



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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It's The Duty Of Schoolmen To Act

The duty to provide school lunches for Mecklenburg's neediest children rested heavily upon the doorsteps of two boards of education today.

It ought to be recognized and accepted.

In recommending that city and county school authorities themselves should shoulder the responsibility, a special committee of the Social Planning Council reached a completely logical conclusion. Obviously, it will not be an easy chore. But it is a necessary one. That hundreds of children should be permitted to go hungry in the two largest and finest school systems in the state is unthinkable.

The size and scope of the problem were not assessed hastily. The special committee, headed by attorney William K. Van Allen, went to work in December 1958. The plight of hungry school children had just been brought to the public's attention in a series of articles prepared by News Education Writer Ann Sawyer. The Social Planning Council had ordered the investigation.

Mr. Van Allen's group assembled, tabulated and correlated a mass of sta-

istical data. It solicited and received the active cooperation of state and local school authorities. It surveyed the manner in which the problem is tackled in other areas. Its general conclusions:

1—"It is entirely clear that a need exists and that the need has not been met."

2—"It is equally clear that the responsibility for meeting this need rests with the school authorities."

Furthermore, the committee has made a number of constructive suggestions as to how the required number of free and reduced cost lunches can be provided.

Mr. Van Allen and his colleagues have performed a distinguished public service. The entire community ought to be grateful for their efforts.

The problem, however, has not been solved. It has been defined and certain recommendations have been made. Significant progress will be made only when the responsibility for its solution is accepted and vigorous action is taken. The community is anxiously awaiting these developments.

Rowe Raced To Consolidation's Rescue

Mecklenburgers have Oliver R. Rowe, The Charlotte News' 1958 "Man of the Year," to thank for rescuing city-county school consolidation plans from oblivion.

His one-man crusade in rural Mecklenburg last year gave the old idea the new life it needed at the time it was needed most.

On his own initiative, Mr. Rowe spoke to virtually every parent-teacher association in the county system, mobilizing support for the merger. Later, he pleaded the case for consolidation eloquently before the key city groups—namely the Classroom Teacher Association, whose members had been extremely reluctant to back the plan.

It was Mr. Rowe, too, who sensed the peculiar significance of the perimeter in the consolidation question. He was the first to argue that a bitter battle for possession of this vital area would result un-

less it could be shared by both the city and county. "The only answer to this dilemma—the only solution—is consolidation," he said flatly.

Mr. Rowe had no axes to grind. He was not a member of either the city or county school board, although he is tremendously interested in education and is a trustee of the Charlotte Community College System. In this long, vigorous campaign, he was merely acting as a private citizen who recognized a public need and fought for it.

Fortunately, he had stout-hearted allies at crucial moments in the crusade—Richard Thigpen, Thomas L. Robinson, Lacy Ranson, Douglas Aitken, Earle J. Gluck and others. But, when the chips were down, it was Mr. Rowe who rushed to consolidation's rescue and battled most effectively for the cause. He has again earned the community's salute.

The Petition That We'll Never Sign

Yesterday, we received a letter from Mr. Robert Welch, chairman of the Committee Against Soviet Espionage. Mr. Welch asks us as "patriotic leaders" to circulate pocket petitions which urge, "Please, Mr. President, Don't Go."

From the fine print, we gather that summit conferences are wanted by "appeasement-minded politicians" and opposed by "firm anti-Communist statesmen."

But at the risk of seeming "unpatriotic" and "appeasement-minded" we are filing Mr. Welch's petitions in our waste basket.

Why?

In the first place, Mr. Eisenhower has made no commitment to go to a summit. He and Mr. Herter and the State Department have said that the Soviets must give evidence of a willingness to negotiate seriously, and that the U. S. will not go to the summit under blackmail. Surely the conditions are honorable enough for the stoutest "patriot."

In short, we do not share the committee's wish to play our diplomatic hand with advance emotional pleas that "to negotiate is to surrender."

We reject the committee's view that Allied diplomats are so soft-headed that

they will be taken in by Mr. Khrushchev, and that the only possible Kremlin move is to trick us.

