

Charlotte's Lucky Number Is 13

WE live the sound of thirteen for a Great Charlotte, and which is taking form in discussions of ambitious building and improvement proposals. Thirteen was the number of projects listed by Mayor H. H. Baxter in outlining a program at a meeting between members of the City Council and the City Planning Board Wednesday night.

The number 13 is appropriate for a Charlotte which isn't inhibited by superstitions or fears of the future. It's a catchy number, a bold number, and it could easily be popularized widely as the way of letting the world know that here in Mecklenburg County is a city that makes no small plans and entertains no small hopes.

It doubtless will be necessary, as we go along, to add other projects but let's keep the original number, 13 points for Charlotte, as the permanent designation of this enterprise, and let's always have 13 projects under way or planned. The rate at which our community is growing makes it clear that there will be no opportunity for our planners and builders to rest for many years to come. Successful completion of the first 13-Point Plan will not provide for

all the needs of the Charlotte of tomorrow. This is but the beginning of a continuous and expanding operation in better planning for a modern American city in the true American way.

The manner in which Mayor Baxter, Chairman Frank Thies and their City Council and Planning Board associates started this effort suggests an effective way to bring the entire community into the endeavor. The results of their "acquaintance session" call for other get-togethers with representatives of business, the professions, the churches, labor organizations, women's and men's clubs, neighborhood groups, schools and Government units. This movement to enlist the best minds and the progressive spirits in all levels of our community could start with an original Committee of 13, and grow into a Committee of 1,300, or even 13,000.

It's only one idea and there are doubtless better ones. There are many ways to proceed and we welcome suggestions. We should have at least a good idea for an organization that will put the whole force of the city behind the big 13-Point Plan for Charlotte.

A Boost For The Tar Heels

NOT even a blow to our civic pride can diminish our pleasure at *Holiday Magazine's* display of North Carolina in the current issue. Of the 100-plus photographs of The Tar Heel State, ranging from "The Lost Colony" to the inimitable Charlie Justice, Charlotte merits one picture (of the Independence Square) and Jonathan Daniels, who wrote the 10,000-word running commentary, again points to the paradox of our church-going yet homicidal tendencies. But we don't think Charlotteans have any reason to be ashamed.

The nation-wide publicity, of course, will be of inestimable value. *Holiday* has accorded North Carolina by far the most extensive layout in any national publication. Jonathan Daniels has ably captured the color and variety of life here which, as he says, give the inhabitants of the state "an abiding capacity for enjoying life."

The careful selection of pictures, the majority of them in color, substantiate his interpretation.

Not only will the story and accompanying pictures attract thousands of visitors

to North Carolina as tourists, but the exposition of our industrial and agricultural potentialities in this way, in the long run, stimulate the interest of outside enterprises and capital. Certainly our claim that North Carolina is the most progressive state in the South has been conclusively justified.

However, we suspect that Mr. Daniels also has the idea of teaching North Carolinians a lesson. Tar Heels like to read about themselves, and *Holiday's* North Carolina circulation will doubtless exceed that elsewhere. Mr. Daniels points out indirectly that we must improve the facilities which we offer to the tourist trade by asserting that "no honest North Carolinian can sincerely say to the traveler that he can count on good accommodations" and that "there is indeed no restaurant in the state really worth celebrating." Furthermore, his reference to North Carolina as the country of the pioneer is a subtle reminder that the pioneer spirit is our most honorable attribute, and the primary condition of all future progress.

Salute To The Quartermaster

IN the agitation for conversion of Charlotte's Army Quartermaster Depot to peacetime use by private business operators, the last reason for the conversion that people who remain here after the war find task connected with the late war which they are performing.

The Army has made plans to handle the war dead for the Carolinas and Virginia from this depot. If the whole layout were declared surplus, it would mean months of preparation by the Graves Registration section would be wiped out. It would mean a cancellation of plans by the Commodity Credit Corporation to store tobacco there. It would mean a reshuffling of the large quantities of material now stored there.

The reasonable solution, it seems, would be for the influential interests behind this move to have the Depot declared surplus

to agree to have only the three brick-steel warehouses and the one which is part brick and part frame turned over to civilians. The Army, which is now employing about 40 people and will have 150 additional members of the armed forces at the Depot when graves registration goes to work, should be assured that they will not be kept there until they have finished the work of returning the nation's dead heroes to their native soil.

Indeed, it would be well to make special representations to remove any impression that the Quartermasters are not wanted here. It is inevitable that such feelings would be stirred by the pressure brought to bear for the commercial interests. Memories of the war have been fading fast but the people of Charlotte still regard the Quartermasters as their own and honor them in their last somber assignment on Statesville Ave.

