

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## CITY-COUNTY CONSOLIDATION

INTRODUCING the Institute of Government's massive report on overlapping city-county services, Director Albert Coates observed humorously that it is more profitable politically to make two offices grow where one grew before than it is to reverse the process; hence he was dealing with an explosive topic.

He noted also that the Institute had received numerous communications from residents of Mecklenburg County and its incorporated towns and cities objecting strenuously to the whole idea of consolidation before any of the facts were made clear.

Some Mecklenburgers doubtless have closed minds on the subject, and no presentation of facts of logic will change them. We prefer to believe, however, that the overwhelming majority of the people will examine the forthcoming reports with open minds and will be amenable to proof and persuasion that there are ways in which we can get more efficient government out of our local tax dollars.

It is not the Institute's business to assume responsibility for this precedent-smashing survey since Burke Davis' original series of articles back in 1946 inspired the City and County Governments to ask the help of the Institute of Government. Our main concern has been to see the project through, and get the facts before the people.

This sense of responsibility, however, does not mean that we have had a closed mind on consolidation. Aware of the duplication, overlapping, and inefficient use of tax dollars resulting from the present "topsy-turvy" structure, we recognize the wisdom of traditions and custom inherited in any form of democratic government. We, too, will keep an open mind until the facts are all in.

There was one especially encouraging aspect of Mr. Coates' introductory report yesterday. He said:

"We asked for a free hand and we got it—free a hand that any shrewdly anticipating these things would have seen at the doors of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg office from a hand that was without any information, we asked for it."

## PLANNING AN AUDITORIUM

FOR the first time since agitation for a new city auditorium in Charlotte gained real momentum, we appear to be making progress—and in a logical, sensible way.

Some years ago the people were asked to vote bonds for a War Memorial Auditorium, the favorite project of former Mayor Herbert Baxter. The proposal was defeated, primarily for two reasons: (1) it was a vote against restriction and (2) the project was too amorphous, without a well publicized site and design.

More recently, the present Administration, beginning with the Ochs Temple of the Shrine for the site of its S. Tryon St. property as a site for combined Auditorium and Shrine quarters. The idea was not original with this Administration, but it certainly was prepared at the request of the late Clarence O. Kuster back about 1937.

Shriners rejected the proposal at a recent meeting in Asheville. Even if it had been approved there, it would have been defeated by the people. Viewed

## WASHINGTON AIR TRAGEDY

A THOROUGH investigation of the tragic air crash at the National Airport in Washington, D. C., is being conducted, though it appears that the only question which needs an immediate answer is: Why did the Bolivian pilot of a lighter plane fail to heed his landing orders?

All the other evidence is in. The big DC-4 transport had its landing instructions and was descending toward the runway in perfect order. At 300 feet the lighter plane ploughed into the tail section, and 55 passengers and crew members were hurled to their death.

The control tower officers were not at fault; the commercial pilot was not at fault; the plane was not at fault; the weather was not at fault.

Yet the accident goes down in the books as the greatest airplane tragedy in history. The main problem before the CAB investi-

## BE BOP AD NAUSEUM

ONLY with alarm can the current situation in Washington, D. C. be viewed. It calls for a postscript to the Bill of Rights.

One of that insidious breed of noise-makers, doubtless inspired by quick research into the tortures of the Inquisition, came up with a diabolical idea which is sending Washingtonians into fits.

"That plot is this music, news, weather reports and (ugh) commercials are being piped into all the selling stores of the Capital Transit Co."

You can't ride the bus to work without being subjected to the stuff. Streetcars? The same thing, exactly.

This music, news, especially hideous. But it may not be your turn, soon. Some may be trapped, held captive before wending waves of ya-ta-ta and dum-

have not yet been smart enough to find it out. We have not left out any fact nor spoiled any factor, we found relevant to these reports.

The people can be sure, then, that the forthcoming reports will tell the whole story, not merely a part of it. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg officials are to be commended for their full and generous cooperation.

