The Pentagon, we trust, has already addressed itself to that task.

### 'People In Trouble': Charlotte's Shame

BURIED with the Youth Bureau statistics showing that juvenile crime in Charlotte jumped nearly 10 per cent in 1957 was a warmly humane observation:

"The statistics in this analysis are not cold figures," said the report. "They are vivid symbols of people in trouble."

People in trouble. If the community would respond to this aspect—the human aspect—the problem of juvenile delinquency rather than beating the bushes for a scapegoat or demanding harsh "justice" for pitifully disturbed children the statistics might be happier.

The statistical increase is not alarming—most of the offenses are minor—but it nevertheless dramatizes a continuing human tragedy.

What concerns us is that most of the recent attempts to find solutions or cures have seemingly degenerated into finger-pointing exercises. It is somewhat as Dr. Marjorie Rittwagen, staff psychiatrist for the Children's Division of New York City's Domestic Relations Court, wrote recently:

"For every unsolved problem there is a scapegoat. Never is it more true than for a complicated problem where a single answer is demanded. With a scapegoat life becomes easier. No longer is it necessary to work on the basic causes

of the problem, and now all the accumulated frustrations can express themselves in hatred. Good old hate. If there is a depression, blame the party in power. If there is a feeling of injured national pride, blame the Jews. And if you are discussing the causes of juvenile delinquency, blame the parents! One cause, therefore, one solution. Fine the parents, beat them, jail them, lecture at them, legislate against them!"

Parents do wield great influence in determining how children will turn out. But the difficulty is not always so simple. As Leo Tolstoy said, "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." Family life must be strengthened if juvenile delinquency is to be treated effectively. But it nevertheless dramatizes a continuing human tragedy.

The problem is great and its solution in Charlotte and in the nation will require great understanding and much help. It is easy to shrug and say the parents have let our erring youth down. It has not only been the parents but the politicians and the scientists and the churchmen and the educators and the reporters and all of the others who have failed to give them values to live by. We all are the 'people in trouble.'"

From The Washington Post

### OF GHOULIES AND GHASTIES

THERE aren't—so they tell us—many mysteries now left in the world, and so we ought to be grateful for all those weird goings on that have been turning the hitherto normal and peaceful household of Mr. and Mrs. James Hermann of Seaford, Long Island, into a kind of 24-hour nightmare. No doubt you have read about how the Hermanns can't keep any kind of liquid, including holy water, in the house without inviting disaster, because the stoppers—even those that screw on—have a way of coming off for no reason whatever and spilling the stuff all over the place.

It is hardly any wonder then, that a reporter from NEWSWEEK has been permanently assigned to the story or that the Nassau County police have detained Detective Joe Tozzi to keep a continual eye on the premises. Scientific investigators rushed down from the Brookhaven laboratories with their Geiger counters and other apparatus to determine whether atomic fallout or some such physio-magical phenomenon might have been to blame. A parapsychologist hurried up from Duke University to see whether or not somebody was practicing psychi-

cal necromancy in the Hermann household. A local clergyman was called in to bless the premises (the Hermanns are devout Roman Catholics) and a professional dowser turned up with his witch hazel wand to make a thorough inspection of the whole neighborhood to find out whether rising water tables had anything to do with it all.

And there the matter now stands. The parapsychologist has gone back to North Carolina to write his report. The physicists have gone back to Brookhaven. The dowser to his home at Baldwin. The reporter and detective remain on the job; but their combined efforts have not been enough to get to the bottom of the business.

And so we must leave you to decide for yourself whether or not the happenings at Seaford are the work of an authentic and much too playful poltergeist. We might suggest, however, one possible clue. We have yet to see a story about the Hermann household that has not been grotesquely piled up with transparent lies, upside-down-type and the most extraordinary assortment of typographical errors.

## Truth About Sherman Adams Is Wrapped In A Legend

By MARQUIS CHILDS

A QUESTION being asked more and more often these days is "Who is this Sherman Adams anyway?" It is a reflection of the way in which President Eisenhower's immediate staff is being held accountable for what is done—or not done—by the President.



"No, Name's Sherman Adams and I Just Work Here"

### End Of A Byline: The Alsop Brothers Will Go It Alone

By JOSEPH AND STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON  
AT THE end of this month, the symbol of a long and happy, brotherly partnership, will cease to appear in its accustomed place. For various highly practical reasons, it has become desirable to divide the functions of newspaper reporting and magazine writing which our partnership has always combined.

[Editors' Note: Joseph Alsop will continue the column, Stewart Alsop will join the staff of the Saturday Evening Post as contributing editor on national affairs.]

