THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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'Out of This Nettle, Danger, We Pluck This Flower, Safety'



New Sources Of Municipal Revenue Must Be Found By The City Council

The bleats and cries of Charlotte's taxpayers will get louder.

There is a smoldering conviction in many minds that the City Council, with expert assistance, might have fashioned a leaner municipal tax rate for 1960.

Undoubtedly, the discontent will become more audible when the mailman delivers the bad news in dollars and cents. Then it will be too late.

There is reason to believe that another modest reduction could have been made in the $2.06 figure finally agreed upon this week. An 11th hour effort to trim another penny from the rate was actually launched Monday by Councilmen Dellinger and Smith—but in vain.

There is no satisfactory way for a perplexed public to tell whether the new City Council is running a tight ship or not. Considerable mystery surrounds fiscal manipulations at any level of government. But it is perfectly proper for every tax increase to be regarded on the defensive, and every penny of tax as needing justification. Taxation beyond what is actually necessary for the economical administration of good government is either luxurious or wasteful.

* * *

In all fairness to the Councilmen who pondered so long and painstakingly over the city's books, it must be pointed out that an increase of some kind was inevitable. There was, for instance, the extra cost of carrying the huge perimeter area for six months. Large sums of money for essential services had to be made available before the city gets its hands on a penny in new revenue.

In addition, there is the normal growth of the city to be considered.

Then, too, the city is faced with sizable debt service charges on past bond issues.

Finally, actual losses in revenue had to be taken into consideration, such as the reductions in ABC funds and court costs.

All of these complicating factors conspired to make a rather robust boost in the municipal tax rate virtually inescapable.

* * *

It is one of the brutal realities of the system that all of these problems are tossed at a new City Council almost as soon as it is sworn in. There are five newcomers on Charlotte's seven-man Council. They had little time to perfect bold or imaginative innovations in the financial structure of the city.

We are confident that all of the newcomers are keenly interested in fiscal affairs and are anxious to keep the cost of local government down. But good intentions — alone — will not suffice. The new Council now has one bout with the budget behind it. The problems are generally known. It ought to be clear by now that the city tax rate itself is nearing the limit of toleration and that new sources of municipal revenue are desperately needed.

The solution does not lie in any heavy-handed tinkering with service charges—such as water-sewer rates—to produce "profits." The additional money Charlotte will need in the future will probably have to come from wholly new **forms** of municipal taxation. Obviously, this is a subject that will require much careful study and consideration. The time to start is now—while budgetary problems are fresh in the Council's mind and when another round of budget meetings is still nearly a year away.

If a study group is put to work at once, the City Council will be considerably better prepared to plot Charlotte's fiscal future in 1960 than it was, through no fault of its own, in 1959. Furthermore, such a move might even serve to muffle this year's bleats and cries from the man in the barrel.

The Geneva Talks Are Petering Out

After eight weeks of unalloyed gab, the printed transcript of which must run to real poundage, the Geneva talks are plainly petering out. Gromyko's smile, hailed as a hopeful sign at the beginning, has dissolved into the familiar beady stare of a stalker waiting for its prey to bolt. President Eisenhower is pessimistic. The public is bored.

A question naturally arises. Why not pack suitacases and give it up as a bad try?

That may prove to be the result anyway, perhaps a desirable one, unless frankness begins to prevail on both sides of the bargaining table. We don't know what has been whispered behind locked doors, but as to public releases it is clear that everyone has shied away from being impolitely frank.

At the beginning, it now appears, both sides were playing the game of excessive politesse, whether intentionally or not. Western ministers were evidently convinced that the Russians want a summit conference so badly that they needed only sit tight and smile until Gromyko offered the right price—say, perhaps, reunification of Germany by "free" elections. For their part, the Russians have played a game of double-meaning on the Berlin "ultimatum," first affirming, then denying, that it is an invitation to get out of Berlin or else.

At bottom, or so it seems to the weary onlookers who read the daily dispatches from Geneva, neither side wishes to bargain at all.

Consider this as evidence: Every move has been not a concession at all but a statement of an Eastern or Western stand-pat policy, wrapped in conciliatory language. The Russians have "offered," to take the latest example, to set up an "all-German commission" on German reunification. Unwrapped, that means the de facto recognition of East Germany, which seems to be their real aim. The Western powers, in return, have lately "offered" to transform the Big Four conference—or its equivalent—into a "permanent commission." Unwrapped, that means we offer to perpetuate the present talks as a substitute for change, since we choose to have no program.

