

THOMAS L. ROBINSON General Manage

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1949

STRETCHING OUR RESOURCES

THE trouble with our present theory of government—local, state and national -is that it gaily assumes that the sum of the whole is greater than all its parts, and that government can live on a more lavish scale than the citizens can afford for

that government can intend a discussional special than the citizens can afford for themselves. It washington, where the Federal Government, burdened with a terrific national debt, is spending every penny, and more, of the inconceivable sum it takes in. We see it in Raisigh, where the State is blowing practically all of its reserve money, and toping with the idea of going heavily in debt to build more roads. And we see it here in Charlotte where the City Government is midling a program of public limprovements which will be very limit. It's a comfortable and easy way of living, and puts off until some future day the inevitable reckoning for the heedlessness of the moment. It also ignores one of the basic precepts of individual, and collective, economy: that reserves should be accumulated in times of plenty to tide us over periods of recession.

periods of recession.

Here's what the City of Charlotte is thinking about, with the proposals being roughly divided into necessities and luxuries:

	N	ECE	SSITI	ES	
Water	System.	****			\$1,200,000
Street	Paving				1,100,000
Sewer	System				1,000,000
Tota	,				\$3,300,000
200		LUX	URIES	5	
Pire A	Jarm By	stem			\$ 400,000
Police	Precinct	Stat	ions .		200,000
Recres	tion				1,000,000
Off-St	reet Par	king			500,000
Audito	rium				1,500,000
				200	

A good case câm be made out for every one of these projects. They're all needed, so not degree or shother. But if all were carried out, the City's bonded indebtedness would be pushed right up to the legal limit of eight per cent of the city's total valuation, leaving no leeway for emergencies and requiring an immediate boost of 25 cents on the tax rate to carry the interest and principal payments. At a time, too, when tax collections, for the first time in many years, are beginning to drop off, an indication that taxpayers don't have the ready dash they once had.

ready cash they once had.

The Couply is thinking of some new projects too Biggest single program under discussion is the completion of the new school program which may cost as much as \$5,00,0000 on top of that, the Library is asking for a chance to go before the people with a bond issue of just under a million dollars for a new library building. Those two added together would also push the couple of the County's bonds.)

To suggest that the City and County To suggest that she City and County Governments simply can't do everything they'd like to do is not to minimize the need. Chariotte has been alow to recognize that it is a metropolitan area, with metropolitan problems to soice. But as long as the City's revenue is so tightly tied to real property taxes, it must proceed with casition. A growing city will need capital expenditures all along, the extent and nature of which cannot now be guessed at, and in shooting the works now we may be strapping ourselves for years to come.

UMSTEAD'S BUTNER PLAN

IF you've ever watched a youngster—a kid in his late 'teens or early twentise—come home from prison you will notice a great deal that's different about him. He'll have a different look, a different sound. His face will have hardened, his eyes grown colder, his wocke sharper and there'll be a tough of venom. In It.

tough of venom. In it.
After nine months or a year or two years
of association with "long-timera", men who
are spending len, twenty years or life in
prison, the youngster will have learned a
lot. He will have learned a lot about robbing and beating and killing. He will have
learned he will egendary criminals "outsmarted" the law. And he may have
learned converted to the law.

If you've ever experienced this way will hope very sincerely that Rep, John W. Umstead's new bill gets through North Carolina's Legislature.

lina's Legislature.

Umstead's bill calls for the establishment at State-owned Camp Butner of a prison eamp for young men who cross the law but once. Ordinarily such young men — over

sixteen and under 25 — are sent to Highway Commission detention camps or, when these are not sufficient, to Central Prison at Raleigh.

as maisegn.

To send first offenders to a well-equipped, sufficiently large camp at Butner would benefit not only the offenders but the state, for the criminal fraternity is not only social but educational. More often than not an unsegregated prison is a breeding place for more crime rather than an institution for rehabilitation and cure.

an institution for renabilitation and cure. There can be no doubting the moral and social value of Umstead's Butner plan. And it is practical as well, for these youngsters would be put to work in the maintenance and upkeep of the Hospital's Board of Control facilities at Butner.

It would be good if North Carolina could rehabilitate all of its prisoners. But this would cost a lot more than the State can afford now and call for better trained personnel than is available. Until we can modernize our prison system, the Butter plan seems to us an excellent first step.

THE KLAN GOES TO CHURCH

MOST Americans — all people as a matter of fact—like to get their opinions about something straight and stick with them. They like to think of baseball pitchers as tobacco chewers and of teen-agers as litterbugs and they also like to think of members of the Ku Kiux Khan as sinister, hooded figures rolling quietly, ominously through a small Southern town, their automobiles topped with glowing orange crosses.

tomobiles topped with glowing or an age croases.

