



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Why Pass The Buck To Raleigh?

THE refusal of North Carolina's county governments to battle for more "home rule" is one of the gamiest inconsistencies of the age.

Grumble as they do about the necessity to transact so much home-town business in Raleigh they nevertheless seem to find some comfort in the ability to pass the buck on occasion.

Under a home rule plan, counties would be allowed to experiment with structural mechanisms and freed to some degree in meeting the increasing number of local problems that are properly within their jurisdiction. But now we have the State Association of County Commissioners telling the North Carolina Constitutional Committee it has no interest in constitutional home rule for counties. Rather than limit the authority of the legislature to pass special and local acts, the association would actually suggest that the power be broadened.

The organization's attitude is unfortunate to say the least. The power and the responsibility to act in local affairs belong at home and not in Raleigh.

The invisible barriers of tradition must, of course, be considered. There is, for instance, the counties' historic position as administrative agencies of the state. But their rapidly accruing position as agencies to provide local services must also be taken into consideration.

Admittedly, home rule must be more limited for counties than for cities. The model state constitution of the National Municipal League provides a series of elaborate safeguards for cities exercising home rule and, while making county home rule also available, it provides that the power shall be directly subject to legislative definition.

The present system, which refers far too much trivia to the General Assembly, is not only costly but downright inefficient.

The legislature's own records indicate how ridiculous the process can become. Within a couple of days during a recent session of the North Carolina General Assembly, this legislation was introduced:

A bill relating to the requirement of

daily court sessions in Robeson County. A bill making unlawful the use of live virus in the vaccination of hogs in Perquimans County.

A bill to establish a law library in Wayne County.

A bill relating to the salary of the clerk of the Recorder's Court of Perquimans County.

A bill to authorize the board of education of Haywood County to make adjustment of the boundary lines of the Cecil School property.

A bill to authorize county commissioners of Union County to compensate the sub-recorder of Union County's Recorder's Court for services rendered.

A bill to authorize county commissioners of Watauga County to appropriate \$1,800 from the general fund annually for the employment of special deputy sheriffs.

A bill to authorize Rockingham County Commissioners to convey certain property to the Boy Scouts.

A bill relating to the employment of a plumbing inspector in Surry County.

The list is representative. According to an old Institute of Government survey of the problem local, private and special acts made up 68 per cent of the legislation enacted by the legislature between 1917 and 1947.

The system prompted one legislator to complain to the Institute of Government:

I am somewhat convinced that it is a means of evading responsibility and clearly that it is a method of "passing the buck." It is absurd that a body of responsible men should sit in a committee and consider that the office space in a certain county needs rearranging, and other matters equally petty. Somewhere, it seems to me, the people of the county could handle such matters and thus become, for a time at least, interested in local affairs.

Clearly, it's time the state came to grips with the problem. The only reasonable solution is more home rule.

Taneelia Could Cut Its Throat By Closing Its Schools

By MALCOLM B. SEAWELL

Editors' Note: "This is a new South," says Malcolm B. Seawell, attorney general of North Carolina. "We are on the go." But he warns that progress would come to an end in North Carolina if racial fears over permeated the hearts of its citizens. His provocative comments on the value of education are condensed from a recent address at Pembroke State College.

WHAT does the future hold for the institutions of higher learning in North Carolina? What does the future hold for our public schools? What opportunities will we give to our children to become better educated? Our answer, as a people, to these questions will determine whether we are to grow or to lapse into a new "dark age" from which we may never recover.

Year by year the cost of higher education is increasing, along with the cost of everything else. A few years ago all of our colleges and universities were begging for students; today they turn them away by the thousands. At the turn of the century only two students in every high school graduating class of 50 went to college; today between 15 and 20 want higher education. During the past 50 years our population has grown until the number of college-age children has increased by 50 per cent. Yet, aside from a handful of junior and community colleges, a comparatively small number of colleges have been founded within the last generation. The result is that colleges and universities, by and large, are now selecting the top 20 per cent of applicants and turning away the others.

MORE COLLEGES

As the number of applicants increases over the years, the percentage of those accepted will

surely decrease, unless this state meets the problem head-on through providing more colleges in more communities.

It is important, of course, that the "neglected students" should receive higher education. It is also important, however, that the "bright" and average students should also find college doors open to them. Schools and colleges supported by the tax dollar are a part of our democracy. They should not be maintained solely for the few.

MONEY WOE

Relatively a few years ago, it was said that this state could not afford free public schools, could not afford a nine-month term, a 12th year. Now, some say that we cannot afford further progress in higher education. The fact is, though, that those who have claimed the state could not foot the bill have been proved wrong.

