

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1949

BADGERED FROM FOUR SIDES

THE proponents of the \$200 million road bond issue and the \$25 million school bond issue make one very fundamental mistake when they bilkably assume that North Carolinians are better able to assume a huge new indebtedness than they were when Governor Cameron Morrison's "courageous" road program was launched in the 1920's.

They argue that per capita income is way up, that population is up, and that interest rates are low; hence, we are better able now to plunge back into debt again.

The error in this process of reasoning is that it separates the burden of the State Government from that of the Federal Government and local governments, sets it up by itself, so to speak, as the only variable in this equation.

The average taxpayer, however, has to look at his four ways:

1. His Federal Government, with a \$40 billion plus annual budget, with prospects of a deficit in this year of property, and with a quarter-trillion national debt which is owed proportionately by each and every North Carolinian.

2. His State Government, with a biennial budget of \$219 million and a potential total authorization of \$747 million if the road and school bond issues are approved, including an anticipated deficit of some \$3 million.

3. His County Government. (In Mecklenburg, for instance, the Commissioners have just adopted a \$4,736,633 budget for next year, including a deficit of \$1,000,000.)
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HOME MARKETS FOR ART

INITIAL success of the Charlotte Opera Association's movement toward a "community of the arts" is evident in the Winston-Salem, Dr. Clifford E. Bar, former vice president of the association, who has gained national distinction for his work in opera, and to the local musicians and music lovers who labored under his direction.

Dr. Bar has guided the establishment of such "pilot plants" of art production in North Carolina as the Piedmont Festival Association in Winston-Salem, the Winston-Salem Operatic Club, the Eastern Seaboard Opera Festival in Raleigh, and the Cape Fear Association of Campbell College.

The association was the dream of Mrs. B. B. Jefferson of the Charlotte Music Club. When Mrs. Jefferson moved to Chapel Hill, Mrs. Walker S. Gary became Music Club president, carrying the "community of the arts" to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

WISE COUNCIL DECISION

THE action of the new City Council in reappointing Henry Yancey as City Manager, though anticipated, is a reassuring indication that the new Councilmen are not going to play loose politics with administrative policies.

The City Manager's job — and the present officials — were dragged into the recent City primary by certain candidates for office, though it is obviously in the best interest of good city government to keep administrative jobs out of campaigns and select the officials on the basis of merit.

About the only criticism of Mr. Yancey has been his salary which was set by a previous Council on the grounds that it is commensurate with his ability, his training, the importance of his job, and the prevailing scales for qualified city managers.

He has performed his duties well. The City Government has functioned smoothly all around the community, and will, we are confident, continue to do so. His experience and skill will be especially valuable during the orientation period for the new Council.

It is gratifying to the people of Charlotte that the Council endorsed Mr. Yancey's salary and that the Council, which has so far been in excellent agreement with the Mayor in Councilman Boyd's ill-considered effort to whack his pay, a proposal which had no apparent justification.

IRRIGATION FOR PARCHED AREAS

THE figures released by the State ABC Board showing the amount of liquid liquor sold to representatives in dry areas of North Carolina by four Northern concerns may be eye-opening to the residents of those sections, but they are old stuff to Mecklenburgers.

We well remember the day when such lists showed one or more names from Mecklenburg. The ABC Board has since eliminated and listed big quantities of the beverages shipped to this county.

That was, of course, before ABC stores. Imports from the North would have been even heavier than had it not been for the easy access to Fort Mill and other oases to the south of Mecklenburg.

From The Fayetteville Observer.

D. A. R. OBSTINACY

WHILE all due regard to their undoubtedly patriotism as well as their historical background it seems to us that the Daughters of the American Revolution are doing themselves a disservice in their adamant policy of refusing the use of their fine Constitution in Washington to any except white persons.

The latest refusal of the D.A.R., this time to Hazel Scott, Negro pianist, has challenged the patriotism of the nation's people. About Hazel Scott's loyalty, we know next to nothing. Knowing nothing we take it for granted that she is an average, patriotic American citizen.

We have never heard her play, but those who have heard her play her as a top-rate artist

erty tax rate increase of 8 cents—the increase would have been 38 cents when the Mecklenburg ABC stores, which would probably be closed if Governor Scott had won his fight for a state referendum.

4. The City Government. (Charlotte's new budget will probably hit \$6 million, an increase of about a million dollars over the current budget.)

An expert statistician would have to spend many hours searching through ancient records to figure out precisely how the combined burden of all four governments' current expenditures plus the per capita total indebtedness would compare, in taxpaying ability, with the 1920's when N. C. went into the borrowing business for its road program.

But it does not require an expert statistician to find out that the average wage earner finds it mighty difficult these days to meet the increasing demands of all four governments, pay for the normal operating expenses of his household, set by a tiny sum for his old age, and have anything left for his recreation.

If there is a natural reluctance among our people to gamble on the uncertain future ahead, if they don't appear overly anxious to vote the State of North Carolina into the pay-as-you-go basis and plunge it into the greatest debt of its history, it is not because they don't approve of Governor Scott's objectives.