Time Is Running Out For UN

AMERICA's new scheme to strengthen the United Nations machinery carries the idea that may be the last round for UN. The plan, announced quietly by Secretary Marshall as No. 7 on the list of subjects which the United States will raise for consideration in the present session of the General Assembly, immediately became the first issue.

Our plan, contained in a proposal for creation of a security committee of the General Assembly, holds out these possibilities: If approved by the 55-nation Assembly, it will provide a way around the veto which the United States should be Security Council. It will not, however, lend any new force to UN unless it is followed by a decision for punitive action to enforce the judgment of the United Nations, which has a question which may keep the delegates in session indefinitely. Beyond

that there is only one step to the final break.

We are thus faced again with the fact that the United Nations was not designed to keep the peace between two worlds and it cannot be reorganized to serve that purpose. The "security committee" proposal is an illustration of the futility of attempting to change the rules so long as the present conflict between the two great world powers goes on. Each new session of the Security Council or the Assembly simply shows that both sides are using UN as an instrument to advance their conflicting points. Each meeting demonstrates that we are playing too much dependence on UN, asking it to provide solutions which cannot be had at all by peaceable means if they cannot be reached through direct negotiation between Moscow and Washington.

Another Voice

Old American Custom

SENATOR ELMER THOMAS of Oklahoma, back from Europe a few days ago, declared that "professional belly-achers" in the United States should be "sentenced to thirty days in any part of Europe." Having served their time, he continued served they would be glad to return to the United States. He went on to tell of a light meal in London costing \$12, or of a rather heavier, but not so very much so, in Paris—cost, \$28.

Based on the Senator's remarks in his estimate of the good fortune of this country, which, despite rising prices and recurrent shortages is still, compared with Europe, a land flowing with milk and honey and abundant in food, it is not surprising that Senator Thomas made one mistake. He

took American "belly-aching" too seriously. It is, to be sure, a sort of first cousin to the breath of life. Often the more we indulge in it the less we mean what we say. It is a device for letting off steam, for getting rid of superfluous energy, for clearing our decks for battle, as it were, against everyday emergencies and problems.

If the United States of America were to be transformed suddenly into the United States of Utopia, the voice of the complainer would still be heard in the land; he would still get no credit for his share of a poem—but not act like one-handed the Supreme Court injunction against Wells and eventually expects to go up to Wall Street, but six months have dragged by with nothing happening.

Chief Duster Sonnett

THE man who has been sending off old Berge cases is doing them up with flashy headlines is amiable, un-inspired John Sonnett—the only man who ever liked John L. Love but not credit for his share of a poem—but not act like one-handed the Supreme Court injunction against Wells and eventually expects to go up to Wall Street, but six months have dragged by with nothing happening.

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Taking The Edge Off His Appetite



People's Platform

Liberals And 'Liberals'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

TAKING up with Mr. F. Lee Johnson the question of definitions, regarding liberal and "liberal," which we can do at the same time without changing the subject.

Times change, and so do definitions. It used to be that a liberal, properly so called, was one who favored a change in one's government. Thus it was the liberals who elected Franklin Roosevelt. But after they got him in, they began to like the label: so it was the liberals that re-elected, re-elected and re-elected him. The word used to have two distinct meanings, but through its association with the humane policies of Roosevelt, it came to mean only one meaning, that is, generous. A liberal is one, in brief, who takes the Golden Rule with him when he goes to the polls, on whatever question.

"Liberals" is something else again. There is no definition here, only implication. Just like with "yellow-traveler," which used to designate someone who would not be a Communist, himself, yet sympathized with the communistic aims of overthrowing the government by force. Now it is a just a bit of indefinite adjective, applicable to anyone who, on any particular point, seems to take issue with you on the side of liberality. The fact that communists are to its best advantage with a dissatisfied population is beside the point. If Jones thinks that eggs should have a 42 cent price, and you want them pegged at \$2.50, call him a "liberal." It'll guarantee that he'll get them. He can't answer the accusation, because the term doesn't mean anything more than implies that he doesn't get him, tell him that what he is saying is (chuckle) anarchistic drivel.

Is *The News* a liberal or "liberal" paper? As suggested above, it depends altogether on one's point of view. A newspaper has a tremendous pressure on it, both from the right and from the left. For instance, in the same People's Platform in which your letter appeared, Mr. E. J. Presser wrote that "The News will do well to substitute some other columnist for Sam Grafton and the sooner the better." Mr. Grafton goes right on, though, which gives rise to the thought that although *The News* has subscriptions and some advertising space for sale, its political and economic attitude is not on the market. It is like you, been afraid at times that *The News* was swinging to the right, but it wasn't. *The News* is (chuckle) generous and without any quotation marks.

