

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher
J. S. DOWD, General Manager
B. A. GRIFFITH, Executive Editor
C. M. MCNEIGHT, Editor

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1949

RENT CONTROL DECISION

WE DO NOT know why the Property Management Association's petition to lift rent controls in Charlotte required any positive action at all at this time. If the Council were ready to recommend that controls be abolished, it could simply have turned down the petition and waited until some future date to reconsider the question.

Nevertheless, four of the Councilmen—Messrs. Wilkinson, Daughtry, Altken and Jordan—voted yesterday to recommend that rent controls be lifted on May 1, 1950. Three members voted against the motion: Mr. Alba and Mr. Coddington, who expressed the view that Federal law should continue to govern rent control in Charlotte, and Mr. Boyd, who wanted to wait until the first Council meeting in April to act on the petition.

Mr. Boyd had the most sensible suggestion (though a good argument can be made for following national law). He pointed out that it was impossible to know in December what housing conditions will be in April, and urged that the issue be kept open.

The May 1 date was another of the political compromises of which the press has heard so much. There is no real doubt that Mr. Wilkinson, openly sym-

thetic to the real estate interests, would have liked to see rent controls immediately lifted. There is the suspicion that Mr. Daughtry was of the same mind. Apparently Mr. Altken and Mr. Jordan simply wanted to get out from under the terrific pressure which has been applied to them by proponents and opponents.

Now that the action has been taken, we might as well try to consider the possible benefits therefrom. About the only one on which there is any real prospect of controlled rental prices who may want to plan renovations and alterations will be able to do so more intelligently, now that they know controls will be over May 1.

We may also hope that the more level-headed landlords who own the 35,000 dwelling units now under control will be able to persuade the unscrupulous owners—if we have such in our midst—not to take unfair advantage of their tenants. And we especially have in mind tenants in the low income groups, both white and Negro.

Finally, it is gratifying that the members of the Council debated the question in public instead of behind closed doors. Their views are now on record for future reference by the voters.

THE FIRST 'KLAN INCIDENT'

WHEN a masked, white-robed man, accompanied by six other robed and masked members of a Klan, was seen entering the house of Labram Smith in Charlotte Sunday, many persons were inclined, strangely, to believe the Klan of guilt.

Though the men were in Klan regalia, though their action followed by only two days the announcement of the establishment of a Klavern in Charlotte, they were referred to as "the alleged Kluxers" or "pranksters."

It seems a determined group of "pranksters" who will go to the trouble of setting-up or purchasing robes, simply for the purpose of mischief.

A few lawless men had burned a cross under cover of darkness it would have been a different matter. That could have been a spontaneous "prank," worked up in less than an hour.

But the intent of the Smith household look premeditation.

It is true that when "Grand Dragon" Thomas L. Hamilton came to Charlotte last week to announce the establishment of a Klan in the local Klavern, *The News* had its doubts. And *The News* still doubts Hamilton's claims to do what he does. The Smith incident, however, is difficult to explain.

It is in line with Klan procedure, for one

A TIP FOR MR. TRUMAN

IF, as seems likely, the Truman Administration falls next year to push through its cherished national compulsory health insurance program, there is another way it can give some help to the hard-pressed American people.

As the income tax is written, an individual was earned can not deduct his bona fide medical expenses unless they exceed five per cent of his adjusted gross income.

It is better medicine at a lower cost to

ACTION ON OLEO LAW

IT BEGINS to look as if a House-approved measure to repeal the Federal anti-oleomargarine laws may yet become law. Senator Scott W. Lucas, majority leader, says the bill is the first order of business when the Senate reconvenes in January.

There have been veiled threats from dairy state Senators in the past that they would filibuster any attempt to pass the oleo bill. But it is hardly likely that a filibuster against such an obviously meritorious and equitable law will succeed.

The measure was approved by a vote of 297 to 219 in the House last April 1. On the same day it was reported out favorably by the Senate Finance Committee, and has remained on the calendar without action since that date.

