



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1958

### Two-In-One Tax Bills? Now's The Time

ON the question of consolidating the tax departments of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, the City Council is passing time better left to the public. A single tax office would offer the public considerable and immediately apparent rewards in convenience, economy and efficiency. Surely it is one of the most popular proposals to come down the ramp in many a year. It already has the active support of strong community organizations, key civic leaders and rank and file taxpayers who are understandably enthusiastic about any governmental economy.

Yet some Councilmen seem to be approaching the issue with all of the elaborate wariness of a fox terrier facing his second porcupine.

Admittedly, complete consolidation will take time. This duplicity bureaucracy that has grown up over the years cannot and probably should not be dismantled without a great deal of prudent thought about what the new tax machinery will be like.

But surely one simple step toward consolidation can be made now—this week—without any great tremors of ap-

prehension or dismay. That is approval of a single tax bill for both the city and the county tax offices.

This single saving represents one of the best arguments for tax consolidation and there is no reason why taxpayers should not be enjoying its benefits even before a formal merger is approved. As the Chamber of Commerce has pointed out, there is an opportunity here to eliminate 46,197 extra tax bills, the same number of expensive envelopes and some \$130 in postage.

Obviously, the Council should approve the single billing procedure without any additional delay.

It should be kept in mind, however, that single billing is not a substitute for a full consolidation of tax operations in Mecklenburg in the very near future. Most taxpayers will not be satisfied for long with anything less than the most efficient, effective and convenient form of revenue raising. They do not intend to support into eternity two political leviathans with duplicate facilities and two public servants for every public function.

### Will Democrats Mind Their Business?

IF ANY Democrat hereabouts has a hankering to be the life of the party, all he has to do is turn up at the party precinct meetings May 3.

The party in Mecklenburg obviously needs some new life, some infusion of grass roots sentiment, some discussion of its chronic inclination toward listlessness. It needs all of these things flowing up from the precinct meetings because there is no such thing as a trickle down theory in politics. Occasionally a strong leader is able to activate a listless party, but only momentarily. Citizen interest and citizen organization are the only means of sustaining party strength and party purpose.

Reports that there is to be a battle for control of the precincts and thus of the party in Mecklenburg is welcome news indeed. There was no "battle" two years ago when the Love faction took over the party organization. Rep. Love correctly concluded that no one was tending store and deciding to tend it himself. There have been mutterings, grumblings and grudges ever since, but this is far better than the sweet silence that had prevailed.

There is no need to fear control of the party by any group when a group of representative citizens are in control of the precincts. Insignificant as they may seem, the precincts can have a far-reaching power. They can decide who is to fill vacant offices, strongly influence the

quality of candidates, and the content of platforms.

Too often the people who should be at precinct meetings voting their convictions are grumbling about "bosses" and the low quality of political leaders. The fact is they are grumbling about their own anemic interest in their own affairs. For the people who don't attend precinct meetings decide the quality of politics just as certainly as those who do.

Democrats who have or want to have pride in their party ought to attend the precinct meetings. May 3 is their business; and if they don't attend to it, someone else will.

### How To Get Ahead

POSSIBLY the sexiest call to duty in military history has been issued by Lt. Gen. Arthur G. Trudeau, chief of research and development, U.S. Army. "History, like a fascinating woman, only bestows her favors on the bold and the strong; never on the bashful and the weak. Let's tighten our belts and set our jaws—all together—not to recede, not to mope, but to... Awake, America, Advance!"

While the bold will be seducing history, general we have it on rather good authority that the meek will be inheriting the earth.

### That 'Silly Bauble' Sails On & On

THAT "silly bauble," as the administration termed the first Soviet satellite, keeps sailing into the President's press conferences.

Almost as if by habit recently Mr. Eisenhower has been inveighing against "sputnikism," and urging Americans not to become "sputniks" about their problems. His repeated use of the word seems to involve a mixture of defensiveness and derision toward the uproar that followed the Soviet triumph, and some fondness for the dramatic clenching the uproar fractured for a moment.

But it is interesting to note that following the uproar, and the outbreak of "sputnikism" in the U.S., the administration undertook a number of actions, including these:

A sharp increase in the defense budget.

A reorganization of the Pentagon.

A reversal of cutbacks in research programs.

The dispersal of Strategic Air Command bases.

A program to encourage training of more scientists.

The appointment of a science advisory committee to advise the President.

An increase in the tempo of certain weapons development projects.

Recommendations for a space agency.

