



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1958

## Shall We Build Schools Or Postoffices?

"The horror of that moment," the King went on, "I shall never, never forget!"

"You will, though," the Queen said, "if you don't make a memorandum of it."—LEWIS CARROLL.

THE EISENHOWER administration apparently neglected to make any notation at all of the horrors of 1957's classroom shortage.

The crisis—viewed with such eloquent alarm a year ago—has not vanished suddenly like the Broomstick or the passenger pigeon. It is, alas, still with us.

There is one difference. Today's shortage of basic educational facilities is much, much worse.

If any fresh incentive for action is needed surely the recession can provide it. The administration is unveiling on the hour every hour some new anti-recession scheme to provide employment. Both houses of Congress have already passed a housing-financing bill designed to stimulate construction of 200,000 new units and thereby furnish employment to some half million individuals this year. Hearings have begun in the Senate on a bill to set up a \$2 billion federal loan fund to states and localities for public works projects. A speed-up has been requested by the White House on another \$2 billion worth of local projects which will receive federal aid. Acceleration of the federal road-building program has also been ordered. And construction of an astounding number of new postoffices is being planned.

If the federal government can provide more funds for postoffices, highways and public housing to fight the recession then it can do something on an emergency basis about the shortage of classrooms.

The terrible need is beyond question. It was well documented by the President

a year ago. It is greater today than it was then.

There is an opportunity to dispatch two birds with a single well-aimed stone. Employment can be provided in the depressed construction industry to stimulate the economy. At the same time, thousands of classrooms can be provided during U. S. education's gravest hour of need in recent memory.

We are not proposing that any new program of federal aid for school construction offer any opportunity for federal control of education. What we recommend is an emergency program designed simply to stimulate state and local efforts to bring their educational systems up to decent standards. We firmly believe in the American tradition that holds states and local communities primarily responsible for the construction and operation of public schools. It is this tradition that keeps the schools close to the people, the true custodians of the nation's educational heritage.

But the crisis in education is so severe that nothing less than emergency measures will do. A limited program of federal grants to the states for school construction — with appropriate safeguards — is the only sensible solution at this time.

Instead, the administration has offered an aid to education program this year which actually is only an aid to science program to bolster the nation's defense capacity. Even as a means of increasing the number of classrooms, it is a little-too-late proposition. The administration has apparently forgotten that the whole of education is in need of assistance — not just one aspect of it.

As for the President's public works plans, it will be pleasant to have a lot of new postoffices. But somehow we think it is rather more important to have a lot of new schoolhouses.

## The States Must Exercise Their Rights

THE growing problem of disenfranchisement by residence is one of the hard political facts one hears little about in the impassioned debates in Congress over disenfranchisement by race.

The point is heavily underlined and seasoned with sharp irony in a federal court suit brought by the white mayor of Atlanta under the civil rights bill passed by Congress last summer. Although this bill essentially was passed for the enfranchisement of Negro citizens denied the vote in some southern states, Mayor William Hartsfield asks the court to void the statute as a means of voiding Georgia's county unit system. His complaint: The system is discriminatory against urban residents in Georgia, regardless of color.

Without doubt it is discriminatory. Under it, one vote in rural Cherokee County carries as much weight in primary elections as 155 votes in Fulton County (Atlanta). Whether the courts will intervene is another matter. The Supreme Court has refused to do so three times previously, saying it lacked jurisdiction.

Whether or not the courts accept Hartsfield's contention that the civil rights bill gives jurisdiction to the federal district courts in such matters, the case serves as a symbol of the way in which states rights are undermined within the states. Hartsfield is in federal court because he has no hope that a rural-dominated legislature will cancel or modify the system by which rural control is perpetuated unchanged in the face of population shifts to the cities. Doubtless the mayor, accused by Gov. Griffin of being "a traitor to our Georgia way of life," would contend that in this regard Georgia's way of life leaves something to be desired.

Like many another politician, the mayor is seeking satisfaction for his constituents wherever he can find it. The

list of federal activities springing from the failure of states to act is a long and dreary chapter in the record of government centralization.

North Carolina's failure to maintain proportional representation in the General Assembly involves nothing so far-reaching and complicated as Georgia's county unit system, of course. The state Constitution requires that Assembly seats be reapportioned to reflect population changes after each federal census. The Assembly simply refuses to obey the Constitution, to use the home-grown solution.

