

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

HOMAS L. ROBINSON J. E. DOWD HARRY S. ASHMO
Publisher General Manager Associate Editor

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1947

# To Strengthen Civil Service

WHEN Charlotte put its police and fire departments under civil service some years ago the idea was that their personnel would thus be removed from politics. That certainly was, and is, a commendable theory. However, it has not worked out in

theory. However, it has not worked out in practice.

In the first place the City Civil Service Commission is named by Council, which provides a direct political link between elected and appointed employees. In the second place the heads of the two departments are the council and the council and may be fired by Council, and are, in every sense of the word, political employees. Police Chief Frank Little-john, for instance, makes no bones about his active participation in the present municipal campaism. He is determined, he has stated publicly, to see that a "good" Council it elected so that his department can function properly, and while this may be a commendable purpose it is hardly in Keepling with the concept of a non-political police department. lice department.

lice department.

It is, therefore, no surprise, that the Courty Delegation decided to do something about the Charlotte cut) service set-up. It is surprising, however, that the Delegation, undertook this action in the closing days of the legislative session without bothering to consult any of the City officials concerned. It is even more surprising that the bill the Delegation introduced makes only a single major change in the present system—providing that the resident Superior Court Judge shall appoint the

members of the Civil Service Commission rather than City Council.
This, as Judge Bobbitt. upon whom this new power would be conferred, has pointed out, represents no real improvement at all. If the Delegation desires to establish for the City a civil service system comparable to the County and the county and the to the County and the county are the county and the whole way. It must give the Comcore certainly should be familiar—it must so the whole way it must give the Commission full authority over all civil service employees, including department heads, and it must abolish the present provision that allows appeal to Superfor Court from the Commission's rulings and largely nullifies its effectiveness.

If this is done, Judge Bobbitt says, he should have no difficulty in finding good men to serve the City, as he has for the County. If it sin't done, there will be no point in good men accepting appointment for they will be powerless to correct the conditions civil service is supposed to prevent.

for they will be powerless to correct the conditions civil service is supposed to pre-vent.
Certainly such a public blast from so thoushful and restrained a public servant as Judge Bobbut should either the Delegation pause, as it apparently has. The odds protests from the City Manager as well as the Judge, will be killed it seems to us, however, that the Delegation might consider strengthening the measure rather than abandoning it. The County Civil Service Commission has been a model agency; there is no good reason why the Delegation, having gone as far as it has, shouldn't establish a City Civil Service Commission on exactly the same basis.

# The Case Of Kirsten Flagstad

KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD, the Norwegian soprano, is now on the blacklist of that great patriot. Commander Waiter Winchell, and she is receiving the full treatment of the state of the

column) for an active boycott.

It seems that Commander Winchell's courageous crusade has borne fruit in Charlotte. The Veterans of Foreign Wars have asked the Park Commission to cancel the contract allowing Miss Flagstad to use the Armory for her scheduled concert here. In the face of the Commissions refusal, the VFW now promises to picket the hall. This is rather a curious incident, but so

This is rather a curious incident, but so far at least everybody concerned seems to be fully within his rights. The Park Commission quite properly refused to set itself up as a political censor. Since there can be no possible moral objection to the music Miss Flagstad will present, even though some of it was written by a German named Wagner, there are no grounds for refusing use of the hall to one who has

been given the freedom of the country by the State Department:

The VFW attempt to exceed its rights by forcing cancellation of the Armory contract having thus failed, the organization is still free to express its disapproval by picketing the hall—or at least it will be free to do so unless the Legislature adopts the bill now before it which would declare all picketing subversive.

unless the Legislature adopts the bill now before it which would declare all picketing subversive.

Commander Winchell is within his rights in demanding that his loyal readers boycott Miss Flagstad.

Miss Flagstad is within her rights in coming to Charlotte to sing anyway.

