

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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A Great Opportunity Awaits Charlotte

The progress or decay of downtown Charlotte will depend, in large measure, upon the courage and conviction of a group of frankly worried business interests meeting here next week.

The immediate purpose of the get-together on Feb. 5 is the organization of a Downtown Association. But the men and women who gather in the Carolina Theater will actually be enlisting in a

campaign to "bring downtown back alive."

The problems threatening Charlotte's central business area are not unique. They are the same problems facing all growing cities. "Downtown districts of American cities may soon become ghost

towns," wrote Thomas M. Mason, director of Yale's Bureau of Highway Traffic, a few years ago. "The inability of traffic to move freely on the streets," wrote Col. Sidney H. Bingham, a noted transportation expert, "threatens the very existence of our cities as we know them. Unless we translate our thinking from the movement of vehicles into the movement of people, Downtown U.S.A. is doomed to die."

Traffic, of course, is but one of the problems downtown faces. Parking, appearance, convenience, inappropriate uses, hazards to pedestrians zoning, merchandising—all of these areas of interest are proper subjects for close scrutiny and comprehensive, long-range improvement.

Other cities are hard at work. Detroit has a bold new plan to redesign completely Woodward Avenue (its Main Street) by 1969 to provide spacious shopping malls. Ft. Worth, Tex. has an even bolder plan in the way to revitalize its central business core by creating walks, open-air courts, gardens, malls, garages, with a belt parkway encircling the district.

Charlotte's Downtown Association will have much to discuss, much to study, much to recommend. It may come up with wholly original and completely new ideas for the promotion of downtown's best interests. That will be up to the local businessmen who will meet next week to organize and reason together.

The important thing today is that they are aware of the problems and are eager to do something about them. It is a commendable attitude and is bound to be translated into commendable results.



Downtown At Dusk

campaign to "bring downtown back alive."

Sen. Jordan Touches Upon A Key Fault

NORTH Carolina's junior Sen. B. Everett Jordan voted against the foreign aid appropriation last year for reasons he did not make absolutely clear.

From the generality of his explanation, some deduced that he "opposes" foreign aid. We are relieved that such a deduction is false. Speaking in Chapel Hill recently, he explained that he does not oppose foreign aid, but the way it is now administered. Such, we suppose, are the virtues of being explicit.

"We have the reputation," Sen. Jordan said, "of being interested in giving aid primarily to those nations where we need an airfield or an army."

There he has touched upon the key fault in the present shell-out of aid funds—its military-mindedness. The U. S. has, for instance, poured over a billion dollars into Spain since our 1954 airbase treaty with her ambitious *caudillo*, Generalissimo Franco. But Spanish policy is not unique; for we have attempted to build not goodwill for democracy or for America but a nuclear *Hadrian's Wall* to keep the Soviet armies out of our sphere of influence.

We hope Sen. Jordan will work, as

he talks, on the side of a more sensible policy. But if he does he will run against the rigid illusion in military and some congressional circles that heavy armament alone will purchase security for us. That illusion is, in turn, supported by the equally rigid and popular feeling that military aid is the only worthwhile investment—that technical assistance, capital loans, and relaxation of trade walls can go hang. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When You Say That, Smile

Lt. Gen. Clarence R. Huebner, director of the State Civil Defense Commission, predicted yesterday that within five years most Americans would be living in fallout shelters and would see sunshine only by taking a calculated risk.

Earlier Hanson W. Baldwin, military news analyst of the New York Times, advised the information officer to tell the public what needed to be done "without making them unduly despondent."—NEW YORK TIMES.

A few funny stories ought to turn the

Bubbling Officialese Has Long History

CUSTODIANS of the language fearful-ly bemoan the bubbling officialese, or "gobbledygook" of Washington and often claim it is a matter of degree.

But now an old letter of Alexander Hamilton's, dated New York, 1789, has been discovered. He was then secretary of the Treasury.

Excerpts: "There is a species of information highly valued by the Government respecting Navigation for obtaining which with proper accuracy & detail no regular plan has been pursued in this country. . . . This utility of the Knowledge of the facts on which this

comparison will depend need not, I am sure be explained to you. . . . I take the Liberty to request your aid in making the inquiries requisite to the attaining of the Knowledge I have mentioned, for which purposes I have enclosed a number of Queries, to which I shall be obliged by as full particulars and accurate answers as possible."

"In translation: 'We badly need information about navigation but have no regular way to get it. Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire.'"

Moral: Gobbledygook is at least 169 years old.

From The New York Times

'THAR SHE BLOWS!

CAPTAIN Ahab and the other old-timers would be puzzled over the proceedings of the International Whaling Conference which has been meeting in London. The London conferees, from Norway, Britain, Japan and Russia (but none from Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket or New Bedford), had not been pursuing sperm whales, white or otherwise, right whales, bowheads or humpbacks the seven seas over, nor are they particularly concerned with whalebone for ladies' corsets, nor would their crews doct on lobscouse or plum duff or biscuits with weevils in them, nor do the whalers they represent ever go rowing off to the cry of "A dead whale or a stove boat!"

