



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1958

Community Colleges: Full Speed Ahead

VOTER authorization of a local community college system poses a stern test of the political skill and good judgment of Charlotte and Mecklenburg officials.

The system, to be composed of Charlotte and Carver Colleges, cannot come into existence without appointment of a board of trustees. Once established, it cannot take maximum advantage of state aid for buildings without speedy and resolute action to qualify for that aid by raising local matching funds.

Eight of the 12 trustees are to be appointed locally, two each by the County Commission, City Council and the city and county school boards, and the other four by the governor. These posts must be filled with full recognition of what is involved in the appointments. If there is any idea among the appointees that the trustee posts can be used as a means of conferring civic honors or to provide comfy pigeonholes for mannerly time-servers, the idea ought to be squashed immediately.

These trustees will have work to do, and a lot of it. The future of these colleges, their shape and substance from construction to curricula, will be placed in the hands of the trustees. They will choose administrative officers, fix tuition rates, employ teachers, and prescribe curricula and entrance requirements, establish rules and regulations, and manage the system's business affairs. This incomplete list of duties should indicate the necessity of appointing concerned and qualified citizens to the trustee posts.

There is no shortage of such citizens in Charlotte and Mecklenburg. There are a number who have served for years on the advisory committee which is to be replaced by the board of trustees.

tees. In the interests of continuity and experience in college affairs, we think there should be some carry-over from the advisory committee to the board of trustees.

Probably there also should be consultation among the appointing groups. Certainly there should be mutual awareness. Appointments to one board by individuals who could result in a rather strange collection of trustees, in recognition of the bi-racial nature of the college system, one or more of the appointing groups should provide for the representation of Negro College by Negro citizens.

The dream of state recognition and support of community colleges has been advanced to the point of reality largely by the devotion and effort of citizens in the advisory committee. The quality of that group must be maintained in the board of trustees if the full potential of these institutions is to be realized.

But if there is a need for care in appointing the trustees, there also is a need for some haste in completing this and other steps preliminary to receiving state aid. Charlotte, whose colleges have no physical facilities, is running behind Wilmington and Asheville, both of which have some facilities, in completing the preliminaries. And the diligence and enthusiasm shown by their colleges by the three communities may well have a bearing on the way the \$1,500,000 in state matching funds is divided between them.

By approval of a countywide tax-support levy last week, Mecklenburgers authorized their public officials to get busy building community colleges to meet local needs.

Let's lay the cornerstones, gentlemen, rightly and quickly.

People's Platform

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I have read Sen. Seavy A. Carr's letter (News, April 26) regarding the Court Study's recommendation on the selection of judges. I respect his right to differ with the committee on this or any other subject affecting the public business.

It seems to me that the first fallacy in his argument is that he fails to make any distinction between the office of a judge and the offices of the legislative and executive branches of the government. While the distinction is not clear and sharp in every detail, the office of judge is not a true political office in the sense the establishment policy. Of course, all judges should have good character; but above that, a judge is a technician. He should have a good basic knowledge of the law in order to do his job right and he should have a judicial temperament, which means infinite patience and love of his fellow human beings. Unless one has had at least some experience in a court and a legal education it is doubtful if he can judge the technical qualifications of a candidate for a judicial office.

There can be only one issue in a campaign for a judgeship, and that is the qualifications of the candidate. I believe the average layman will admit freely that he is not prepared to judge the technical qualifications of the candidates. It seems to me that it would be as sensible to have the science teachers in the high schools elected by popular vote. If you found it necessary to undergo an operation for brain surgery you would select the surgeon by asking all the people in your neighborhood who was the nearest surgeon "they knew."

It is not easy to get top flight lawyers with an established practice to accept an appointment to the bench, give up their practice, close their office, and submit to the possibility of being unseated in the next election. If these men were allowed to take office under the appointment system suggested by the committee they would have the assurance that at the end of their first term they would come before the people on the record.

which they had established and not in a popular election. The office of legislator and the office of governor are strictly political offices. They make policy that should be sensitive to and responsive to the immediate will of the people. I think he will concede, however, there are times when a good judge must rule against the will of the majority on a particular issue.



Is This The Best Way To Choose A Judge?

he is properly to interpret the laws which he is sworn to uphold. I am sure he has himself defended people charged with heinous crimes played up by the newspapers when the immediate popular reaction is "throw the book at him." That is when the judge should be a technician and not a politician.

The people of Missouri three times by popular vote overwhelmingly supported the plan proposed by our committee for use in Missouri with their Supreme Court and some of their Superior Court judges. The plan was established there in 1942 and since that date the people of Missouri have turned out in complete unanimity in support of the method offered by the committee to make the judges responsible to the people on the basis of their record does just what it purports to do — it protects the judge against a popular contest or sudden fluctuations in popularity, and points up his record when he goes before the people.

