

PEOPLES VOICES TO ELECTIONISTS

City May Ask Ruling On Joint-Agency Finances

Official Says Opinion Would End Squabble
Attorney General May Be Queried

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A ruling from the State Attorney General on the legal requirements for governmental performance by both the City and County will probably be sought in the near future, City Manager Henry A. Yancey said today.

"Yes, I am trying with the idea of arranging a conference for City Attorney John D. Shaw and myself with the Attorney General to get exactly what the law requires of each government," the City Manager said.

"If the ruling is obtained from the Attorney General, the interpretation of the law should be sufficient for the guidance of both governments," Mr. Yancey said. "I will be willing to abide by the law and do what it says."

Mr. Yancey's own personal interpretation of the law is that certain obligations are the responsibility of the County and that present divisions for certain operations are manifestly unfair to the city dweller, who is also a part of the county and pays county taxes.

Figures compiled today by municipal accountant's office show that on the basis of the county's present tax rate of 58 cents per \$100 valuation, city dwellers pay 73.78 per cent of the county's total valuations revenue.

On Jan. 31, the total county-wide property values came to \$192,107,045 with the valuations inside the city totaling \$142,480,045. On the basis of the city valuation, city dwellers will pay to the county \$18,834,536.90. This is 73.78 per cent of the total and does not include the figures of \$22,444 assessed by the County as poll tax on residents of the rural police.

Mr. Yancey points out that city dwellers on the basis of the total payments pay nearly 74 per cent of the maintenance cost of the County Police Force but "does any resident get any service from the rural police?"

As a matter of fact, Mr. Yancey said, city officials did not ask the County Government to provide police protection to the residents of Morris Park Homes, located out in the country but has been a provision of its own by assigning officers there. However, city officers have to obtain their authority from the County and are sworn in as deputy sheriffs by Mr. Yancey.

BETHEL'S FIGURES
In line with the unequal distribution of such costs, Dr. M. B. Bethel, health officer, submitted figures on charity hospitalizations to Mr. Yancey today.

The figures showed that last year there were 769 city patients who received charity hospitalization after the girl accused them of attacking her last week-end.

The girl told authorities she had gone with the contractor from worker to a spot six miles from where the belief she had been hired as a nurse by the children.



NEW CHINA RESTAURANT

MUD IN THE STREETS was apparent yesterday and today as the rain loosed dirt that had been caked on sidewalks, in parking lots, alleys and on automobiles.

The slow rain apparently had loosened all the dirt that had caked on pavements during the past several weeks of alternating Winter and Spring weather.

The dirt dissolved in the mist-like rain, which never came down hard enough to wash the mud away.

The mud stayed where it was, and in many places it was as thick as a layer of paint.

It was no day for finely polished shoes.

O. C. Fogus, head of the Sanitary Department which—among other things—charged with cleaning the streets, admitted he had a problem on his hands.

He said that the street-sweeping machines and the street-fighting trucks could do a lot toward getting the grime and mud off the streets in a night.

The trouble is that the temperature goes down below freezing many nights, making street-sweeping a hazardous business, coating the pavements with dangerous ice instead of mud.

Streets in the business area can't be swept and flushed during daylight hours, he said, because of the heavy traffic and because the powerful streams of water, which spray pedestrians with a fine muddy mist.

All the street-cleaning must be done during the night, but only when weather conditions permit.

"I have just received a report from the man who swept the streets Monday night," Mr. Fogus said. "It shows that he started the work all right, but had to stop about 3 o'clock, because the temperature went down."

Meanwhile, the condition of the streets gets worse. More mud is added as it drains down the streets of water. Especially near sites of new buildings, where excavations are being made, the mud is especially bad.

The real problem started weeks ago, during the snow. Much dirt was left when the snow melted. Some drains were clogged. A number of citizens called City Hall to complain about certain dirt streets.

THREE SWEEPERS
Three sweepers machines are being used by the city. One is assigned to clean the business district, one to the residential area and one to the industrial area.

