

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON.....President and Publisher  
 BROOKS S. GRIFFITH.....General Manager  
 ROBERT H. LAMPERT.....Advertising Director  
 CECIL PRINCE.....Editor  
 PERRY MORGAN.....Associate Editor  
 R. L. YOUNG JR.....Managing Editor  
 JAMES McDOWELL.....Circulation Manager

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1958

## Citizens Decide The Quality Of Judges

TAKING his stand on the Recorder's Court mess in PEOPLE'S PLATFORM today, an indignant citizen says he hopes the press won't allow the matter to be "whitewashed and forgotten as so many crusades have been."

The hope might be addressed more pertinently to the people of Charlotte. The press has a duty to report facts and express what it believes to be sincere and constructive opinions. But it has neither the right nor the power to impose its views on governing bodies, a fortunate fact in view of the fallibility of all institutions.

We have reported some facts about the situation in Recorder's Court. Whether those facts add up to wrongdoing must be the evaluation of the grand jury, composed of representatives of the people. But it is our right, and we conceive it to be our duty, to express our convictions about the performance of the judge and the quality of his court. "Bad" is our opinion on both counts—too bad for a well-governed city to countenance, too bad for its people to put up with. Thus our position that Judge Boyd ought to quit.

But a "crusade" for clean, upright government in Charlotte, or anywhere else, can be nourished only by the convictions of an alert citizenry. If citizens are determined to have a court above suspicion and a judge of recognized ability and judicial temperament, they will have that kind of court and that kind of judge. They will convey to their Councilmen their own opinions and their own convictions, and they will prevail.

## The 'Quiet' In Mecklenburg Is Deceiving

TO political pulse-takers who gauge the vigor of campaigns by stump speeches and telethons, Mecklenburg's run-off race for the State Senate is indeed been "quiet."

But if a "quiet" how does one account for the noisy wheeling and dealing in the precincts?

Leave Independence Square and venture into several sections of residential Mecklenburg and the whole political landscape seems to come alive with activity. Make no mistake about it. The expensive campaign techniques of challenger Jack Love are being employed as blatantly and presumably as effectively as ever.

If the surface is "quiet" it is anything but "quiet" below the surface—and that is where the votes are being sought today.

Indeed if there is any tranquility at all in this crucial stage of the campaign it is in the camp of Sen. J. C. Bell. Despite the clearly superior qualifications of the incumbent, he can be defeated.

## 'The Greatest Reporter In The World'

IF there was not a moment of silent mourning in every newspaper city room from Manhattan to Monterey Bay yesterday then there should have been.

Herbert Bayard Swope was dead. He was one of the giants in journalism, a hero from a golden era who lingered painfully on to view with alarm what he considered the downgrading of "a priestly mission."

As a reporter on the old New York World he cracked the famous Rosenthal-Becker case, one of the great crime stories of all time. With the aid of Adm. von Tirpitz, he obtained an exclusive interview in 1914 with the German U-boat hero, Kapitän-Leutnant von Weddigen, who had sunk the British cruisers Chessey, Hogue and Annapolis. In 1917 he was awarded the first Pulitzer Prize in reporting for his series, "Inside the German Lines." He scored another journalistic beat at the Peace Conference by being the first newsmen to get a copy of the terms of the treaty of peace and the

Who protested when the Council majority twice put its crony on the Recorder's Court bench? Not the public, although Basil Boyd's undistinguished record as a councilman was well known. Nor did we protest, although we doubted his qualifications for a judgeship. It must be said in fairness that Councilman Martha Evans expressed her doubts on both occasions, and firmly declined to vote for Boyd's appointments. But in the main Council, in appointing a man it wanted, was free of demands that it appoint a man the job required.

That is history. The central fact of the present is that the court has fallen into disrepute during the administration of Judge Boyd, and that it will remain in this position until Charlotteans decide otherwise. Judge Boyd disclaims responsibility for the mess in his court. It is Council's clear intention to go along with him, hoping it will not have to admit its failure in the matter, nor comment on the record of the judge.

If the good people of Charlotte want an efficient, competent court, they will have to demand it. If they are willing to put up with a judge who has to depend on the press to keep him informed about the mess in his court, Judge Boyd is correct in not resigning and Council is wise in not inviting him to quit.