They don't like to think of Klanamen as polite quiet people—men and women—who file into a little Baptist Church and sit reversmity in the worship of God. They don't like to think of them as benevient citiens who, out of the goodness of their hearts, travel out to an old Negro couple's But within the past few weeks the American public has come up against both of these disturbing incidents. A picture in the Allanta Journal last Monday showed a young spectator reacting in a typical manner to un-Klanlike activities. Her jaw

hung loosely, mouth open in amazement, at the sight of Klansmen filing into a place of worship.

This is not to intimate that a man cannot be a member of the Klans and, at the some time, a believer in the Christian phil-osophy. It is difficult by to possible. We merely with oppoint out there were the control of the cont

their symbol a flaming cross.

The Klan hasn't reformed. It has just

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

SMOKE AND REALTY VALUES

THE somewhat spinsterish New England proverb which holds that "cleanliness is next to godliness" tinds application only in the more rustic communities of that former stronghold of a vanished puritan-

New England's industrial cities, like our New England's industrial cities, like our own, are plagued by dirt, smoke and fumes. The older neighborhoods in such cities, as in our own, have depreclated not only from an esthetic, but from a financial point of view. They become more grimy and slatternly looking every year, and finally are reduced to the jow estate of unprofitable slums.

aiums.

Manhatian offers a horrible example of
the tremendous loss in realty and tax
values incurred through cive negligence.
Old buildings, like old people, have
"character." It is a pity to see them go to
seed before their time. Popular interest in
a suggested program to restore the Gamble's Hill section of Richmond has received
support from those who are anxious to preserve its architectural beauties and historia
"kills. Real state owners directly on-

certain the conservation of their properties should sit up and take notice. The close proximity of such residential areas to expanding business districts appeals to those who would like to live "within waikling distance of the job"—an old-fashioned arrangement, whose time-and-money saving benefits are not to be sneezed at.

But so long as such neighborhoods, adjacent to plants and ratiforad yards, are plagued by smoke and fumes, there is little inducement to invest money in jheir restoration Clean air is one of the prime requisites of any residential section. The feasi-

ration Clean air is one of the prime requi-sites of any residential section. The feasi-bility of "renovating" the city's older neighborhoods is therefore dependent to a large extent upon the success of our smoke control program.

The elimination of smoke as a destroyer

The elimination of smoke as a destroyer of health, of civic pride and real estate values should be pursued energetically. It is supported by all intelligent citizens. It should not be allowed to lag. It should be intensified and pursued by the city government as one of our most important citiz reforms.

'Well, Back To The Old Grind'



People's Platform

Our State Legislative Program

Editors, THE NEWS:

I ENCLOSE copy of a letter that I have sent to cer-tain leaders in the North Carolina General As-

-A. R. EMSLIE.

BURLINGTON, N. C. January 18, 1948

Gentlemen:

that our Gowernor is taking a leaf, or should I say the entire book, from our President, Mr. Truman, in a spending program that will cost and cost and cost the many consideration to the say that the say of the Have you gentlemen given any consideration to the tax burden of the working people of North Carolina? Dour realize that any additional taxes in North Carolina? Why do I take this attitude Well. I hope you appreciate that the State of North Carolina is not self-sustaining, that you carn't and the legislature you must know that you buy from outside of the state. Why is this the situation? Be-tuilly the state of the state of the say of the state. The state of the state of the state of the last, they because they know you do not have the labor market necessary and only because families will not move into the state because of the have the labor market necessary and only because families will not move into the state because of the last they because they know you do not have the labor market necessary and only because families will not move into the state because of the last problems, their own rural roads. It will be to property for the improvements. These, assessments out; go on forew. When, the improvement is made the assessments ston.

their own benefit. Have the communities assess the don't go on forever. When, the improvement is made the assessments ston.

Referring-back to some of the taxes, I noticed one and the sessessments ston.

Referring-back to some of the taxes, I noticed one the session of the se

Governor is advocating the discontinuance of a number of automobiles, the closing up of gas and service station. This isn't individuous because it will be cheaper for people to use laxi-cabs and bussed will not take their place. People will have fread to go with and they will not take cruising trips. In other words to continue to tak travel you are advocated by the continual to tak travel you are advocated by the continual to the travel you are advocated by the continual to the

bile owner who uses only the histowers stade he pays the he state. In the carry the burief for every fown in he state.

