

The Battle Over Zoning

OPONENTS of a zoning ordinance for Charlotte are fighting their usual fight, no holds barred. They failed to move the Zoning Commission, which has steadfastly stuck to its guns, and won only a partial victory from the Real Estate Board which went along with the ordinance. But they do have a bridgehead inside Councilmen Childs and Hinson blocked passage of the measure this week and it has indicated that they will oppose it when it comes up for what may be a final vote on Tuesday.

At one point in the somewhat disorderly hearing before Council the charge was brought that the zoning ordinance, or any zoning ordinance, is a "faceted act which won't do nobody no good." The evidence, however, is all against this argument. Charlotte is now the only city in the United States of 100,000 or more population which does not have a zoning ordinance, and so far as we can ascertain the Black Hills have not taken over any of the others.

What we are hearing, of course, is the familiar debate which pitches private interest against public interest. Councilman Newton summed it up when he said: "All the protests have come, as they always do, from a few who are going to be hurt. And while I am sympathetic to you fellows, I feel that my allegiance is due the majority of the people of Charlotte whom I was chosen to represent."

Any other position, it seems to us, is going to be extremely difficult to defend.

A Wheelhorse Gets The Nod

THE orderly processes of seniority take care of most key jobs in the North Carolina Legislature, and seniority also provides a ready answer when the West complains that the East seems to pluck an undue share of the plum. The voters of the West are an impatient lot, and they rarely leave an Assemblyman in the seat to which he has moved by seniority to receive the nod from his fellows.

might think in view of the fact that President Pro Tem Byrnes' principal state duty is to preside over the Senate in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor. Actually his elevation to the post stands as formal recognition of his status as a legislative wheelhorse, a steady and reliable operator who brings a deal of influence and knows how to use it when the going gets rough. When the speeches are being made the gentleman from Mecklenburg is rarely in evidence, when the decisions are being reached, on the floor or off it, he is never absent.

Oil Under Troubled Waters

ITS been a good while since anybody set out with a willow wand to locate an oil well, but pursuit of the elusive fluid remains a long and romantic gamble. Expensive too, as the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey points out in a handsome little brochure called *The Story of North Carolina's Oil Number One*.

Joe Byrnes of Mecklenburg is one of the exceptions that prove the rule. He went to the State Senate in 1939, and his constituents have never found any reason to replace him. During those years his Senatorial colleagues have had to make do with provisions. These gentlemen make no bones about being interested parties; builders and developers for the most part, they argue that their private plans will be upset and they will be out of pocket \$30,000 if the law is adopted.

Joe Byrnes also occupies a permanent place over every speculative list of gubernatorial possibilities. Whether he has ambitions in that direction or not, we don't know; certainly there have been few signs in the past that he has sought to implement them. It remains to be seen whether the new honor that has been given him crowns his public career or is only a milestone in it. At any rate his constituents are delighted that the honor has come at last to one who has served his country and his state so well and so unobtrusively.

Another Voice

Before the crew gave up they had drilled to a depth of 8316 feet, 50 rock bits had been used, a whole parade of native bankers had been trained in the arts and sciences of oil-well operation, and...

\$477,000 had been spent, exclusive of the cost of leases and geological research. About all Standard got out of it was a series of readings on the dials and meters which in modern counterpart of the willow wand.

"It was difficult, troublesome and expensive, but well worthwhile," the little brochure sums up. "The knowledge gained by this test has confirmed the judgment of Standard's geologists and justifies further search for oil in northeastern North Carolina." The search is underway now, from a water-borne rig floating offshore in Pamlico Sound. And Standard's heart is obviously still in its work; it will cost \$25,000 monthly to drill under water as against \$10,000 to maintain a dry land crew.

One Of The Great Freedoms

Representative John E. Rankin means what he says teachers—especially those in colleges and universities—may have some of the same "pink" professors who are subsidized from questionable sources. He doesn't name these sources.

of inquiry and the objective, judicial view. Such searching for knowledge and for the fruits of mankind's experience is no less than a social imperative. It ranks with freedom of speech and of the press as a basic freedom, and it is as fundamental as an end in itself—light for the sake of light, truth for the sake of truth.

Pay Increase

THE following resolution was adopted: Whereas the cost of living has tremendously increased during the past few years and recent months...

Government In Exile

The question arises what a Kansas City chief can do with a hat of pennies. Thus loaded down, one can't get the correct score on a weighing machine, even...



People's Platform

CHARLOTTE
I WOULD very much like to know the answer to this question: What kind of temporary quarters have we in Charlotte for delinquent youth?

Whereas the present salary scale is too small to entice the best teachers to enter the profession or to hold many of the already qualified teachers, and Whereas we feel that the State of North Carolina is doing its best to provide for the education of its children...

Minimum Wage Law

THANK you very much for the splendid editorial on the State Minimum Wage Law which you carried in the Saturday, Jan. 4, issue of The Charlotte News. I am certain that this is one of the best exposures on the value of such legislation that has ever appeared in any all which may be used in support of the legislative program.

Wishful Thinking

SO having entered the fair's chariot and been deposited in the White House and in fact become President Truman that would I do? I would thank the fair for his or her thoughtfulness in having picked so good a man, and then turn in to the country to carry out my responsibilities...