It will merely be because, harried and hemmed in by mushrooming demands of government, they are exercising the old American privilege of voting against more taxes.

It was founded on January 25, 1949. Its initial production, the "Roalinda" version of the play "The Tenth Muse," was received with enthusiasm by audiences here Monday and Tuesday nights. Slingsers from towns as far away as Albemarle and Rock Hill, S. C., joined with Charlotte talent for the production.

"The spirit of co-operation and mutual interest which music theater production calls for," said Dr. Bar, "tends to pervade all phases of community work. My own experience that those towns whose leadership is alienated and divided cannot produce successful music theater programs.

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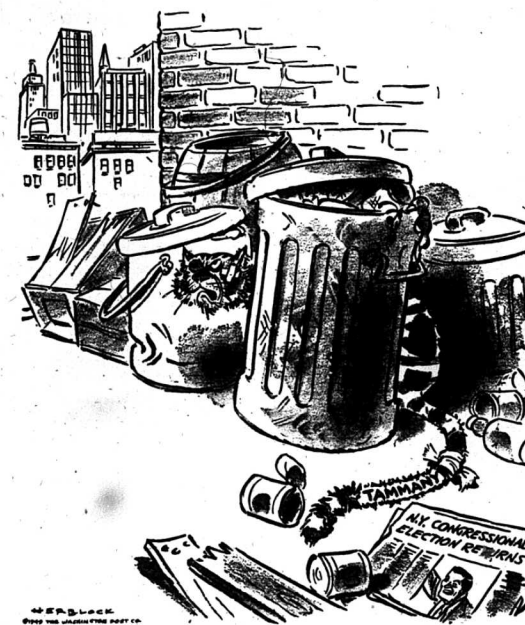
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'And So Was Your Old Man!'



Proponents Have Their Say

The Case For The Road Bonds

(The following presentation of the case for the road bond issue was prepared by the Better Schools Roads organization and has been distributed to Newspapers. The News, following its policy of opening the new columns to the proponents and opponents of the bond issues, reprints it herewith as a matter of public information.—Eds. The News.)

NORTH CAROLINA pioneered among Southern states in road building. Governor Morrison's program of the 1920's has been distributed to us. We have spoken proudly of our good roads.

But our pride was shocked in the Winter of 1948. Bad weather blanketed the state for days on end, except for major trunk highways, a majority of our roads were impassable for safe travel. Predominantly rural North Carolina simply had to sit and wait for Urban factories, businesses and stores felt immediately the effects of the road blockades. One hundred and fifty thousand school children left school for more days than school because of the weather.

When the blockade lifted, we told ourselves it wouldn't happen again—1948 was exceptional. It was a disaster that even pride of home state could not erase (Gum).

Reluctantly North Carolina faced the facts. Only one-third of our four miles of roads are paved. North Carolina has 63,000 miles of roads, of which 47,000 are unpaved.

Run's roads are neglected. Since 1931 when the State of North Carolina became responsible for all roads, it has maintained little more than skeleton care for its 47,000 miles secondary roads. In order to do as good a job as has been done on the paved roads, the so-called rural roads had to take a back seat. This budget cut of rural roads has been made more difficult because they were built originally for horse and buggy travel.

The need for better rural roads is so pressing that, unless relieved, the primary road program may also be jeopardized. Within the last three years all necessary improvements and additions to our existing primary roads program have not been completed. Post-war traffic conditions partly explain this delay. Another factor has been the outbreak of the Korean War. The need for better rural roads is so pressing that, unless relieved, the primary road program may also be jeopardized. More money will be available to build a primary road program, but the Better Roads program is approved.

Good roads are good for everyone. No did the complaints come only from the farmers. A large percentage of industrial workers live outside city limits.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

HOTTENTOT backfire the real estate lobby has suffered in its battle against public housing. Not getting into the new school building program, British housing tycoon in honor of Sir Harold Bellman, British housing tycoon.

The dinner was given by Mrs. Frances French, widow of the late U. S. Senator. The dinner was given by Mrs. Frances French, widow of the late U. S. Senator. The dinner was given by Mrs. Frances French, widow of the late U. S. Senator.

Sir Harold is chairman of the Abbey National Building Society—British equivalent of the savings and loan agencies. His American friends were all set for an evening of oratorical fireworks against public housing on both sides of the Atlantic.

The British financier got a big hand when he blasted at "dragnet government controls" on private housing construction in this country. Suddenly, however, the applause died like a busted light bulb.

It is calculated to make the D. A. R. look foolish and look little and look bigoted, which the D.A.R. is not.

GOP Mole Instead Of Elephant

MINNESOTA'S Jack-in-the-box Sen. Hubert Humphrey has come up with the symbol for the GOP in place of the traditional elephant. At a Democratic banquet in Pittsburgh, Humphrey suggested that the new symbol for the Republican Party be a mole.

Ray Of Sunshine

DeWitt MacKenzie

THE VISIT of a Brazilian President to the United States is a happy burst of sunshine through the international storm clouds.

It is a symbol of a great friendship which has been guarded in these days when the United States and Western Hemisphere must stand together for the common good.