It remains our conviction that the real test of a judge is whether he is doing a creditable job, and not whether he is a knave. There are laws to oust crooks; only the people can deal with failure.

ed June 28 as a direct result of overconfidence among his supporters. That overconfidence has been disturbingly apparent since Sen. Bell rolled up his big lead in the first primary.

This is a political campaign, not a game of blind man's buff. A large, representative turn-out of Mecklenburgers is essential to a victory by Sen. Bell. To achieve such a victory Sen. Bell will have to campaign a bit more vigorously and Bell supporters will have to respond in force to the challenge of responsible citizenship at the polls next Saturday.

For all Mecklenburg's sake, Spencer Bell must be returned to the State Senate in 1959.

## Life In Hollywood

WE relay without comment this flash just in from the movie colony: "Steve North and Sen. J. C. Bell, Bud Freeman, are friendlier now than when they were married."

## Covenant of the League of Nations

As executive editor of the WORLD, he presided with a ferocious flair over the final stages of the heyday of personal journalism, bringing the famous old newspaper to the highest circulation in its history. "Two years after he left it," Louis L. Snyder and Richard B. Morris wrote later in A TREASURY OF GREAT REPORTING, "Joseph Pulitzer's old journal was no more."

As Snyder and Morris recall, Lord Northcliffe dubbed Swope "the greatest reporter in the world." Woodrow Wilson said that "he had the fastest mind with which I ever came into contact." Walter Lippmann judged him to be "a fascinating devil." Stanley Walker described him as "a cyclone. His gift of gab is a torrential and terrifying thing. He is probably the most charming extrovert in the Western world."

Now, Swope is dead and his era nothing but a slightly bleached memory. It is a pity, for these facts diminish us all.

From The Montgomery Advertiser

## THE FIRST LINES OF BEST SELLERS

IN THE BOOK publishing business there is a saying that a good editor can read the first sentence of a manuscript and tell whether it will be a best seller.

To test the theory, John G. Fuller in the SATURDAY REVIEW, took the current list of 10 best sellers and read the first lines of all of them. He found:

1. ANATOMY OF MURDER—"The nine whistles were fading midnight as I drove down the Main Street hill."
2. THE WINTHROP WOMAN—"Elizabeth saw the hedge shadows lengthening across the dusty land as the Fones family jogged towards Gretna."
3. THE PARADE—"Every third woman you passed on Gold Street in Baranof was young, pretty and pregnant."
4. NORTH FROM ROME—"At last the city was quiet."
5. BY LOVE POSSESSED—"Love Conquest All—omnia vincit amor, said the gold boy in a curve beneath the dial of the old French clock glock."
6. THE GREENEAGE SUMMER—"On and

off, all that hot French August, we made ourselves ill from eating greenpeas."

7. THE WHITE WITCH—"Two children stood gazing at the world over the garden gate."

8. THE SERGEANT—"In the Second World War Master-Sergeant Callan was a hero."

9. A SUMMER PLACE—"Pine Island, Maine, thrust itself out of the sea like a huge medieval castle."

10. RALLY ROUND THE FLAG, BOYS—"There begins a tale of action and passion, a gals and glory story of men with entwined hearts and women with raging juices."

## People's Platform

Charlotte  
 Editors, The News:  
 I HAVE been following the expose of the dispensation with justice as practiced in Judge Boyd's court. Both your paper and The Charlotte Observer deserve the whole-hearted thanks of the citizens of the community for the work you have done in bringing this scandalous mess before the voters. I can only hope that you will not allow the matter to be faded away so that it can be whitewashed and forgotten as so many crusades have been.

I read with keen appreciation your editorial of June 18 in which you called for Judge Boyd's resignation. Certainly this would be in order. It does not seem to me that it could be humanly possible for him to be so stupid as to be so unaware of what was going on in his hallways as he claims to be, but in any event, whether stupidity or cupidity is the answer, he is eminently unfit to occupy the position to which he was appointed by our City Council.

If, as you say, it requires a unanimous vote of the Council to remove him from office, in case he does not have the decency to resign, surely in view of what has already been uncovered, it should not require too much deliberation by the Council to arrive at a unanimous decision to remove him. In case they cannot arrive at such a decision, then I think that full publicity should be given so that both Judge Boyd and the rest of the young public may be aware of who his supporters are in the Council.