Under the present system our strength is control of public business, which includes the courts. A successful challenge to the bar's control of the courts could lead to a challenge of the bar's control of the executive and legislative departments of government.

governments have appointed 16 of the 19 Supreme Court justices since 1928 and 46 of the 62 Superior Court judges. Very few of these appointees have ever been defeated at the polls. Therefore, as a practical matter our people are not really free to select their judges; the selection is done by gubernatorial appointment.

As a practical matter, we are simply providing a machinery by which the governor will be able to appoint men who are qualified from a technical standpoint to hold the position of a judge.

There are many other arguments in favor of the proposals I know that you will give them very careful consideration and will weigh the value of the proposals not against the theory of perfect democracy, but against the fact that the average layman voter cannot know what the requirements are for office and really has no opportunity to know the individual candidate's qualifications.

Rabbit-Chasing Issue Planted By The Bar

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I NOTE with considerable interest on the subject of court reform. Apparently, the writers are falling into a trap set by the bar's general controversy over meaningless details and thereby deflecting attention away from the real root of the evil: Abuse of power by the bar.

It should be realized, but seldom is, that the bar is actually on the defensive for the first time in nearly a hundred years, because of numerous scandals which have been ruthlessly suppressed by the victim's expense. Therefore, anything the bar says or does is self-serving and should be weighed accordingly.

The bar's main source of strength is control of public business, which includes the courts. A successful challenge to the bar's control of the courts could lead to a challenge of the bar's control of the executive and legislative departments of government.

16 departments of government at national and local levels. The stakes are high, and the bar is playing its cards close to its chest. The bar has vast powers for good or evil, which it has abused terribly for several generations. The public is demanding an accounting. The bar must show its hand.

My advice to you "letter-folks" is to stop playing the "rabbit-chasing" game. The bar has vast powers for good or evil, which it has abused terribly for several generations. The public is demanding an accounting. The bar must show its hand.



Sen. Bell: "Who Is The Nicest Brain Surgeon?"

writers is: Don't be misled by "rabbit-chasing" issues planted by the bar. One such issue is the issue of "letter-folks," which is meaningless since the bar can make or break any judge or public official at any time.

Before you crank up your typewriter, keep those things in mind. Don't be misled by "letter-folks," which is meaningless since the bar can make or break any judge or public official at any time.

Public opinion can make the bar clean, and a clean bar means clean courts and clean public business.

—JOHN C. BENNETT

Take Full Advantage Of Voting Privilege

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

YOU HAVE the privilege of doing what the vote hands you. Thank you again for being a part of this big team dedicated to helping others help themselves. We will be with you, will never be possible.

—MRS. DOROTHY McALLISTER
1958 Campaign Chairman
Easter Seal Drive

Many fail to do this. But one

will.

What Summit?

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON — During the past week the Kremlin has been acting as if it were in no hurry at all to have a meeting at the summit. It is not clear why Mr. Gromyko is taking this line. It is possible, however, that there has been some kind of decision reached at the highest level.

We may assume, I believe, that the Soviet policy is to maintain the status quo, that is to avoid serious negotiations for settlements, and yet at the same time to relax the tensions which trouble the Russian people as they do all the other peoples of the world. The Kremlin may have come to the conclusion that the basic Western policy is not to relax the tensions unless and until the Soviet Union makes concessions which amount to a substantial retreat.

U. S. POSITION

It has been abundantly clear in Washington that this government is opposed to a meeting of which the real and only purpose is to reduce tension. President Eisenhower himself has said that he is not in any hurry to meet with Mr. Khrushchev. Mr. Dulles is opposed and he has the able and vigorous support of Mr. Truman and Mr. Acheson, acting as spokesmen of the Democratic Party.

This would mean, so the Kremlin may have concluded, that at a summit meeting they might find themselves on the defensive, subject to embarrassing questions about a change in Germany, in Eastern Europe, and in the Middle East.

All this, I hasten to say, is mere speculation. But it springs from the known realities.

There is no use going to a summit meeting, there is no use

thing is certain. You may turn the entire tide of your life and the of many others if you do not accept your opportunity. So always do your privileged duty. Cast your ballot and feel the better for doing it. If you fail to do so then you have no ink coming on how things are carried on in your city, county, state or nation.

Vote as your conscience dictates and don't let anyone influence you. However, there is one thing that can be said: The Democratic way helps more people. So be sure to measure yourself as to what you are worth in this rating. There are many more in the small than in the large group, so if you must form your own livelihood then you should always check on the Democratic side for better going, day by day, in every way.