The Senate may probably consider what happened in Ohio last month as a

From The Salary Post

OFF THE BEAM

THE conventional preliminaries, observations, and aftermath of Christmas have developed into an annual cycle offensive to good taste, incompatible with the objectives of the season, inferable to civic virtue, and augmented by every sense of decency.

The physical strain of the Christmas month is greater upon the total population than on any other period of the year. The mental strain is greater, and its mental hazards are large.

The Christmas tradition is among the finest possessions remaining to our race;

thing, a recognized and traditional example of "feeling-out" a city. How much more might be expected of that perfidious swiftness of police action? These are the questions the Klan wants answered. Such things as the visit to the Smiths are the methods used by the Klan to get an answer.

Police Chief Frank Littlejohn says he will attempt to locate and prosecute the robed and masked men "whether they are Kluxers, pranksters or irresponsible fools." That is as it should be.

Newspapers in both Asheville and Raleigh have suggested that the silent treatment might be the wisest approach to the Klan question. In informing the public that the Klan claimed membership here, *The News* did not in any way attempt to glorify the organization, nor does it intend to give the Klan publicity which might be favorable to it.

We shall, however, report Klan activity whenever the occasion arises. The Smith incident was such an occasion.

A *Citizen's* editorial writer summed it up as an August issue of that periodical:

"We cannot be complacent about Klavern any more than we can about Communism. The Klan is not dying, it is growing. Twenty-two new Klaverns are being formed with indifference until it became a serious threat to our democracy. It can be again if we persist in turning our backs..."

The individual is the goal of the national health insurance scheme, then it could be partially achieved by amending the law to permit all bona fide medical costs to be deducted in figuring income taxes.

The Truman Administration could prove its good faith by sponsoring such an amendment to the Federal income tax law. The beneficial results therefrom would be to make the cost of health insurance for middle income groups than to persons in the higher brackets, and thus should be a "natural" for an Administration which makes such a fuss about the little man.

gauge of popular opinion on the subject.

Various proposals to legalize the manufacture and sale of colored oleo had been defeated by the dairy bloc in the Ohio Legislature. Finally, petitions signed by more than 426,000 qualified voters were submitted and the issue came to a vote on Nov. 8.

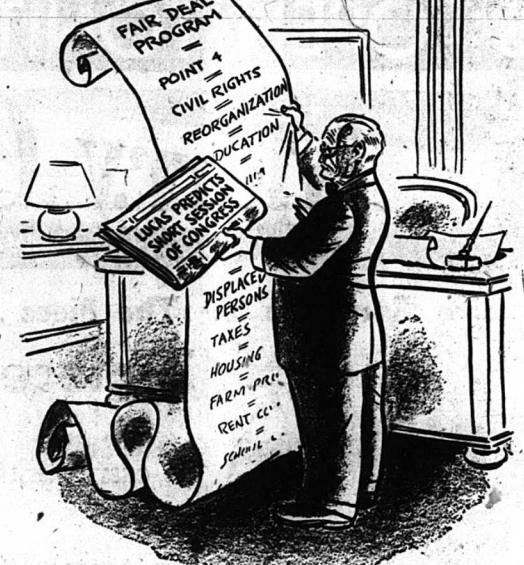
Despite the fact that Ohio is the sixth largest dairy state with 22,000 milk-producing farm families, the vote for yellow margarine was 1,282,590 to 799,473, or a majority of 483,113. Most significant result: all 24 of Ohio's most highly agricultural counties favored yellow margarine.

Ohio is the fourth state to abolish regulations against pre-colored oleo, and the ninth in two years. The trend of public opinion should be clear, even to a Senate which gives pressure blocs far too much consideration.

what we have manufactured around it constitutes a blasphemy.

Christmas means a great many things to a great many people, but in any accurate sense it means a great many things to a great many people. It is a secular holiday, a contribution to it must be judged as the most damaging and dangerous of all American mechanizations.

A chaparral is a woman who accompanies young people to see that they do not do things that she would have done when she was a young woman—Greenwood (Hes.) Commonwealth.



Robert C. Ruark

Who Owns The Air, Anyway?

LOS ANGELES
I BELIEVE we will be in for some interesting controversy on a highly pertinent question. The question is: who owns the skies—the airlines, the separate states under the laws of the air, or the upper regions still remain the exclusive property of God?