North Carolina cannot afford NOT to push forward in all fields of education. We must not forget that the end-product of education is a better, more enlightened citizen. Education knows no law of diminishing returns.

PRACTICALITY

The better educated a person, the better that person's chances are to have a higher income; the higher the income, the more taxes that person pays. And it is true that the better educated individual, the less chance he will become a charge of the state in our prison system or in our other custodial institutions. These are practical considerations.

There are other considerations, however, which do not lend themselves to the ledger books of the accountant, but they are just as real, even though there will always be those who believe that the chief function of the brain is to carry the body to shelter and the stomach to food. If man's chief



"There Shall Be Education In This Land"

end is to get better and better food and shelter, then he is no more than animal.

SECURITY

Only through educating our people will we find security. Man no longer stands alone; he is a creature of society. There are his neighbors who join in the struggle for security. A long time before this country was born man was seeking security of thought, of personality, of vision, of faith, of soul.

If America is the "image of freedom," she will continue to be such until our faith in the image weakens. That faith weakens when we come to the place where we feel that there are no new frontiers, that there is nothing new under the sun, that the job is

done and that we are here for the purpose of reaping rewards prepared by others through their works. Whether we express the thought or simply think it, we have become too bound to the North Carolina, by the idea: "My grandfathers never shot at such a mark in all his life, and neither shall I."

COMMUNICATION

We must be able to communicate with the people of the world but, first of all, we must be able to communicate with and understand each other here at home. If American people cannot live in harmony, how can they hope to live harmoniously with people across the seas?

Education may not, of itself, destroy prejudices and the hatreds which prejudice produce, but education does tend to free us from their grip. We will go forward much faster when we quit looking back over our shoulders into the yesterdays.

NEW SOUTH

This is a new South. We are on the threshold of a new era in industrial growth. Industrialists are looking at North Carolina and are liking what they see. We are on the go. In agriculture we are becoming more and less tied to cotton and tobacco. We must continue to seek progress.

There are many changes which have come into our way of life, and there will be many more. Some we welcome; others we may not like, but whether we like them or not, they are going to be. For instance, I do not like the action of the Supreme Court of the United States in the segregation case, but I know that when that court speaks, its words become the law and remain the law until that court changes its mind or until the people change the law. I know that in a democratic form of government, we must obey the law. I know that we cannot select the laws which we will obey and treat those laws which we do not like.

CUTTING OUR THROATS

I know that the Supreme Court has said that denial of the right to attend public schools may not be made on the basis of color or race. At the same time it said that the Supreme Court cannot say to the State of North Carolina, "You must have public schools." And I know that if we in North Carolina should close our schools we would cut our own throats. Economically, politically and spiritually, our progress would come to an end, for progress comes from enlightenment. James M. Borchert has given us the words which we in North Carolina may adopt as a slogan. It is significant, I think. "There shall be education in this land."

People's Platform Keep Political Campaigns On The Up And Up

Charlotte

Editors, The News: I, David Clark, don't watch his step, he is going to get in some bad company that may cost him the election.

Monday evening's News contained a letter from "D. E. Monroe" of Charlotte stating that Rep. Jones was enjoying a soft job in Raleigh when Mr. Clark was in the Pacific fighting the war. It further stated that I and

my advertising agency had created a slogan, "A Man for a Man's Job," which precipitated the letter.

The first statement was vile and libelous. Mr. Clark should personally apologize whether or not he authorized publication of the letter. Further, he should employ all his resources as an attorney to dilute the identity of "D. E. Monroe."

The second statement is simply not true. I not only did not create such a slogan but never heard of it before. Rep. Jones has been kind enough to return the services of my advertising agency in each of his campaigns, but never asked me to create any idea, copy, slogan, theme or schedule that would deprecate his opponent. He just isn't that kind of guy.

I don't think Mr. Clark is either. It's my personal opinion—and some folks might not enjoy my saying this—that the Tenth Congressional District is mighty lucky to have two such fine men as candidates for the United States Congress. Other states and other districts often have slim pickings.

Is it entirely naive to ask Mr. Jones and Mr. Clark to seek the congressional seat in a fair and gentlemanly way, and may the better man win? Is it too much to hope that the voters who insist on concocting stories with cheap implications get what they deserve—the axe? It is still necessary, in 1958, to portray a political opponent as a phlegmatizer, jailbird, p. m. p., a f. d. g., an embezzler, or poisoner of snugglers?

Let's boot these people off the payrolls and out of the ranks of the political campaign followers. If not, some day they're going to have an election, and nobody's going to show up.