—S. C. VAUGHN

Save Your Money

Los Angeles

Editors, The News: THE COST of speed and car insurance is too great for the average worker's income. It would be a little more easy in our driving we could have some of this money for the more than a little more in life.

WILLIAM R. SULLIVAN

Easter Seal Moway

Will Benefit Many

Charlotte

Editors, The News: WE WOULD like to thank you for the wonderful coverage you gave the Mecklenburg County Society for crippled Children and Adults during our recent Easter Seal Campaign.

I am sure you will be happy to know that the 1958 drive was very successful. Due to your helpful cooperation, we will benefit many crippled children and adults in Mecklenburg County during the coming year.

Thank you again for being a part of this big team dedicated to helping others help themselves. We will be with you, will never be possible.

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Quote, Unquote

"The first proof of old age is when you think that other people aren't having the fun you had."

—Christopher Morley

It's The City Council's Turn To Act

OPPORTUNITY's knock will echo loud and clear through City Hall corridors tomorrow.

The time for a strong and unequivocal stand on the question of consolidating the tax departments of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County is at hand. County Commissioners unanimously approved the idea of a merger yesterday. The City Council will have a chance to act tomorrow.

Council should hesitate no longer. Its duty is clear. It should endorse consolidation.

The best interests of all Mecklenburgers are involved in the decision. The obvious benefits of greater efficiency, economy and convenience would be shared by all. But consolidation would offer a special dividend of convenience to Charlotteans who now receive two bills from two offices, must make two checks and must take complaints to two tax windows. This deuces-wild game of governmental bureaucracy is obviously a waste of time, money and patience.

County Commissioners, meanwhile, deserve commendation for their thoroughly enlightened and business-like solution to an old and gnawing problem.

This Little Poet Could Be A Premier

A PRECOCIOUS 10-year-old French poet was explaining herself the other day to an inquiring reporter.

"I like solitude," said Minou Drouot. "I like rain that beats against the windows. I like gray skies. The rain, the wind and the clouds are my friends. I play football with them. I do not need children. I do not need dolls. Dolls are dead."

In addition to her alleged authorship of a group of poems that stirred more comment in France than the fall of a Cabinet, this child claims to be writing

Consolidation's advantages were first pointed out in 1949 in an Institute of Government survey of city-county relationships here. It has been the subject of much intergovernmental bickering during the Fifties.

Now, the goal is attainable. Through the friendly cooperation of city and county governments, a satisfactory merger can be achieved.

Several other North Carolina cities and counties have already demonstrated that a consolidated tax system is really the only sensible way to handle the process. Buncombe's tax departments have been consolidated for more than a quarter of a century. Commenting on the success of the operation in a stock-taking editorial several years ago, the ASHVILLE CITIZEN commented:

The taxpayer finds his share much more simplified in dealing with what is in effect one agency.

In fact, the consolidated system has worked so well that most of us have nearly forgotten that it exists.

Mecklenburg County Commissioners have done their part admirably in giving consolidation a needed boost. It will be up to the City Council tomorrow to complete the job.

The time has come to act.

a novel and composing her own pieces for piano and guitar. She says she has written eighteen songs and an opera about herself. She also designs her own clothes. "Happiness for me," she sighed resignedly, "is work."

Sounds like she'd make an ideal Premier for France which is without one at the moment. She has a taste for pessimism and, with such a variety of talents, could amuse herself easily when she retired at the ripe old age of 11 or 12.

'Well, Men, What'll We Refrain From Doing Now?'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

JUSTICE Department officials have been jittery as a cat on a hot tin roof over the federal grand jury in New York which now appears ready to hold its own independent investigation of the income taxes of Sen. Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, the Negro congressman from Harlem.

In the summer of 1956, this column reported that Mr. Powell, a Democrat, had disclosed he was under tax investigation and that three of his secretaries were being indicted under circumstances which involved giving money to the congressman.

Turnabout

Mr. Powell, in the past a close friend of Eisenhower, then got in touch with Vice President Nixon and became a

poor loner. Eisenhower, however, a Democrat, had urged Negroes to vote Republican. A special press conference was

Grand Jury Sets Its Sights On Powell

WASHINGTON

It is correct that you were asked to write a letter to the attorney general advising that the case should be handled by the Treasury and that you declined? —That is correct," Bolin replied.

Mr. Bolin did not say so, but it is clear that he did not go along with any political fix in the Powell case.