—A. E. BASKETT.

CHARLOTTE

did the same thing, this time for the Republic of Spain. Nor was I afraid when I "invited" myself to the U. S. Army, and I am not afraid now, except for the liberty of the American people.

We have watched it happen in Italy, Germany and Spain and in other smaller countries, and unlike some, I am not optimistic enough to say it "can't happen here." Under the pretense of passing laws to protect them from Communism, they are actually making laws that will rob the people of their last vestige of freedom, but it is not Communism that the reactionary forces in America fear. It's democracy, and not Russia, that they fear. They are afraid of the American people themselves, for it's their love for liberty that stings them because of their reactionary and his dream of a Fascist dictatorship.

—THOMAS C. McNEIL.

A 'Prophet' Who Is Missed

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

I SEE in the People's Platform (Sept. 16) where my good friend P. C. Burkholder wants to know if his article are missed and then avers that there is much confusion in the world.

Come to think of it. I have missed Mr. Burkholder's "letters to the editor." I feel looking for "follow-up" to his many articles some months ago in which he said that as soon as the OPA, and as soon as price controls, and all those other villainous "New Deal" acts are discarded, people will start dancing in the street, the goose will hang high, and the heavy dew of happiness will descend upon our land.

Now, six lamb chops cost \$2 and butter costs about \$1. To make matters worse, we are witnessing the gross influence of that Apostle of Doom, Mr. Burkholder's special friend—former President Herbert Hoover. I'll say there's confusion in the world.

—B. H. EIDSON.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who wants to contribute. The minimum should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Send it to the Editor, The News, 100 N. Salisbury St., Charlotte, N.C. Each letter must be signed at least, in exceptional cases and upon request, withhold the writer's name.—Editors, The News.

One Not Afraid For His Hide

LAURINBURG

Editors, The News:

IN reply to a letter by Mr. Love that appeared in this column sometime ago, I wish to say that although I am a liberal and an amateur, I am not a trend toward Fascism, I am not "afraid for my hide," as he so picturesquely put it.

I am not "afraid for my hide" back in 1936 when I offered my service to the Emperor of Ethiopia. I was striking his first blow at the freedom of the world. I was not afraid a year later when I again

Quote, Unquote

AMANT in a straightjacket is helpless. Neither can a city, whose limits fetter progress, make headway.—Greenville Piedmont.

Well, slowly but surely, the glaring defects on our side are being recognized. Words come from Oxford that the Ole Miss band will have four new new kinds for the Marshall Plan. It's the most serious business of prancing on little and lissome limbs. Daily news and count our blessings.—Jackson (Miss.).

Dr.ew Pearson's :Burge Paved Way For Anti-trust Activity

WASHINGTON

DON'T be fooled by all the hurrah, hubbub and headlines now coming out of the Justice Department's Anti-trust Division. Actually, the rash of anti-trust suits which are being filed are not new. Most of them were prepared two years ago by the energetic Wendell Berry, predecessor of the new anti-trust chief, John Sonnett.

Take, for instance, indictment of real estate boards. Fourteen months ago, this same suit was recommended to the United States District Court by the Justice Department. Tangled with the real estate boys at that time wasn't popular.

Word that President Truman has thrown the harpoon into the real estate lobby, however, the Justice Department has dusted off Berge's 14-month-old case and brought an indictment.

Even so, the indictment doesn't mean too much. For present Anti-trust Division chair-warmer pulled punches. It was Warren's real estate suit, only the real estate boards, and you can't send a board or corporation to jail. That's why real estate moguls aren't really worried.

Other cases piled up by the Justice Department are: a Technicolor, prepared 18 months ago, and the tire industry conspiracy, prepared two years ago. Another case—still not out of the hat—is against Wall Street's investment bankers. This case was all set to go up to Wall Street, but six months have dragged by with nothing happening.

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THE man who has been sending off old Berge cases is doing them up with flashy headlines is amiable, un-inspired John Sonnett—the only man who ever liked John L. Love but not credit for his share of a poem—but not act like one-handed the Supreme Court injunction against Wells and eventually expects to go up to Wall Street, but six months have dragged by with nothing happening.

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against Forrestal and other Wall Street firms. In addition, John Cahill, under whom Sonnett once worked, is now defending Dillon, Read.

So life is no bed of forget-me-nots for Johnny Sonnett. He is still a busy man, and he will prosecute his old Wall Street friends—and perhaps he will.

GOP Publicity Search

THE Republican National Committee isn't shouting it from the housetops, but looking round for a high-profile case to make the industry of the industry, Leyshon, executive officer of Jih Cox's Miami News, offered him \$25,000.

