

Council Has Another Chance

CITY COUNCIL, we suspect, won't see it that way, but the State Highway Commission has done it a favor by rejecting its fantastic cross-town boulevard recommendation with the simple rationale that it does not meet the necessary objective. The Highway Commission has, in effect, invited Council to start over again where it left off in a moment of panic a few weeks ago. It still has not placed its own recommendation on a take it or leave it basis.

Ambassador With Tar On His Heels

A FEW diehard Republicans, recalling that Max Gardner was once tagged (incorrectly, we think) a New Dealer, may offer some perfunctory opposition to his confirmation as Ambassador to the one-party state, Max Gardner must feel a strong temptation to turn his back on the active pulling and hauling of North Carolina politics. Certainly he is entitled to the calmer life of the elder statesman.

But, even while they are applauding his appointment, a good many North Carolinians are also wondering why he decided to accept the post after returning it once before. It's a given honor, certainly, but for so active a citizen as Max Gardner, it would seem a very nice retirement — from business and from politics. He himself acknowledged this, in part, when he told reporters that he had terminated all his business appointments as undersecretary of the Treasury and had no intention of renewing them.

More Than A Law Has Failed

WHAT, we often wonder, does it take to shake this community out of its complacency? Will Burke Davis' latest report on official drunkenness in the county do it? The statistics are not very encouraging — more than 10,000 court cases annually involving public drunkenness, drunken driving and allied offenses traceable to excessive use of alcohol. And of these, many are personal injuries, the whole story; these are only the drunks who fall into the hands of the law and it is certain that many more avoid arrest each year.

This report also stands as evidence of a serious weakness in the moral fiber of our people. Law enforcement officers may be blamed for their failure to make prohibition work, but they cannot be blamed for the conditions that prevail in Mecklenburg to retreat into a haze of alcohol. Liquor, taken to excess, simply provides a medium for forgetting a life that is no longer bearable. It is this that makes the prohibition of our community drinks all but impossible, for the "liquor habit" can be broken only by a man who has some good reason for breaking it.

ceptable alternative. But the gentlemen must recognize that original proposal for what it is: an efficient, economical solution to a difficult problem worked out by one of our own citizens. It is not a mere suggestion. And it must also remember that it is one leg of a master street plan, which will be thrown out the window by any drastic alteration.

It's up to the City Fathers once again. And we make bold to remind them that the first time they swung the missed by a very well be out, and, with \$1,400,000 at stake, the voters are not likely to take kindly to another wild swing.

Can Max Gardner continue in his old role from his new outpost in England? Does he desire to? To the first question we would answer with a qualified yes — since his influence has been largely personal, depending upon no real machine, he could probably advise his old friends as well cross an ocean as he did from Washington, although he would, of course, be handicapped by a lack of first-hand information. We are inclined to agree with the second question. We don't know. . . . and we doubt seriously if Mr. Gardner does himself, as yet.

While such a concept is a mere fiction of the mind and rests upon a fallacy, it exists, and has been reported in the psychology of the Southern masses. Yet we know that carried to its ultimate it would mean the destruction of the states as a mere segment of a political organization different from the body and detached from the fully but of the economic, political, and intellectual life blood of the nation.

It is our conviction that we shall see little improvement until the great energy that now goes into the futile effort to remove the temptation of alcohol can somehow be channeled into an organized attack on the conditions that produce it. We can't urge the fatal urge to seek oblivion.



People's Platform On Sectional Solidarity

CONGRESS and story and memory have impressed upon the minds of Southerners a pleasing picture of the South in ante-bellum times. We can easily fancy the Southern grandees drinking their mint juleps in the shade of columned porticos, and discussing politics and philosophy, in a period when every Southern plantation owner was a statesman or a colonel; when culture and manners reached a degree of art never before or since attained by the Southern people and probably not by any other people in this country. And it is easy to see the imagination the mental image of Southern belles, gentle, courtly and beautiful, dancing in ermine to the time of the minuet or the waltz, and to picture the dapper, dandy, dandling, or stepping off their high-heeled shoes, or the bottom, as they thrummed their banjos by the moonlight in front of their cabin doors.

When we think of our country we hold in our minds the concept of equity, justice, equality in the law, freedom under the law, the dignity of the individual and the right of every citizen to seek happiness in his own way. If that is the concept of our American way of life as exemplified by our constitution and the principles of the two-thirds rule, Texas and in Maine, in Iowa and in South Carolina, in Washington; in the United States and in the power and sovereignty of the nation.

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problems which they settle themselves disregarding all the other states they become superior to the union and the union does not exist; and the other states become only appendages and their citizens are superior to the nation. Plainly that is not the South but the South is not free. That would be reverting the law that the individual and the people of the South would be free. That would be reverting the law that the individual and the people of the South would be free. That would be reverting the law that the individual and the people of the South would be free.

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THE President is being urged to get both Gene Eisenhower and Secretary of State Acheson to go on the job in direct appeal to the strikers. They could present most effectively the picture of what the loss of coal means to the United States in relation to Western Europe and the German economy.

THE case of John L. Lewis has been under permanent pressure to take the men who are still being held in the mine to the incoming Congress to solve their union problems. There are no reason to deal with Lewis as a political problem.

THE President has been studying the possibilities of a personal radio appeal. But he believes it would be improper so long as the case is before the court. While that may be in accord with the law, the President is not in a vacuum. Rather, it is as though it were happened in the open air. The President is permitted to see only the shrewd outlines of the chief contestants.

THE 3,000 girls prostrated themselves in the sun and they were from the state of Georgia. They were from the state of Georgia. They were from the state of Georgia. They were from the state of Georgia. They were from the state of Georgia.

THE sweetest persists even into the ball and chain. It is the ball and chain. It is the ball and chain. It is the ball and chain. It is the ball and chain. It is the ball and chain.

THE Mexico is bits and pieces of everything that is going on in the world. It is a barefoot Indian sleeping in a blanket in front of a moderate stock brokerage house superior in anything in New York. But it is during the last few days of the week, especially, that one feels the pulse of the world.

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Drew Pearson's Lewis And IWMW Income Tax Under Probe

TWO weeks ago, his column told how John L. Lewis had paid out around \$300,000 of miners' dues. Lewis' mine owner, Carl Elshoff, has paid his mine closed. Lewis' mine owner, Carl Elshoff, has paid his mine closed. Lewis' mine owner, Carl Elshoff, has paid his mine closed.

into it again, the decision may be different—if the statute of limitations has not run. —Secretary Jay Byrnes said he would lead out of the Justice-Deputy Tax agents soon. Certain contractors who knew the right people got off too free. It will be the worst scandal yet of the Truman Administration.

act in regard to Messersmith, Braden will resign. This, of course, would be a stupendous victory for Dictator Peron, who has been the hero of Andrew Jackson. Higgins, the New Orleans Bull-dog, that he was competing for get Braden removed.