Eight Injured As Trolley Hits Bus
WASHINGTON (AP)—Eight persons were injured early today when a loaded streetcar ran into a bus and careened to rest off its tracks.

The accident occurred at an intersection four blocks from the Capitol building. Both vehicles remained upright, though they were badly damaged. Witnesses said the bus driver was hurled into the air by the force of the crash.

Evidence Of War Fraud In Contracts Is Reported

House Committee To Take Action

WASHINGTON (AP)—A General Accounting Office report of evidence of "unprecedented" fraud in war contract settlements brought a promise today of a prompt Congressional investigation.

Rep. Bender (R-Ohio), chairman of the House Expenditures committee, said today that "one out of every twenty settlements" may have been based on fraud.

The report was made to Congress by Lindsay Warren, head of the General Accounting Office.

Bender said the report coincides with information obtained by the committee. He added that "it is in line with what I have previously claimed, that millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money has been wasted and literally given to war contractors."

Bender renewed his request that Congress repeal the Contract Settlement Act. He has opposed it on the ground it did not give the General Accounting Office special power to stop fraud.

Warren said the GAO had examined 4,000 contracts covering payments to contractors totaling \$60,583,336 on 18,672 contracts, subcontracts and purchase orders.

"Careful analysis of the evidence disclosed in these contracts has led to the conclusion that at least 145 of the settlements... disclosed evidence of a break among nearly \$400,000... were induced by fraud."

Warren said the cases have been certified to the Justice Department. In at least 185 additional cases, Warren said, there is a "reasonable belief" that improper payments totaling more than \$800,000 have been made to 27 contractors.

Limited examination permitted by the General Accounting Office, he added, "has disclosed evidence indicating a reasonable probability that one out of every twenty settlements... have been based on fraud."

Warren said this is "an unprecedented" in the entire history of the General Accounting Office.

But the President has continually been asked to take responsibility in the nation's front.

The radio, now in Communist hands, said the President had accepted the resignations of twelve anti-Communist ministers from the cabinet.

The Communists claimed a grip on the radio and the press had been reduced to a climax. Nowhere, now, do the opposition parties have a chance to express their views.

Immediately after the announcement that the traitor Benes had capitulated, the Government Press Service said that Benes had accepted the resignations of twelve anti-Communist ministers from the cabinet.

People in this Democratic stronghold are favoring Republican candidates in the New York primary. The study of the first batch of mail reveals.

The first mail brought considerably more votes for Republicans than for President Truman or other members of his party.

Henry Wallace got more votes than Truman in the initial response.

These first ballots sent to the President by the New York State Republican Party indicated a strong "protest vote" against Truman.

Democrats who declared they didn't want to vote for Truman, and weren't inclined to swing completely over to the Republicans, also cast straw votes for South American and Senator Vandenberg.

General Eisenhower and Wallace were tied in first place. They were trailed by President Truman and Senator Vandenberg.

Tied in third place were Eugene Dennis and Senator Taft. Senator Byrd was in fourth place.

Others received votes were...

Accepts Cabinet Offered By Red Prime Minister

PRAGUE (AP)—President Eduard Benes announced tonight he has accepted a new Cabinet presented by Communist Premier Klement Gottwald, composed chiefly of Communists and their left wing supporters.

The government radio announced shortly before that the President had capitulated to Communist demands, indicating the last obstacle to iron Communist control of the entire nation had been swept away.

The new Cabinet includes Social Democrats, but no one in Communist support this week after several months of estrangement. Other parties also are represented.

A statement from the President's office said that two Social Democrats resigned before the new list was accepted. They were Right Wing Member Vackay Major, minister of labor, and Prandek Tyskalsky, minister of justice.

Jan Masaryk, non-party member of the Cabinet, continues as minister of foreign affairs.

The announcement came as vast crowds gathered in the public squares prepared under Communist leadership to stage a demonstration in support of the new government.

The President's palace was surrounded by hundreds of police and soldiers, armed with rifles and machine guns.

The Communists had posed a threat of a general strike to end the Benes government.

(The retention of Masaryk appeared to raise the possibility that his aid for absolute control of the country would be resumed by Czechoslovakia.)

