THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1949

## LITILITIES COMMISSION ON SPOT

THE City Council's resolution asking the State Utilities Commission to send a transportation expert to Charlotte to study the adequacy of the Duke Power bus system focuses attention anew on a traditional weakness of our state utility regula-

The North Carolina Utilities Commission has served mainly as an official rubber atamp for utility rate increase requests. It has never been so staffed, and so philocophically inclined, that it could act in a positive fashion to require better service to the public.

service to the public.

Last Summer, when the Duke 'Company applied for a fare increase—an increase, incidentally, which was clearly justified—the Council requested the Utilities Commission to send an expert to Charlotte in order that the people might be sure they were getting adequate service in return for the higher fares.

The Commission denied the request

ne higher fares.

Commission denied the request,

It had no such experts. The Legishad authorized the Commission to

y technical assistants several months

### TAXICAB FARE INCREASE

FUME alone will tell whether or not the I increased taxi fares authorized by the City Council yesterday will solve the operating problems posed by the enforced use

The auditors appointed by the Council to examine the books of the three companies verified the complaint, that they were sustaining losses in comparison with the same two-week period in 1988. The companies attributed this to the increase in frare below the old standard of 50 cmts, and a decrease in the loneer hauts, which net more today than the old charge.

after.

But a word of warning is in order. There is always a point in public transportation at which higher fares will cause a min-stantial drop. In number of passengers, more than enough to offset such benefits as the higher fares might bring.

The taxinds companies and the City Council should remember that, continued increases in fares may set that victous cycle in motion.

Onge the measure became law, it served no purpose whatsoever for the Council to heed those who opposed the local program on principle and compromise on a number of units far smaller than the established need. It was a display of false heroics, completely unrealistic.

By compromising on the small number, the Council majority assumed a two-fold responsibility for which it must answer to its own collective conscience:

its own collective conscience:

1. It denied to hundred of impoverished sum dwellers the og unity
extended them by Congress, with the
support of both major parties, to improve
ther miserable way of ille. It condemned
them to continue living in siums.

2. It denied to the whole community—
the community which is paying its share
of the national housing its burden—the
opportunity to rid itself of a large number
of sium liabilities and replace them with
decent housing assets. These slum units
will continue to be a drag on the community for many years to come.

Had the four-man majority been spürn—
Had the four-man majority been spürn—

will continue to be a way, munity for many years to come. Had the four-man majority been spürning some personal dispensation from Uncle Sam, their heroics would have been in order. In this case they were turning down an opportunity for other persons. In so doing, they set themselves up as wiser than the U. S. Congress, a role which ill befits them.

## **FALSE HEROICS**

A THOUGHTFUL letter in today's Peo-ple's Platform takes exception to a recent News editorial on public housing, and arrues that the City Council acted wisely in objecting to the principle of

Without wishing to belabor the point, a would like to express once again what a believe to be the logic of the question.

The News screen with Mr. McRae that "it high time for Uncle Sam to stop playing logic of the control of the c

of."
Thus The Neus oopsed the passage of
he 1949 Federal Mousine Act for two
resons: (1) The Federal Government, was
not financially able to undertake the proram at this time: (2) afth theory that
Uncle Sam is responsible for putting a
root over any man's head is not comoletely
accordable, although it has considerable
merrit in the case of extreme low income
errit in the case of extreme low income

groups.

We assume that Mr. McRae also made his objections known, while the bill was, being debated, to Sensitor Boor, who who wheeled for it. Sensitor Grashian, who show viscod for it. Sensitor Grashian was not sensitive to the control of the co

### AN INVASION OF PERSONAL RIGHTS

IN New York a large number of agriced citizens have protested against comercialized programs of music and advertising over the public address system in Grand Central Station. This took place in a hearing before the city's Public Bervice Commission.

vice Commission. In Washington the local Public Utilities minission has dismissed complaints of ragainst being made "capitary being a complete and the commission has re-

car entrust themselves to the transporta-tion company for one purpose-transpor-tation. They do not thereby give up their rights to the privacy of their own thoughts, conversation, or reading during the period required for waiting or travel.

required for waiting or travel.

When a railroad company or transit
system undertakes to sell that time to
commercial exploiters for revenue it is
bariering property it does not own—the
time of its passengers. And advertisers
then are attempting to buy something for
which no currency, silver or brass, can
adequately pay—the right of citizens to
think their own thoughts. The effect is to
charge an extortionately high fare to
passengers whose mental processes and
mental peace have value to them.

The freedom to think without blaring

The freedom to think without blaring competition of wired-for-sound hucksterism is not far from being as important to good citizenship as the freedom of individuals to greak, to publish, and to petition for a redress of grievances—freedoms guaranteed in America by the Bill of Rights.

Rights.

If citizens submit like sheep to the pur-losining of this right for commercial gain, it is only a short step further for politi-cians and little dictators to impose on captive audiences their exclusive brands of propagands. Exercachment on the rights of personal privacy—in this case, the 'treedom not to listen'—is no petty matter, but a grave abuse. Such an inva-sion should be vigorously resisted and conclusively repelled.

'What Other New Models Have You Got?'



## People's Platform

# Federal 'Hand-Outs' Blasted

ors, The News; rour editorial of Dec. 22, with reference to put-c housing, you say:

Targania and ever eccreaning research and controlled in recent years, he Preferral Government has 1A-red the holizy of adopting "hand-out" laws and fing to the Local governments. "Adopt a co-ordinate the controlled in the law of the law burden and get no correction of the law burden and get no correction of the law burden and get no correction of the law of the

# AMA And Indigent Care CHARLOTTE

AMA And Interest.

CHARLOTTE Editors, The News.

Editors, The News.

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# Thurmond, Byrnes Lauded FLORENCE, S. C.

#### Note Of Thanks

The People's Platform is available to any reader who core: to mount it. Communications, should be less than 300 words type-written it possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscently will be deieted—otherwise anything poss. Each eiter must be signed.—Editors, The News.

## Quote, Unquote

Traffic is not nearly as big problem for a town as the lack of it. -Elizabethiawn (Kv.) News.

# **Cloud Of Controversy Hides Bright Stars Over Bethlehem**

WARRUID WARRUNGTON claim a certain consistency of the property of the utilization of the utilization of the utilization of the property of the

# Vandenberg's Rally To His Party's Side May Be Useless

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP-

#### Ambassador To Turkey Unlikely To Stay Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

He plays bridge until after a n. m. a see callers at a see and the group of the gro

#### National Water Survey

## Communist Captives

THOUGH the heat was taken off the Chinese Communists

After Angus Wards release, the State Dept is stell
tring to free two other Americans from Communist hands
They are Marine M-Set Emer Bender of Cincinnata, Ohio
and Nay Chief Electrician William Smith of Long Beach,
Calif.

him supplies. I have two small children, one his father has never seen. My children need their father as I need

Can't Even Write Families

an't Even Write Families

A UO. 4. Emet A. Gross. Assistant Secretary of State.
Informed Congress:

"Out dislocated and coccusion of ficial time concerning

welfare of Mr. Bentin and Mr. Bender and to secure

return. A message just received from the American

sust cereard at Peiping states that he has attempted furmouth state. The state of the State of the State

of the mouth hater. Gross promised again: "The matter is

in bring brought to the sitention of the highest Chinese

mountal authorities at Peiping.

Another month passed. On Oct. 18. Orga reported sately

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