I am not overlooking the irregularities which appear to have been prevalent in the functioning of the Police Dept., either, but these are by no means as malodorous as the manipulations of Judge Boyd in his realm.  
 "Viva la press!"  
 —J. C. BAUGH

## The Right To Vote Is Big Local Issue

Charlotte  
 Editors, The News:  
 MOST people don't realize it, but the big issue is before us must be decided on the 28th of June. This to me is the most important decision for the State of North Carolina since the days of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

## 'But Sir! It's A Matter Of Tooth Or Consequences'



## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON  
 HERE are the explosive events in re-volition Lebanon, a 100-mile stretch of Mediterranean Sea coast which could turn into another Korea overnight.  
 1. Air Force C-124 troop transports are standing by in Germany waiting to airlift Turkish and Iraqi troops into Lebanon if necessary. In addition, the U. S. Sixth Fleet, loaded with 3,000 battle-ready Marines, is cruising within striking distance of the tiny Arab republic. British paratroopers are poised at Cyprus less than 120 miles away. Here are the latest developments in the explosive Lebanese crisis:

### Secret Dickerings

2. The United States and Britain have been dickerings secretly with Turkey and Iraq to rush troops into Lebanon in case the present revolt should expand into a Middle Eastern war. The allies are determined not to use their own forces except as a last resort. They believe a Middle Eastern war could better localized if Turkish and Iraqi troops are used. The Air Force has several C-124s ready in Germany to begin an airlift

## Who Are Judge Boyd's Friends On Council?



Charlotte City Council: The Voters Are Watching

We are going to vote for one of two candidates for the State Senate; both have plainly stated where they stand on this main issue. Sen. Bell recommended that you give your vote to the governor, and that you were not qualified to vote for a judge. Rep. Love is opposed to that recommendation.

If I vote for Sen. Bell that means I am in favor of giving my vote to the governor and admitting that I am not qualified to vote for a judge, and if I fail to vote for Rep. Love or Sen. Bell, and Bell is elected, then I am sacrificing by default not only my own vote but the vote of my children and grandchildren. If I am too dumb to vote for a judge I certainly would not vote for a senator to give my vote to someone else.

I saw with my own eyes, bullet holes in a log house near Charlotte that were put there by the British to keep the free voters away from us, and if I did not defend the right to elect our public officials to office by free people

ular vote I would consider myself a traitor to our heroic dead who left their footprints in blood and today sleep beneath the soil of a state that boasts the signing of the first Declaration of Independence.

From the lofty heights of the great Smoky Mountains National Park 390 miles eastward to the waters of the blue Atlantic I sincerely hope that the voters will send representatives to Raleigh who will preserve and protect our free constitutional right to vote. Jack Love may use our vote; I know he won't give it away.  
 —P. C. BURKHOLDER

## Meat Packers Don't Revel In Cruelty

Chicago  
 Editors, The News:  
 WE read with interest your editorial of May 21 concerning humane slaughter and would like to comment on it, if we may. The picture that is painted of a sadistic meat industry rev-

eling in cruelty and terror would be indeed a frightening one if it were true, but don't you think we ought to get down to facts and away from hysterics and emotionalism?

Certainly, we are entirely in accord with principles of humane treatment and improved methods of dispatching animals. Since 1929 the Joint Committee of representatives of the American Meat Institute and the American Humane Association has worked toward improved slaughter methods, and today half of the nation's beef production is handled by plants who have qualified for the AHA Seal of Approval. The list is growing steadily. One of the many signs of progress from this committee is a new stunning device which is obtaining wide use and which was developed and designed as a result of cooperation with Remington Arms. Does this sound like barbarism?

There are problems that are being worked out and more that need attention. For instance, the

## Clean Courts

## Parker's Dream

From The Greensboro Daily News

NO more pertinent illustration of the need for court reform in North Carolina can be imagined than the fast-unraveling scandal of recorder's court irregularities in Charlotte.

A police captain and recorder's court official have been suspended. Records have disappeared from court files. Judges have changed verdicts several days after handing them down. More than \$30,000 worth of appearance bonds have been ordered forfeited by the court but were never collected.

In the wake of these revelations a grand jury investigation is under way.