For years our airlines have refused to serve the customers a slight smither of alcoholic refreshment while in the heavens over the U. S.—not so much for moral or religious reasons because of Interstate whiskey regulations. They don't mind leading out a hooker of booze when they fly you across the waters to a foreign land. It ain't free, but it's available.

Now the Boeing people have just put some new ships called Stratocruisers on the West Coast and Northwest lines, and in these double-decker states they have built cocktail bars. It seems a shame to have a cocktail bar and serve nothing but flat ginger ale to you in the Northwest people, I understand, have been dealing out a martini to you in their domestic flights, as well as on their foreign runs.

Now we come to the burning issue: Who owns a plane in flight along at 300 miles an hour, 18,000 feet in the air over a dry state, is the steward liable to sudden arrest by a pursuit plane capable of breaking out a nozzle of rum to ward off air-sickness? How do you raid a 300-ton airplane with a heavy tailfin to put about?

THE states, in past, have been pretty heavy about it. It has happened in the air above their borders. I recall a case in which a drunk committed a crime on the wing of his fan. The complaining state swore that clouds normally head of its direction were being milked of rain by a sinister state, which was the clearest hint in a contract very about air ownership proposed by the state. It was set up in the stratosphere, said plane is a heck of a sight closer to heaven than the stock exchange, or a local option law. If there is any beef about what goes on in the sky, it is still subject to taxation in the form of an outraged angel, sending a summons in his harp hand.

Why The Durham Herald wanted to send a reporter to South Carolina to give promotional publicity to plans of an unknown so-called Klan led by an organizer in North Carolina, something hard to understand. The Herald is just a former paper who is now a paper of the North Carolina just as the people of North Carolina and denounce their Governor. Other reports run to the Governor, but ask for attention. So this little, South Carolina who denounces on consent from anybody

of having consumed an illegal Manhattan while temporarily out of state. It doubt the legality of such an operation, but it poses a pretty problem.

Also, if one airline is dispensing about beer to its customers, because it gets awfully dull up there sometimes.

I suppose the WCTU will complain, together with the politicians and the bootleggers that the serving of alcoholic beverages on high is a matter of state control, but it's a hollow argument. I have always heard that air is free and was the way it was. It's free and was the way it was.

Clearly some action must be taken to define the ownership of the upper regions because I should hate to be arrested to Oklahoma on

Time For The Silent Treatment

(From The Asheville Citizen)
One Thomas L. Hamilton, who runs the Asheville branch of the Association of Carolina Klaverns, breathes the fire of defiance to the Klan. He is a man of all and sundry who would "keep the Klan out of the burning issue." He does that in the front page of papers everywhere, thanks to a reporter's special interview.

Mind you, we are not criticizing the Klan and its competitors. Obviously Grand Hamilton's outpourings make sense. We wonder, however, if he's out there

gets more promotional publicity than any other promoter of a good cause could. And all the time this man is as little known with his sheet out as he would be with his sheet in.

This State wants to see an organization designed to stir bitterness and prejudice. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue.

It is a man of all and sundry who would "keep the Klan out of the burning issue." He does that in the front page of papers everywhere, thanks to a reporter's special interview.

Mind you, we are not criticizing the Klan and its competitors. Obviously Grand Hamilton's outpourings make sense. We wonder, however, if he's out there

gets more promotional publicity than any other promoter of a good cause could. And all the time this man is as little known with his sheet out as he would be with his sheet in.

This State wants to see an organization designed to stir bitterness and prejudice. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue.

It is a man of all and sundry who would "keep the Klan out of the burning issue." He does that in the front page of papers everywhere, thanks to a reporter's special interview.

Mind you, we are not criticizing the Klan and its competitors. Obviously Grand Hamilton's outpourings make sense. We wonder, however, if he's out there

gets more promotional publicity than any other promoter of a good cause could. And all the time this man is as little known with his sheet out as he would be with his sheet in.

This State wants to see an organization designed to stir bitterness and prejudice. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue.

WE MUST CHANGE OUR ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAM... BUT HOW?

