

Will Rip Van Mecklenburg Awaken?

THE recommendation that Charlotte and Mecklenburg County merge their police departments and Recorder's Courts was merely the echo of an ancient and honorable refrain.

The words and music were written years ago by one W. M. Cochrane, an assistant director of the University of North Carolina's Institute of Government.

Mr. Cochrane came to Mecklenburg in 1949 to study the possibilities of consolidating the local law enforcement agencies of the city and county. He penned a 20-page report which examined dispassionately both the advantages and disadvantages of consolidation. The advantages considerably outweighed the disadvantages.

But Mr. Cochrane's pleasant refrain, to our enormous distress, was somehow mistaken for a lullaby. At least, it seemed to put local governing bodies to sleep. Nothing, but nothing, was done about consolidating either the police departments or the police courts.

The new study, conducted by a Chamber of Commerce committee headed by former mayor Victor Shaw, is largely a resurrection of the old one. Yet it has a timeliness that cannot be attributed entirely to the timelessness of the original findings. Much has happened since 1949 to make consolidation of law enforcement operations not only attractive but virtually mandatory. In the interest of governmental efficiency the mergers really ought to take place as soon as legal and administrative details can be worked out.

In 1949, the Institute of Government expert quoted facts and figures to emphasize a fundamental principle: The overall policing problem here has nothing in it to commend a division of police work based on the invisible line marking the legal limits of the City of Charlotte.

Mr. Cochrane's engaging conclusion: "From the standpoint of effective policing over such an area, a single, centralized system would permit overall direction and planning to meet a policing problem obviously not logically divisible by political subdivision lines."

He found similarly persuasive evidence for a full-time countywide court. It is regrettable that Mr. Shaw's group did not bring Mr. Cochrane's data up to date to substantiate further its consolidation proposals. But perhaps this detailed information can be compiled by the special joint committee the Shaw report wants city and county governing officials to put to work on the problem. An effort ought to be made to document the need after 1949 as well as before 1949. We firmly believe that overwhelming evidence in favor of consolidation can be found—more evidence, in fact, than was available in 1949.

In revising the issue, Mr. Shaw's committee has performed a useful public service.

Coming as it does at a time when changes in personnel affecting law enforcement in the community are being discussed, the report has unusual significance.

This time, consolidation proposals must not be permitted to lapse into a lullaby. We'd prefer something more insistently bracing—like a jig, a reel or a gavotte. Progress requires wakefulness.

An Anniversary For The Four-Center

JUST as we were straining to work a dilapidated one-cent stamp into a 4-cent combination and thus get an air mail letter off the ground, Postmaster General Summerfield started talking about those red-white-and-blue mail boxes again.

It was Mr. Summerfield, you may remember, who brought technicolor to the letter drop. And he reminds us of a few facts: one being that last Friday was the 100th anniversary of the street letter box in America. The first boxes were used in New York City and Boston. "Today," he said, "there are more than 420,000 letter boxes in thousands of communities."

You may also be interested to know that even under Ben Franklin, that maker of maxims extolling thrift, the Post Office ran at a loss. No, Mr. Summerfield did not tell us that, but if he's on a mind to use it before a congressional committee, he should feel free.

Mr. Summerfield does tell us in an oblique sort of a way that his red-and-white-and-blue boxes are a distinct help to people who used to drop letters in trash cans and then blame the Post Service for poor service—not to mention that the brushwork provided a little business for some good Republican paint manufacturers.

It's nice to hear that Mr. Summerfield has an eye for an anniversary. And we hope that on the first anniversary of the four-cent stamp, he will be able to tell us that the extra penny has speeded appreciably the postman on his appointed rounds.

This Ought To Banish Your Gremlins

A MAN in Washington who couldn't pronounce the name of Prime Minister Kwaname Nkrumah went right to the top to get the answer.

He called John Foster Dulles, who must have just returned from Ghana or who must have been on the verge of leaving. The result of that call enlightens everybody who pants in it through the corridors of the columnist George Dixon, who tells the story, it might help to banish whatever gremlins have been chasing you today.