We reject its suggestion that the President must have the continuing "advice" of the Senate in any "constitutional" negotiations. Presidents have negotiated directly since George Washington sought treaties with the Indians in the 18th Century.

We reject the suggestion that it is for Mr. Eisenhower alone to decide whether a summit conference shall or shall not take place. We are part of the NATO alliance. The desires of our allies, who lie scarcely hundreds of miles from the military threat of Russia, must have some weight. Otherwise, we may as well retire into isolation.

We reject the idea that our foreign policy, in any case, can safely be scored to a religious hatred of "the tyrants of the Kremlin."

We suggest that our refusal to go to the summit on any terms, however favorable to us, would give the Soviets their biggest propaganda break since the cold war began.

Finally, we suggest that it is better to negotiate for years than to be cremated by the fires of an H-bomb in 1.4 seconds.

In Dog Days: Poetry Didn't Work

O, who can hold a fire in his hand
By thinking on the frosty Caucasus?

In this poetic flourish, now three centuries old, Shakespeare wondered what poor mortals can do in 100-degree heat.

We wondered, too. With his words in mind, we launched into a day's regimen, after the way of the Hindu firewalkers, to put mind over matter. We would conquer the climate by thinking upon cool images.

At 7:30 in the morning, the sun is already high and hot on Sardis Road. Coasting in the glare, we motored along. From a hill, one could see the Charlotte skyline over the woods in the distance, already white-washed in early sunlight. No frosty Caucasus this? Willfully, we let the mind gallop until suddenly those far-off skyscrapers, glistening, were not buildings at all but snowy mountain peaks. Thus inspired, we coasted dreamily along—until a "Men Working" sign broke the spell. We swerved quickly to avoid a hole in the asphalt where yesterday's heat had melted it.

Bill Vaughan in The Kansas City Star

SHERLOCK IS A SQUARE

A British film company has enraged the Baker Street irregulars by announcing that its advertisements for a remake of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will not mention the name of Sherlock Holmes. "Teen-agers," the company said, "think of Holmes as a fuddy-duddy who appealed to their great-grandparents."

Incidentally, we are rather puzzled as to why the producer should think that the name of Sherlock Holmes would drive the teen-agers away and yet assume that they would be attracted by a title so reeking of fuddy-duddyism as "The Hound of the Baskervilles." To a teen-age audience, "The Hound of the Baskervilles" might as well be "Lassie."

Some Crystal Ball Gazing At The 1960 White House

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON
The latest returns in the Gallup poll continue to show a big majority for President Eisenhower in the White House and almost as big a majority for the Democrats in Congress. Eisenhower's popularity, which is 62 per cent, would mean in an election a huge landslide. The Democratic Party's majority for Congress, which is 59 per cent, would be sufficient on election day to give it an even bigger majority in both houses than the big majority it already has today.

The Gallup poll is not infallible. But in forecasting elections its range of error is not nearly so big as it would change the general conclusions. The country would vote now, as it did in 1956, for Eisenhower and a Democratic Congress.

For 1960, the question then is whether Eisenhower's

popularity is personal and special to him, or whether it is, so to speak, "Republican" and can be inherited by Nixon or Rockefeller. There is no sure answer. One can only guess. My guess is that for the presidency there may well be a Republican majority brought together by two main popular beliefs and one political tradition. The majority of the people may think that the Republicans are more likely to avoid war than are the Democrats. The second popular belief is that with business booming, the Republicans are more likely to resist the inflation of prices and to keep taxes from rising.

SEPARATE VOTES

The third is the circumstance that because the Democratic Party consists of several different factions, it has a sure majority only in congressional elections. For in them each faction can vote separately. The second popular belief is that with business booming, the Republicans are more likely to resist the inflation of prices and to keep taxes from rising.

For while there may be a Republican majority for the presidency, it can exist only when the Republican candidate can, like Eisenhower, attract Democrats. This is critical for the choice between Nixon and Rockefeller.

