



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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### City Hall Must Put Its House In Order

THE skeleton in City Hall's closet still awaits public scrutiny.

In suspending Capt. Lloyd W. Henkel and Lt. Allen M. White, Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn has only cracked the door.

After weeks of indecision, confusion and delay, the caretakers of Charlotte's municipal government have never yet been able to produce the corpus delicti.

Still lacking is a clear and uncluttered picture of the mess in Judge Basil M. Boyd's City Recorder's Court. The true dimensions of the scandal are hidden by a melange of unconvincing tut-tuts and hoarse outrage. Beyond the verbal pyrotechnics, virtually all that has been made available to the public has been a jumble of unevaluated evidence and uncataloged facts—much of it gathered by newspaper reporters.

When is the City Council going to get to the bottom of the court scandal? Next week? Next month? When cool weather gets here?

Logic requires quick resolve and quick action.

Confidence in the administration of justice on the local level is eroding rapidly. Suspicion and distrust have already reared their ugly heads. Public knowledge that scores—perhaps hundreds—of warrants have been illegally not prosed has made the work of the court doubly difficult.

It is very nearly an unbearable situation. The City Council owes the public a firm and plain-spoken promise that it will clean up the mess, correct the conditions that caused it and, if necessary, provide additional safeguards to guard against its recurrence.

Council should also be prepared to provide a freshly laundered municipal court with the kind of personnel who will keep it immaculate. If further changes in the present line-up appear to be necessary it must not hesitate to make them. The public will tolerate no pussy-footing on this.

The whole unhappy business will provide plenty of exercise for any interested grand jury. But, in the final analysis, this is the city's mess and the city will have to clean it up to the satisfaction of its citizens. No residuum must be left to contaminate the court's future.

The suspension by Chief Littlejohn of Capt. Henkel and Lt. White was perfectly proper. One can only wonder why the chief waited until rising public indignation gave him no other choice, however.

Whatever the circumstances, Henkel and White deserve a fair and impartial hearing before the Civil Service Commission.

Yet what is needed most at this hour is an awareness of the gravity of the situation and of the enormous importance of anything that affects the administration of justice in Charlotte. What is most distressing about this particular unpleasantness is the moral blindness or callousness which allows some individuals in responsible positions to accept the practices which the facts reveal without feeling very deeply about them one way or another.

There is too little awareness in City Hall today—and the absence of it makes the clanking of the skeleton all the more sinister.

### Senate Should Pass Union Reform Bill

IF it is more interested in labor union reforms than in feathering its own political nests, the Senate will pass the moderate reform bill proposed by Sens. Kennedy and Ives with bipartisan backing.

The bill pleases not at all either the pro-labor or anti-labor extremists, and perhaps only partially the middle group supporting it. But it does have considerable merit as a means of putting labor's house in order; moreover, it is this bill or no bill.

Assuredly, the political purposes of both groups of extremists would be served by defeat of the measure. The issue of labor legislation would retain its magnetism for votes and campaign funds. More political reputations could be built fighting over the same old ground in subsequent Congresses. The lilywhite political Galahads could continue their unproductive swordplay and their speeches on why the other side represents unadulterated evil.

But meantime, the interests of union rank-and-file workers would be left unprotected and the door to further corruption left open.

The McClellan committee investigation demonstrated the need for labor reform, but it did not demonstrate a need for legislation so harsh as to cripple the entire labor movement.

On these conclusions the Kennedy-Ives bill was drawn. It has substantial provisions aimed at assuring union democracy and preventing misuse of funds and power by union leaders. In regard to union elections, for example, it requires secret ballot elections every five years for local unions and every four years for national unions. It provides for appeals to the secretary of labor by members who believed elections were crooked, and for the secretary to go into court seeking a new election under his supervision. There are other meaningful provisions covering union financial operations, trusteeship, "take-over" picketing and the operations of middlemen.

The Kennedy-Ives bill offers substantial guarantees of greater union democracy and financial integrity, and it has a good chance of passage despite the illogical here-there-and-everywhere position of the administration.

### On Being Barred By Britannia's Gates

THE functionary who delayed Van Cliburn's admission into London because the young Texas pianist lacked working papers ought to have his own birth records examined by proper authorities.

Indeed Cliburn was without papers proving he had permission to work in Britain, and the law says Britain's gates are barred to artists without them. But English laws have been seasoned for centuries by great dollops of very interpretation made in the name of common sense, generosity of spirit and keen understanding of the travails of humankind.

There is the story, recounted by Robert Graves in 5 PENS BY HAND, about "an old lady (who) was taking a pet tortoise by train, in a basket, from London to Edinburgh, and wanted to know

whether she ought to buy a dog ticket for it, as one has to do in England if one takes a cat by train—because cats often take a dog as dogs.