But in various shapes, the problem of proportional representation appears in most of the states. In urging the states themselves to end discrimination against urban voters, the President's Commission On Inter-governmental Relations had this to say in 1955:

"Reapportionment should not be thought of solely in terms of a conflict of interests between urban and rural areas. In the long run, the interests of all in an equitable system of representation that will strengthen state government is far more important than any temporary advantage to an area enjoying over-representation."

This was sound advice. It will appear sounder as the trend toward centralization continues. But it would be ever so much better for the states to exercise their rights now and eliminate at least one of the factors in that trend.

## Life In America

IN Michigan, a 15-year-old girl was arrested for pulling a gun on another teenager in an argument over which one was entitled to permanent possession of a fan magazine article about Elvis Presley. —New York Post

From The Christian Science Monitor

## NO WASTE FOR WISDOM

THE old alibi, "I was just coming for a streeter," used by comedians to justify their otherwise unexplainable presence in almost any situation—has its limits. It will not, for example, justify a man's wasting time while waiting.

This is a good thing to remember when snow slows down traffic and causes buses and railroads to fall behind their schedules. Commuters find themselves often in the unlikely places—where it may be too windy to read a newspaper, too cold to turn the pages of a book, too noisy even to enjoy a portable radio.

Even so, few of us will ever be left in a spot seemingly less conducive to the pursuit of our callings than the Chinese philosopher (it may have been Confucius, who does not seem to turn up punctually found himself waiting near a butcher shop).

The philosopher watched the butcher at work, and saw that the butcher was also wise. For before starting to cut into a piece of meat the butcher placed the knife carefully where it would not run against a bone, and so without waste of time or energy—or meat—merely carved what he might have nearly hacked at.

That, thought the philosopher, is the

way a philosopher should deal with thought, or any man with any problem or task he faces. When his friend arrived and apologized for causing the philosopher to waste time, the philosopher said he had been by no means wasting time. He told his friend what he had observed and let his story carry its moral.

As soon would also draw another moral—even a butcher, if he is a wise one, can help to make a philosopher wiser.

On the promenade of the famous health resort at Vichy, France, two women listened intently to an orchestral rendition of Haydn's PAVANELLO, SYMPHONY. In this piece one player after another lays down his instrument and tips toes away. The ladies watched in astonishment as the last musician disappeared and the conductor stood alone before the empty chairs. Suddenly one of the ladies whispered to her friend, "I don't wonder," she said compassionately, "it's the effect of all that Vichy water." —MONTY PRESS-SCHMITZ

There's one thing about parking meters — few people are neutral on the subject. — HAWKINSVILLE (GA.) DISPATCH AND NEWS

# Symington in 60: Harry Truman Passes The Word

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON  
WHENEVER two or more Democrats are gathered together, they are almost certain to be talking about a burning question: Who is to be the party's nominee in 1960?

The question lingers on greater urgency for the Democrats as they feel their chances for 1960 grow

better and better. There is the further impetus in the fact that the Republicans have, almost without exception, come to agree on Vice President Richard S. Nixon as their entry in the presidential sweepstakes, with the result that the Nixon buildup proceeds by a kind of political automation.

NO NATURAL CHOICE

The convention that will pick a candidate is more than two years off, so the man does not have to be agreed upon the day after tomorrow. Yet when a party has no natural and inevitable choice, two years is a short enough time to search for the man.

Of the eight or 10 eligibles who figure on most lists, in almost each instance, some objection rises to the party's internal conflicts can be raised. One exception is the junior senator from Missouri, Stuart Symington, and this is undoubtedly one reason his name is being mentioned with increased frequency.

WORD FROM TRUMAN

From Independence, Mo., comes the report that former President Harry S. Truman is passing the word that Symington will be the compromise candidate in the end. Speaking at a Democratic dinner in St. Louis last November, Mr. Truman said that greater things were in store for Symington after his re-election to the Senate. This was taken as a plain hint of where the Truman intentions lay, and in private conversations that hint is said to have been expanded.

In his nearly six years in the Senate Symington has established

a voting record with which no liberal Democrat could quarrel. In the score kept by Americans for Democratic Action he rates perfect for 1957 and nearly perfect for 1958 and 1959.

NOT A 'SHOUTER'

Yet with his genial Ivy League manner and his "old family" background—one of the Maryland Symingtons—the senator is not considered a shouting liberal. He would be more acceptable to the South than any other northerner, and the labor wing of the party would have to take his voting record at its face value.