WALTER J. KLEIN
President
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Here's What Jones Has Accomplished

Editors, The News: FOR THE benefit of the voters of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, here again is some of the work that has been accomplished by our congressman, Charles Raper Jones.

He is a member of the important Appropriations Committee. He has actively supported the Hoover Commission recommendations and fought hard to bring about economy and efficiency in government operations.

He introduced legislation which resulted in the elimination of the admission tax on the Shrine Bowl Game, played annually in Charlotte. This elimination of admission tax resulted in \$8,000 a year for the hospital care of crippled children.

He has also worked hard and pushed through Congress a bill which gave the City of Charlotte a \$10,000 credit on the purchase of government-owned land which has become a part of the city's park system.

He was instrumental in extension of the government's mica spectacular voyage under the Arctic ice cap, the Defense Department has cut funds for four extra atomic subs. These subs should be armed with Polaris missiles which could be fired from the ocean at enemy targets 1,200 miles away. Rear Adm. Hyman Rickover, father of the atomic submarine, told this column that a fleet of these undersea

Spence Price called this the greatest service to the people in generations.

He has worked hard to protect the textile industry from unfair foreign competition. With the above accomplishments James M. Borchert said that if we in North Carolina don't think he deserves to go back to Washington?

—L. L. CHILDRESS

Lack Of Knowledge Is No Justification

Charlotte

Editors, The News: I WAS shocked to see where Mr. Jones had voted against the housing bill which would have provided funds for cleaning up Charlotte's slum area. This vote was a fine way to repay the city and county which elected him to Congress three times; and, I think, a good indication of his true interest in our welfare.

From what I have heard, his excuse for voting against the bill was that he didn't have enough information about the bill to vote for it. Since when does lack of knowledge justify a "No" vote on a bill as important as this one? If he didn't know, he shouldn't have voted at all. And why, if Mr. Jones is really interested in the welfare of Charlotte and Mecklenburg, did he not take the time to fully acquaint himself with the provisions of that bill? All of the information was there, readily available for his study.

Comments Borchert's Work On Dr. Graham

Charlotte

Editors, The News: WE, of the city of Charlotte, are indeed fortunate to have Mr. John Borchert as religious news editor of The Charlotte News. John's style is certain to interest almost every reader.

The Billy Graham story is an example of his fine work. I have heard several pastors say that they appreciate the attention given their new releases by John Borchert.

—JIMMY BROWN
Director, Youth for Christ

Footnote

MRS. Dorothy Elizabeth Monroe of 3907 Park Road has asked The News to state that she is not the D. E. Monroe whose name appeared in People's Platform on Sept. 15.

Drew Pearson, Ike & The Prize Bulls

A MORSEL of comic relief to chew on is mighty welcome in these weeks of caloric-loaded national issues.

For that we commend our readers to Drew Pearson's current campaign against Ike's poor Gettysburg cow-herd. To our mind it hasn't been equalled for diverting but delightful triviality since 1932 when "Our Bob" Reynolds battled Cam Morrison with a red carpet and a container of caviar. Steaming into a town in his beat-up Ford, "Fish eggs!" Reynolds would exclaim off the back of his eggs, that's what he eats. And fish eggs from Red Russia at that.

Drew's charges of favoritism in oil drilling seem to pivot around a vital stream from one of Soconag executive Ellis Slater's prize South Carolina Angus bulls, allegedly sent to impregnate one of Ike's cows. That, Drew informs us with magisterial, poker-faced dutifulness, "was in violation of the rules of the Aberdeen Angus Association which permits

no artificial insemination." "I . . . thought the President should have a call from our fine bull," Slater pleaded innocently to Drew, "but never at any time have I given a cow to the President."

Perhaps such levity will yet be the salvation of our politics. There is such a thing as ignoring crisis issues until they go away. To borrow a nice phrase from Harry Golden, it could happen only in America.

We find it hard, for instance, to imagine a scene in the House of Commons, where, finding that Macmillan had violated the rules of the Aberdeen Angus Association on behalf of one of his cows, back-benchers would loft angry cries of "Resign! Resign!" or even "Shame!"

And of course to suggest that the Supreme Soviet could ever get nasty over one of Mr. Khrushchev's cows, if he owns any, would be to suggest that the Russians have a sense of political humor.

The U.S. Constitution: Now Hear This

WHICH law book dya read during Constitution Week?

This . . . (the Constitution) intended to endure for ages to come and, consequently, to be adapted to the various crises of human affairs—CHIEF JUSTICE MARSHALL, 1819.

"It (the Constitution) speaks not only in the same words, but with the same meaning and intent with which it spoke when it came from the hands of its framers . . . Any other rule of construction would abrogate the judicial character of this Court and make it the mere reflex of popular opinion or passion of the day."—CHIEF JUSTICE TANEY, 1857.

