



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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It's To-And-Fro On The Commission

CITIZENS plagued by insomnia might drop right off into dreamland if they tried counting County Commissioners leaping political fences.

Reference is made to the Commission's to-and-fro rhythm in regard to the fluctuating salary of the county welfare superintendent. In less than two years, the Commission:

- (1) Raised the salary in 1956 to what it thought the superintendent was worth.
- (2) Cut it back because the raise exceeded the state-imposed maximum.
- (3) Asked the state to lift or raise that maximum.

(4) Refused when the state raised the maximum to raise the salary back to the level the Commission originally set in 1956.

In this process, one commissioner who voted to raise the salary in 1956 voted against going back to the figure now that the state has approved

it; another commissioner who approved the raise in 1956 now abstains from voting because he serves as the Commission representative on the County Welfare Board — which has been trying to get the 1956 salary restored.

It's the Commission's responsibility to set the salary, of course. But it does seem that it ought to move with some consistency in its personnel practices, or at least state its reason for not doing so.

It appears more than passing strange that the Commission declines to pay an official in 1958 what it thought he was worth in 1956, particularly after going to the trouble to win state approval of the 1956 figure. And as to why a commissioner who by reason of a seat on the welfare board, should be ideally equipped to vote on the question, declines to do so — well, it seems beyond reckoning. Which is probably the way the Commission wanted it.

Editor Jones Demands All The Facts

WHEN a country weekly bites big city dailies, that's news.

In addition to other people and other institutions, the Twelfth Congressional District is the home of Rep. George A. Shuford, the Foxhollow Press and its editor, Weimar Jones, and of the Asheville daily papers.

Editor Jones has just lambasted those dailies for what he calls a failure to report fully the facts concerning an illness that struck Rep. Shuford while he was standing successfully for reelection in the recent Democratic primary. The allegation is that Rep. Shuford was much sicker than the Asheville papers said he was, that Twelfth District voters depended on those papers for the pertinent facts, and that the voters were misled when they did not get the pertinent facts.

We know nothing of the merits of the

case. But we know Weimar Jones well enough to suppose he is acting in conscience rather than in spite, and that he is doing something he would have preferred not to do. It cannot be pleasant for him to criticize his professional colleagues in Asheville, and to place those colleagues in an equally unpleasant position.

Regardless of the merits of the case, North Carolina journalism is well off in having practitioners such as Weimar Jones who are interested in the press' responsibilities as well as in its constitutional privileges. They have given the state an exceptionally strong weekly press.

Now, apparently, Weimar Jones is out to beef up the daily press.

If so, we hope no paper will be immune from his criticisms. We know of none that couldn't be benefited by a little backtalk.

Beauty And The Beastly Season

AFTER six grinding weeks of court scandals, municipal muddling and assorted political bombast, the coming of the beauty queens is as welcome as mint in a julep.

At least for a few glorious days Charlotte will have a substantial corner on the world pulchritude market. With the likes of Marilyn Van Derbur (Miss America to you), Elaine Herndon, Pat Wullingham and a whole new crop of North Carolina's fairest damsels on the premises at one time the Queen City may wish to pluralize its nickname into the Queens City. Not even Hollywood, with all of its Italian movie stars in residence, can offer competition.

And just to add icing to the cheese-

cake, the girls are talented, too.

The North Carolina Beauty Pageant is

a particularly welcome attraction since Charlotte's datebook this summer is al-

most completely bare of real excitement. Outdoor dramas, open-air concerts and other weather extravaganzas no longer brighten the dog days hereabouts. The roller derby has been the season's only new entry. Obviously there's a handsome opportunity here for Charlotte's captains of culture, civic builders and promoters to add a few festive oases to the seasonal Sahara between June and September.

The beauty pageant is but one pleasant possibility. And while we're mulling others, let's enjoy this one.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is to be congratulated for its vim and vigor in staging it. The girls are merely to be admired.

While they're here, let the admiration be suitably emphatic. The court scandals, et cetera, will keep until we can again give them our full and utterly undivided attention.

They're Off & Running! But Are They?

"My politics are short and sweet,
like the old woman's dove."
—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THERE is nothing short or sweet about politics in North Carolina's Tenth Congressional District.

Here it is only July and both Rep. Charles Brannan Jones, the Republican champion, and David Clark, the Democratic challenger, are already mounting their respective stumpings with a studiously impersonal doggedness that can only become a bit frayed by November.