Whatever the outcome, enough irregularities have been uncovered to prove, in the words of the N. C. Bar Association's Court Study Committee, that the inferior courts of North Carolina should be brought into one unified state system. Then responsibilities could be nailed; then the chief justice, acting on recommendations of resident Superior Court judges, could appoint qualified district court personnel; then certified record keeping would be mandated.

The Charlotte revelations may be only one minute exposed part of a larger iceberg of inefficiency among the 1,400 crazy quill inferior courts spread across the state. Court costs and rules differ widely in these courts. What manner of justice requires defendant to pay \$10 court costs for a particular violation in one court and \$10 in another? Why should the justice of the peace courts depend on convictions to pay their way? This is not justice; in some cases it is highway robbery.

To whom, under our present court structure, is the jaypee accountable? He runs his own court and if he is an honest, efficient public servant, fine; but if he is not, the public pays.

The N. C. Bar Association's Court Study Committee set forth its recommendations in detail at Myrtle Beach last week. They were approved enthusiastically by some 300 of the state's eminent lawyers. But that is only the beginning of the campaign to get them enacted by the 1959 Assembly and approved by the people.

These recommendations are detailed and complex, covering all phases of judicial reform. In essence they call for one unified court system established on a state-wide basis from top to bottom. They recommend transfer of the rule making power from the General Assembly to the courts themselves. They suggest a new system for the jury and the jury selection system.

Committee Chairman J. Spencer Bell of Charlotte consulted with the Honorable Judge John J. Parker before his death and closely followed his advice in drafting recommendations. Shortly before his death, Judge Parker told Bell: "The accomplishment of the objectives of this committee will be the realization of a dream of my lifetime for my native state. I only hope that I shall live to see it and contribute to it."

Judge Parker did not live to see his dream fulfilled. But North Carolina has an opportunity to make his dream a reality—and a monument to his memory.

## Will Lebanon Become Another Korea?

from Baghdad and Ankara to Beirut. In case this should become necessary, the Air Force troop carriers would fly under the operational control of the Sixth Fleet.

### Oil Outlets

3. The West is watching the oil outlets at Tripoli and Sidon on the coast of Lebanon. Rebel troops are holed up in both ports, but the oil flow has not been cut off. The loss of Lebanon, however, would mean the control of the Lebanese pipeline by dictator Nasser.

This would give him complete control of all oil outlets into the Mediterranean—through Syria, through Syria, and through Lebanon. It would mean he could turn oil into a weapon. As a result, both the United States and Britain have agreed to send troops to Lebanon. If Turkish and Iraqi troops are not enough, American Marines and British paratroopers will be landed.

4. The British and Americans have been mapping their Lebanese strategy jointly without consulting France. They presumed Premier de Gaulle had enough

troubles at home and in Algeria. Anglo-American forces were disconcerted, however, by the unannounced arrival of a French cruiser in Lebanese waters at 3 a.m. Wednesday. The French cruiser notified the Sixth Fleet that it had been ordered into Lebanese waters to evacuate French nationals if it became necessary.

5. Dictator Nasser summoned American Ambassador Raymond Hare to his office this week and gave him a tongue-lashing over the Lebanese crisis. Nasser accused the American ambassador of having given assurances earlier that the United States regarded the Lebanese crisis as purely a matter of internal Lebanese politics.

The Egyptian dictator made it clear that the temporary improvement in relations between the United States and the United Arab Republic was at an end.

### Chief Purpose

6. The British rushed its paratroopers to Cyprus on the pretext they were needed there to guard the island of Crete. Their chief purpose, however, is to stand by for possible action in Lebanon.

The British are determined not to repeat the same mistake they made at Suez. The British landing in Suez had been delayed a crucial four days while the troops were rushed into position. This gave Nasser time to pull strings in Moscow and Washington to stop the British-French-Israeli invasion which might otherwise have swept over Cairo and taken Nasser before it could be stopped.

### Worry Over Cyprus

The British are also concerned about the Cyprus crisis. They have secretly expressed a fear that Greece might use a Middle East war as an excuse to take Cyprus. If Turkish troops become involved in Lebanon, the British have been warned privately Greek troops might be rushed to Cyprus.

7. U. S. intelligence reports that the Lebanese rebels are divided into two groups. Both groups are getting arms smuggled from Egypt and Syria. Our intelligence estimates that the rebels have enough supplies to hold out for three months even if the United Nations should succeed in sealing the Lebanese borders.