



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Consolidated Tax Office Needed Now

THE TIME is clearly ripe for consolidation of the tax offices of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

It must be noted, however, that opportunity has been knocking rather insistently since 1949. It is regrettable indeed that any serious discussion of a merger was postponed until after the unfortunate death this week of City Tax Collector John H. Mills.

Aside from some hot exchanges on the subject between city and county officials in 1953 and again in 1955, tax consolidation has never received the earnest and thorough consideration it deserves. Somehow, rant always replaced reason whenever the matter was brought up.

The advantages of consolidation of the two tax offices were clearly stated by the University of North Carolina's Institute of Government in 1949 after an exhaustive study of the situation here. They were:

1.—Assuming that the burden of taxation maintains the same relative position it presently holds, it is likely that consolidation would mean an 8 to 10 per cent reduction in the overall expense of the office of collector of revenue plus a substantial reduction in the overall expense of legal assistance.

2.—Taxpayers owning property within the corporate limits of Charlotte would find the matter of paying and adjusting bills simpler and more convenient than at present.

3.—While it is doubtful that consolidation would see any marked improvement in the collection of taxes so long as money is as free as at present, there is some reason to believe that a consolidated agency might function more efficiently than separate agencies in a period of depression.

These points are as valid today as they were in 1949 when they were first presented and filed carefully away at City Hall and the County Court House. The last is even timelier than it was in 1949.

It is entirely true, as City Councilman Albee indicates, that a complete consolidation of city and county governments is preferable to piecemeal consolidation. This is true because complete consolidation would mean that the city-county tax office would work under one governing body, thus guaranteeing more uniformity in applying taxes and enforcing equality of treatment of taxpayers.

But even if complete consolidation is not achieved now, we believe the advantages of consolidating the two tax offices far outweigh the possible disadvantages. These potential advantages would include greater efficiency, economy and convenience.

Mecklenburgers, we believe, are more than ready for these benefits.

City Councilmen and County Commissioners should waste no more time in protecting the status quo.

Battle Of Millionaires Is Big Political Hit In New York

By MARQUIS CHILDS



MESSRS. ROOSEVELT & HARRIMAN
Amateurs Have A Way Of Winning

ALBANY, N. Y. A fellow — that is the prospect in the eyes of Governor of New York, this fall.

Gov. Averell Harriman, a Democrat, is running for reelection, and the most likely Republican opponent at the moment is Nelson Rockefeller. One of the five grandsons of John D. Rockefeller, he has become more deeply involved in public life than any of his brothers. He has smelled the smoke of political battle, and if the professional politicians who run the Republican Party give him even a slight encouragement, he seems likely to enter the race.

The Harriman fortune was built in the oil business, and Rockefeller's oil. In the recent Fortune magazine appraisal of American wealth, each man was listed with a net worth of \$100 million. This is, of course, only a guess, since no balance sheets were available and

with that kind of money even the individual himself would find it hard to reach an exact figure.

NO DOUBTS

It could only happen in New York State where the concentration of wealth is so great. In this state, too, there is a tradition of disinterested public service which in the past has helped to induce men of position and means such as Charles Evans Hughes and Franklin D. Roosevelt to contest with the professional politicians.

On Harriman's side, no doubts exist. He is sure to go, determined in his own mind to win. With a large majority. With a large majority, giving him a stronger position in the Democratic organization in New York State. He would be a figure to be reckoned with. It is a Democratic candidate for President in 1960.

Although he will be 67 shortly

after the election in November, a visitor does not talk with Harriman for long without realizing that he still puts himself in the national picture. In 1952, before he had run for an elective office, and again in '56 when he had been governor for two years, Harriman was out for the presidential nomination.

He has today a sure political touch and a shrewd, determined drive that would be remarkable in a man who had spent his life seeking elective office. This is an extraordinary transformation — from the talented and wealthy amateur holding a series of important appointive offices to the pro occupying the governor's chair in his own right.

SLIM CHANCES

One reason the politicians who run the Democratic Party in the state gave Harriman, the amateur, an opportunity in 1954 to run for governor was because the chances seemed so slim. Thomas

E. Dewey, retiring to go into a lucrative law practice, had built up a supposedly strong Republican organization. And Dewey had pressed Sen. Irving M. Ives, a successful vote-getter with some labor support, into taking the Republican nomination.

The professionals laughed when, in the words of that advertisement of long ago, Harriman sat down at the piano. But he put on a tremendously hard campaign, spending freely of his energies and his money. The Republicans made one blunder after another. And at the end of a long count Harriman had won 11,900 votes out of nearly five million cast.