Mr. Jones is running against "will spending."

Mr. Clark is running against "the Republican Party."

It may be months before they begin

This is all in the Tenth District tradition, of course, and uncommitted voters will simply have to grit their teeth and bear it. By the time the frost is on the pumpkin, an earnest debate on the raw realities of representing Tar Heels in Congress will surely be developing.

It won't develop before the campaign can have any real meaning for the average citizen.

Both candidates, despite what the odds-makers say, have major tasks ahead of them. Mr. Jones must re-inspire his Democratic following in a rough year for Eisenhower. Republican Mr. Clark must lead the Holy Grail of party unity in a district where more value has been placed on personality than on politics.

When each decides to get really to cases, the campaign will have really begun. We'll judge you.

From The New York Herald Tribune

WHO'S WHO?

WE just don't know who anybody is in the literary world these days. When we finally learned that Patrick Dennis, author of *Young Man*, was actually Edward Everett Tanner 3rd, he also became writing under the name of Virginia Rowan. John Foster, author of a recent political just turned out to be, not John Foster Dulles — that would have been too easy — but Foster Furcolo, governor of Massachusetts. A. A. Fair is one and the same with Earle Stanley Gardner, and that's perfectly all right with us.

But now come two startling revelations: Amanda Vail — you know the girl who wrote that nice little Saganey novel about Emily and Amy? Well, there is, of all things, no Amanda Vail. She is of all things a man. His name is Warren Miller and he uses it on some of his other books. To top it off, Pearl Buck admitted the other day that she is also John Sedges and that she has penned five novels in that guise. What can a man believe in such a signature?

world of letters? If Pearl Buck isn't Pearl Buck, who is Ernest Hemingway, really? And William Faulkner? Who was H. L. "Becher" Stone?

Miss Buck adopted Mr. Sedges so she could write novels about America and break the Asian mold with which she is identified. There is a lesson here for Shakespeare's doubters. The truth is that when Shakespeare wanted to try his hand at the essay form and break out of the rut of history and tragedy, he wrote under the name of Francis Bacon.

That comedian who hemoans the fact jokes are harder to find needn't feel so downcast. After all, not very much seems funny these days. — NEW ORLEANS STATES

Pome In Which Is Contained Comment Concerning The Current Trend in the Movies

Actresses devoid of shame.
Seem to get there just the same. — ATLANTA JOURNAL

How Much 'Influence' Can Be Bought For Peanuts?

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain
I SUPPOSE you would have to say that Sherman Adams is guilty of nothing but being a little dumb in all this recent hassle about favor-carrying and ruses and hotel bills and coats. You do not really go around implementing favors for peanuts, unless you are a dummy. Adams is a dummy, or a dummy's dummy, or a dummy's dummy's dummy. I am big-dealing in the five-percent area. I want more than a rug and a couple of nights in a

hotel for my trouble.
But the dumbness is inexcusable. I'd say that Adams has lost his usefulness to the presidential family just for being silly enough to take a mild fee for friendship or no friendship. And I'd say also that Jim Hagerty's arrogant negation of old Sherman, or didn't old Sherman, accept the carpet and the coat, placed few plumes in Hagerty's bonnet. Adams did it or he didn't, and it was NOT beside the point.
I believe that influence ped-

dling is one of the most overrated commodities in the whole political zoo. The ones who really big-deal in it ain't simple enough to buy favors with a lousy job or six free nights in a hotel. The fix is long distance, and is not purchased for peanuts, or even a \$700 coat.

Let's take the example of a simple reporter. There are some small people who drink a few drinks, a free meal, or a trip to some movie location in Pago Pago can buy an opinion favorable to the buyer. Maybe in some cases it can. But I know editors

and publishers, as well as reporters, who have accepted a junket to places, drunk booze on the house, fed and slept, fired, and who have returned to their desks with the brains out of the product the poor public relations boys thought they were selling. Or else wrote nothing at all.

NO MORE JUNKETS

You can't buy a man's brain or influence with a drink, a necktie, or a carpet, not if his brains or influence are worth purchasing.
I paid nobility to the fact that I don't go on junkets any more — from boredom — and when a press agent is hustling me, I pick up the check. It costs me down on his expense account as "Lunch-Ruark," or "Operation Walrus," but I still pick up the tab. This is a matter of personal pride, and very often I will do what the lack wants done, if it's for nothing.