The way Dixon tells it, Mr. Dulles turned the caller over to an "African expert" who happened to be in his office discussing the Dark Continent. "He'll give it (the pronunciation) to you right," Dulles said.

The expert did. "It's 'En-Kro-mah,'" he said, and then a moment later, in a rising voice, he added: "No-No! I said 'En-Kro-mah'!"

But there still was some misunderstanding on the other end of the line and in exceedingly impatient tones, the African expert repeated the pronunciation and then spelled it out letter by letter. This worked, and the expert was able to exclaim to the phone:

"That's it! You've got it finally! 'En-Kro-mah'... 'En-Kro-mah'!"

Hanging up abruptly in triumph, he looked up to find a hard stare on the Dulles countenance.

"I forgot to tell you," said the secretary. "That was the President."

We're also grateful for the instruction on how to pronounce the Prime Minister's name, and we hope the African expert will find the climate to his liking in Togoland.

THE HOMING PARAKEET

AS many a would-be orator has learned after learning grammar, diction, and other arts of speech—what counts isn't so much what words you know as what you can put them to.

Pretty Pol has done pretty well on the cracker barrel. And we have a soap-box-minded friend who says he is teaching his budgerigar to invoke the Fifth Amendment.

But this sort of thing, too, may be pure parrotology. What we'd like to see is a bird whose chatter is home as much sense as a homing pigeon's silent mastery of direction. Well, at least we have now read of one. His name is Jerry. He goes places as do other birds, but then talks his way home.

Having left Kansas City and flown 25 miles to Shawnee, Kansas, he made friends with a grain company officer and a bad idea for a hungry bird, and in the next few days kept the conversation casual, as you might say. But suddenly he seems to have tired of pleasures and palaces, and home was a long way and—where? "Call Mary Neal, Jackson 3-4112," he requested of his hostess, who did so, and all was forgiven.

Now, there are two ways of looking at Jerry's achievement: (1) With the probably depressive eye of the professional

homing pigeon who is against nonunion competition, and (2) from the point of view of any bird (including some we know) who would like a parakeet with a "pigeon" (see Webster, under slang) to fly all the way home when he could arrange a lift by telephone.

An old-fashioned hand pump at Oakley's Service Station gets a big play from tourists: city-raised kids think it's a new invention. —MATTHEW (L.L.) JOURNAL GAZETTE.

An old timer is one who can remember when America's main foreign policy was marrying baronesses to impecunious foreign nobles. —LAWRENCE (MRS.) LEADER-CALL.

We're not trying to keep up with the Joneses but these pesky Joneses are trying to keep up with us. —NEW ORLEANS STATES.

Shocker is going to be in for a severe shock in just about a year from now. It's when her first son is enrolled in first grade—and daughter finds out he's just about average. —AMARILLO GLOBE-TREX.

Eisenhower Administration Fiddles While Russia Arms

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

It is now the Eisenhower administration's policy to permit the Kremlin to gain an overwhelming superiority of nuclear striking power in the next five years. This is the true, though unadmitted, response to the warning of the Sputniks.

The terrible facts that support the foregoing inter alia charge have already been repeated so often. These facts in turn quite obviously pose a RUMPHREY further question: How can the administration possibly be pursuing such a policy, eight months after the Sputniks' dark warning?

All sorts of extraneous factors enter into the answer. The most important, certainly, is the capture of the President's mind by former Secretary of the Treasury George Magaffin Humphrey. Humphrey taught Eisenhower to fear loose or burdensome fiscal measures over the operational realities and altogether ignores the political-psychological realities. The operational realities may be summarized as follows:

First, the Kremlin is not deterred from attacking the United States by such simple considerations as the American nuclear striking power. What deters the Kremlin is a computation of the balance between their power and our power. In particular, the Kremlin is continuously computing how much American nuclear striking power will probably survive a first blow by Soviet nuclear striking power. This part of our striking power that will survive the first blow is the true and only deterrent.