And the concert-geers of the town with the widn's their rights if they fill the hall, be within their rights if they fill the hall, decision, after all, is up to them. They have heard the charces against Miss Flagstad—that she left America to rejoin her husband, who later didd in a Norwgian prison under charges of collaboration. They have heard her defense—that she neither sang for the Nazis nor gave them other aid or comfort. If there is anything in her confort. If there is anything in her confort. Gradiotte are free to express their disapproval at the box office, where it will count. If they believe, as we do, that Commander Winchell and the VFW are making a mountain out of a riduciously sall moleithi, they will accept her for which of the Earle greatest Wagnerian so-prano of her day.

#### In Health, As In Sickness . . . .

No flags will fly, no bugles will sound, no orator will lift his voice, but tomorrow is a day of celebration in Mecklenburg. It is Doctor's Day, 24 hours set aside to honor the physicians and surgeons of the

In its Dectors Day, a hours set saide to honor the physicians and surgeons of the country. He had been a surgeons of the country bed by the physician to the country bed and the country b

call. The Day was first observed in Georgia in 1933. The Georgia Auxiliary selected March 30, the birthday-of Ds. Crawford Long, the medical pioneer, as the date fortheir annual observance. Auxiliaries in other states took up the idea, although the

date is frequently varied. Doctor's Day was

date is frequently varied. Doctor's Day was first observed here during the war years, when the local auxiliary made it a practice on March 30 to send special greetings to all the doctors then in service. But Doctor's Day is by no means a closed celebration limited to members of the profession and their families. In a quiet sort of way, it is a public event, a day on which every citizen might well recall the great check necessary of the profession and extention of the profession and extention of the profession and the cell the way in the profession and the cell for way, it is a public event, it is great check the medical profession a debt that cannot be measured in dollars and cents on a doctor's bill for services rendered. The profession has labored against great dods these past few years to maintain the public health, and it has done so only through great personal sacrifice on the part of those physicians and surgeons who made up for the actue shortings of doctors by the additional expenditure of the doctors by the additional expenditure of the doctors. The alling among us will think of the doctors but the additional expenditure of the profession and th

#### Another Voice

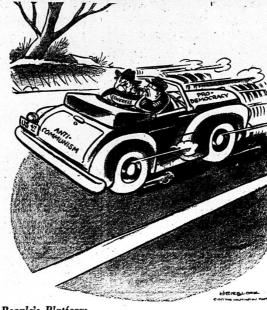
## In The Nick Of Time

The downdall of the government of the State of North Carolina has been averted, just in the nick of time, by the Hutton-Kern bill which was introduced in the General Assembly night before last and which makes it unlawful for anybody to advocate any such thing.

Since nothing but the direst emergency would have justified dumping such a bill on the legislator's heads in the rush and jumble of the session's closing days, things must have been worse than we had jumble of the session's closing days, things must have been worse than we had jumble of the session's closing days, things must have been worse than we had jumble of the session's closing days, things must have been worse than we had jumble of the session's closing days, things must have been worse than we had jumble of the session's closing days, things must have been worse than we had jumble of the session's closing days, things that the look per personal properties of the policiary of Washington, Jefferson, a windy night in March. Was it at the time when John Harden looked pale around the gills and Governor (Iron, Major) Cherry boxe a pretermaturally stem countenance?

There is now a feeling in the air that the worst of the crisis has passed, that the office of the policiarion of Independence, and the U.D. C. would have to kake down quite a few statues on courtness quarass which has been award from a fate worse than death, and that the state has been re-

'Couldn't We Make Better Time Driving Forward?'



### People's Platform

### On Local Government

An of the control of

#### School Tax

NEW YORK

Editors. The News:

I WISH to express to you my own appreciation and that of the members of the City School Board for the editorial you published Tuesday with reference to the proposed school tax supplement. Your editorials attractive, and you presented the school problem in a manner that was clear and to the point and comprehensive. I believe The News will find that the school people of Charlotte are genuitorly gratful for the stand it has seen it it to take on this issue and I am entitled.

-BROCK BARKLEY, Chairman, Board of School Commissioners.