Drury Pearson's Truman Seems In Unfailing Good Humor

WASHINGTON
The White House caller these days comes out of the inner sanctum remarking on now well and high-spirited Truman and how glad he is to appear bowed and discouraged by the weight of his office, they remark: "He doesn't seem to have a care in the world."

On Juvenile Delinquency

CHARLOTTE
Whereas the present salary scale is too small to entice the best teachers to enter the profession or to hold many of the already qualified teachers, and Whereas we feel that the State of North Carolina is doing its best to provide for the education of its children...

Samuel Grant Truman And GOP

NEW YORK
THE REPUBLICANS are being rather something in their attitude toward Truman's message. Speaker Martin praises his "co-operation" but says it is "exclusive to say the least."

LABOR LEFT OUT

AND when one considers, also, that there is almost no labor participation in this odd, one-sided unity, again has the feeling that these great harmony manifestations in Washington are a farce and a farce foretold. It is a unity remarking upon its own lack of unity. It follows the new love affair with a certain apprehension; it may be sweet, but it is also starved, almost as sure to be mauled by pressures from the outside, as it is to be torn by tension from within.

LABOR LEFT OUT

On the strength of this research, suit was filed against the Tennessee Coal & Iron Co., a subsidiary of U. S. Steel, for failure to disclose to the public the extent of its labor history, but big corporation lawyers at the time failed to grasp its significance. The case was finally won in the Supreme Court in 1942 in favor of portal-to-portal by a 5-4 decision. Next year, John L. Lewis, taking a cue from CIO attorneys, won "portal-to-portal" for the union.

LABOR LEFT OUT

In 1944, the CIO legal brain trust decided to test "portal-to-portal" in other labor and industry cases. This company required its employees to be in the plant 14 minutes before the actual starting time. The Supreme Court has now held this to be a working time. All last summer CIO Chief Phil Murray and his legal brain trust discussed the question of the Supreme Court case with the Wall Street legal talent which had ignored the importance of the Mount Clemens decision. They filed no briefs as a friendly of the court, but let the case be made out by the CIO attorneys, which finally made up Murray's mind to start the billions of dollars' worth of suits pending through his shafts to the Supreme Court. He decided to fight back. Best way to conquer the Supreme Court is to get on its case. Best way to win them what a fat plum the union could win; how workers who never had \$500 in the bank could look forward to which is a jump sum toward the portal-to-portal suit.

Battle Of The Budget

WASHINGTON
The Battle of the Budget will be fought at three different levels. The end likely to be confused compromise which will force many Government agencies to make cutbacks and even essential services.

Level Number 1, at the bottom of the Treasury mountain, is the estimate of Chairman John Taber of the House Appropriations Committee that the Federal Government can get along on \$29,600,000,000. This is the minimum amount among the Republicans. His weapon is a meat-axe rather than a scalpel.

Level Number 2, halfway up, is the estimate of Sen. Robert A. Taft, chairman of the Republican Committee on Finance. He has a veto on policy in the Senate. Taft believes that a rough total of \$30,000,000,000 is needed for all the needs of the Government in the coming fiscal year. Taft's accounting is as follows:
The Armed Services: \$12,000,000,000
Veterans: \$7,600,000,000
Services-over-the-debt: \$8,000,000,000

For all other Government services: \$2,400,000,000
OVER-GENEROSITY
The last figure is, in Taft's opinion, perhaps even over-generous. Certain items he thinks are more than enough to cover the proper functions of the Federal machine. These include a half billion for aid for foreign loans in addition to the commitment already made to Great Britain.

Level Number 3, at the top of the Treasury mountain, is the official Treasury estimate. This will be sent to Congress. Advance report put that at \$37,000,000,000. But Taft would like to see a maximum that Taft believes essential.

One difference between the Taft and the Truman budgets is in the amount of debt to be retired. Advancing the figure in the Truman budget, at \$2,000,000,000. In Taft's budget, about \$1,000,000,000 is allowed for debt reduction. But the sharpest difference between the Truman budget and the House and the Republicans in Capitol Hill is likely to be over tax reduction. The Truman budget would reduce Knutson's proposed 20 per cent cut in the income tax has much wider support than at first appeared probable.

Leaders in the Senate, including Taft, lean toward this figure. The industrial Senator from Ohio is a carded rationalization to justify the 20 per cent slash. He believes that present high pay brackets, including salaries are handed out just so that the Treasury can collect an amount not too far below the take-home pay of the recipients. He says that the Government is "DIMINISHING RETURNS."

But also argues that the present cuts have reached the point of diminishing returns. Men, so the argument runs, will not work a percentage of their income must be paid out of their pockets. A second sharp difference between the White House and Congress is bound to come over continuation of wartime excise taxes. Mr. Truman urged in his State of the Union message that these taxes be continued through the coming fiscal year. Republican leaders in the House are bound to come over of repealing them almost immediately.

There is a possibility of a compromise, however. Senate leaders may recommend that excise taxes be continued through the coming fiscal year, but that the House should be allowed to come over of repealing them almost immediately.

There is a possibility of a compromise, however. Senate leaders may recommend that excise taxes be continued through the coming fiscal year, but that the House should be allowed to come over of repealing them almost immediately.

There is a possibility of a compromise, however. Senate leaders may recommend that excise taxes be continued through the coming fiscal year, but that the House should be allowed to come over of repealing them almost immediately.