Were all these things undertaken merely to please an excited public, or did "sputnikism" push the administration toward decisive actions that it had complacently delayed?

The spot of the sputnik just won't wash out, no matter how much the President deplores the excitement it caused.

From The Greensboro Daily News

### A BOOZY BIRD STORY

VIA the Shelby Daily Star we note that "O Max Gardner Jr.'s secretary called to report that he and his family are finding a one-legged Baltimore oriole fascinating. He maneuvers around their patio. They have bird feeders in the yard which probably lured the handicapped bird to a free feed."

That report we readily believe not only because of its source, but because of a corroborating experience around our house several years ago. One morning in early spring, a one-legged robin showed up in the back yard. He not only stayed through the summer but returned for a short time—when then happened to him we know not—the next year.

It was amazing the way he handled himself despite his handicap. He hopped about on the lawn as spryly as his two-legged confederates landing on ground or limb without any obvious difficulty, balancing himself perfectly and roaring back on his one leg to pull at a worm as effectively as though he were firmly planted on two.

But we can top that. Has anybody ever seen a bird on a tree for that matter, in the congregation, even seen a drunk robin? Well, we have, with witness to prove it. It happened a year or so before the one-legged robin showed up when we were living at a place which had a wild cherry tree in the yard. We first noticed the robin in question when

he was gorging himself on the then over-ripe cherries. They must have begun fermenting, for the first thing we knew the robin, which kept on going back for more, was swaying on the limb and showing distinct signs of wobbliness. His inebriation became more evident with each visit to the wild cherry bar. Finally, to the tiny bird could no longer make it back from his perch in an adjacent tree. How he managed to stay on the limb will always be a puzzle, but stay he did although in a swaying, weaving way with eyes all closed and complete indifference to all about him. Nobody around the place actually touched him, but several of us stood right by him and passed hands around him or within an inch or so of his eyes without disturbing him in the least. It was the attitude of the proverbial blind mule. We left him to his jag, and after some 30 or 40 minutes it wore off to the point where he could get to another tree and finally disappear into nearby foliage.

His experience must have caused him to swear off and also to keep looking for the wild cherry. We watched carefully as long as the wild cherries remained and saw no other exhibition of intoxication.

Just about the time the Oscars were being handed out in Hollywood, a special award was given Bulgannin for the most unnecessary supporting actor in the Kremlin—JACKSONVILLE TIMES-UNION.

## Sluggish U.S. Economy May Need Strong Medicine

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON  
THERE is as yet no very general popular pressure for stronger measures to reflate the economy than the one which the administration is taking. It does not follow, however, that stronger measures such as a tax cut and larger public works, should not be prepared and made ready for early adoption. For the

wage and price increases. In reverse, it is probable that we have already waited too long before acting against the recession which began last summer. In fact, during the autumn when the slump was already evident, the administration was actually cutting down expenditures in the Defense Department.

### NO SOUND GUIDE



MARINER ECCLES  
A Call For Action

The moral of it is that the public opinion is not a sound guide in the management of the business cycle. When the inflation of 1955-57 was underway, the politicians and the public resisted measures to restrain credit and the rise of the wage-price structure. When the cycle turned after the middle of 1957, the politicians and the public were demanding a strong government which would have been very suitable 18 months earlier. Indeed it may be regarded as working late that for the successful management of the business cycle, the responsible authorities must be ahead of public opinion and prepared to take measures which cannot be popular until their delayed immense advantages are experienced. The authorities must not wait to be pushed but lead the way, be it to deflate a boom or to reflate a slump.

There are reasons for thinking, so it seems to me, that we are at a point where a turn for the worse is so distinct a possibility that it is the part of wisdom and prudence to anticipate it. It may, of course, be true, as Secretary Works and the President hope and believe, that we have reached the bottom and that in a few months the recovery will be under way. But it could be true that we have not reached the bottom of the recession and that if

our policy is to wait and see, we may be depressed to a deeper bottom from which it will be still harder to rise.

Is this alarmist talk which undermines confidence? In the old days when banks were often in trouble and faced with a run by their depositors, the best way to stop the run was by such a powerful guarantee of the bank's solvency that nobody wanted to draw out his money. The same principle is applicable, it seems to me, to the current phase of the recession. To say that prosperity is just around the corner is less likely to restore confidence than it would be if the administration and the Congress set in motion such strong measures that confidence in the maintenance of employment and of profits is restored.