As the balance tilts towards unchallengeable Soviet superiority during the next five years, the part of our striking power that will survive a first blow must also diminish. This rate, which our true and only deterrent will weaken is affected by many special factors. Ever since the Sputniks, for example, the Strategic Air Command has kept one-third of its aircraft either

in the air or on 15-minute alerts, in order to make sure that at least a third of its strength will last a first blow by the Soviets.

But this survival force cannot strike back without the complexly coordinated support of the air tanker fleet. It will surely be disorganized by the effect of the first blow on SAC's nerve centers. As time goes on it will surely be too weak to saturate the increasingly powerful Soviet air defenses. In the worst stage of the period ahead in short, the Soviets may still have to expect some damage from our counter-strikes, but not enough damage to deter their first blow.

And how shall we respond to the Kremlin's threats, when we have a proud total of 230 intercontinental ballistic missiles, against 2,000 Soviet ICBMs? That will be one item in the essential balance sheet of 1963; so how will it affect our actions? This administration ought to know the probable answers to these questions, after the great Middle Eastern catastrophes.

Gore And Orgill Racial Extremists In Tennessee

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

SOUTHERN traditionalists, belittled as usual by extremists, will be hoping to deal with the President's second section of the old one-way traffic in Tennessee primary tomorrow.

It doesn't appear likely that they will succeed.

GORE, a leading member of the "Whispering" election of Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus as the first blow, old line southerners hope to complete their knockout by the election of Sen. Albert Gore.

And the nomination of an openly segregationist candidate for governor in Tennessee.

Two weeks ago, and particularly after the Faubus landslide, it seemed possible that Gore might be defeated. He had expected no opposition this year and had neglected his organization. When former Gov. Prentiss Cooper switched from a crowded race for governor to oppose him, Gore was caught unprepared.

Cooper, charging Gore with failure to sign the Southern Manifesto and with support of the recent watered-down civil rights bill, has been a thorn in Gore's side. But Cooper, apparently energized by his success, began making his charges stronger.

He announced that Gore would make an ideal senator for Kluge's Tennessee. This seems to have been taking things too far for Tennessee voters. The extremism of his opponent plus a dogged sense of his record apparently have turned the tide in Gore's favor.

GOVERNOR'S RACE

Tennessee's governor's race is ever livelier. Political contenders are:

1— Buford Ellington, a politician's politician who is wearing the silks of Gov. Frank Clement.

2— Judge Andrew F. Taylor, who typifies the Old South.

3— Mayor Edmund Orgill of Memphis, a moderate of such notable purity as to make politicians cringe.

Ellington, twice manager of campaigns for Gov. Clement and his principal patronage dispenser since Taylor, a distant relative of a famous Tennessee political family, are for segregation.

Orgill, a leading Memphis business man before he entered politics, says that he is personally for segregation but is also for the law of the land.

A late starter in the campaign, Orgill was pushed forward rapidly. Since Ellington and Taylor

will undoubtedly divide the traditionalist and extremist vote, Orgill may well come in first.

There is no runoff in Tennessee.

ORGILL'S SUCCESS

A leading churchman, an active supporter of better educational facilities, and a well-known business man, Orgill appears to have had notable success in appealing both to his fellow businessmen and to women.

Although he has no national reputation, an Orgill victory in the race for the governorship would in practical effect be more significant to the forces of moderation in the South, and the nation, than would a victory by Gore.

People's Why Go Out Of Town For A Chief Of Police?

Charlotte

REPLY to a letter to the People's Platform by Mr. and Mrs. J. Massey dated August 2, wondering why our next chief of police should come from out of state.

"I state that I, too, along with a lot of other voters in the City of Charlotte, are wondering why our next chief of police should have to go out of town to get a chief of police, along with a lot of other positions that are filled with LITTLEJOHN out-of-town and state people."

Is it because the council thinks that we elected all the smart boys in the city to that office? Or do they think that the City of Charlotte and the State of North Carolina just can't produce men capable of filling these positions?

If this is true the writer is inclined to think that we should try to get some of these out-of-town people moving in here interested in coming for the City Council.

the City Council looks for an out-of-town chief, don't you think he can do it for the years to come?