The only point — and certainly it's silly, because the boys will say they bought even when they didn't — is that when people come to shove, I know nobody bought me for even a Martini's worth of influence. For the same reason, since I quit the military when the war finished, I've never used U.S. PX facilities overseas, but a power of foreign correspondents will buy that easy booze and those cheap cars and golf clubs and all the other goodies the Yanks have abroad in fantastic profusion.

A DAY MAY COME

This, I think, is intelligent. There must be a day when I want to buy a general or turn a deal, and if you've been living off the general's bounty, as in a war, remember one thing: there's nothing you can do but protect your butt.

I figured this one out when I was about 25, and I've never used to send that bad blend of Christmas whisky around in the mistaken idea that this was swaying opinion.

Maybe my opinion-swapping potential will expand under a lifetime expectancy of 12-year-old Scotch. A few more booze and a stated amount sent to a num-



'Bought' Scribes Often Bait Their Benefactors

bered account in Switzerland, plus a share in the overall loot but nobody buys this boy for a rug or a coat or a free trip to Jones Beach.

ADAMS WAS DUMB

So, I believe, would be the deal with the harassed and doubtless ill-starred presidential adviser. It is possible that Adams and Bernard Goldfine actually are friends. I have been dispensing free booze, transport, food, conversation, and even clothes and game trophies to people for years, and up to now I ain't asked nobody for nothing.

But this still doesn't take Adams off the hook for being dumb. There are two parties in this country, and the outs on special interest to seek a flaw in the conduct of anybody who's in.

People's Platform

Is Court Getting Unjust Criticism?

Editors, The News: Charlotte

I appreciated very much the Fourth of July editorial page of The News, the recital of our freedoms and hopes, the equality of people under the law, and that we are living under a system of laws and order and freedom does not mean license, and our Bill of Rights, as a part of our Constitution, does not license one to be destructive.

The many statements that have been made about our City Court appear to me to invite the chaos of license instead of freedom and no one could blame the officers of a court for seeking in every means possible to protect the court. I would never live in a neighborhood that was not respectable if I could possibly avoid it and if my neighborhood were to be slandered and libeled into disgrace I would not be less than a good citizen did not rise to defend it. I suppose that courts of every sort are a kind of free wheeling agency of government and are either strict or lax according to the individuals who man it. Nevertheless, the law as we interpret it today is not the strict unchanging law of the Medes and Persians and to have a court that is not the quality of mercy is not strangled is both healthy and progressive, even though the court occasionally makes mistakes and the people take from any individual or the court the right to make a mistake, for experience and character are often formulated on mistakes and errors of judgment.

The headlines of this paper stated how a person had been twice sent to death row in a southern prison because the strict arm of so-called justice had outraged the freedom of an innocent man. I judge, the solution of the situation, in that the court had twice made the same mistake and think the God of mercy who inspired the writing of the Book of Mat-

thew, the truth shall prevail at last.

Many of my most serious mistakes have been triggered because of snap judgment on my part. I have had to do a lot of repenting, but a lotter soul and a higher power than I possess has come to my rescue on many occasions. And when a judge has to pass just judgment on thousands of cases, who can deny his sense of fairness in wanting to take a sober, second look at his own fallible handiwork and rectify it to some extent?

Trial by ordeal, trial by fire, trial by water, trial by combat were once the methods by which poor men were tried, and the rich man could pay money for his freedom, even in murder. Today, capital punishment is on the wane because nearly all who are so punished are the poor of purse, and our sense of decency and equality of justice and the leveling and tempering of justice with a sense of brotherhood and mercy are surely bringing about the abolition of capital punishment.

Inasmuch as all lawyers are officers of the court, I hereby take my stand to uphold and protect it, to ward off foul blows against it, to support and defend it, knowing all the while that it is, first from perfect, that the Goddess of Justice wears a blindfold, that courts, being human, are charged with errors, mistakes and fallacies; but that they strive for improvement, and should not be too legalistic, but should at all times be guided by the Goddess of Justice, the love of all laws — the love of God and the love of our neighbor as stated by Jesus to the lawyer in the 22nd chapter of Matthew.

—MERCE J. BLANKENSHIP

Quote, Unquote

"W. C. Fields had a court at his home and would play tennis for hours, holding a racket in one hand, a martini in the other, probably serving the olive." — Fred Allen

Old Hugh's Notebook: WHAT IT WAS HUMAN NATURE

Once upon a time there was a BIG BIG TOP starring Uncle Sam and headlining such BIG important things as a COLD WAR, DISARMAMENT, A SPACE RACE, and I don't know what all...