#### Century Of Fear?

CHARLOTTE century of fear instead of a century of peace and plenty. American economic power used for political and assembly of all Assembly of the constructive of the constructive.

to communism.

I do not want to see the spread of communism; vet, I am deeply concerned about the nature of the Persidents proposals because I believe that his policy will cause its spread in Europe and Asia James called the replacing power of the higher affection. It is our responsibility to give people everywhere something better than communism.

—HENRY A. WALLACE, Editor, New Republic.

#### Red Cross

### Last Meeting?

POR many, many years there has been a mild con-troversy between historically minded citizens of fort Mill and Charlotte over the location of the last fort Mill and Charlotte over the location of the last claimed the final meeting, and we suppose this is an horest error on the part of Charlotteans. Bull down here we know better! We are certain that the last stead, as the third with home-stead.

nere we know better? We are certain that the last meeting was held in Fort Mill at the old White homestica. It has Friday's Issue of The Charlotte New the Collowing suppeared concerning Jeffesson Davis:

"Davis was spending a few days at the house on corner where the Commercial Bank now rainful. It has been been been been concerned to the control of the Charlotte at the time, before moving farther south. The last Cabline meeting was held in the next block, approximately where the Bank of Charlotte is now." The last Cabline meeting was held in the next block, approximately where the Bank of Charlotte is now." Babove statement, but a great number of historians have done so just as emphatically. Then, to boot, so the statement, but a great number of historians have done so just as emphatically. Then, to boot, so have the handoome historial marker at the spot, and the statement of the statement of

#### Marquis Childs

## Freedom Of Press

V net of receive our chain of a receive the country to the country

many reasons why we as a nation, member period on the Commission on Chairman of the Commission on Chairman of the Commission of Chairman of the Commission of Chairman of the Commission of the University of Chicago, Among the members were a business man, Beardeley Dickinson, and professors in votational fields. Their study was financed by Chairman of Ch

# **Harold Ickes**

# **Supporting Democracy**

IRAN WAITS

IRAN WAITS

A week ago. I predicted that, under the policy so suddenly enunciated by President Truman, we would have to send money into other parts of Turkey. An enough the president of the prediction of the pr

best.

The Iranian Ambassador has filed with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development the intent of fin Government to apply for a loan of \$25000.000.

why not Iran? A group of American engineers is now in Iran conducting a survey and when it returns, Iran's formal application for

STATE DEPT. DUTY

# Drew Pearson's: Arabian Oil Big Factor In Aid To Greece

words, a total of \$85,000,000 was put tip by the U. S. Govern-ment to help protect the oil reserves of two private oil com-panies—Standard of California and Texaco. Yet when it came to selling oil to the USA, those two companies charifed what some Naval officers considered most carotitath prices.

what some Naval officers considered most exorbitant prices.

High Prices For Uncle Sam

1948 shortly after V-E Day and when the Navy was getting ready for the big public against Japan. A lot of oil of the start of the start of the start of the Navy as getting the start of the s

jum in excess of \$33,000,000, Barthelmes said, "resulting in an estimated profit to the company over and above production, rowally and manufacturing costs of approximately \$13,500,0000".

Barthelmes-added that he had had a chance to dook at the company's cost-of-production figures and that he had reason to Knew Wata he was talking about.

ine company's cost-of-production figures and that he had reason to know what he was talking about.

Who Overruled Lieutenants?

A SKED how the Nasy happened to overrule the two lieu-reason to know the Nasy happened to overrule the two lieu-reasons and the state of reaco) were Li. D. E. Waish. now with Standard of N. J. and L. D. E. Bodenschatz, now with the General Petroleum and the property of the standard of the property of the prope

time of the receims that have come out of centuries of struggle and strife.

out of centuries of struggle and strife.

The strip of the Greek proposation for the Tribune's Washington bureau, included five pararphs of quotation from Vandenberg's speech.

We all make mistace And maybe if we would admit then a little oftener, it would be a health, thing for everyone concerned.