NIXON'S WEAKNESS

Nixon's greatest weakness is that, having been a bitter fight-



Nixon: He Has Problems

most attract while the Democratic candidate repels a great many Democrats—something on the order of 10 per cent. This is not easy for the Republican candidate to do if the Democrats are able to compromise their worst differences on civil rights, are able to present a candidate who creates confidence in his ability to conduct foreign affairs and who does not frighten the taxpayers and those living on fixed incomes—including fixed salaries and wages.

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NIXON'S WEAKNESS

Nixon's greatest weakness is that, having been a bitter fight-

er against the Democrats, he has acquired so many bitter enemies among the Democrats. Unless by a turn of fate he becomes President long enough before the election to establish a new image of himself, he is the Republican who most surely unites the Democrats. That is why the Democratic politicians so generally are hoping that Nixon will be nominated and are so deeply afraid that Rockefeller will be. What they fear in Rockefeller is, of course, his appeal, as shown in New York in 1958, to the Democrats.

In estimating Rockefeller's chances of being nominated, we must, however, bear in mind that Nixon has one enormous advantage. It is very dangerous for the Republican professionals to oppose Nixon, dangerous for them even to wait too long to come out in favor of him. That is because of the possibility that Nixon may be President with all the patronage and the power of the White House at his disposal.

DEMOCRATIC PROBLEM

The main problem of the Democrats is an old one in American politics. It is that the leadership of the party is in Congress, and when that is the case, the capture of the presidency is secondary to the holding on to the control of Congress. As a matter of fact, without being cynical about it, the congressional leaders—not only Sen. Johnson and Speaker Rayburn, but the old gentlemen who are chairmen of most of the committees—are much more important and powerful

with a Republican in the White House than they would be with a Democrat. There is in them no urgency and passion about the presidency. They can hear, with tranquility, the cries of the activist northern Democrats who want to make a record in order to carry the southern states for the Democratic candidate.

What the congressional leaders will want in the presidential election is the Democratic Party's list of all a man who will not be a liability in any of the regions where Democrats are elected to Congress. After that paramount consideration they will be looking for a winner. It is here that the national leaders, outside of Congress will have to exert themselves to overcome the bias of the congressional politicians to convert a possible candidate who could win because he is fitted to be President.

Animals Inheriting The Earth

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain
I notice we have been overrun by ants again, and the birds get all the cherries, and innocent that I am, I had a large chunk bitten out of my thumb by a very large lizard when the dogs had cornered and whom I was endeavoring to help get over a wall. Then one of the dogs bit me for helping the lizard. A low-flying songbird also decorated the brow of my father-in-law, as said parent amiably sipped his maternal mint julep in the garden.

TAKING OVER

This is not opinion. This is statistic. The animals are going to take over again, as sure as you're born. If there's anything left after the big blast, it won't be wearing a slim-line suit and carrying a brief case. I'll be wriggling, hopping, crawling, flying, leaping or slinking, and it will never have heard of either Khruushchev or Jack Paar.

Consider recent incidents of animal activity. Just the other day a bear was shot wandering harmlessly, poor dear, around Baltimore, an aimless activity, at best. All the forces of humanity harnessed themselves against the bear, which had obviously escaped from a Senate hearing in Washington. They used police dogs (the K-9 Corps) and expended 100 rounds of ammunition to exterminate an animal which most nearly resembles man with his fur off. Some police force.

POOR ALLIGATOR

Consider the poor alligator which was found swimming in Nesheimy Creek, outside of Langhorne, Pa. It's a free country and nobody thinks anything about a crocodile in Florida, but this one came north in search of integration, and so Police Sergeant Gilbert Curtis mowed it down with a rifle. Democracy? Puh!

An invasion of large snapping turtles recently invaded Norwalk, Conn., and anxious suburbanites again called the police fearing that their monstrous children might be consumed by the monstrous turtles.

As a naturalist, let me hasten to assure the anxious moms that no self-respecting turtle would ever consume its child. It is rather the other way round.