"We read it (the Constitution's) words, not as we read legislative codes which are subject to continuous revision with the changing course of events, but as the revelation of the great purposes which were intended to be achieved by the Constitution as a continuing instrument of government."—CHIEF JUSTICE STONE, 1941.

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'Hello? Hello—State Capitol?'

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Drew Pearson's Defense Cuts Wreck Missile Program

Editors' Note: Drew Pearson is on a work-and-play vacation. Today's column is written by his assistant, Jack Anderson.

OUR bold stand in the Formosa Strait may be the last time we dare call the Communist bluff. This is the solemn opinion of at least two members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who are not only alarmed but frightened over the missile outbreak.

Contrary to official assurances, we are not gaining but losing ground in the desperate race to overtake Russia's missile lead. Yet President Eisenhower, more concerned about a threatened \$12 billion budget deficit next year, has ordered drastic cutbacks in defense spending.

Here are the grim facts which Ike has chosen to ignore but cannot deny:

1—Our technical intelligence, which has been uncomfortably accurate in the past, claims Russia can start producing intercontinental ballistic missiles next year at the rate of 500 a year. This is a full year sooner than we can possibly begin matching their production schedule.

2—Russia already has a ready to launch against our bases in Europe and Asia. Another 600 or 700 should be in place by the end of 1959. To counteract this, we have barely begun to airlift Thor missiles to England. By Christmas we should be able to deliver two dozen, but the most we plan to produce is only 200.

3—We still don't have a rocket engine powerful enough to launch a missile the size of Russia's one-ton Sputniks. The Army and Air Force have started

work on separate projects which won't produce such an engine until 1960 at the earliest.

4—Missile experts agree that solid propellant offers the best bet for reliable quick-launching missiles. Yet the budget cutters have ordered the Air Force to slow down development of its Minuteman series of solid-propellant missiles. Reason: Rush programs cost more money.

Atomic Subs

5—Despite the atomic submarine's spectacular voyage under the Arctic ice cap, the Defense Department has cut off funds for four extra atomic subs. These subs should be armed with Polaris missiles which could be fired from the ocean at enemy targets 1,200 miles away. Rear Adm. Hyman Rickover, father of the atomic submarine, told this column that a fleet of these undersea

missile carriers would be almost impossible to detect and destroy. He suggested that they could hide under the Arctic ice with enough firepower to deter Russia from ever attacking the United States.

This Is Economy?

6—The budget slashers are also withholding money for an atomic bomber, despite the fact that the Defense Department has insisted that the project be continued. It tried to hold it up earlier. Now that Congress is out of town, Secretary of Defense McNamara has quietly tightened the purse strings again.

The ordered savings are being taken out of funds that Congress had appropriated. This is calculated to make military preparedness a hot political issue.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

EXCUSE IT, PLEEYUZ

EMILY POST came to grips the other day with the question of what to do when the ringing of the telephone interrupts a favorite television program. Her solution—"Mrs. Jones is unable to come to the telephone at the moment but asks if she may call you in 10 (or 20) minutes"—is a fine one. The remedy that everybody who faces this problem has a butler. Such, we need hardly add, is not the case.

As Mrs. Post herself says, to say that Mrs. Jones is "looking at television" would seem to many people discourteous. How much more discourteous then might it seem for Mrs. Jones to translate the Post formula into the first person, to meet the peculiar needs of the butlerless home? To say "I am unable to come to the phone at the moment but ask if I may call you in 10 (or 20) minutes" would be worse than discourteous, it would be absolutely implausible. The dilemma here, is simply, how can Mrs. Jones have the nerve to say she is unable to come to the telephone when she is at the telephone?

Since Mrs. Post leaves the great mass of television viewers right where she

found them, with the telephone ringing and the show going on, we propose a mild suggestion or two. For those athletically inclined, we suggest picking up the telephone, saying "Wrong number," and putting the receiver back on the hook, repeating the procedure as needed until the show is over. The sedentary viewer may prefer to turn the television up a little louder and let the telephone ring. Either way is simpler than hiring a butler.

For over a year a man had eaten in a small restaurant whose sign read "Mary's Home Cooking," but never once had he seen Mary. Finally his curiosity got the better of him and he said to the waitress, "I've been having lunch here for a long time and Mary is never around. Where is she?" "She's just where she signs she is," the waitress answered, "home cooking." — MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

The old man who saved his pennies has a grandson who spends his dollars without a thought of saving. — SPARKA (G.A.) ISHMAELITE.