



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1959

People's Platform

THE COURT REFORM BILL is politically inspired in that it will further deny the rights of North Carolina Republicans. It also places dangerous powers in the hands of our North Carolina Supreme Court.

The statewide election of Superior Court judges was designed to prevent the election of any Republicans to these offices. The court reform bill will place the power to nominate local judges, magistrates, etc. in the hands of the Democratic voters. Party discipline will force them to nominate only Democrats, even in strongly Republican areas. It would send a judge-sit-up and nominate a Republican, the Democratic Supreme Court, which has the sole power to approve every nomination of justices and an added vote to the taxpayer.

We all know that segregation is a sin. And it is likely proper that it should be removed from the schools. But these separate schools are built, regardless of the fact that Negroes and whites are equal, some Negro will wish to enroll in Charlotte College because he lives closer to it or because he feels he can get a better education there.

I think it is time for this unnecessary waste of money to be taken out of the budget. It comes to institutions of higher learning. I also feel that the money given to them should be both the state and county would go much further.

—W. THOMAS JAMISON

Court Reform Bill Creates 'Dangerous Monster'

Some of the changes makers are never satisfied with anything they first build and don't know what they are looking about.

We expect the City Council hoping they will all do a good job, but they do not. When there is a big job done it can run away so they can say, "I did not have anything to do with that."

If they are too sure then they should stay out until they have to see the job. The job will be done, but if they don't like the way Charlotte is handled then let them come out and see what we take their place and do the job without the reputation that it was in 1915; we somebody and have done a good job.

—S. C. VAUGHN

'We Control Everything That Rolls—Almost'

Tar Heels Can Defraud The Future By Junking Public School Provision

The General Assembly should provide by action and otherwise for a general and uniform system of public schools which shall be free of charge to all the children of the state between the ages of six and twenty-one years.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION II

GOV. Hodges' defense of North Carolina's 91-year-old constitutional provision for a "general and uniform system of public schools" was a welcome antidote to the dark cloud of fear.

"In my opinion," said the governor yesterday, "we should definitely retain the present constitutional provision."

Admittedly the guarantee of a general and uniform system of public education has been watered down by an amendment to the Pearson Plan. Some degree of respectability remains, however. The State Constitutional Commission would complete the destruction of this noble ideal.

It is a proposal that is contrary to the history of the state and to the aspirations of its people. In opposing it, Gov. Hodges is defending a high purpose well worth preserving.

It could be argued that the legal effect of the change would be small. Possibly. But the moral effect would be great. It would surrender the very symbol of the state's interest and stake in public education. Whether the symbol is fully effective is beside the point; it represents a conscious drive on the part of the people of North Carolina to make common schooling the foundation of their democracy.

Although he backed the local option

plan as an emergency safety valve, Gov. Hodges has never left any doubt as to where he stood on the question of preserving the state's public school system. Obviously, he was speaking for most Tar Heels when he said, "North Carolina's public school system is the pride and the prop of the state and it must be preserved if we want to continue to make progress." And again, when he said, "Abolition of the public schools, and their replacement to a most uncertain extent by private means is a last ditch and desperate weapon. If that weapon is ever used in North Carolina, its results will be appalling poverty and bitterness."

We cannot believe that Tar Heels will ever use this last-ditch double-edged weapon or allow it to be used against them.

The deletion of the constitutional provision for a general and uniform system of public schools would nevertheless do violence to this concept and to the best symbolic evidence of the people's love for their schools. This symbolic evidence is part of a deeply imbedded tradition, one that is beyond any question and above any circumstances. The people should not be asked to surrender it because of vague fears or fleeting emotions. This is not the way constitutions are written.

"A principle, if it is sound," wrote Morley, "represents one of the larger expedients. To abandon that for the sake of some expediency of the hour, is to sacrifice the greater good for the less, on no more creditable ground than that the less is nearer." The principle at stake here is worth protecting. To abandon it now would be to defraud the future.

Give The Economy Measure A Chance

DEFENDERS of the status quo are still grumbling, but in Mecklenburg finally got its county purchasing agent yesterday.

It was about time.

The purchasing problem has long been too big and complicated to be handled by the chairman of the County Commissioners. His services are too valuable to be so diverted. The arrangement may have worked very nicely a decade or so ago but Mecklenburg is a big boy now. Its needs require the services of an experienced full-time specialist who can organize county buying along the most efficient lines possible.