The modern whaler, who is most likely to be a Norwegian, goes for whale oil; he takes 80 per cent of his catch in the Antarctic; his harpoon is shot from a gun and is sometimes electric; he bills out his catch in a motorized factory on shipboard or ashore. The modern whaler goes to sea to earn money, not because somebody on shore has first gotten him drunk and then given him knockout drops. If the modern whaling captain is rough with his crew the whaling and the proper legal officials hear of it and make him wish he hadn't been.

In a modern whaler even the lowest apprentice doesn't have to sleep in a wooden bunk in a fo'c'sle too low to let him stand up, with the salt water sloshing in it every time the ship dips into a head sea. Romance is dead—and no whaler misses her.

Things you'll never hear said, even if you live long enough to hear Sasser say he was just joshing about the Nuz Canal.

"No, we have enough people. We didn't have to put you down for a single committee."

"Nothing wrong with the motor; just a loose wire."

"This is the bank calling to tell you that it WAS our mistake."

"Well, I could write you a prescription, but I always use baking soda, myself."—LEXINGTON LEADER.

Economic forecasters see an upturn in the automobile sales this year. They're convinced that, in the new models, beauty is more than fin de veep.—NEW ORLEANS STATES AND ITEM.

Johnson Takes Charge

America's 'Other President'

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
NOT long ago one of Sen. Lyndon Johnson's principal admirers in the press gallery wrote an article projecting a 1960 race for President between the senator from Texas and Vice President Richard M. Nixon. Being human, so very human, Johnson was flattered but at the same time he rejects the notion that he will never be a candidate for the presidency.

Nothing quite like the Johnson phenomenon has been seen in this capital in the memory of man. His fellow Democrats in the Senate, and even some Republicans, viewing him with a mixture of admiration, envy, resentment and sheer stupefaction regard him already as "another President," an executive in his own right.

CENTER OF POWER

What this recognizes is that the majority leader has created a center of power in the legislative branch rivaling that in the executive branch. There are many reasons why this has happened. One of them is the fact a military man in the White House who takes a narrow view of the functions of the presidency.

But most of the reasons, however, are in the dynamic of Lyndon Johnson himself. Other able managers have led the Senate majority in recent times. Charles McNary for the Republicans in the Coolidge-Hoover era, Alben Bark-

ley in the first Truman term. But what makes the Johnson model unique is a forward drive complete with the biggest tail fins and fabulous lightning bolts that aims at adoption of a complete Democratic program covering most major phases of national policy.

SUREWEG STRATEGIST

It began with the senator's own "State of the Union" message to the Democratic conference on Jan. 7, two days ahead of the Eisenhower State of the Union address. And, incidentally, Johnson has in his stable some of the ablest "brain trusters" out of the New Deal who salt his speeches with vivid locations and a sparkling phrases. Quicker than you can say Department of Justice he next put in his own four-part civil rights bill. While as a shrewd strategist he is holding back some of his plans, here are pieces of the Johnson program:

AGRICULTURE—A complete new program dealing with the problem of agricultural surpluses. Johnson says it will save a billion dollars a year in storage charges alone. The plan is to have it introduced by a northern liberal and a southerner.

DEPRESSED AREAS—A new measure resembling the one which President Eisenhower vetoed last year. The "steez" will be an means for abolishing the pockets of unemployment persisting with the number of jobs almost certain

to stay above 4,000,000. The confident prediction is that the President will find this one a lot harder to veto.

AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION—The Democratic proposal will go well beyond the limited recommendations in the Eisenhower budget.

LABOR—Sen. John F. Kennedy is already in the field with a revised and somewhat sterner version of the Kennedy-Ives bill adopted by the Senate last year but defeated by Republican strategists in the House. Most Democrats will find it hard to oppose it.

PUBLIC WORKS—Out of the Public Works and Interior Committees will come a rich pudding stuffed with dams and projects of every kind.

BUDGET AND FINANCE—Here the strategy is surprise. For what he considers sure "tricks" in the President's budget as moving into this year the proposed \$1.375 billion for the International Monetary Fund in order to show a balance next year, Johnson has his own counter to be disclosed in due time.

This outline is suggestive rather than comprehensive. What it suggests is the characteristic Johnson stress on the feasible, the practical, the attainable. He wants to get as many Democrats as possible behind the compromise with



Rocket Launching

the greatest possible appeal. Thus he hopes to get four states from the GOP in the next civil rights program.

SOLAR ENERGY
Critics in his party argue that this may be a good practical policy but it does not stake out new and exciting ideological ground on

which elections can be won. The tall Texan, who gives off energy like a solar battery, brushes this away, impatiently. "Didn't we, he asks, do all right last time? And he answers his own question by saying that 1958 was only the third time in the history of the Senate that the party had the majority. He did not lose a single seat.