—RAYMOND S. PRESSON

Fifty-Cent Coffee Sells For A Dollar

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

WHAT is wrong in the greatest nation on earth, America? I have just read a coffee state-ment that by the end of 1958 the coffee-growing nations will have 35 million haars for a carry-over. And to think that the coffee-drinking American people are paying double for each pound of coffee they run through the strainer of the coffee pot to day! It sure hurts to pay a dollar for a 50-cent pound of coffee, and we are told that a New York banker was fired for telling who is at fault—the Republican Party or Congress.

—S. C. VAUGHN

Sensitivity

SINCE the Adams-Goldfine scandal, the match-book covers in the snack trays of the White House no longer bear the legend "White House Mess." The lettering has been replaced by a simple gold stripe.

If this is true the writer is inclined to think that we should try to get some of these out-of-town people moving in here interested in coming for the City Council.

A few years ago when this writer was a member of the police force here the City Council had made a decision that they must have an out-of-town, even out-of-state man, for this position. Sure, they will offer him a higher salary to come here than they are now paying the present chief. With his college education, lawyer's degree and FBI training he should be able to tear the department apart in at least half the time that it took the other two men. This man is too highly trained to come down to earth and get the full cooperation of the men in the department, which, as you know, is necessary any organization to function as it should and must.

Now we have a man in the police department who has been assistant chief of police for several years, who will make a poor chief. Why not give him an opportunity to show his ability by giving him this appointment as chief of police? A policeman is poorly paid, with chances of advancement low and far between and if the City Council is to have out-of-town chiefs of police, who come in and tear up the morale, what incentive does a policeman have to do his job? If for any reason someone of the Council has a grudge against Chief Hert, there are other ways to seek for advancement. If for any reason someone of the Council has a grudge against Chief Hert, there are other ways to seek for advancement.

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'Oh, Great!—That's All I Needed'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Turkey Armed With Obsolete Weapons

WASHINGTON

LUNCHING at the Turkish Embassy the other day, Gen. Nathan Twining, ex-chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, received a modest Turkish dinner. A young Turkish soldier made about the best infantryman in the world. Naturally Gen. Menegu was armed with modern rifles for them.

Limited Supply

Gen. Twining promised to do his best, but that unfortunately the United States does not have enough Garand rifles to supply Turkey before 1959. By that time we could supply 40,000. The full 60,000 would not be available until 1960.

Dewey Hired

The Eisenhower administration has now awakened to the importance of Turkey's vital role within gunshot of Russia.

Sabre-Jets Useless

Gen. Fevzi Mecid, Turkish chief of staff, said that Russia had shipped the most modern weapons to Syria, on Turkey's southern border, also to Egypt, both members of the United Arab Republic. He told him Russian MIG-17s sent to Syria now fly over Turkish territory, while the Turkish Air Force, equipped with obsolete American Sabre-jets, can't reach them.

Twining listened carefully, promised to send Turkey something besides out-of-date American arms. From the Turkish staff he received a modest Turkish dinner. A young Turkish soldier made about the best infantryman in the world. Naturally Gen. Menegu was armed with modern rifles for them.

Awake At Last?

With the Iran-Chan crisis, however, the administration has awakened to Turkey's importance and has arranged to send \$234 million to Turkey. Part is being advanced by the United States, part by the International Monetary Fund, part by the Organization for European Economic Cooperation.

Fat Congressman

Robert A. Everett, the new Democratic congressman from Tennessee, jokingly refers to himself as "weighing one pound less than a ton." For that reason he campaigned as "Fats" Everett, not Robert A. Everett, which is his real name.

Because most voters in his district never heard of "Robert A." Everett, the new congressman did his best to get a name noted in his own district.

Robert A. "Fats" Everett: However, the custodian of the House Office Building decided there wasn't room for all this, so the new congressman had to be satisfied with "Robert A. Everett" on his office name plate.

Mail Pours In

The mail from Tennessee has been pouring in ever since. Some of it has been critical. Write one farmer:

"Dear Fats: I've never changed the name of a mile, and I'm not going to start calling you by another name either since you've moved to Washington."