THE INITIAL report fills in some important gaps. Many pages are devoted to a detailed account of the various steps by which Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte developed as legal entities. This is information which has not been previously available in concise, chronological form.

More interesting is the tracing of relationships between city and county agencies—streets, criminal laws, police forces, courts, jails, schools, health services, finances. In each case the problems of people who lived close together in the city became different from those in the rural areas, and certain extra city services were inaugurated to supplement county services and remained to supplement them.

In the process both governments were growing in shape size.

On the County side, a one man Register of Deeds became a department of nine people; the Clerk of Court a department of seven; the Sheriff a department of ten people working with civil matters and a separate Rural Police Force of 40 persons; the welfare officer a staff of 51.

On the City side, the Health Officer now directs a staff of 85 people; the street overseer a department of 85; the fire chief a force of 150; the police chief a department of 183.

What this historical development means in the dual terms of cost and efficiency will be shown in the subsequent reports on individual topics. But already it is evident that this monumental survey will be of keen interest not only to Mecklenburgers but to other metropolitan counties in North Carolina and, indeed, the nation.

## People's Platform

ST. PAULS, N. C. Nov. 2.—The "Old Times" who first saw the light of day in a log cabin stop the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina 67 years ago. It was in the year 1882 that the first settlers of this section of the State came to this part of the mountains.

The people name, according to Western Back speller was "Pitts", pronounced "Tuck", which disease was common in the mountains of Georgia, Tennessee and Western North Carolina. It was deemed to be hereditary rather than contagious, and the patient was lucky while their neighbors were thought to be immune.

The high altitude, aided and abetted by the social living conditions, appeared to have made the poorer classes more vulnerable to the ravages of this ailment which often caused death, usually by strangulation. The patients were strangled by fits of coughing and wheezing, and some doctors of that day diagnosed the disease as the first stage of consumption.

Doctors in that day were few and far between, the nearest one to our home being about fifteen miles away over an almost impassable mountain road, which was as well as no one but the "best lives" had the root of it all.

"Pit" and "doct" usually old women, did the best they could under the circumstances. Food and herbs, however, seemed to have no curative powers in the case of "Pitts". Therefore, the patient was "driven out" by people who stood the patient up beside a hardwood tree, marked his or her height on the same, and the patient was lucky enough to outgrow the mark, a cure was effected. One peculiarity about this ailment was that more males were affected than females.

Many other ailments were treated without benefit of medical doctors by these mountain people. "Trash" disease in the mouth of nursing infants, could be cured by anyone who had never seen his own father. After treatment of nursing infants, could be cured by running water using the leaves of certain trees as swabs. This rite had to be completed three times.

Corn whisky was the only cure for snake bite. A buckeye carried in the pocket, was a sure cure for rheumatism. Fire was "driven out" by people boasting certain "oddsities". And when butter refused to churn, one had to add a silver piece of money into the churn to get results.

Fogs of the town variety "caused wars" yet if one walked "the cow" would go dry. What indeed, would have been a calamity in that day of short rations.

NOTE: Sherman was ready to testify with the old-time legends, like intemperance and gambling, seems to be an attribute of the human race, having existed since the dawn of time. It is impossible to eradicate. "Hiram was joined to his idols" the day that Adam was created.

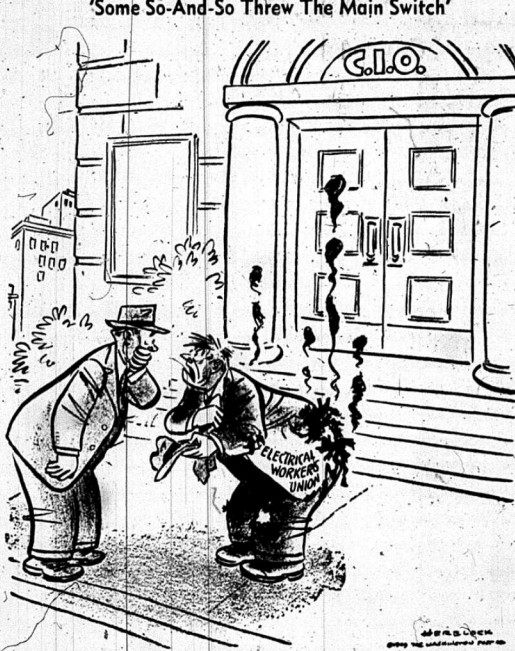
—J. H. WALKER.