"No," said the ticket inspector. "No, mum! Cats is dogs, and rabbits is dogs, and dogs is dogs, and squirrels, in cages, is parrots; but this turtle is a hinsect. We won't charge you nothing, mum."

Ergo it should have been as plain as London Bridge to the immigration official that Van Cliburn could count as a brick mason or, at least, as a French premier who had found a permanent job in Suffolk.

Our suspicion is that this fellow really isn't an Englishman at all. Sounds for all the world like an American who got his training in some branch of the U. S. bureaucracy—probably the Internal Revenue Service.

## Bold And Passionate Poles Await Date With Destiny

By MARQUIS CHILDS

TO COME from Paris to the capital of this tragic country that lies between the East and the West, for so many centuries a chessboard on which the game of great power politics has been played, is an extraordinary experience.

In Paris the authority of government had completely deteriorated, and yet in a kind of elegant anarchy all the luxuries of a luxury society were still available at any price.

Here, where so little is available at any price and where rebuilding is still slowly going forward on the ruins left by the war, there is nevertheless a coherence and a sense of continuity sadly lacking in France. While Poland is a Communist state, a Communist

member of the Soviet bloc, the authorities on senses here does not rest on the apparatus of a secret police and the other elements that make up a Communist dictatorship. Since the upheaval of October, 1944, when Poland nearly became a Soviet satellite, the Polish people have achieved a curious balance that somehow

GOMULKA IS BOSS

The Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party is all-powerful and the secretary of the committee, Wladyslaw Gomulka, is the big boss. But the vast majority of the Poles tolerate the party and Gomulka because he has been able to follow a path at least comparatively independent of Soviet Russia. This is the base on which the existence of Poland today depends.

SILENCE ABOUT TITO

Gomulka has lately been having his troubles in view of Moscow's new attack on Marshal Tito and Tito's independent view of socialism in Yugoslavia. With all the other Soviet bloc states, led by Red China, jumping on Tito, even silence from Poland is conspicuous.

Although Tito was to have paid a state visit to Warsaw at the end of May and that visit was canceled, the initiative came from Tito himself, the Poles say. It was an embarrassment at this time.

INDEPENDENT ACTION

A special delegation on trade and economic planning has just come from Belgrade, and everything possible is being done to maintain Poland's right to inde-

pendent action in this as in other situations where the sensitivities of the colossus to the East must be considered.

The angriest note of denunciation directed against Tito was for having accepted American aid. This was plainly a betrayal of the Socialists, with the hail deliberately held out by capitalist intrigues.

Poland has entered into two loan aid agreements with the United States and the hope here is that negotiations for a third



"This tragic country..."

A similar agreement will begin shortly in Washington. The \$300 million Poland has obtained—one-fourth in Export-Import Bank credits and the balance mostly in surplus food—was not absolutely essential for Polish survival during the past year and a half. But it meant the difference between grinding hardships and the small margin of comfort and comparative security.

Above all, it meant an opportunity to make a start at undoing the collectivization of the farms which had played such havoc with Polish agriculture. Collective farms, which amounted to about 10 percent of all agriculture, are now down to two per cent and

forced deliveries, one of the chief sources of peasant resistance, have been reduced by one-half and they will be entirely removed this year. Food from America bridged the gap until agriculture could be put back on a basis acceptable to the peasant.

DEEP DISMAY

Almost as important as the tangible benefits from aid to a Communist Poland was the fact that they could be negotiated by an independent Poland. This has the most far-reaching significance for a people who have been proud of their fundamental orientation to the West.

Word of the 43 to 42 U. S. Senate vote went out and to the socialist countries was first interpreted to mean that such aid would be discontinued, and this produced deep dismay that was relieved when it was learned that the vote did not alter the law under which the loans with Poland were negotiated.

This is a window on the West, and the Poles gaze longingly through it. To close it would mean the end of Poland, not even the present precarious surplus food—was not absolutely essential for Polish survival during the past year and a half. But it meant the difference between grinding hardships and the small margin of comfort and comparative security.

A brave and passionate people, the Poles might have committed suicide in the upheaval of 1956. But they found in Gomulka a Communist who could take a middle course and they had in Andrew Cardinal Wysynski a great religious leader who understood the necessities of the moment.

To crowds that spill out into the streets from the Cathedral of St. John, so laboriously restored, the Cardinal preaches restraint and discipline. He has held in check his bishops and priests who would openly combat Communism.

Cardinal Wysynski understands that in these uncertain hours the future of Poland—its very existence—depends on forces delicately in balance. He knows, too, that in a country that is 86 per cent Catholic the strategy is obviously to wait it out.