When we formed our partnership we had barely put our wartime uniforms in mothballs. In the first peacetime months of the Truman administration, if you want a measure of how incredibly long ago that was, there is the odd fact that we ran into our first trouble as columnists because of insufficient faith in the high and noble purposes of the Soviet Union.

The first Azerbaijanian crisis was just on the horizon; and in analyzing Stalin's grab for Persia we followed the line of the exceptionally brilliant Soviet experts that the government had in those days. One of them is in exile now; another has been driven from the public service; and we now seem to rely on the Secretary of State's direct wire to the Almighty for the functions the experts claim to perform. But let us move to another subject. Having followed

state of New Hampshire. He went into politics in a small way, was elected to the legislature and served one term in Congress. Defeated once for governor, he won on a second try. When Mr. Eisenhower became President in 1953, Adams became assistant to the President.

#### REMARKABLE LEGEND

The bare bones of this record seem unrelated to the remarkable legend growing up around the man who sits at the President's right hand. In that legend the spare, taciturn New Englander is 10 times life size—a cross between Rasputin and Sengal.

All the clichés—the power behind the throne, the gray eminence—are applied to his role in the White House. When letters came to light recently from Adams to Murray Churnin, Vice President Richard M. Nixon's campaign manager in 1952, relative to a case before the Civil Aeronautics Board, this seemed to prove everything that had been said about the quiet engineer at the switchboard in the White House. The House investigation would show that he ran the independent agency—the CAB, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Power Commission.

#### TRUTH'S EVASIVE

The truth, lying somewhere between the facts and the legend, is difficult to appraise. The reason for the public inflation of Adams' post as "assistant to the President" can be found, in the view of this observer, in two developments.

First is the fact of the President's increasing withdrawal over the past three years from the responsibilities of his office. When he agreed to run for a second

term, he said that he would, because of his illness, lead a more restricted life, with periods of rest and recreation. Before that he had shown an indifference, if not an antagonism, toward the political aspects of his job.

Consequently a large share of the political duties of the Presidency have fallen on Adams. In 1952 he had backed the predominant Taftite Republicans in his state, headed by the powerful Sen. Styles Bridges, to help Mr. Eisenhower get the nomination, and he had a leading place in the Eisenhower campaign.

Adams has passed on virtually all domestic appointments. He will not discuss the degree of his responsibility, but there are those who insist that he makes the decisions subject to the President's approving signature. This has meant a wide latitude of operation in the far-flung bureaucracy of the federal government.

#### CYNICAL SMILES

Bumbles in staff work seemed to expose Adams' hand have drawn cynical smiles from political Washington. Recently when Hagerty announced the appointment of Gordon M. Tiffany, a former attorney general of New Hampshire, to be staff director of the Commission on Civil Rights, Hagerty said in response to questions that he had not been selected by Adams. At the same time, Concord, Tiffany was saying that Adams had asked him to take the post.

The second reason Adams finds himself being shot at in an exposed position outside the political trenches lies in the growing complexity of the impossible office of the Presidency. There has been a lot of talk in the Eisenhower administration about revising and strengthening the office. But this



HARRY HOPKINS  
He Might Sympathize

has never been done and, therefore, Adams' position as, in effect, deputy president is extra legal.

That makes him vulnerable, just as it made Harry Hopkins, who performed somewhat the same office for Franklin D. Roosevelt during the war. He was a favorite target of attacks of those who did not want to let the President directly.

One thing Adams readily admits: Looking down and haggard at the end of a 12-hour day, he concedes that it is a murderous job. Just now he has gone away for a few days of skiing in New Hampshire. But he will be back at the old stand since, given the situation of the President and the anomalies of the office itself, there is no substitute for the deputy who minds the store when the boss is away.

most popular when what you are writing is most wrong or most empty of real content.

The ironies of the business underline the cardinal rule that a newspaperman's feet are a lot more important than his head. But there is another rule, as well. A newspaperman must never forget that the drama in which he is one of the actors is a real drama—not some sock-and-buskin fraud but a real, life drama of national and human destiny. And in this respect, how splendidly, though full of movement and suspense, how often tensely stirring these last twelve years have been!

The American lead was a fact beyond imagination questioning when we two went to work together.

THE business itself has its own ironies. You find you bore people until their teeth hurt when you are most right, as we did with our angry reports on the Truman-Johnson disarmament program before the Korean war, and with our similar reports on the Eisenhower disarmament program that has been only a little modified by the Sputnik. You also find that the things you have driven yourself to do very often end by being no more than wryly funny, as when one of us rather quaveringly decided to go in with the first wave at the Inchon landing, and was vaguely, peacefully deposited on the wrong beach. You find, too, that you are sometimes

gether. The question was, rather, whether this great technical and economic lead would be transformed into American leadership in freedom's bitter struggle to survive in a divided world. Every American political tradition was against the transformation. The wisest and most experienced Americans regarded the transformation as utterly impossible—for instance, one of us can vividly remember that they experienced man, James F. Byrnes, inveighing against the first proposals of the Marshall Plan as featherbrained visionaries who did not "know Congress."