Diplomacy is a touchy and often a mysterious business, it is true, full of weird little formalities and crochets that defy strict logic. Perhaps the public would be well advised to keep its nose out. But the commonplace observer is not so doped or yet so bored to fall to see that neither real frankness nor a spirit of barter has come into being in Geneva. Tin Pan Alley crooned it long ago: When an irresistible force meets an immoveable object, "something's gotta give." So far, nothing has.

Anybody For Political Name-Calling?

Republican propagandists are reported to be looking for an effective tag to hang around Lyndon Johnson's and Sam Rayburn's necks. Still smarting under the "Do Nothing" label President Truman pinned on the 80th Congress for purposes of the 1948 campaign, House Republican Leader Charles Halleck (Ind.) first thought of "Won't Do" Congress.

He has become a bit skeptical about the "Won't Do" tag, since it appears Lyndon plans to keep Congress in session until it will do at least something. Rep. Peter Frelinghuysen Jr. (N. J.) has suggested, then, "Have Not Done" Congress. Still, he has to admit, that may prove a bit temporary.

Not that we want to give aid and comfort to Republicans, or anything, but in sympathy we would like to help bale them out of their semantic troubles. Something like "Have Not Done But May Do Yet" Congress would be smart, economical, and in the Frelinghuysen line. It, too, may prove emphemeral. Something longer is required—like "Have Not Done But Would Have Liked To Do If Ike Would Have Let It."

From The Miami Herald

A NATURE STORY IN THE RAW

The roaring asphalt of a superhighway is no place for a family of quail. But there they were — a hen and four chicks no bigger than the end of your thumb.

They came out of Vizcaya's shrubbery to cross the S. Dixie Highway. At the moment, the road was empty. Cars waited at red lights like race horses in the starting gate.

Mother Quail stepped onto the pavement. Her offspring followed, single file, as they were used to doing in threading their way through tall grass.

All five were strung across three traffic lanes when the signal changed. Steel behemoths leaped forward, thundering down on the tiny family.

The mother had reached the center parkway. Her children panicked. They circled, then fled back to Vizcaya. Their mother watched, sundered from them by deadly rolling wheels.

Few drivers saw the quail. At 45 miles an hour, they passed the spot in a fraction of a second.

Were the quail killed? Were they reunited? Did they make it safely to the other side of the road, into the grass and trees along the railroad tracks? Or did they take refuge, shaken, in the gardens of Vizcaya?

Motorists who terrified the quail never will know.

As we said, that busy highway is no place for a family of quail. It would be as bad for a human mother with four young children.

Such streambeds of asphalt and concrete are strictly for torrents of traffic. They're unfit for beast or man.

Paying your taxes is important. Without them we wouldn't have all those beautiful buildings in Washington, especially the Bureau of Internal Revenue.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

It's Almost Official

Nixon Has It In The Bag

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

At the height of Napoleon's power, when half the thrones of Europe were occupied by Bonapartes, the Emperor's tough old mother was heard to mutter: "Pourvu que ca dure!"

"Provided this just lasts!" or "Let's hope this just lasts!" are the best translations of the Corsican matriarch's bleak, prophetic remark. The story is worth telling, because it nicely conveys the state of mind of Vice President Richard Nixon at the moment of his much-publicized departure for Moscow.

About his Moscow trip, Nixon seems to have no doubts at all. He has been telling people here that he genuinely hopes to accomplish something by face-to-face straight talk with Nikita S. Khrushchev. He has said that Khrushchev really may be persuaded to see American policy in a new light by a man like himself, who has joined in all the American government's highest level policy reasons, and can explain the reasons for him. To say the least, this is distinctly optimistic.

DOMESTIC DOUBTS

But the state of his domestic political fortunes is the subject that really absorbs the vice president. And this is where he reportedly displays the carefully conditional optimism of old Letizia Bonaparte.

On the surface, to be sure, there is no reason why the vice president should not look forward to receiving the Republican presidential nomination with almost absolute confidence. In most of the state organizations, Nixon's nomination is already being taken for granted. In consequence, he is actually having much difficulty avoiding the uncomfortable role of arbiter in states where the Republican Party is divided.

THEY COME TO HIM

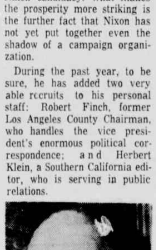
Being sure that Nixon will inherit the mantle of party leadership, leaders of the contending factions in these states are pressing their own delegate slates on him. They want him to recognize their faction by approving the faction's slate. Nixon has run into this encouraging kind of trouble with special acuteness in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. But even in other states where the Old Guard-modern Republican split is much less deep, the same sort of thing has been happening.



