THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Brodie S. Griffith ..... Editor and General Manager
Cecil Prince ..... Associate Editor
R. L. Young Jr. ..... Managing Editor

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A Bad Way To Balance The Budget

The big boost in Charlotte's water-sewer charges this week was excessive.

It went beyond what is actually needed for the current operation of water and sewer facilities.

These fees should not be regarded as handy sources of additional revenue to balance the city's budget. They are not, properly, taxes; they are service charges.

But water-sewer charges become hidden taxes when they are increased beyond what is necessary for the economical administration of the service.

If the budget cannot be balanced in any other way, let the City Council come out in the open and make up the difference in taxes. A tax can be seen, felt and smelt. It can be measured objectively against the necessity for additional revenue. Furthermore, for the individual, city taxes are income tax-deductible. Water and sewer charges aren't.

When taxes are disguised as service charges, the average householder is not only in the dark about how much additional revenue he is providing but he is also denied the privilege of getting credit for it on his income tax form. In addition, he is paying for water-sewer services at a higher rate than the large industrial users. In short, he gets it in the neck, coming and going.

To make matters worse, the rate hikes will go into effect at a time when the water consumption of the individual householder will still be high.

This is a bad move at a bad time. Some second thought are definitely in order at City Hall.

College's Future Is In Charlotte's Hands

Charlotte College has a rosy future.

That much was plain to a firm of New York educational consultants who trotted out their ideas about the institution's swift, steady development yesterday.

But the extent of the rosiness will depend wholly upon the depth of the community's dedication to the cause of public-supported higher education.

In short, the college's future will be expressed in the motives and the circumstances that shape its course as well as in the tangible evidence of its progress.

Mecklenburgers will have to want a great community college here. They will have to be willing to make occasional sacrifices for it, to give it the fiscal support it deserves, to insist that the state does its share, to look upon it with appropriate pride as their own.

This is, after all, just the beginning. The college is barely on the threshold of its most critical stage of development. It is an era of high promise or of dismal disappointment — depending upon the use the community makes of the opportunities at hand.

Charlotte, called the most under-colleged city of its size in the United States, can have a superb four-year community college big enough to take care of its needs. Or it can rock along with a modest junior college program indefinitely.

We believe the city needs a four-year institution.

Furthermore, we believe the state ought to put up a substantial share of the money to establish a four-year college in Charlotte. Certainly, young people in this area can be educated more economically at Charlotte College than at a state-supported dormitory college or university elsewhere.

We pledge our best efforts to the cause, but broad public backing will be required. We invite that support for a rather important reason: The community's most important resource is its young people. Their contribution to the community's future will depend largely on the education Mecklenburg offers them.

Mum's The Word

Secrecy is so much a part of the bureaucratic tradition in Washington even the non-secrets are secrets. As Exhibit "A," we offer this opening sentence from the censored transcript of a Navy commander's testimony before the House space committee:

"Mr. chairman, gentlemen, as the admiral has said, the unclassified code name for this project is * * *, and the * * *."

Dr. Harding's Progressive Heritage

All his life, Dr. Harry P. Harding was a "school man" — in all the dignity and pride of that somewhat old-fashioned term.

If today North Carolina produces, in the more polished word, "educators," the state once produced a great generation of school men of whom Dr. Harding was one of the most distinguished.

To understand the distinction: the history book must be leafed backward, to the decade after the Civil war ended, when he was born, down East, the son of a Confederate major. The world in which Dr. Harding spent his boyhood was crowded, as Walter Hines Page once said, with ghosts that retarded progress.

Yet if it was an old world, by today's reckoning, it was not a world empty of powerful ideas. One of these ideas captured his imagination as a boy — the idea, so compelling in its simplicity and forthrightness, that the escape from the ghosts that retarded progress lay in public education. It was the idea of the "evangels of education" — men like Edwin A. Alderman, Alexander Graham, who brought Dr. Harding to Charlotte, and Charles McIver. They believed, almost mystically, in education; they believed in being, first last, and always, "school men."

Dr. Harding, who was to build for Charlotte one of the finest school systems in the South, acknowledged the single, powerful idea of these men as his inspiration.

These "evangels of education" — among whom Dr. Harding must be placed to be understood — also possessed practical imaginations. The way to progress lay by way of education. The way to education lay by way of bond issues, buildings, expanding curricula, and a sense of professional honor among school teachers. All of these things Dr. Harding tirelessly advocated his life long.

When Dr. Harding died this week, the evidence of his influence was plentiful. And, significantly, Charlotte had just taken another step forward, with consolidation and new school bonds. It bore witness that his progressive heritage would live vigorously after him.

From The Greensboro Daily News

HOBBES AND DOUBTING THOMASES

The Charlotte News, that bouncy newspaperman's newspaper, lost no time pinning back the ears of all us perspiring editors trying to bring a touch of Thomas Jefferson to the masses.