'So Feeble A Record'

Another Do-Nothing Congress

By DOBBS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

THE GOLDFINE hearings are a boon of a sort both to President Eisenhower and the Democratic Congress in that they are cloaking the dull end of an undistinguished and generally unproductive two years.

A large date of Aug. 17 has been set up for adjournment. In the intervening time the President will get in some form his Pentagon reorganization, reciprocal trade and foreign aid Appropriations sprinkled with election year largesse will pass, even though they must be accompanied by a bill to raise the debt ceiling.

The prospect for anything controversial is highly uncertain, including the moderate labor reform bill.

RIDING A TREND

Republicans are suffering. Democrats feel that can't a plan existing trend back into action with increased congressional jurisdiction next year. This capsule of horse enthusiasm by so-called a record of achievement hope then to wipe out the memory of the last year with some kind of program, though they will get that program out of their conservative-dominated committees these next four years.

The little noted quality of Sherman Adams' difficulties are the presidential appointments to the independent agencies. "These that have been made are Smith and McNamara and Adams' past in clearing jobs through his office has slowed to a crawl."

The White House tactics acknowledged that it did not

care to tangle with Congress on this issue when the President did not press Lewis Strauss to remain as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Strauss has Poloma lever in its most virulent form, but in view of his acid differences with Sen. Clinton Anderson of New Mexico — who will be chairman of the Joint Atomic

Energy Commission — and friends ready to smooth his way at the Capital.

Strauss remains as advisor to the President on international atomic matters, but here the advice of Secretary of State Dulles will dilute his influence. Also Congress can be expected to turn rather pointedly to McCone to second guess them both.

LYNDON JOHNSON

Committee from 1958 to 1960 — left obligated to offer to resign. To succeed him the President has picked a Republican with a record of congenial and cooperative leadership of the Pentagon under President Truman — John McCone. McCone will not meddle with politics as Strauss did, and he has many Democratic

friends ready to smooth his way at the Capital. Strauss remains as advisor to the President on international atomic matters, but here the advice of Secretary of State Dulles will dilute his influence. Also Congress can be expected to turn rather pointedly to McCone to second guess them both.

Headquarters Blasted
In January 1958 two Syrians, Ahmed Kasim Al-Juini and Jaafar Al-Juini, were caught sending explosives to Mohammed Nasser in Beirut, Lebanon. Kasim confessed that the explosives were to be used for blowing up government headquarters at Baalbeck. Later, they were blown up.

Here Are The Facts
From unimpeachable intelligence sources, this column has been able to secure the facts on the manner in which the Lebanese border has been made a literal sieve. Here are some of the most important:

On May 12 Louis de Son, Belgian consul-general, was caught on the Syrian border, his car loaded with 33 machine guns, 15,000 cartridges, one bomb with automatic detonator, 28 revolvers and various ammunition. The consul-general also had secreted on his person a letter to a Syrian agent with instructions for the bombing of three main streets in Beirut and the president's palace.

On May 29 a truck was caught near Tripoli coming from Syria. It contained 68 Bertha mortars, one antitank gun, 60 cases of hand grenades, 22 rifles marked "Syrian Army" and 28 boxes of Bertha ammunition marked "Egyptian Army."

On May 15, several hundred Syrian soldiers occupied the village of Chabaq and destroyed all communications. On May 18 the chief of the Socialist Party in Lebanon met with Syrian leaders in the occupied village and later re-

mended to his Lebanese friends in nearby villages not to oppose invading Syrian troops.

On May 10, Syrians crossed the border and bombed the Lebanese customs house at Masnaa, killing six Lebanese officials.

On May 15, three jeeploads of Syrian troops landed the Lebanese customs house at Dabous, set it on fire, and also burned the police headquarters.

Key Egyptian Caught
In 1957 Hassan Khalil, the Egyptian military attaché in Beirut, was caught with arms and ammunition in his car. It was found that he was supplying arms to a terrorist gang which was responsible for blowing up the Iraq Petroleum Company's pumping station at Tripoli, the British school at Shamir, the Norman Prince, the St. George's Club, the British Bank of the Middle East and the Port of Beirut.

This is just a small part of the evidence available to Dab Hammarskjöld, the U.N. secretary-general, who has claimed there was no real evidence of Syrian-Egyptian penetration of Lebanon.