Yet this great transformation of American lead into American leadership nonetheless took place, and there followed years that were troubled, certainly, but heroic too. Maybe it was the unaccustomed effort of peacetime liberalism that caused the desperate welling-up of poisonous mutual suspicion and quick hatred among Americans.

At any rate, the poison has been neutralized now. But the "American lead" has been lost too, and the future seems more doubtful today than one could have thought remotely possible twelve years ago. Maybe, indeed, our particular section of the chess is separating just as the drama reaches its climax, which is another reason why we regret the separation.

But the separation has been decided, and this retrospect has gone on long enough.

### 'Yeah, Let's Try Therapy First—I'm Squeamish About Red Ink, Too'

### People's Platform

Youth Must Choose Freedom's Only Path

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

WE are nearing the 200th anniversary of a shack-breaking declaration. Men said they would be free, and went about to bring that freedom to pass by appeal to arms. We are about 20 years from a past declaration's 200th anniversary by which Pilgrims said they would be free, with no appeal to arms but to God. What a pity that continual appeal-arms has all but destroyed the natives we found here and lifted slavery to where the church even sanctioned it, and made missiles and jets our chief deliverers! How terrible that William Penn and Roger Williams and thousands of opponents of war and horrors of peace among men have not been able to convince us that we are slaves of the very thing we claim to abhor but to which we chain ourselves every day!

Major, Hershey, one of the officials that place conscripts, complains that parents and others are not letting the young boys

choose for themselves: "The adults are taking from them their right to choose their own right to make up their own minds." Shades of darkness! Who could be more guilty of this than the conscriptionists? Youth are forced to go in, though they do not want to be in an army. Why not have a voluntary force—no connection with the army—of those who would love to help the poor, the needy, the sick, the aged, the conscripting anybody? A new thing in the earth! Well, more worthy of trying than some other things we are "spitting."

How fine it would be if youth—this means the girls, too—would declare independence of everything evil. No tobacco, no liquor, no profanity, no loose living, no delinquencies, no hatred! How great, to acknowledge dependence on God and everything good that means!

We can never build a new world until youth chooses freely the only path that can possibly lead to true freedom, freedom for all the youth of the world!

—SNEED OGBURN

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IT WILL be extremely interesting to see what happens to Sen. Clinton Anderson's drive to let distressed industries get tax concessions similar to that urged for the underinsured insurance companies.

The New Mexico Democrat, himself an insurance man, has warned colleagues:

#### Fine Lobby

"We have been told in the past that we cannot go at tax revision on a piecemeal basis. Yet now the life insurance companies, which have one of the finest lobbies in Washington, came along and want piecemeal legislation which would

give them tax concessions of \$124 million dollars.

"The insurance business is booming. If they are going to get piecemeal legislation, why not some piecemeal legislation for the auto industry, which is in a slump? Why not remove the excess taxes on cars?" Henry Ford says this would help the industry and I think he's right.

Anderson also proposes that if the insurance companies are going to get piecemeal tax relief, there be piecemeal legislation giving a personal tax exemption of \$550 to each family, plus removal of the transportation tax, plus a lowering of the rate on the first \$1,000 of earned income to help small taxpayers.

It will be interesting to see how Sen.

ate leaders, who have been urging measures to restore the economy, operate the Phillips, for his decorating binge revealed only part of our military decorating in the Pacific. The Navy has a case with its own involving Adm. W. B. Amman, commander of the Marianas, whose ambitious wife has kept the island of Guam in a dizzy whirl of decorating and gardening.

#### Decorating On Guam

The ouster of Maj. Gen. John "Bulldog" McArthur, 13th Air Force Commander in the Philippines, for his decorating binge, revealed only part of our military decorating in the Pacific. The Navy has a case with its own involving Adm. W. B. Amman, commander of the Marianas, whose ambitious wife has kept the island of Guam in a dizzy whirl of decorating and gardening.

Every woman likes to "change things

around" when moving into a new home. However, the changes charming Mrs. Amman made since she and the admiral took up residence at "Flag Circle" on Guam would make the average taxpayer's wife who is footing the bill green with envy.

One of her more famous projects is tactlessly known as "Operation Jackhammer." Mrs. Amman, according to the Guam residents, didn't take the coconut palms planted by Adm. Chester Nimitz on the driveway in front of "Flag Circle." Apparently they weren't dignified enough. With her husband's approval, the trees were cut down and replaced by royal palms—which are taller, stouter, and minus coconuts.