The New York Herald Tribune, the Washington Post and "the usually resourceful savants of the Greensboro Daily News" came under the piercing scrutiny of the Mecklenburg editors on Independence Day. (And who else save the descendants of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration should exercise this prerogative over the inner workings of the mind of T. Jefferson and his Declaration?)

We fared poorly because somehow that old Machiavelli of the 18th century, Thomas Hobbes crept into our list of Thomas Jefferson's idea men (ghost writers, Mervin).

All we said was that Jefferson was "steeped in philosophies of Hobbes and Locke. . . ." But that was enough to send the News hustling to its encyclopedias to give us further moralizing on that notorious English moralizer:

> Sorry, boys, but we're afraid Tom Hobbes doesn't make this team. Hobbes, it must be remembered, was an apologist for the Stuart monarchy. He taught gloomily (his mother is said to have been scared shortly before his birth by the invasion of the Spanish Armada) that in the "state of nature" every man is at war with every other man; that they had all better surrender to a state, any state, to avoid the "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short" life outside government. He was anathema to Locke and also, we suspect, to Jefferson.

Hobbes was anathema to Jefferson. But Jefferson, champion of the free mind, had little regard for anathema. He read "Leviathan" like Winston Churchill read "Mein Kampf." T. Jefferson had a facility for distilling ideas of others, taking fragments and using them with a different twist. Thus, when Hobbes wrote that men "are by nature equal and self-seeking," Mr. Jefferson used only part of the idea—but a powerful part.

Later Jefferson made it clear beyond doubt that everything else Hobbes believed was in direct antithesis to his own thinking. Jefferson expressed this forcefully in a letter to John Adams, written in the twilight of his life, about the philosophy of an obscure French philosopher, Destutt Tracy:

> I gather from his other works that he adopts the principle of Hobbes, that justice is founded in contract solely, and does not result from the construction of man. I believe, on the contrary, that it is instinct and innate, that the moral sense is as much a part of our constitution as that of feeling, seeing, or hearing; as a wise creator must have seen to be necessary in an animal destined to live in society; that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another; . . . virtue does not consist in the act we do, but in the end it is to effect. . . . The essence of virtue is in doing good to others.

So Jefferson abhorred the ideas of Hobbes. But he read them; he was steeped in them; he even borrowed part of them for his own purpose.

Whew!

Charlotte News, will you kindly refrain from luring us into such jungles of pedantry again?

The battle of the sexes will never be won by either side. There is too much fraternizing with the enemy. — Matoon (Ill.) Journal Gazette.

People's Platform

Housewives Must Fight The Budget Battle



Grocery Basket Republicans

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

The American house wife ought to be in the front ranks of the battle to hold the budget line.

Certainly the cost of living is an issue close to the heart of every woman who must make her household budget balance or suffer the consequences.

Maybe there's not much glamor in talking about a balanced budget. Maybe all the headlines and political appeal are on the side of the big spenders. But if people understand what is at stake in this fight, they will applaud the Republican Party for making it a major issue.

This is no fight to protect the dollar for the rich. The wealthy person can take care of himself in an inflationary period.

It is the American on a fixed income who takes the real punishment.

It is the wage earner and his family who get hurt. Not even an escalator clause can keep up with galloping inflation.

It is the senior citizen living in retirement on a pension who finds it harder and harder to get by on his modest annuity when the buying power of the dollar goes down.

Under the present Republican administration the income of the average family has risen 20 per cent. The cost of living has risen less than 9 per cent. Thus giving us more than 11 per cent more buying power than ever before. Under Mr. Truman's administration cost of living rose an astounding 50 per cent.

Further inflation will simply mean a tightening of the cost-price squeeze.

I wonder, also how many Americans, when making out their tax forms, realize that they are paying less than they otherwise would because two Republican Congresses have given them the only tax reductions they have had in a generation.

I hope the housewives of this country will learn the facts, as they apply to the grocery baskets, before they go to the polls in 1960. If they do, we will have a Republican victory, which will mean the greatest good for the greatest number.

—MRS. PAULINE M. CROUCH

'Sir, You Cur' Line Hinders The Debate

Gaffney, S. C.

Editors, The News:

Vonetta Alexander of Huntersville seems to have taken as a personal affront some of my recent comments anent the relations between the Negro and white races. While I have no desire to engage in a feud with her, I would like to see logical arguments instead of the "you're a liar" type of thing. For instance, in her letters I've noted several statements or claims which will not hold up under analysis:

1. **She states** that the Negro does not want to live or think like the white man. How, then, does he expect to mix freely with the white race (integration)? Can there be any sort of understanding between Negro and white unless there is a certain similarity of thought and action? Could a Communist and a capitalist live in the same house without friction?