WITH THE TIDE

Rockefeller is in a similar situation today. He has served with distinction in a series of appointive jobs under Presidents Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower. But to wield any influence in the party and the nation as an Eisenhower Republican, he believes that he

must demonstrate his ability in practical politics.

Just as with Harriman in '54, he will get his chance only if the Republican pros think the tide is running against them. With the tide against them, they would pick one of their own, such as Leonard Hall, former Republican national chairman, who wants very much to run.

PRIVATE POLL

A private poll showed recently that Rockefeller could score closer than any other Republican possibility to defeating Harriman. So in a state where a party convention picks the candidates, Rockefeller, with Dewey's backing, may get the nod. And with the Harriman, president, he could come from behind to do what the pros thought was impossible.

Potentially, therefore, with one well-known name out of a great wealth battling another well-known name, this is the most interesting political situation in the country.

'You Don't Get Anything For Nothing, Bub'



People's Platform

Let Older People Earn Their Livings

Cheraw, S. C. Editors, The News: MIDDLE-AGED people, most of whom have families to support, are denied employment because of their age by most industries.

These people are competent and experienced, and more steady, productive and dependable than most of your younger people who like to change jobs quite often. In some of our states they have laws against hiring older people.

Why not give the older people jobs so they can earn a decent living in this the world's wealthiest nation. Let's hope some change will take place for the many as well as for the privileged few in our land.

—J. A. GRAHAM

If Jenner's Radical So's The Constitution

Charlotte Editors, The News: PERMIT me to dissent on your recent editorial charges that the Jenner bill is "irresponsible" and "disturbing radicalism," and incompatible with bona fide conservatism.

First, it should be established whether or not the Jenner bill is to curb the Supreme Court's infallible list for power is compatible with the intent and wording of the Constitution. Article III, clause 2 of Section 2 specifically states: "The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make." Emphasis mine. Here we have a classic example of the Constitution's built-in "checks and balances" which you made a big point of arguing against the bill. Any further worries on this point?

It is clear then that Sen. Jenner's bill is not "irresponsible" or "radical" from the standpoint of the right of Congress to amend our constitutional government. I smile at your contemporary liberal audacity in defining what you call "true conservatism." I laugh when you say: "It is either Mr. Jenner realizes it or not, an act of disturbing radicalism." If the Jenner bill is "radical," then so is the Constitution which the bill simply seeks to preserve in general. Specifically, however, the bill is a much needed defensive measure designed to shove the Supreme Court back into its proper sphere of operation, and thus restore the constitutional plan.

This intent, Mr. Editor, is indeed true conservatism — your fuzzy notions of "conservatism" is the contrary. If you wish to

prejudice your readers against the bill authored by Indiana's great William Jenner, you must reason more cogently than the expression of mere superficial charges that it is "irresponsible" and "radical."

—J. R. CHERRY JR.

Syria's Demise No Cause For Mourning

Rock Hill, S. C. Editors, The News: IT IS doubtful if Syria's removal from the international scene will be a great loss to the Western delegations at the U.N. Syria's record in 1957 shows a unique and hostile posture toward the Western nations in the U.N.

The recent report made public by the "Chronicle of U.N. Activities" shows that Syria voted with the U.S. 15 times, against the U.S. 35 times, and abstained 23 times, the most anti-U.S. record of any Arab state.

A surprising figure shows that Saudi Arabia, supposed to be a friend of the U.S., was further from the U.S. than Nasir's Egypt. By comparison Israel voted with the U.S. 37 times against the U.S. 4 times and abstained 14 times.

—D. EMIS

The Robust Redbird Goes About In Pride

Salisbury Editors, The News: A ROBUST redbird is one of the most marvelous sights of all nature. He is so proud that he walks on his great leg like a woman.

He wears his red coat with more pomp and pride than a queen with her crown and all that goes with it. Yet he is not above pulling a redworm out of the ground and making a meal of him.

His legs and his feet seem to be clothed in stockings and shoes that fit as snugly as the skin. He is alert for Thomas Cat and flies just in time to make Thomas swear that he will catch him or his mate before they bring up a new family.

JAMES W. JEWELL

Gloomy Talk Makes Hard Times Harder

Rockingham Editors, The News: I DO not like to talk about hard times. We are living pretty good, going through the cities picking up work. But the man or woman who talks hard times is hurting our pickup jobs and our local business.

—TOBE M. SHEPHERD

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON DISAGREEMENT continues among Eisenhower economic advisers regarding the best way out of the "deflation" — a word which the used for the first time last week.

One group believes a tax cut and wage controls will do the trick. The other sides with these advisers. He inclines toward the Herbert Hoover theory, twice expressed in the past two weeks that there is nothing much wrong with the economy which a little public confidence won't cure. A change freer than that may attempt to restore that confidence.