Patience is not easy to come by for a people who in the past have often defied the fates. The freedoms that came after the 1946 upheaval have been somewhat nibbled away. Yet there is a sustaining pride in an independence dangerously won and perilously held.



Wladyslaw Gomulka, A Tide From The East

## People's Platform Answer The 'Eager Beaver Boys' With Action

Editors, The News:

THE ARTICLE on front page of the second section of your Monday issue is a little misleading, I believe. The heading reads "Methodists Appear United on Issue." Now, since there were 1,000 to 1,200 delegates at the conference and, as Mr. John Borchert says, "slightly" more than 10 percent of the delegates were present to talk and vote on the resolution read by Clifford H. Peace, how in the world could he arrive at the conclusion that 140 or 150 men could be speaking for thousands who didn't even have a chance to vote?

Just to set the record straight as far as I am concerned and, frankly, I feel there are thousands that feel as I do about Mr. Peace's resolution, my vote is not a meek little no but a very definite NO. And what we in Methodism need now is to speak up what you think—that is, more members take a more active part in what is going on in the church and not let a handful of "Eager Beaver Boys" run the church.

It seems to me that we in the Methodist Church, as well as some others I could mention, would do well to devote more of our time to the workings of the church as it now stands rather than continue to reach out and fumble in controversial matters that can bring only discord and ultimate breakdown if continued.

— G. ALVIN TUCKER

### No Finer Gentleman Than Spencer Bell

Editors, The News:

THE second primary has been called for to determine the winner for the State Senate. I want to appeal to all my friends that voted for Love and have promised me that if there were a second primary they would support Bell.

As I have said in the past, you cannot support a finer gentleman than Sen. Bell.

I want to comment on all the workers on both sides at Crab Orchard No. 3, for their friendly attitude.

I have worked at many polls in Charlotte for the candidate of my choice and have never found any nicer folks at any other place.

— L. L. CHILDRESS

### Sen. Bell Deserves To Represent Country

Editors, The News:

IT is not my intention to "tell" anyone how to vote, but I would like to let my many friends know some interesting facts

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

WASHINGTON

AFTER Britain's polite, professional Prime Minister Harold Macmillan had talked at great length to President Eisenhower this week he admitted with a shy smile to friends: "We agreed on the problems we were, but I must confess we didn't know how to solve them."

### Class Reunion

Ike and Mac got along like a couple of old-school graduates at class reunion. The British Prime Minister was on Eisenhower's staff during the war. But between the Prime Minister and Secretary of State Dulles, the atmosphere was decidedly cooler.

Here are the unpublished highlights of their talks.

1—Macmillan warned that world trade, which he regards as the west's most

important factor, is in other situations where the sensitivities of the colossus to the East must be considered.

I believe he deserves to be continued as the "senator from Mecklenburg."

— JACOB THOMPSON

Here's What Voter Should Look For

Editors, The News:

THERE must be an increased awareness of culture to the kind of men they are electing to office. Here are a few of the qualities a voter should look for in a candidate:

1—He must fit the specifications that the state has drawn up for the office to which he wants to be elected.

2—His moral qualifications should be as good as those we require of a teacher.

3—His mental qualifications should be of such a nature that his judgment can be trusted in the field in which he asks for our votes and our confidence.

4—His emotions should be under the control of his will but he should be able to use his emotions when there is a call for it in the same way that he would his mind.

5—He should be as free as possible from all kinds of prejudices.

There's A Small Hotel With A Wishing Well

Editors, The News:

IT seems to me the letter writer could go out in the country a short distance from town and rent a small place or a large one (there's plenty of land lying idle) just to play ball on.

— LILLY SUMMERS

Littlejohn Prevented Local 'Little Rock'

Editors, The News:

AFTER a stormy opening day, the recent term of Charlotte's public schools closed peacefully. Had it not been for the prompt and fearless action of an efficient police chief, Charlotte probably would have been the subject of Little Rock. We are proud of Frank Littlejohn.

— A. C. BUCKLE

Quote, Unquote

Editors, The News:

"There are writers who, as writers, ought to die, and the only way to contribute to this end is not to mention them." — Van Wyck Brooks.

Ike And Macmillan Settled Nothing

inspection, and added that Britain would be satisfied with less assurance than Dulles is demanding. The Prime Minister declared, in effect, that his country was willing to pay a high price for a reasonable disarmament agreement.

British Rummy

But of all the issues, Macmillan used his strongest language in describing the economic crisis. He compared world trade to a game of rummy which England declared, in effect, that his country was willing to pay a high price for a reasonable disarmament agreement.

To Watch De Gaulle

3—He and Mac weren't enthusiastic about Premier de Gaulle, the new French strongman, but agreed to withhold their judgment until they see what he does.

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