By Joseph & Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON.
THE DISCUSSION of a new approach to international control of atomic energy has also noted on among the highest American policy-makers. It is not surprising that nothing in the end. Yet it means, at least, that the sober new situation created by the atomic bomb is beginning to be taken into account. It is alone a great gain over the befuddled complacency which was the only response to the news of last September.

But before Secretary Acheson can simply summarize, Leaders of the General Atomic Energy Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission have warned that the new situation in the world is more complex than a coherent, thought-out policy. The intricate circle of State Department officials who are discussing whether a modified plan of international control should be discussed with the Soviet Union.

The problem has gone up to Secretary Acheson's desk. It is in those hands that it now rests.

But before Secretary Acheson can recommend to the President that we abandon the stringent control of atomic energy, he must consider several major alternatives in the path.

First, there is the danger of being drawn into one of those ill-considered expedients which the Kremlin has always desired, in which the two giant powers, Russia and the United States, together will divide the world. Secondly, there is the danger of an invasion of doubt, uncertainty and unreason, which is the danger that our own will be destroyed by the "new look" at atomic energy policy that is now advanced.

The first two dangers can certainly be avoided by a judicious use of genius and firm action. The third danger, of a world of uncertainty, which we may well be able to keep, if and when we have the aid of Secretary Johnson, our son's so-called economy. We are so-called economy. We are so-called economy. We are so-called economy.

New means of defense against big bombers, such as guided missiles, are already in the prototype stage. The Russians are so-called economy. We are so-called economy. We are so-called economy.

The standards of local administration in Britain are very high. The standards of local administration in Britain are very high. The standards of local administration in Britain are very high.

But it is also because there is in the mind a more conscientious approach to public office. The tendency too often in this country is to regard Washington as a kind of a remote, inaccessible place.

For this very reason American officials are usually off the beam. Their criticism is usually a family affair. Their criticism is usually a family affair. Their criticism is usually a family affair.

On one thing most Americans, with the exception of a few lead-in-the-road reactionaries, do seem to be agreed. That is that the level of health care in this country must be raised and that it must be done if not under the direction of government, it must be done by the government.

Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois demonstrated the other day, the approach does not need the approval of the President. Douglas proposed a national insurance plan which would cover all medical costs above \$100 a year. This may not be the final and ultimate solution, but it is a most refreshing and refreshing attempt to put all of medicine in a straight jacket, obviously nearer to the American ideal than the arbitrarily imposed a strait jacket is that all public health be discretized.

It is a man of all and sundry who would "keep the Klan out of the burning issue." He does that in the front page of papers everywhere, thanks to a reporter's special interview.

Mind you, we are not criticizing the Klan and its competitors. Obviously Grand Hamilton's outpourings make sense. We wonder, however, if he's out there

gets more promotional publicity than any other promoter of a good cause could. And all the time this man is as little known with his sheet out as he would be with his sheet in.

This State wants to see an organization designed to stir bitterness and prejudice. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue.

It is a man of all and sundry who would "keep the Klan out of the burning issue." He does that in the front page of papers everywhere, thanks to a reporter's special interview.

Mind you, we are not criticizing the Klan and its competitors. Obviously Grand Hamilton's outpourings make sense. We wonder, however, if he's out there

gets more promotional publicity than any other promoter of a good cause could. And all the time this man is as little known with his sheet out as he would be with his sheet in.

This State wants to see an organization designed to stir bitterness and prejudice. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue.

It is a man of all and sundry who would "keep the Klan out of the burning issue." He does that in the front page of papers everywhere, thanks to a reporter's special interview.

Mind you, we are not criticizing the Klan and its competitors. Obviously Grand Hamilton's outpourings make sense. We wonder, however, if he's out there

gets more promotional publicity than any other promoter of a good cause could. And all the time this man is as little known with his sheet out as he would be with his sheet in.

This State wants to see an organization designed to stir bitterness and prejudice. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue. It should get the Klan out of the burning issue.

It is a man of all and sundry who would "keep the Klan out of the burning issue." He does that in the front page of papers everywhere, thanks to a reporter's special interview.