If the grumblers are right and a county bond issue is in the making—which we doubt—then county can revert in good time to the old system. After all,

the object is to save the taxpayers money. It is not enough to save money after a reasonable trial period. The grumblers will have the last man and Chairman Sid Y. McAden can have a bothersome check back. It couldn't be fairer.

Life In America

IN Palm Springs, Calif., after Georgia Mae Love hit her husband on the nose with a claw hammer, stabbed him in the arm with a steak knife and tried to ram his truck with her Hillman Minx, police booked her for disturbing the peace, disturbing the peace and bullwhip in her brassiere.—*News Item*

There's nothing worse than a grouchy woman.

Log Jam On Catawba Will Get Worse

MANY a winter-locked weekend sailor has stars in his eyes these days with beckoning spring only a calendar flip away.

With the economy improving and more enthusiasts enjoyed every year, weekend boating is going to become a major headache yet.

On North Carolina's waterways in general and the Catawba River in particular the era of a quiet cruise has long since ended. The nautical business is booming and local boats jam the river far out of proportion to the number of waterfront cottages.

While the county has its one-boat navy, it is going to need an expanded

program of protection. Perhaps an auxiliary force can be organized for patrolling during the weekend rush. The number of hot rod types will increase as more and more boats appear.

The county should consider a program of education, too, to inform the boating public of safety measures and simple courtesy. Leaflets passed along by the patrol to individuals and to each docking facility would help.

To look to the future, why not a juvenile program for young sailors to learn the rules? Weekend meetings with individuals furnishing their own craft would be a worthwhile project for a local civic or boating club.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

DRESSES AND CIRCUS POSTERS

WHY is a woman's dress like a circus poster? Because they both can be protected by copyright.

This is not a new riddle for children to have fun with. It's the stuff of a ruling by the United States District Court for Southern New York.

The court was considering whether the print on a woman's dress may be copyrighted.

The law says that copyrights may be obtained, among other things, for "works of art, models or designs for works of art," and for "prints and pictorial illustrations, including prints or labels used for articles of merchandise."

The District Court pointed out that no less an authority than the United States Supreme Court had ruled in an earlier case that the word "art" in the copyright act does not necessarily impute any idea of merit or high degree of appeal to the better educated classes. The nation's highest tribunal had said, therefore, that circus posters are a proper subject for copyright.

In the light of that decision, the District Court concluded, then certainly the print on a woman's dress is as art as a circus poster and therefore a fit subject for copyright.

Under this ruling a talented dressmaker woman could not design or have her creation on a piece of material, have it copyrighted, make it into a dress, and wear it without fear that she would

encounter her "double" in some public place.

How about copyright protection for the male? Are suede shoes and blue gaudy work shirts art? Certainly there are Christmas gift ties which match even the roughest circus posters.

Since human nature never changes, those repeated recent snafus are probably leaving their indelible imprint on the present-day small fry who eventually will become straddlers hoary. At that remote time they will no doubt hark back to the classic hand-holding scene of 1938-39 and wonder why even the wealthiest subsequently turned soft.—*DAILY OBSERVER*

The first man to orbit in a satellite, the scientist says, must be young, smart, and strong, and it gives most of us a nice, secure feeling, knowing that we have these three good excuses.—*JACKSONVILLE TIMES-UNION*

A bus repairman was filling out a report on a highway accident when he came to the question "Disposition of passengers." He wrote "Mud as horns."—*CARLETON CURRY NEWS*

The U.S. National Wildlife Service sent back word that the bird master which is the little purchased—that is, bulky in the south and pointed in the north. Well, aren't we all?—*LINGTON HERALD*

Dr. Edwin Dahlberg's 'Pracifism' Is Wrong

Dr. Edwin Dahlberg's "Pracifism" is wrong. The struggle against the spread of communism, other countries throughout the world turn to the United States for leadership and guidance. I believe that as president of our National Council of Churches, Rev. Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, who believes that communism is doing harm to the cause of freedom.

There is no doubt as to the futility of Soviet Russia. "Blueprint for World Communism" is an old Communist device. The Communists advised their plan for conquering the world. In "Principles of Leninism" Stalin wrote that he believed that as president of our National Council of Churches, Rev. Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, who believes that communism is doing harm to the cause of freedom.

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Will The GOP Take It On The Snoot?

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One-Man Army?

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