Real Priming?

Other advisers are more worried, he feels it will take some real pump-priming, a further drastic cut in the Federal Reserve required. A stable boost of consumer buying power before there is a business pickup. They favor a real reclamation program for the West

A Shortage Of Duelists

Who's To Answer Truman?

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON NATIONAL Chairman Meade Alcock was compelled to settle for a paper barrage against the Democrats and a dinner May 6 for Republicans members of the Senate and House. To be addressed by the President, who will use the free, equal TV time.

The frustrations of Republican politicians who want a Truman

the foregong is one of many bits of evidence that in the sixth year of the Eisenhower presidency, with a hard-fought congressional campaign coming up, the President and his party have failed to close ranks in a really meaningful and constructive way.

The historical evolution of the President of the United States as his party leader and champion is distasteful to Mr. Eisenhower. He won't play, and apparently nobody can take his place. The fact that he wins anyway, but other Republicans don't, adds to the trauma afflicting party leaders.

To grin and bear it seems to be beyond most of them; the economic recession only adds to their pain.

The Nixon faction, with Dewey acting as a kind of a one-man brain trust, is doing what he can. For example, Attorney General William F. Rogers, a Nixon intimate and former Dewey associate, has agreed not to select congressmen for the federal bench and so open the way for more jarring special elections.

Of course, certain House members, who would like to retire to the comfortable life of the federal judiciary, are not thereby put in a mood to help the Eisenhower program. Such are the realities of politics, as a condition not a luxury.

type champion of their own were not long appearing. Chairman Andrew D. Schoepel of the Senate GOP Campaign Committee said in a television interview it would hurt some Republicans to support the President's program. He also hinted that the President could help some candidates but would only hurt others by coming out for them.

When they walked back out, the odds hadn't changed. They were still about 100 to 1 against Benson's reëlection, at least by presidential request.

The two Nebraska Congressmen didn't

immediately lay their cards on the table. Instead, they talked about "economic unrest" among midwest farmers, which, they contended, was bound to get worse if Benson's order lowering dairy support prices was allowed to go into effect on April 1.

Main Business

"There are other considerations of a political nature," Mr. President, he said. "I don't want you to think that we are selfish or that Republican congressmen from our part of the country are motivated solely by their own political futures. But our party is in real trouble in farm areas. Every poll and recent election shows this to be true."

The reason we came here today, Mr. President, is to respectfully request that something be done about Mr. Benson. Our party will continue to lose prestige with the farm vote if he remains in office until the November election."

Worth Of Jonquils Is Hard To Reckon

FLOWER patronizing the streetside flower stalls are finding out inflation has hit the jonquil market a hard lick.

That is, we hope they're finding out. We paid 35 cents for a bunch of the sticky-stemmed beauties the other day, a time more than last year. And if that is not the going price, we've been told to the tune of ten cents by a vendor given to mind reading.

We mean he had no way of knowing we'd been riding by his corner for the last four weeks, hoping to find him displaying his bright wares. Nobody told this purveyor of spring's blessed assurance that his arrival on that corner is prized in our household above a whole yard full of robins as a sign of winter's demise. Robins, as you may have noticed, are rather loony. Some of them always are lurking about, looking for handouts and willing, in exchange, to proclaim spring in mid-January.

But this flower vendor does not appear until he has the bona fides of spring in hand. When he does appear, you know it is safe to remove your overcoat lining, to lay in a supply of charcoal for the grill, and to start reconsidering last summer's sweaty oath never to plant another vegetable or a rose.

But if the vendor didn't know how eagerly we've awaited his arrival, why the price hike? If a hard winter has increased demand for jonquils, the multi-



It's Late But Lovely

plying of the bulbs must have increased the supply.

This is a riddle to which we have no answer.

But then there is something the vendor doesn't know either.

That is that this spring we could have been taken for more than a dime in order to get in hand and into home a bunch of yellow jonquils.

From The Miami Herald

ANYWAY, IT'S PROOF COWS LIKE WALTZES

THOSE who do not go for rock 'n' roll now appear to have the cows on their side. The bovines prefer more something stuff. At least that's the way it came out in tests in the Middle West.

One Missouri farmer played Strauss waltzes and similar pieces for his herd for a month. Milk production went up 227 pounds. Another farmer in Illinois played rock 'n' roll and jazz for his herd of equal size. Rock 'n' roll made

the cows jittery. There was no appreciable increase in milk.

Clancher came when each farmer stopped the music for eight milkings. The jittered cows showed no change by way of appreciation. But those raised on Strauss gave 40 pounds less milk.

There must be some curvy conclusion that could be milked out of this. Perhaps adherents of each type of music should be given a supply of themselves. The cows have spoken.