Despite the fact that I have been bitten by everything from mosquitoes to a chipmunk I once tried to release from a steeltrap. I am with the animals all the way. Dammit, they were here first, but now the suburbs keep creeping farther and farther into the country, and encroaching on the animals' territory.

Right now I want to be recorded as siding with the animals and birds and bugs. In all these years, they alone have been able to survive in the suburbs by their own humility and if you don't believe it, Cobber, just say one word in the vicinity of Sydney, Australia. The word is: Shark.

—E. J. CURTIS

Will Everything Be Consolidated?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:
I was against school consolidation and so was my lady. If we don't stop so much of this business we will see everything consolidated with headquarters in Washington with a bunch of crooked politicians telling the people what they can and can't do. It will be a hell of a mess.

—W. C. MCINTIRE

People's Platform Hail And Farewell To Charlotte

Editors, The News:

On my departure from Charlotte at the end of my assignment as an exchange teacher under the United States Government Teacher Exchange Program, I wish to record the warm appreciation of myself, Mrs. Curtis, and our two children of the wonderful community acceptance we have all enjoyed in Charlotte.

We have come to know your people in good times and in adversity, and have found complete understanding, affection and sympathy. We leave Charlotte with the outstanding memories of our entire lives.

For the principal, faculty, and student body of Harding

High, we have the highest admiration, personal and professional.

We are leaving here determined to propagate for you a country, especially of the South.

Educationally we have, I feel, come to understand and appreciate the genuine democratic bases of your philosophies and methods. It is regrettable indeed that these bases are so little understood overseas. We have observed what a sub-leader in today's Charlotte News points out—that American education really does achieve a great deal in developing each person according to his special abilities and aptitudes.

For the principal, faculty, and student body of Harding

that it does turn out warm-hearted citizens.

—E. J. CURTIS

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

Adm. John "Dutch" Will, a commander of the Military Sea Transport Service, resigns this week to become president of American Export Lines, a company which has handled a considerable amount of government freight, assigned to it by the MSTS.

65 Per Cent

American Export Lines carries about 65 per cent of the U. S. government's military freight to the Middle East, all of it allocated through Adm. Will's MSTS.

When Admiral Will was asked about this, he admitted that this figure was probably correct, but explained that this was because American Export Lines was the chief U. S. company serving the Middle East. He added that MSTS

Adm. Will Enters The Export Business

WASHINGTON

freight allocations are recommended by the American Flag East Coast and Gulf Shipping Operations and MSTS merely accepts its recommendations.

Congressmen are interested in the fact that an American admiral is doing business, even indirectly, with an important shipping line, and should now become president of that line.

Adm. Will will be drawing a retired admiral's full pension from the U. S. taxpayers and at the same time will be paid handsomely by the private shipping line which benefits from U. S. government shipping, again paid for by the taxpayers.

Exit Frankfurter?

Felix Frankfurter, delightful, diminutive Justice of the Supreme Court,

seems to have it all figured out as to who his successor will be.

Frankfurter, oldest member of the court, reached the retirement age seven years ago but is still clinging, tenaciously to the highest bench in the land, despite a coronary attack which made him inactive part of last winter. So Supreme Court justices can now retire at full pay at the age of 70, and Frankfurter is now 77.

Retirement Plans

Now, according to Supreme Court intimates, Justice Frankfurter will resign after Henry Friendly, general counsel for Pan American Airways, is confirmed and firmly ensconced on the U. S. Court of Appeals in New York. Members of the Wall Street legal

fraternity wondered why Friendly accepted appointment to the Court of Appeals in view of his position in the hierarchy of Pan American Airways.

Assurances

It is now learned that he received assurances from Justice Frankfurter that after a brief service on the Court of Appeals, Friendly could probably be appointed to the Supreme Court.

Frankfurter reasons that Eisenhower is paid handsomely for his appointments from judges on the courts of appeals. Furthermore Friendly is Jewish, and Frankfurter's resignation would call for the appointment of a Jewish judge to replace him. Therefore, with proper backing, the Pan American counsel would succeed Justice Frankfurter in about a year.

