

Charlotte's New City Council

Results of a municipal primary in which less than a fourth of the eligible voters participated and a general election that was little more than an empty formality might have been disastrous.

There are two related reasons. First of all the advertisement, perhaps by design, serves as a clear test of the newspaper's attitude in civil liberties and in sympathy at all. Why, then, do we publish it?

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Hedge Against Unpreparedness

REMARKING here the other day upon the American Legion's massive public relations program designed to insure adoption of Universal Military Training we noted our agreement with the Legion's basic premise: That U. M. T. is essential to national security and therefore essential to the Truman Doctrine which extends the American frontier to the Russian border.

That certainly seems to be the opinion of most of the generals and admirals who have written, in various degrees of favor, of U. M. T. However, Hanson Baldwin, The New York Times military expert and probably the country's ranking civilian authority on military affairs, has now come forward with an ominous prediction. And he has it supported by one of the high brass too—notably by Gen. John S. Wood, wartime commander of the fighting Fourth Armored Division.

Neither Mr. Baldwin nor General Wood really mean the need for adequate steps to guarantee our national defense. There is not a pacifist or even a pro-UN argument. They simply do not believe U. M. T. is worth anything at all in a strict military sense.

At the beginning of any war the time factor is vital; in an age of atomic bombs and long-range guided missiles, which multiply previous methods of attack, it heralds a revolt against the tyranny of the helmine, but with a caution.

Another Voice

Tyranny Of The Helmine

I AM writing to you," writes an English correspondent to The Washington Post, "because I think your influential paper can do a lot to bring to an end a triumph fashion that is creating a deadly mode that the dictatorial fashion experts are trying to make popular."

There! The issue is out in the open, where no skirt or drape or iron curtain can be drawn over it or to make a pretense that it heralds a revolt against the tyranny of the helmine, but with a caution.

Homeless veterans in the East include one who describes himself as a Mayflower descendant. But you can't live in a family tree.

possibly be considered representative of that new blood with which the state GI Democratic organization once promised to infuse the body politic. The state, in fact, was the usual carefully filled, the new blood and new faces which often swings the balance in an apathetic campaign.

One of the most encouraging factors of the election is that, after a good deal of preliminary backing and filling, the new Congress got underway with a prior endorsement from Mayor Baxter. This should guarantee an unusual degree of unity, in the beginning at least, for it indicates that all concerned share Mr. Baxter's progressive viewpoint.

Without reservation, we offer our congratulations to Councilmen Albee, Childs, DeLaney, Lambeth, Jordan, McKee and White—and to Messrs. Akkes, Glenn and Roberts who were simultaneously elevated to the School Board. They are taking over the City Government at a critical moment in Charlotte's history, a time of rapid expansion and great dislocation.

The Communists Place An Ad

IN THIS edition of The News there is an advertisement of the North Carolina District of the American Communist Party. It conforms in every respect to the standards we have long since laid down for all general advertisements. There is nothing offensive in the text, although we regard several of the statements contained therein as dubious in interpretation if not in basic fact.

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Our faith in the ultimate wisdom of the people is absolute. That wisdom, we believe, is the product of conflicting social, political and economic theories — each offered freely in the marketplace of opinion and weighed according to merit. We do not believe Communist ideology can survive that test, and we therefore publish the Party's advertisement without trepidation.

People's Platform

IN a recent issue of The News there appeared a reply to my first article on liquor and the Bible, by Mr. F. Wood Lamoureaux, Jr. Wood criticized the article in the following words: "In his letter, Mr. Henderson has introduced after sentence from the Bible and presents his collection of unanswerable proof that Mecklenburgers should vote against ABC stores."

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Jurisdictional Disputes

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Administrative Disputes

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'Always Remember, Pal—I'm For You'



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Liquor And The Bible—III

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Marquis Childs

Labor Bill Cloud

WASHINGTON. THE cloud on Mr. Truman's springtime horizon is the labor bill which is about to reach Congress. At the moment it has a dark and threatening look, as though it might be brought down by a bolt of lightning and thunder and lightning of the most portentous kind.

That viewpoint is as follows. In the very nature of the political process, if the President signs an omnibus bill because it contains provisions he believes are important and as a result Congress legislation is adopted, then the Republicans will put the blame for the failure on the Chief Executive. It will become the principal cause of the 1948 campaign.

The timing is of the utmost importance. A labor bill will probably be passed by the end of June. In short, the President will have to make his decision on this issue by the end of June. It is expected to call a nationwide coal strike.

While labor strategists readily foresee the consequences of a veto. Since the mines would be back in the hands of the private industry, the Government would not have the power to create jobs by injunction. That injunction was obtained on the ground that it was against the Government, since the mines were being operated by the Department of Interior.

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Samuel Grafton

THE business community to the effect that President Truman's meek bowing to the labor unions is a cause a recession. The idea is that consumers and merchants too, may stop buying, waiting for lower prices to show up; this may cause a slump and it will then all be the President's fault. This argument is a distorted proof of the soundness of the Grafton Theory. The economist in these columns, which holds that there is something about the labor union that is a touch of whimsy in many of its participants.

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About Face

IN a featured news story in last year's March 26 issue of The News, Judge Luther Hamilton was reported to be very much in favor of ABC stores. Summarizing his views, the article stated: "Judge Hamilton today in Superior Court asserted that crime generated from liquor is not nearly so bad as the crime that liquor stores operate as it is in the so-called dry counties."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON. His plan was to arbitrate jurisdictional disputes. "If we don't put an end to jurisdictional disputes," Murray said, "we're going to do it for us."

Green observed that the AFL had been troubled by jurisdictional disputes about the time when he was in the CIO. I don't see where there's less good to it now than there was then.

Save Union Dues

BROAD-gauged Teamsters Union, President Daniel Tobin said in the course of a recent meeting that he had proposed that if the AFL would agree to save the union dues that's involved there, he would be glad to have the AFL agree to save the union dues that's involved there.