Nixon: High Hopes

There could be no stronger sign of the prosperity of the Nixon candidacy. What makes the prosperity more striking is the further fact that Nixon has not yet put together even the shadow of a campaign organization.

During the past year, to be sure, he has added two very able recruits to his personal staff: Robert Finch, former Los Angeles County Chairman, who handles the vice president's enormous political correspondence; and Herbert Klein, a Southern California editor, who is serving in public relations.



Taft: Bitter Memories

But even today the staff is hardly larger than the staff of any well-heeled senator from a major state. There is no one to take the road on Nixon's behalf. Everything depends on Nixon's long-nurtured and close links with the Republican leaders throughout the country. Furthermore, it is much more common for the delegate-owners to seek out Nixon, than to be sought out by him.

In these circumstances, a less prudent man would have no doubts at all about the future. Probably Nixon himself would have no doubts, at least about the nomination, if his own polls did not suggest that certain Democratic candidates will be disturbingly hard to defeat. Among these Democrats, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts is the most conspicuous, with more than 60 per cent of the total vote in at least one of the big states that have been tested.

REMEMBER TAFT

Nixon believes that he can overcome even such a lead as this, after the campaign has started in earnest. But he also foresees that the Republicans will be extremely restive if next spring's public opinion tests still show Kennedy or any other Democrat with such an enormous lead. The length of the lead will make the situation a set-up for the use of the "cannot win" slogan that beat Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio.

So far, Nixon has been protected against the "can't win" slogan by a single, simple fact. Since about February, the other conceivable Republican contender, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York, has made a rather poorer showing than the vice president.

FRIGHTENING PROSPECT

But suppose Rockefeller emerges from his self-imposed isolation in the Albany governor's mansion, as he is showing signs of doing. Suppose he embarks on a cross-country baby kissing, mingled with statesmanlike oratory, as some of the men around Rockefeller are urging him to do. Then everything can perhaps change, and Nixon can have a real fight on his hands, even at the Republican convention which today seems sewed up.

What Is Uncle Sam's Role In Steel Strike?

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON

Among the many big questions posed by the steel strike perhaps the most important is what should be the role of the federal government. For there is much confusion about this. The strike is taking place just as Congress is working on a law for the regulation of labor unions, a law which calls for comprehensive and far-reaching federal intervention in the internal affairs of the unions. Yet on the steel strike there are many, including now the President himself, who want no federal intervention and wish to see the issue settled by the test of economic power.

The President's views on intervention in the steel controversy have crystallized only recently. A month ago, at his press conference of June 17, he was asked this question by Raymond P. Brandt of the St. Louis Post Dispatch: "Both the steel management and the steel unions are using self-serving statistics which are in great conflict. Is there any way that government can bring out some impartial figures on profits and wages and productivity so that people can understand the issues and make their own decision?"

IKE'S ANSWER

The President answered Mr. Brandt, saying, "Well, I think you have asked about the most intelligent question on that particular question, particular matter; and I haven't thought about it in this particular way . . .

I don't know whether this would be helpful or not, but I'll take your suggestion and have it studied."

Last week, at his press conference on July 15, the President had had the matter studied. He had learned that "as far as a fact-finding board is concerned, I believe that all the facts are pretty well known . . . In all our reports, in the labor statistics and the commerce and the other figures that are published, some quarterly, some monthly, they are all there . . ."

Whoever did the studying of the question for the President did not understand the question, or he did not want the President to understand it. For while it may well be true that the "facts" are "all there" in some of the many reports that are published, how is the public to know, how is Congress to know, how are newspaper editors to know, which of the facts are important and relevant? The task of finding the facts that matter and of judging how they matter is a semi-judicial function. It cannot be done without a specialized inquiry by trained minds.

If there is no impartial tribunal to find the facts, then there can be no such thing as an enlightened public opinion. And if there is no enlightened opinion that can be brought to bear upon it, a strike of this magnitude must become a test of power in a whirl of propaganda and of prejudice.

NEW DOCTRINE

When the President rejected the idea of a "fact-finding" which he had thought rather well of a month before, he affirmed a new doctrine: "I believe that we have got thoroughly to test out and to use the method of free bargaining."



Ike Slammed The Door On A Worthy Idea

Where great and vital interests are involved how much free bargaining do we really believe in?

In the steel controversy today, the companies happen to have the stronger bargaining position, their customers have large stockpiles, public opinion is stoutly opposed to another round of wage and price increases. The union appears to be far from solid within itself.

IS IT WISE?

But this favorable balance to the companies will not always be the case, and I wonder whether it is wise and prudent for them to set it up as a **principle** that in these great controversies involving the national interest the issue shall be decided by a contest of power?