Only 1,000 of the 12,000 miles of paved roads in the nation. As of May 7, 1949, the registration stickers are made up. Governor Scott says: "North Carolina is at the crossroads of its transportation destiny. Again we must take the right turn—Better Roads. The bottleneck must be broken so the true potentials of our state—its people and economy—can be released."

According to the suggested schedule for sale and retirement of the proposed Road Bond Issue, the average annual cost for principal and interest is estimated at \$10,579,286. (This estimate is based on a 4 1/2 percent rate on the bonds.)

The Road Bonds will not increase property taxes, because the interest on the bonds will be paid from Highway funds, not the General Fund. We repeat for emphasis. The only increase in taxation will be a one cent per gallon increase in the gasoline tax.

The remaining \$39,279,286 would come from Highway funds. The Highway Unimproved Fund will be sufficient by 1953 to liquidate all outstanding bonds outstanding on the Road Bond Issue.

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Marquis Childs

The New Secretary

SHELDON in recent years has an individual bent. He is a member of the office in Washington so little known to reporters as the "Marquis Childs" Matthews. When he was nominated by President Truman to be Secretary of the State, there were comparatively little the papers could find to say about his career, which although illustrious, is not so well known.

Matthews was the choice of Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson. Since the Secretary of Defense is the light of his appointment to the office just under cabinet rank in the Truman Administration it is a curious record.

Matthews' chairman of the Securities Acceptance Corp. in 1946 and '47. He headed the committee on the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

This committee published in 1947 its report on the "Marquis Childs" Matthews. This pamphlet attacks the foreign policy of the United States in Washington. It repeats charges made by Communist who had infiltrated into the State Department and ten republished by official spokesmen for the Truman Administration.

"A real service could be rendered by the State Department if it would make public the names of the secret staff of Yalta and Potsdam. It could be made public. Much that would be revealed would be of complete inquiry, but it would furnish the basis for an intelligent and realistic appraisal of the situation. It would also document the need for reform in the Federal employment policies."

IMPLICATION REPEATED. The committee repeated several times that the names of the secret staff of Yalta and Potsdam were withheld from the public. It implied that the names of the secret staff of Yalta and Potsdam were withheld from the public.

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country recently Winston Churchill in an off-the-record reply to a question. He said that the authors of the decisions taken at Yalta were responsible for the "Marquis Childs" Matthews. When he was nominated by President Truman to be Secretary of the State, there were comparatively little the papers could find to say about his career, which although illustrious, is not so well known.

"It is well known," says the pamphlet, "that forces in the State Department have been working to infiltrate the Chinese Communists against the constituted national government of China. The authors of such memoranda should be investigated and their names should be made public."

This frequently repeated charge has been denied by at least two Secretaries of State. "Certain Far Eastern experts in this government sought to inform this government on the grave weaknesses within the Nationalist government of China and its leadership of the Nationalist army and their warnings have been repeatedly borne out by events."

The pamphlet prepared by Matthews' committee says that "about 200 known Communists hold positions of importance in Washington. It suggests that a new investigation be conducted with a scope with the menace of Communist infiltration in government."

Perhaps the most striking part of the pamphlet is the section devoted to specific recommendations. These recommendations suggest that government employees be investigated and their names should be made public. It also suggests that the names of the secret staff of Yalta and Potsdam be made public.

"Officials in all departments," the committee recommends, "who are known to be Communists should be removed from their positions. It also suggests that the names of the secret staff of Yalta and Potsdam be made public."

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BETTER ENGLISH

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? It is a run-on sentence. It should be rewritten as two sentences.

2. What is the correct pronunciation of the word "connoisseur"?

3. Which one of these words is not a noun? Condo, chinchilla, papernapkins.

4. What does the word "espirito" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with "fl" that means "delicious"?

1. Say, "I am not going anywhere until the American Embassy says so." Pronounce the "a" in lead, not "lead." Chinchilla, 4. To fascinate, to shatter. The other capitalized words are: A. Pineses.

Capital News Capsules

ABSENTE FOR KEVIN—Gen. McGrath has urged requested that the American troops be sent to South Korea immediately to build up the anti-Communist government of President Syngman Rhee. McGrath has urged that the Communist government of North Korea is getting tremendous arms shipments from Russia and China, which he says will be used to take South Korea by force. McGrath recommends that enough rifles, machine guns and artillery be sent to arm a South Korean army of 100,000 men.

Communist in Philippines—A secret Army mission has just returned from the Philippines with a recommendation that the United States should send 100,000 men immediately. The mission, headed by Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle, says that the Communist government of the Philippines Army to help it fight off the attacks of the Communist guerrillas who are getting more and more recruits each day.

U. S. Navy Shuns Hong Kong—Great Britain has invited the U. S. Navy to send a fleet to Hong Kong. The British say the Navy has said "no." Inside reason is that the American Embassy in Nanking has warned that the Chinese Communists are sending a fleet to Hong Kong. The Navy says, even at the risk of war, and the U. S. Navy doesn't want to get mixed up in it.