Let us refer to Mr. Penny's liquor bill. I am yet much surprised to know that there is still a term in the state of the

then some of us would retrain from somering to the So sentlemen, don't you too think that both these measures should be gone over thoroughly, di-gested and even if necessary to confer with experts on these matters and then put it up to the people, particularly do not say to the people, you vote dry or you vole wet, but say what do you want, "Dry", "Wet" or "Local Option"?

Joseph Alsop

The Meaning Of De Gaulle

PARIES

IN the eyes of a vasior from the moon, Charica de Gaulle would appear as only one more symptom of the polarization of political appear as only one more symptom of the polarization of political control of the polarization of control of the polarization of the eyes of an American observer, which has been so the polarization of pol

different from the conception prevaining in the people of Louis XIV.

The American different control of the first section of the first section of the first section with Franklin Rossevell, is, increased by his aimost systical fatth in his own feeting, his compensating lack of respect his passionate, obstimate insistence-upon being French. No one-could be less a citzen of the own country, as the control of the first section of the own country, as the control of the first section of the own country, as the control of the first section of the own country as the first section of the own country as the country of the first section of the own country as the first section of the own country as the first section of the fi

of matches.

Finally, though he thinks of history in endies wists, the very intensity of his French feeling makes him a little provincial. With provincialism must always have gone a tendency to be suspicious. And the idiotic treatment of de Chaulle in war tithe, primarily by the American policy makers, has increased this tendency to be auspicious to an extraordinary decapitions to an extraordinary decapitions to an extraordinary de-

suspicious to an extraordinary de-ference and now product which selection are now product which side, will be veterorous in the strange struggle that is now going on between whe Prench center extraordinary of the product of American policy, the important fact obsoluted Caulie is not that he may about de Caulie is not that he may be about de Caulie is not that he may character may make him difficult character may make him difficult to deal with, or that the world with he did duting the way or even

that his victory now would prochably create almost as much Precibilities and the prochably create almost as much Precibilities and the prochably create almost as much prochably create almost a construction of the prochable and the prochable as the searchtaily expressing the last search and the search and the processing the last search and the processing the search and the search

main facts sitck out most impair-antly. Guille trust no other Piras to adequate the interest of France. And second, although theoretically persuasive, he is in-merently impractical. For the Ger-man people will never permanently of allels, unless foreign bayonets are permanently present to make them submit. Yet de Gaulle is far hem submit. Yet de Gaulle is far hem de la company of the proposes the re-establishment of cermad armed forces as a seameng formad armed forces as a seameng for the forces as a seameng force as a seame

in the detense of this properties European Units. Impactical, yet Iro Gaulie impactical, yet Iro Gaulie impactions of the majority of Frenchmen, what then is the answer? The answer seems to like in a fundamental of the seems of security in France. Onsubrement of security in France. Compression of security in the security in th

Marquis Childs

1829-1949

Nature of the control of the control

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Southerner Puts Civil Rights To Work

WITHOUT benefit of flashbulbs or fanfare, an important Southern Congressman has put civil rights to work on a "Congressman Henderson Lanham of Rome, Ga. who believes in co-operation with Negroes but doesn't like laws freed to the congress will have been been congressed to the congress will have been considered to serve under him.

Lanham is No. 3 man on the imported join also a base considered to serve under him.

Lanham is No. 3 man on the imported join also a base seat to the Negro. He also had a pleasant talk with the Chicago Democrat about their boyhood cack in Georgia. It developed that they had been rearred only a few miles participated the consideration of the constant o

Another Southern Congressman, Porter Hardy of Virginia has also announced he will stay on Dawson's committee.

Dinner For Dawson

MEANWHILE a dinner is being held tonight at the Intersor Dept. in honor of the first Negro ever to become chair-ter of the control of the control of the control of the Dawson tried to discurage the dinner. He left it would out too many of his Southern colleagues on the spot. However his Northern riends had proceeded with the plans without

Other Southerners also wrote kind words of tribute, such as Kentucky's Congressman Frank Cheff who scribbled underneath his formal letter turning down the invitations. The constraint of the control of

sequence as Messispiny John Rankin until he has now been accepted into the leadership of Tag House.

White House Disunity

O'NLY a handful of inatiers know it, but the new-found may be a substitute of the manufacture of th

Mystery Speech

WASHINOTON correspondents are still wondering what happened to that rootin-tootin speech by Labor Secretary Maurice Tobin at the Academy of American Arbitrators dinner which the press associations and big-city newspapers carried in great detail, but which Tobin actually didn't