I do not believe it is true, as has been said recently, that this is "one of the ways in which freedom functions." If freedom is to function it must insist that the struggle of powerful interests be regulated by rational and just procedure. Freedom does not mean that the powerful interests shall fight it out as best they can.

NATIONAL INTEREST

We live in a time when the vital industries and services of the nation are in the hands of giant companies and giant unions. We cannot entrust the interests of the nation to a combination of the companies and the unions, which is what we have had for some years until recently in the steel industry. Nor can we entrust the interests of the nation to a power struggle between the unions and the companies, however much this struggle be prettified by calling it "free bargaining."

In these great conflicts the national interest must be represented and asserted by the federal government. The place to begin this is by a clarification of the contending claims. This alone may be enough to provide the basis of an opinion on which the government can exert its influence, and to which the public can rally.



Struggle Between Giants Affects Everybody

People's Platform

Television Cowboys Ought To Pay Rent

Rock Hill, S. C.

Editors, The News:

From where I sit watching the summer television shows, it seems that the repeat shows are bringing the performers into the house so often that they ought to pay room rent. But despite the repeats and repeats, a beach hotel owner tells me that he had to install an extra TV set in his lobby to ease the traffic jam.

I'll bet three dozen steamed clams that I saw one popular TV cowpoke shot in the same place twice each summer for the last several years. TV broadcasters have a bovine summer schedule that leaves me the feeling that, "Here it comes up again, boys."

Perhaps that's the reason the industry is fighting pay TV. They couldn't get away with rehashed films if Mom had to put a quarter in the machine.

—WILLIAM MARCH

Senator's Favorite Technique Revived

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

In her attack on Richard Rovere, the writer, in her letter to People's Platform, Mrs. Joseph R. McCarthy used the same guilt-by-association technique her late husband perfected so shamefully.

McCarthyism certainly dies hard.

—MRS. JUANITA F. MOORE

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Ike's Pal Involved In Munitions Lobby

WASHINGTON

When President Eisenhower lit into what he called the "Munitions Lobby" the other day he probably didn't realize that he was hitting rather close to home.

For one of the most powerful munitions lobbies in Washington is the AVCO Manufacturing Co. of which his golfing-bridge-farming partner, George Allen, is a director. In addition, AVCO is close to Secretary Ezra Taft Benson and employs a battery of key generals and admirals, some of whom are now being investigated by Congressman Hebert's Armed Services subcommittee.

Big Brass

They include:

Gen. Clarence S. Irvine, former deputy chief of staff of the Air Force in charge of material. In this job Gen. Irvine was top dog for all Air Force procurement, production and maintenance in the field. Since the Air Force plans for about 10 years ahead, Irvine is in the position to use this expert knowledge while now working for AVCO.

Maj. Gen. Herbert M. Jones, the adjutant general of the Army who stepped from this key post into AVCO.

Brig. Gen. Munro MacCloskey, of the Air Force.

Adm. Edward L. Woodyard, U.S. Navy.

Business Is Booming

One way or the other, through friends or otherwise, the AVCO corporation was able to roll up a total of $102 million worth of defense orders in 1958. This year, however, business has been looking up.

According to Moody's Industrial Manual, AVCO's backlog of defense orders in December 1958 totaled $99 million.

Three months later, however, the backlog of defense orders had zoomed up to $300 million. Since the total defense orders for the preceding year—1958—were only $102 million, something really gave a lift to AVCO's business.

Gen. Irvine, formerly in charge of Air Force Material and Procurement, joined the company this spring.

Ike's Dinner Guest

AVCO is a far-flung company which manufactures everything from farm machinery to aviation engines to electronics to hydraulic loaders and chemical spreaders. It has factories in Coldwater, O., Ft. Dodge, Ia., Williamsport, Pa., Cincinnati, Richmond, Ind., Evandale, O., Everett, Mass., and Chicago. Its chairman is Victor Emmanuel, who has been a guest at President Eisenhower's stag parties.

Significantly, in the rush of cantracts which has helped swell AVCO's profits, there has been some very sloppy negotiating on the part of the Air Force. As a result, AVCO has been forced to make refunds.

Whopping Errors

On March 19, 1959, AVCO refunded $1,113,510 to the Air Force as a result of an error in the costs of a $15 million AF contract for B-52 parts. It was explained that the error resulted from the fact that the Air Force accepted more than $1 million of recorded costs which the contractors included in error.

Real fact is that the General Accounting Office caught the error, not AVCO, nor the Air Force. Without prodding from the accounting arm of Congress, the error might never have been discovered.