As the first secretary of the Air Force, under Mr. Truman, Symington fought hard for strategic bombers to provide a massive deterrent. When he could not take the drastic economies imposed by Louis Johnson as secretary of defense, he resigned. As chairman of a Senate subcommittee, he conducted a searching inquiry into America's air power in 1946 and wrote a strong report that drew a Republican dissent.

Tall and handsome, he looks like

a president. He is the right age—he will be 57 in June. While he had a serious operation for hypertension years ago, his blood pressure is said to be that of a much younger man and he gives every appearance of vigor.

Writing a prescription for a candidate, you could hardly do better than this. Yet the question the skeptics are asking when Symington's name comes up is whether this is an authentic candidacy or whether it is merely the sum of the negatives and the positives adding up to a total guaranteed to offend almost no one. In short, is the prescription too plausible, too synthetic to be real?

STAYS OFF LIMBS

With excessive caution — he has been very careful not to climb out on limbs — Symington is saying nothing. Or, rather, he is repeating the safest of all lines in the face of a candidacy both promising and threatening: "I just want to be a good senator."

Many invitations are coming to him to speak in every part of the country along with reports that

Symington strength is developing in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and other midwestern states. The senator is declining all these invitations with the plea that he must stay in Washington to be a good senator.

SHORT DEMURS

His re-election in November is assured, but he means to work hard to get a record majority. The Republicans are trying desperately to find a candidate to run against him. Presidential assistant Sherman Adams undertook to draft Dewey Short, who for 24 years represented a one-seat Republican district in the Missouri Ozarks and is now one of the numerous assistant secretaries of defense.

"I told him," Short says, "that while I love the Republican Party, I didn't intend to put my head on the chopping block." For a man who can wait for the presidential lightning to strike without even seeming to court it, this is a happy situation for Symington. Say nothing and keep your head down is a formula that has worked before.

## 'If You Get It, Remember I Mentioned It'



## Why Not Now?

# Tax-Cut Puzzler

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON  
WHEN the discouraging preliminary figures for March employment and business activity were laid before the Cabinet last week, the response was gloomily impressive. This raises the puzzling question: "Eventually, why not now?"

Eventually, if the final returns on March are bad, the administration is heavily committed to a bold, economy-stimulating tax cut. The President himself promised the country a March return only a few weeks ago. Other leading figures of the Eisenhower team

the family table. Over-all, the American economy looks like doing no better in March than in February, and there are some who say that the curve is still downward in a month of normal seasonal pickup.

NO UNANIMITY

Unanimity among economists is never to be looked for. But there are not many government economists who have not already delivered an unfavorable verdict on the month of March, except for men directly attached to the President's staff like Dr. Gabriel Hauge. The White House experts and some in the Treasury continue to argue that the economy's March performance can only be judged when all the statistics are finally available, in mid-April.

Maybe Dr. Hauge is right. Certainly, it is now the White House intention to stick to the wait-and-see line at least until mid-April. Even Vice President Nixon, who was all for an immediate tax cut only two weeks ago, has swung round to the case for wait-and-see. But the odds are clearly three to one that when mid-April rolls around, the final returns on March will give the administration no choice but taking the promised action to cut taxes, or opening the door to a tax cut if need be, as such a good remedy after all.

THREE PARTS

Therefore the question: "Eventually, why not now?"

In the first place, a big tax cut is a very big step, especially in view of the worsening foreign and domestic situations, which may make heavy future demands on the economy. For this reason if for no other, the White House and the President's advisory team, Secretary of the Treasury Robert Anderson, and Dr. Hauge's line, not to cut a tax cut if need be, but wanting all the evidence before the decision.

In the second place, there is an identifiable school of thought in the administration, probably stronger in the Federal Reserve Board than elsewhere, that is markedly described as the "further-the-dewer" school. Price inflation has been the great fear, all through the Eisenhower years, of the administration's advisory team, Secretary of the Treasury Robert Anderson, and Dr. Hauge's line, not to cut a tax cut if need be, but wanting all the evidence before the decision.

Finally, the third part of the answer is clearly the President himself. In the President's attitude, there is no move if need be, of the strong influence of his business friends, many of whom have views about government interference in the economy that do not differ greatly from ex-President Hoover's. Not too, as his record in the Spinks also showed, Dwight D. Eisenhower nowadays greatly prefers immobility to moving. He is therefore the strongest defender of doing nothing now to cut taxes, even all though it appears almost certain that the tax cut will have to be applied later.