Ford's

In 1954, Powell's campaign manager, Joseph Ford, broke with Powell and thereafter some of the congressman's financial records reached the Justice Department. Subsequently, two of Powell's secretaries, Jay Lennan and Justice Dodson, were convicted, a third, William Harmon, treasurer of the Federal Credit Union of the Abyssinian Baptist church, pleaded guilty to embezzlement. Powell is now one of the church, one of the biggest in the world, and has been president of the Federal Credit Union. His secretaries, Lennan and Dodson, were both resigned when the tax investigation started and Harmon, succeeding Mrs. Dodson, pleaded guilty, Harmon and Powell's two of Powell's secretaries, received salaries of \$8,000 a year from the Dorie

Fast Confirmation

WASHINGTON

Last week, 18 months later, full confirmation of this came from Thomas A. Bolin, the assistant U. S. attorney in charge of the Powell grand jury. Asked whether it was true that on March 18, 1957, he was told by his superior that on orders from Washington the U. S. attorney's office in New York was abandoning the investigation and turning it over to the Treasury Department, Mr. Bolin replied:

"That is correct."

Strange Situation

WASHINGTON

Mrs. Dodson had been convicted of income tax evasion after paying salary kickbacks to the congressman. This writer has helped to convict these women for taking kickbacks and in each case the women were convicted. However, the secretaries were prosecuted while he campaigned for Eisenhower.

Initiative of the Department of Justice Department officials over the Powell grand jury is the fact that Herbert Hoover, former attorney general, never held a press conference in Washington after the Powell case came up. New Attorney General Thomas E. Gearty flatly refused to answer questions about the Powell case.

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From The Manchester Guardian

BIG BEN'S BIRTHDAY

WE HAVE gone to war by the stroke of Big Ben, and it has ushered in the nine o'clock news for longer than many of us can remember. Last week it tolled its own hundredth birthday. Sir Charles Barry made provision for a capstone in his plans for the Palace of Westminster. The squalid controversy that raged for a decade over a public clock must surprise all but students of Victorian spite and insecurity. Compared with the unpleasantness over the clock itself, the casting of its main bell proved smoothly yet not without incident. The order went to a Stockton-on-Tees foundry, and they sent the bell by sea to London. It nearly went to the bottom in a storm. It was a testing time in every sense. Cradled in a cask in Palace Yard, the bell gave Westminster a headache for days. By way of compensation the public was allowed to inspect it, while the experts squabbled over whether the tone was true. Eventually they conceded that something might be wrong. The bell was too thick at the waist—by two tons and would need a heavy clapper. Then came an admission that must have brought tears of shame to the Stockton campanologists. The bell was cracked. Moreover an inquiry revealed it to be porous, unhomogeneous, unsound...

There was nothing for it but to begin all over again, but this time at Whitechapel. It took a week to haul Big Ben—as they called it after Sir Benjamin Hall, first commissioner of works—as a perch 220 ft. up in the tower. Like the proverbial grand piano, it had to come through the window suspended on its side from a special chain made in Newcastle. Those in charge of this delicate operation were not to be deterred by the 17-ton monster would become something more than a teller of time, or indeed, that its somber E. bruised after a crack was repaired in 1859, would ever be parodied by those suburban clocks that mark the hours, halves, and quarters with what the makers choose to call Westminster chimes.

President Eisenhower wants Congress to create a new national agency to conduct civilian exploration of space—figures civilians might as well be up in the air, with the military. —MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR

A shoe salesman who had pulled out half the stock in an unsuccessful attempt to please a lady customer, mopped his brow and inquired, "Mind if I rest a moment, lady? Your feet are killing me." —FORT MYERS (FLA.) NEWS-PRESS

WASHINGTON

Justice Department officials have been jittery as a cat on a hot tin roof over the federal grand jury in New York which now appears ready to hold its own independent investigation of the income taxes of Sen. Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, the Negro congressman from Harlem.

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Turnabout

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poor loner. Eisenhower, however, a Democrat, had urged Negroes to vote Republican. A special press conference was

arranged for him, first in New York by Ray Rabb, the White House aide, and John Roosevelt, the GOP member of the FDR family. Later another press conference was arranged right inside the White House by Jim Hargerty himself.

Thereafter the grand jury investigating the Harlem congressman mysteriously came to a halt. On Nov. 24, 1956, this column reported: "The U. S. attorney's office in New York wants to press the case against the congressman. However, there are indications that the Justice Department planned to drop the case in return for Powell's campaigning for the Republicans."

Last week, 18 months later, full confirmation of this came from Thomas A. Bolin, the assistant U. S. attorney in charge of the Powell grand jury. Asked whether it was true that on March 18, 1957, he was told by his superior that on orders from Washington the U. S. attorney's office in New York was abandoning the investigation and turning it over to the Treasury Department, Mr. Bolin replied:

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