Really? Haven't You Noticed Your Motor's Missing?'



People's Platform

A Few Radicals

Are Good For Us

Salsbury

Editors, The News:

Maybe it is a good thing that there are conservative Republicans and conservative Democrats. Maybe it is for the best that we have liberal Republicans and liberal Democrats. A few radicals are good seasoning for both parties as long as there are not too many of them. Those three groups will make sure that all the people will be represented in Congress.

It might be a good thing if we had an extreme arid leader once in a while in Congress, as a matter of education. We need to have all the people represented in order that justice may be done and order avoided. Trying to make

the American Constitution and the Declaration sacred is just as bad as trying to say that The Bible is the word of God from cover to cover. Nothing is sacred except people's rights as human beings.

— J. W. JEWELL

Too Many Autos

'Slapped Together'

East Hampton, Conn. Editors, The News:

HOW MANY readers remember the poor workmanship and sloppy assembly of their new cars long after they have forgotten the good features?

Characteristic of many of the late models is the aggravation of repeated expense and loss of valuable time in having numerous factory-built defects repaired after the new car guarantee is up.

So many people bought new cars in recent years that they carelessly slumped together just what is known in the auto industry as the "quick and dirty" method.

I wonder how many had the guts to complain to the car maker's top management long enough and strong enough to get satisfactory results.

— R. BLAGDEN

Quote, Unquote

"Think of cats, for instance. . . . They do not go to school, nor read the Testament. . . . What sort of philosophers are we who know absolutely nothing about the origin and destiny of cats?"—Henry David Thoreau.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

BEFORE Chairman Warren Magnuson of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee confirms Ike's newly appointed under secretary of commerce, it might give him a very careful once-over.

John Allen, the ex-congressman from California who got his coveted post once under investigation by the Justice Dept. for the part he played as attorney for the king of northern California gamblers, Chin Ho King, Congressman Allen, a resident of Berkeley, Calif., had set up a so-called trust fund which the Chinese gambler used to evade around \$100,000 of income taxes.

Probe Evaporated

After the scheme was exposed in federal court, Chin Bok Hing took it on the lam and for a time James McGranery began a probe of the congressman. After Herbert Brownell replaced McGranery, attorney general, the probe of the Republican congressman quietly evaporated.

Some last November and Allen was denied for reelection.

Allen Was Chinese Gambler's Lawyer

Shortly thereafter, ex-Congressman James Patterson of Connecticut, another Republican who lost out in the Democratic landslide, was given an okay by Vice President Nixon to be under secretary of commerce in charge of transportation.

Quick Switch Made

Suddenly West Coast shipping interests got busy. They want a man in charge of transportation friendly to them. Some of them quietly suggested to the secretary of commerce that they had been heavy contributors to the Grand Old Party in California. Overnight Patterson found himself out of the running, while another lame duck, John Allen of California, was in the running.

Loan From Hoffa

The son of one of the 76 wealthiest men in the U. S. has arranged to borrow \$4 million from Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters Union.

rowing the money from the Teamsters Union in order to finance a housing project in Hollywood, Calif., where he and associates have purchased the estate of the late Edward Doheny who was famous for carrying the little black bag with \$100,000 to Albert B. Fall, secretary of the Interior. Harding administration during the Elks Hill Teapot Dome oil scandal.

It's Not The First

The fact that the young Marchion and associates would borrow \$4 million from the Teamsters is considered significant. The Teamsters have loaned large amounts of money to industry in the past, including Fuchsauer Trailers and Montgomery Ward, but unusually in order to bolster their bargaining position. The loan to Montgomery Ward, for instance, came during a hot proxy fight and won important labor concessions for the Teamsters in a hitherto anti-labor company.

Strictly Business

The loan to Marchion, however, appears to be a straight business deal. The Marchion interests have always

been able to finance their own projects without going into the family. Fortune magazine, in listing the 76 wealthiest men in the nation, placed Clinton Marchion 58th as having an estimated wealth of \$100 to \$200 million. He was lumped with the Rockefellers and Ambassador John Hay Whitney, the owner of the New York Herald Tribune and ahead of Henry Ford II, Averell Harriman, Henry Kaiser, and the Pevs of Sun Oil Co.

Texas Big Shot

Marchion lists himself in "Who's Who" as owner of "The First National Bank of Dallas, Tex.; of the City Transportation Company of Dallas; the Royal Gorge Branch Amusement Co. of Colorado; the American Candy Co. of Chicago, with other large company interests and holdings including many connected with railroads, steamships, real estate, gas, oil, publishing, office equipment, insurance, motion picture theaters, restaurants, fish and tackle."

Other Interests

He also owns the Itabonilla Co. in Cuba, and the Henry Hill Publishing Co. among others.