(Two months ago in London Masaryk said he did not believe the United States wished to conclude a separate peace with Germany, and threatened to resign.)

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Members Of House Sign Pact Against Proposal

Nomination Of Truman Opposed

By JACK BELL
WASHINGTON (AP)—Seventy-four House Democrats have signed the Southerners' pledge to "oppose to the final President Truman's program for anti-lynching, anti-poll tax and anti-segregation laws."

The count in this mobilization for civil rights measures was disclosed today as some thirty party rebels talked of brooding their campaign. These want not only to beat Mr. Truman's program but to keep it from getting the Democratic Presidential nomination.

The first test of what they can do in Congress may come soon. A House Judiciary subcommittee approved today a resolution to make lynching a Federal offense. The full committee may consider it tomorrow. Approval would send it on to the House floor for an early vote.

The Southerners' pledge is the one some 50 House Democrats drew up at a meeting last Friday. All who were there signed it, but no names were made public because they wanted the campaign to let other Southerners have a chance to add their names.

Rep. Owen Harris (D-Ark.) gave out the names today, saying he was not a party revolt or threat but an organized effort to defeat those who are expected to "co-operate as soon as they have the opportunity."

Among other things, the signers promised to co-operate with Southern Governors who are a-battling the Truman program. A committee of Governors, now headed by Governor McChesney of Mississippi, is expected to get the President's recommendations withdrawn from Congress.

McChesney said, no. The Governors may go up with some strategy in Richmond, Gov. William C. C. McChesney said, no. The Governors may go up with some strategy in Richmond, Gov. William C. C. McChesney said, no.

The measure now will be flown to the Caribbean for President Truman's expected signature. Mr. Truman is vacationing in that area.

The Senate acted under a suspension of its rules making it unnecessary for the banking committee to pass on the bill.

The extension through March gave the Legislature additional time to work on a bill to continue controls for a long period.

The Senate passed and sent to the House last night a measure to keep controls for 14 months until the end of April 1949. This bill changes the present law in several ways.

Senator Barkley (D-Ky.) and Taft (R-Ohio) told the Senate they hope the longer extension will be passed within the next 30 days.

Taft said he has been given "every assurance" by the House Bankers' group that it will give speedy consideration to the Senate bill.

Taft is chairman of the Senate GOP Policy Committee. He said the House group had agreed to extend resolution proposed by Chairman Wolcott (R-Mich.) of the House group.

House Republican leaders say they are putting off study of the Senate fourteen-month bill to find out what effect the recent market price changes have on rents.

See DEMOCRATS on page 14-A

Sen. Umstead Enters Race

DURHAM (AP)—U. S. Senator William B. Umstead, who has been campaigning energetically, if informally, for several months, announced today that he would be a candidate to retain his Senate post.

So far Umstead has only one opponent in the race for the Democratic nomination, W. R. Rouse Johnson, M. Broughton of Raleigh. Broughton made his formal announcement yesterday. He said he has been campaigning for some time.

Umstead, a former Congressman from the Sixth District, managed to get the gubernatorial nomination in 1944, and upon the death of Gov. Chas. B. Aycock, he was elected to the governor's office.

Umstead said that "there is a public record of my service and that I am not a newcomer to the issues of the day" and that he was sure there would be no "grave issues of public concern" during the campaign.

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Held In Attack On Negro Girl

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—A white truck driver 35 years old is in jail here without bond on charges of criminally assaulting a sixteen-year-old Negro girl.

Sheriff Frank Shivers said James C. Evans was indicted by the Leon County grand jury yesterday after the girl accused him of attacking her last week-end.

The girl told authorities she had gone with the contractor from worker to a spot six miles from where the belief she had been hired as a nurse by the children.

WEATHER
Cloudy and warmer this afternoon, tonight and Thursday. Occasional drizzle tonight and Thursday morning.
Temperature at 2 P. M. today... 53
High and low next 24 hours... 53-34
Chance of rain... 60%
Sunrise tomorrow... 6:57
More Weather Data on page 14-A