2. She said the white man was holding the Negro back. Did the white man hold back George Washington Carver, Joe Louis, Julia Peterkin, Satchmo Armstrong, Frank Yerby, Lena Horne? Admittedly, these were gifted people—but weren't they also proof that the Negro has the potential and the opportunity, if he will only try hard enough, to raise himself above his environment? Can any person, Negro or white, succeed in life without a lot of hard work, plenty of disappointment, and guts enough to get up every time he's knocked down?

3. **She stated** that the Negro cannot get a decent education because he can't earn enough money. But how many white people can afford a college education? (I certainly couldn't—never even attended high school!) Do a little research and then tell me: How many opportunities are there for people to acquire fairly decent educations without attending institutes of higher learning? The only requirements are initiative, ordinary intelligence, and a desire to learn. Too much emphasis is placed on the money angle. A dodge — "I'm a moron because Paw was a poor man."

4. **The Florida** case involving four white men who attacked a Negro girl was played up for all it was worth, mostly through the northern press and radio-TV networks. But the New York incident of six Negroes assaulting a white schoolgirl has not been mentioned on TV, nor has it attained frontpage prominence. In addition, the case has turned into a neat bit of character assassination against the white girl. (Do you suppose she was the one who attacked the six Negroes?) . . . From Miss Alexander's comments, I presume that she approves of such a double standard. Does she, mayhap, think that the Negro's deeds should be covered up, whitewashed, or ignored by the various news mediums? Does the law of human decency apply only to the white man? How long is the Negro going to hide his faults behind the weak-kneed phrase, "Discrimination on racial grounds"? And when, pray tell, will he realize that he is being used as a football by cheap politicos of the Earl Warren-Richard Nixon ilk?

Miss Alexander's statements pertaining to me personally do not warrant comment since they were obvious, withal feeble, attempts to get my dander up — the "Sir, you cur," type of criticism rates no more than a raised eyebrow and a mental pledge to really "Burn 'em a new-un" next time.

And sometimes 'tis fun to discuss a controversial topic, n'est-ce pas?

— CHARLES L. MORRIS



Butler: He Can Stay

Paul Butler? GOP Doesn't Want Him

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

The headline for your "Peoples Platform" of July 11, quoting Mr. Charles L. Morris, "Give Paul Butler to the Republican Party," really gave me a shock! Mr. Morris must surely have been kidding!

Mr. Butler seems to know quite a bit about the philosophies of the two major political parties and he seems to be aware of the fact that the Southern Conservative Democrats have the same philosophy of government as do the Republicans. He has on several occasions told the southern conservative Democrats to "get lost."

We Republicans certainly welcome all conservatives into our party where they will feel much more at home than with the "New Dealers" who control the Democratic Party today.

—MRS. J. D. STRATTON

Humphrey To Hoffa: Mr. Bender's Lucrative Switch

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON.

Five short years ago, in 1954, Rep. George H. Bender of Ohio was chosen by the Ohio Republicans to run for the unexpired Senate term of the greatest Republican senator of modern times, Robert A. Taft.

As Bender said himself at the time, he mainly owed his nomination to the other great satrap of Ohio Republicanism, Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey. He had served for years as chairman of the Cuyahoga Country Republican Organization, in which Humphrey was (and is) the great influence behind the scenes. Bender was in fact George Humphrey's man.

But George Bender had some interesting additional supporters in 1954, according to the record newly made by Sen. McClellan's subcommittee on improper labor practices.

GRAND INQUISITOR

In the election year, the record shows, Bender was chairman of a House anti-racketeering subcommittee. This body went into Ohio during the campaign to investigate, among others, William Presser and Louis "Babe" Triscaro. These men are Jimmy Hoffa's local bosses of the Teamsters Union. Early in October, Bender, Presser and Triscaro were glaring at one another across the committee table. But just before election day, Presser told an executive board meeting of the Ohio conference of Teamsters that the union's support was to be switched to the grand inquisitor.

One of those present, who had been hard at work for Bender's Democratic opponent, has testified to his extreme surprise. Nonetheless, by Presser's command, the Ohio Teamsters were briskly transformed into Bender voters. Shortly after election, Presser and Triscaro went to Washington to make their final appearances before the Bender anti-racketeering subcommittee. After that, Presser happily boasted, in a public speech, that the hearings were "over" without anyone being "cited for any contempts—no perjuries!"

CERTAIN STRINGS

In the same speech Presser generously declared that "especially during the latter portion of the hearings" he had found "a friend" on the anti-racketeering subcommittee. "His name," said Presser, "was George Bender." Almost concurrently, Presser's spokesman in Cincinnati asked the local teamsters' joint council for a donation, to help meet the expenses of the Presser and Triscaro defense before the Bender subcommittee.