## Dewey's Ingratitude

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## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON. HERE'S the dope on Adm. Forrest Sherman, the man who favored intemperance.



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## 'Some So-And-So Threw The Main Switch'



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## Marquis Childs New Collaboration?

FROM this farthest outpost you can look a long way to the East Coast, another report has been the goal of both the Prussian and the Russian. The Prussian is growing more and more totalitarian forces may be security-oriented. The Russian is the East European heartland.

It is, as yet, only conjecture. But the possibilities inherent in the union of Russian resources, including Russian manpower, and German efficiency and technology, combined with its own system of ruthless and totalitarian application.

In the immediate present is Premier Stalin bid to the German people on the basis of union of rights but have been put before full powers of power in the new government, which is a step toward the example is George Deringer, foreign minister in the new setup, who helped to build Fascism in Germany.

THE recent pact between the Soviet Union formed the Free Germany Committee around Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, the German general captured at Stalingrad. They were used for propaganda appeals to the German people during the war and rumor has linked them with the formation of a new German army in the East Zone.

EARLIER HISTORY But back of this is earlier history of collaboration between the Soviet Union and Germany. After World War I it was just after the war which helped to direct the formation of the Russian army.

THE concept of one of the most powerful figures in the revival of Germany might—Gen. von Rundstedt—has been even the Russians was essential. As von Rundstedt in every possible case, such collaboration would be the return of such cities as Breslau and Danzig.

Today there are signs that new collaboration may be developing. It is a step toward the formation of a new German army in the East Zone. It is a step toward the formation of a new German army in the East Zone.

## Joseph & Stewart Also Security Disappears

ALTHOUGH President Truman has made no formal announcement, the substance of the fact about Soviet military development is almost as significant as the explosion in the Berlin block.

THE means, very simply that the remaining grounds for Western complacency are going the way of the wind. The "atomic monopoly."

IN 1945, the Soviets had no atomic bomb. Their fighter aircraft was so primitive that even their best interceptors were not equipped with oxygen apparatus. They had no adequate radar warning net to protect their cities and industries from hostile air attack.

THEir air-warfare capability in the air was a masterpiece of engineering, not more than 18,000,000 tons per year.

THE part of the record how the underdevelopment of Russian technical capabilities in the atomic field in the atomic field. The able director of the British atomic energy program, Sir Henry Dore, set the date for the first British atomic bomb to be exploded in 1952 were privately described as "realistic" in the highest quarters.

THEir atomic bomb was being rapidly developed in the electronic field. Offers by Soviet purchasing agents to buy official American atomic energy equipment in Holland show that Russia was well on its way to vacuum tubes. American reconnaissance aircraft around Russia's borders were being replaced by a more modern type of aircraft.

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## Labor-Go-Round

TRUMAN will not reappoint J. Copeland Gray to the National Labor Relations Board. Labor leaders say that if they can't get the job, they will try to get the job. Labor leaders say that if they can't get the job, they will try to get the job.

## Patent Cy Ching

UNUSING hero of the steel negotiations was long, lanky Cy Ching who, at the age of 71, resigned from the U. S. Rubber Co. two years ago to help his country as a labor consultant.

## U. S. Rubber Co. Two Years Ago To Help His Country As A Labor Consultant

CHING's patience is that of Job's. All week long after hour, day after day, like a broken phonograph record, he listened to the same company arguments that workers must accept the new contract.