There are at least two reasons for thinking that we may not be at the bottom of the recession. For one, there is no good reason to suppose that there will soon be a rise, instead of the present decline, of what business men invest in plant and equipment. Unusually, however, there is a reasonably prompt and substantial rise in private capital expenditure,

there is no good prospect of a recovery without compensating outlays of public capital in defense and public works and subsidized housing and other facilities.

The second reason for being vigilant and alert is that there are many signs that, as regards the depressed durable goods, the consuming public are in a mood to save their money and to make out with what they have, to scale down their debts, to buy at second hand, and to keep their affairs as liquid as possible. Why? Because they are afraid of unemployment, of part-time employment, of declines in retail purchases and profits. There is a danger here, psychologically not unlike the state of mind which used to lead to runs on a bank.

"A decision," said Prof. Slichter recently, "of consumers to cut their debts rapidly could be dangerously deflationary."

This is a very vulnerable point, and a policy of wait and see is dangerous. There is no use preaching confidence, there is no use expecting a man to buy an automobile he does not have to have, if he is worrying about

whether he may lose his job. What he needs to restore his confidence is the right of the government preparing to do as much as is needed, perhaps more than is needed, to reflate the economy.

### A DEBATE

In the debate about these matters there is an underlying issue of economic philosophy. There are those who believe with the classical economists that a recession is a necessary readjustment after an inflation of prices, wages, and debts. It is a painful readjustment. But it is necessary to the ultimate health of the economy.

On the other side, there are those who believe, as does for example Mr. Mariner Eccles, that humanly and politically it is impossible for a modern democratic society to endure and to tolerate the severe depression which would really "readjust" wages, prices, and debts.

They are, I believe, right, and that it is better, as Mr. Eccles said, "to accept the present price, wage and debt structure," to support it by a reflection, than to take the enormous risks of a "readjustment" by a depression.

### 'We'll Do All The Judging Around Here'



### Nixon's Strategy

## Civil Rights Rumble

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON  
THERE is not a single Democratic politician who has not written in his future book these two predictions:

1. Vice President Richard M. Nixon will take power at the White House some time prior to the 1960 presidential nominating conventions so that he may enjoy the immense advantages of incumbency well before he enters the campaign itself.

2. He will initiate instantly a great burst of activity on civil rights designed to wipe out the Eisenhower record of dawdling on that issue.

### OBVIOUS EXCUSE

The question of the President's health enters into calculations only

Civil Rights Commission, created by law eight months ago, is still not functioning. The President did not name a staff director until Feb. 20; since then southerners in Congress have stalled his confirmation and commission appropriations—amid threats of silence from the White House and Democratic leaders.

The rioters at Little Rock last fall, who drew the world's shocked attention to that southern capital, are happily going about their segregationist business. Not a single one has been convicted, much less gone to jail. They were arrested for contempt of a federal court but turned over to state courts for trial where they were turned loose with what almost amounted to good conduct medals.

### ROGERS' STAND

Last week Attorney General William P. Rogers, Nixon's most intimate friend, laid the groundwork for blaming Democrats for this outcome.

He was warned by editor Harry Ashmore that the Little Rock segregationists were daily growing bolder, bullying the school board and boycotting all persons and enterprises deemed unfriendly. Rogers said he was helpless, that Congress had discarded that provision of last year's legislation which would have enabled him to act.

### NO ARREST ORDER

The federal National Guard is out on duty at Little Rock. It is denied officially but widely understood in that city that they have orders never to arrest anyone and simply to take any disturber of the peace to the school principal—a prescription for lawlessness.

The eyes of the world will turn again to Little Rock July 29 when the state accepts or rejects Gov. Orval Faubus in the Democratic primary, a victory in which is tantamount to election. By denying the federal power last fall, Faubus became the segregationist hero here, he is counting on them to break the re-election jinx on the state's governors.

A law-and-order candidate is opposing him: Judge Lee Ward of the Chancery Court. Ward is a former state commander of the American Legion who opposes integration but is calling for a rifle to break the re-election jinx on the state's governors.

It makes me sad, too, to read words which seem to do less than sympathize with groups which go to various lengths to raise mon-

### The Little Theater Is Tremendous Asset

Charlotte

Editors, The News: I REMEMBER feeling a twinge of uneasiness when I first read The News' editorial on the Mint Museum Drama Guild. I figured that someone would be ruled by it. Someone, in the person of Mr. David M. Alexander, was; and he has written his protest to you (The News, April 21).

My chief objection to Mr. Alexander's letter is that it doesn't seem to represent the Little Theater properly, if it was intended to defend that excellent organization. So far as I know, Mr. Alexander people don't put themselves against the Drama Guild, and I suspect that they are not tempted to use the word "arty" in connection with it. In fact, there's a frequent overlap of personnel.