An anti-Presser, anti-Hoffa teamsters' leader, the head of a local milk union, James Luken, thereupon objected that the lawyers for Presser and Triscaro had already been paid out of union funds in the regular manner. To this the Presser spokesman, George Starling, made a fascinating reply. As sworn to by Luken, Starling explained that "other money was spent to pull certain strings to see that these charges were dropped."

A little later still, some quite remarkable things began happening to the bank account of the finance committee of the Bender for senator committee. This finance committee, headed by businessmen of the most gilt-edged type, filed an official report disclosing contributions of $95,000. The record now shows that the real receipts were greater than those officially disclosed by no less than $100,996.78. And at least $30,000 of this delightful margin was accounted for by a series of large deposits, all in currency, that began to be made in December, 1954.

SENATORIAL GLORY

The senatorial glory paid for in this manner did not last long. Poor Bender, beaten in the 1956 election, then found new employment as chairman of the special commission named by Jimmy Hoffa to whitewash the Teamsters Union. For this useful service, he has received $38,000 to date.

Last week, his jowls wobbling with self-righteousness, this aging politician who used to be George Humphrey's man and is now Jimmy Hoffa's man, made his extraordinary appearance before Sen. McClellan's subcommittee. The other dicta are worth preserving. For example, he told of naming a prostitute as Republican precinct captain in her red light district. He then added genially, "You don't have to become a prostitute yourself, but you have to get their votes."

But the purpose of his appearance was not to give these little tips on politics, but to deny that the facts spread on the committee record had any meaning at all. He did not challenge the facts themselves. He just said it was "a damnable lie" that he had received a payoff from the teamsters.

A PECULIAR TASTE

Such is this strange story, which is worth bringing together in one place for two main reasons. First, one can imagine the kind of hullabaloo that would now be going on if a former henchman of a super-respectable Democrat — say Adlai Stevenson — were revealed in the same posture as this former henchman of the most super-respectable Republican. What is sauce for the Stevenson-goose ought to be sauce for the Humphrey-gander. And second, the story hints at one of the main ills of the Republican Party, which is the peculiar taste in politicians of many very big, very important American businessmen.

'Boy, What A Return'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

GI 'Servantude' Consumes Manpower

WASHINGTON

While Gen. Maxwell Taylor, recently retired chief of staff of the Army, was testifying before Congress regarding the need of more military manpower, a record number of enlisted men in the armed forces were serving as cooks, orderlies, houseboys, and handy men for the brass of the United States.

Washington Servants

This column has uncovered the fact that the total for the Washington area alone is 1,500.

The 35 Air Force generals assigned to headquarters command have 88 airmen to wait on them as cooks, drivers, flight stewards, mess attendants, and orderlies. The Army has 67 GI servants to wait on 143 general officers. The Navy has 54 enlisted men serving 105 admirals. And the Marines have 20 enlisted men assigned to 25 generals.

This does not include 103 Army, 98 Navy, 35 Air Force, and eight Marine servants who work in the officers' dining rooms and quarters. In addition a total of 368 Army, 17 Navy, and 306 Air Force enlisted men are assigned as chauffeurs in the Washington area.

Congress Investigates

Congressman Frank Kowalski, Connecticut Democrat, has become a hero to thousands of GIs because he has focused the spotlight on the "servantude" of enlisted men. Kowalski spent 30 years in the Army, worked his way up to colonel.

Menial Services

This column has talked to GI servants whose only duties are menial personal services for the brass. Some do little more than shine shoes, pour liquor, press pants, and run errands.

Sp-4 Elwood Hooten, Second Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, kept a record of over 250 hours spent in domestic service for his commanding officer, Col. John Hector, now a staff officer for the Sixth Army in San Francisco. Hooten washed and waxed the car; swept, mopped, and waxed the floor; mowed the lawn; cleaned teen-age son's quarters; waxed and polished furniture; cleaned the bathroom; scrubbed porches.

Critical Shortage

Two days prior to being detailed to this domestic duty, he had submitted an application for an overseas assignment. This was disapproved by the division headquarters on the grounds that a critical shortage of trained personnel existed in Hooten's specialty.

His orders were "to keep Col. Hector happy." To do this, he was obliged once to wash the colonel's car while the rest of his unit received the day off.

The colonel claimed that most of the housekeeping chores had been assigned while he was away from Fort Hood for three months, and that subordinates assigned Hooten to keep the house in shape while he was gone.

Housecleaning

At Fort Carson, Okla., Capt. Carl Pruett assigned a 26-man detail to help Col. Lynell Green, the commanding officer, clear and clean his house, prior to his reassignment this month to Iceland. Col. Green acknowledged to this column that the detail had reported for work as ordered, but he claimed he had sent the men back. He acknowledged using "a few GIs" to help clear out the house. Their help was charged up as official duty.

Lawn Duty

Those who reported for lawn-mowing duty, he claimed, worked during their spare time and were paid out of his pocket.

More on waste of military manpower in an early column.