## Start Court Reform With Probe Of Bar

Charlotte  
Editors: The News  
THE series of articles on our court system confirms my prediction of long-standing which is the Bell Committee was organized not for reform of the courts, but for whitewash of the bar.

With all due respect for the late Sidney Smith, these reports picking on the Jaynes remind me of Andy Gump's campaign for president. One of the plans in Andy's platform was to abolish war by abolishing the rank of second lieutenant.

The Bell Committee took off in a cloud of dust looking down their gun-barreled at some pretty big game — "unqualified judges and abuse of power by the bar," and look what they come back with — not enough meat to feed the dogs.

Chester Davis of the Winston-Salem Journal made a much better report nearly a year ago, without any expense to the public.

By soliciting public funds and public support for this whitewash disguised as a reform by the Institute of Government, the Bell Committee is in the position of taking the horse that will never be entered in any race.

When there is enough public demand for honest administration of justice, we will get it. There is just enough pressure to prod the

## City Needs Another Railroad By-Pass

Charlotte  
Editors: The News  
TRAFFIC in Charlotte operates on a 50/50 basis: One half can move and the other half must wait for the mile-long trains to pass. A 200-car train ties up the entire west side for more than an hour.

We are advised that the plans have been made to clear two streets and block the others on the west side, also if the long trains move outside the city, the city will move out. Not when you go over or under the streets and/or highways.

## College In Salisbury Needs Library Books

Salisbury  
Editors: The News  
LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE needs a good library books to inspire its students. No one can say how much a good book is really worth. Could your readers collect a package of books and mail them to us prepaid? Maybe there are people who have books and would like to give them away because they are no longer of any service to them. Allow us to thank you in advance for anything that you may be able to give to help us in this book drive.

—JAMES W. JEWELL

## Quote, Unquote

"One thorn of experience is worth a whole world of warning." —Lewell.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON  
FOR the first time in many years, Speaker Sam Rayburn last week appeared as a witness before a congressional committee. He did it for an old friend, 73-year-old Harry S. Truman of Missouri.

Testifying with Sam in a rare display of nonpartisanship was the 73-year-old, Republican leader and ex-Speaker, Joe Martin of Massachusetts.

Leaders Agree

Rayburn and Martin agreed that ex-presidents of the United States ought to get pensions just like employees of corporations and members of Congress. They urged the House Civil Service Committee, headed by Felix T. Murphy of Tennessee, to approve the presidential

## Rayburn Backs Pensions For Presidents

pension bill of Democratic leader John McCormack. The bill would give ex-Presidents Herbert Hoover and Harry Truman a pension of \$25,000 a year, plus free traveling privileges, plus office space in a federal building, and an allowance of about \$70,000 to hire stenographers, but the bill appears to be a junior senator from one of the least populous states.

Widow Provision

In addition, the widow of an ex-president would get a \$10,000-a-year pension after his death.

"This is the first time in four or five years that a presidential pension committee has a witness," Rayburn told the assembled congressmen. He had already forced Chairman Murphy, who was trying to block the pension bill, into calling a

meeting. Murphy finally called the meeting, but conveniently overlooked informing members of the committee that it was called. Despite this, all members showed up.

Doesn't Need It

Rep. Hugh Gross (R-Iowa) remained unconvinced.

"No man who has been President of the United States ought to have any trouble making a living," Gross insisted. "All this means is that some more money will come out of the U. S. Treasury."

Rayburn reminded Gross that all Truman owned upon retirement was his home, and that even FDR had no independent means until his mother died.

Rep. August Johnson (R-Mich.) agreed with Gross. So did Reps. Ed Reeson

(D-Va.) and Jim Davis (D-Ga.).

"I suggest that we raise the amount of the pension to \$37,500," said Robeson sarcastically.

Strong Argument

Rayburn, however, argued strongly for the ex-presidents. He pointed out that the legislation had been passed by the Senate a year ago and had lain mouldering in the House for two years.

"It's the dignity of the office of president that's involved here," said Mr. Sam. "Our great corporations all provide for their presidents an employee, and the U. S. government is the biggest corporation of all. We shouldn't force our ex-presidents to go out and do all kind of mean things in order to make a living. We have to protect the dignity of the office."