"I suppose you realized that I work for Governor Cox, who was defeated by Wendell Berry, and I am a close friend of your effective critic, Senator Pepper. In addition, you would discover, if I took the job, that I am a member of the National Association of Manufacturers. Redding, publicity chief of the Democratic National Committee.

The Republicans decided to look for somebody else.

Merry-Go-Round

New War Production Board—Industrious Averell Harriman, the Secretary of Commerce who is reverting his father's role of Wall Street high-binder, is quietly working on new kinds for the Marshall Plan. It's the most serious business of prancing on little and lissome limbs. Daily news and count our blessings.—Jackson (Miss.).

Negro to Annals—First Senator ever to appoint a Negro to Annals is 80-year-old Democrat Theodore Francis Green, Rhode Island millionaire, and blue-stock

Stewart Alsop

A Way Out In Italy?

WASHINGTON

A CURIOUS, round-about method of dealing with the ominous economic and political situation in Italy, which has been described in reports from Rome appearing in this space, is now being considered by worried officials in Washington and London. It is a method which would be applied to the similar crisis in France. It is finally decided that certain far-reaching effects.

Briefly the idea—and it is, at the present writing, no more than an idea—is to apply part of the loan \$400,000,000 remnant of the British loan to the immediate dollar needs of Italy and France. This suggestion is reported to have been introduced informally between the American and British officials at the monetary conference in London. Moreover, some days ago the Italian Government requested the United States to convertible into dollars of the Italian sterling balances. The Italians have offered for \$200,000,000 in a lump sum, and \$80,000,000 a month thereafter. Italian officials have urged that the United States to support Italy in this request.

STOP-GAP MOVE

The American policy makers have refused to commit themselves until more is known of the British reaction. But they are nevertheless interested in the idea. The reason is simple. As Secretary of State George C. Marshall has pointed out, something must be done to stave off total economic collapse in Italy and France before the new year. Yet it seems anything but probable that the Congress, even in special session, will act so soon. And if a minimum of dollar aid is not forthcoming to keep Italy and France going until the winter sets in, there is every likelihood that the debate on the Marshall plan will become a mere formality. Western Europe as a whole will become part of a vast Soviet-dominated alliance, precisely the end which the Marshall plan was primarily designed to avert.

Thus it is absolutely essential to the American position that the United States be willing to act. It was largely out of deference to the British position that \$400,000,000 of the British loan was

converted into dollars for the borrower—Great Britain was unable to meet the conditions of the loan. The chief of these conditions which the British were unable to meet was to provide sterling convertible into dollars on current account.

STERLING USELESS

Since the freeing of the loan and the end of convertibility, the huge sterling balances have been used by Italy and France to become used to other countries. Sterling will not buy wheat from the United States and French governments need to feed their people, nor the United States they need to run their industries operating. However, if a part of the remnant of the British loan were converted to the specific purposes of allowing Italy and France to convert a portion of their sterling holdings into dollars, the immediate crisis in these two countries would be at least partially alleviated. Thus the American Congress and the American people would be given the time in which to consider and to act on a long-term project to help Europe permanently get on its feet.

DEFENSE ON BRITAIN

The key of course, is the reaction of the borrower, Great Britain. And British officials would be politically dangerous to the British government. British officials of the Chamberlain-Baldwin, whose reputation for political courage is not high, has already requested Secretary of State John Snyder to free the remnant of the British loan for use. If the British government were now to agree to free the remnant of the British loan for use, it would be a political reaction in England, but it would be a political reaction in the United States. The British people, paid by the British government, would not be so easily deceived by the British government. The British people, paid by the British government, would not be so easily deceived by the British government. The British people, paid by the British government, would not be so easily deceived by the British government.

Hard On The Poor

NEW YORK

A SURPRISING number of conservatives endorse some form of the New Deal. One reason is that it puts the cost of economic readjustment on the poor. Hunger is not a progressive device. A housewife engaged in a buyers' strike does without meat, without milk, without butter, without anything but the bare necessities of life, and that for her family.

A buyers' strike has the same effect on diet and health as a depression. It is a depression. The classic conservative device for correcting the depression is to let the market take its course. It is a depression. The classic conservative device for correcting the depression is to let the market take its course. It is a depression. The classic conservative device for correcting the depression is to let the market take its course.

ing so amiable suggestion by people whose daily caloric intake is as unimpressive as the British loan. It is no tactical substitute for a program of price controls; for the buyer's strike is a normal living standard, while the normal disrupts it. It is a bit of political reaction in England, but it would be a political reaction in the United States. The British people, paid by the British government, would not be so easily deceived by the British government. The British people, paid by the British government, would not be so easily deceived by the British government. The British people, paid by the British government, would not be so easily deceived by the British government.

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