It makes me sad, too, to read words which seem to do less than sympathize with groups which go to various lengths to raise mon-

ey. The Little Theater members I have talked with informally from time to time seem extremely modest and sort of pleasantly surprised at their theater's untrodden financial condition.

"Well-behaved" was a rather unfortunate word, News. I may I add that the healthy state of the Little Theater is a tremendous asset in all sort of intangible ways to all of the cultural groups in Charlotte. We don't envy it, we like it.

I hope I speak for most Charlotteans in saying that those who put on plays, wherever they are, do us a gigantic favor. And historically there's never been a quarrel between those ancient and honored art forms, light drama and heavy drama.

—MIRIAM BERGMANN

### Founder's Day Rites Were Well Reported

Charlotte

Editors, The News: THIS is just a note to express our deep appreciation for the

fine coverage given in The Charlotte News of our recent Founder's Day program and the inauguration of Dr. Perry. We thank you for your excellent cooperation.

—MOSES S. BELTON  
Director, Public Relations  
Johnson C. Smith University

### New Voter Studies, Decides For Jones

Charlotte

Editors, The News: FOR ten years I have been a constant reader of The Charlotte News, and I think it is the best evening paper in the South. I am now 21 years old, mother of two children and, as of this year, beginning my voting career. I think it should be the duty of every girl or boy at the age of 21 to vote. I have given the three men in the congressional race a careful study and I have decided to cast my vote and support to Charles Hager Jones. Those of my age should register and vote.

—SHIRLEY POPE

### Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THE late Sen. Kerr Scott of North Carolina will be remembered by Washington for his unselfishness. He was one of very few senators willing to help himself personally.

An incident in his life which few people know about occurred after the Hell's Canyon bill had been bottled up in the Senate Interior Committee for two years. Thanks to a deal between Sen. Russell Long of Louisiana and Sen. Guy F. Fortson of Idaho, Long had agreed to vote against Hell's Canyon if they would vote for Tideland Oil.

### Friend Needed

Finally, Long left the Interior Committee for the Senate Finance Committee and the advocates of Hell's Canyon looked around for a man who would be favorable to them to take his place. They could find no senator favorable to Hell's Canyon and willing to sacrifice

## Scott Remembered For Committee Swap

Sen. Richard Neuberger made the rounds of various senators, finally approached Kerr Scott.

"Will you leave the Public Works Committee to go on inter?" he proposed.

"Why?" asked the homespun senator from North Carolina.

"We've got to find someone who will help us vote the Hell's Canyon bill out of committee," explained Neuberger. "It's been bottled up in committee for two years by one vote. During that two years the administration has gone ahead with the plan to dam the Idaho Power Company, and if we don't move fast the greatest power resources remaining in the nation will be gone forever."

### Took A Chew

Sen. Scott took a chew of his North Carolina cut plug for which he was famous. "Sure," he replied.

That was how the Hell's Canyon bill

after two years of delay was finally voted out of committee.

### Israel's Tenth

This week marks the tenth anniversary of a little country founded in tears and in travail—Israel. Twenty-four hours after it declared its independence, seven Arab nations attacked on three sides. King Farouk of Egypt was so sure of marching into its biggest city that he had a stamp printed featuring his picture. Underneath was the word "Tel Aviv."

Farouk and the Egyptian Army never got to Tel Aviv. The Israeli Army eight years later would have got to Cairo had Eisenhower and Dulles not intervened.

### Secret Fire

The fiery determination that stopped seven Arab countries in 1948 and which routed the Russian-armed, vastly superior Egyptian Army in 1956, was the secret of Israel. It is a nation built on the suffering of the exiled tribes of Israel, built in the dream, nurtured during 20

centuries, that someday the Jews would come back to a home of their own; built as a living memorial to the six million Jews killed in the gas chambers of Hitler.

All this is behind the dedication, the determination, the pioneering spirit that has made Israel.

### Clean Soil

You have to go there to understand it. You have to see the bulldozers pushing rocks—rocks eroded since the days of Abraham, millions of rocks pushed aside so that crops can be raised in lush patches of clean soil underneath. Or boys and men and women, painfully picking up the rocks and putting them on stone fences to line the little patches of soil being cultivated to feed the sons of Abraham.

And you have to see the trees—millions of trees, imported from similar climates in Australia, contributed by Jews from all over the world, carefully planted along the roadsides and the highways