

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SCHOOL BOND ISSUE—IV

ANOTHER forceful reason why the \$25 million school building bond issue should be rejected is the fact that it fails to give special consideration to Negro schools in accordance with the recommendations of the Education Commission.

The Commission found that:

1. The State average investment in county buildings was \$154 per white child and only \$64 per Negro child.
2. The State average investment in city school buildings was \$305 per white child and \$129 per Negro child.
3. The average investment in county administrative units for white children varied from \$430 in Currituck County to \$100 in Wayne County.
4. The average investment in city administrative units for white children varied from \$400 in Currituck County to \$117.56 in Stanly County to a miserable \$37 per child in Wayne County.

In urging "special consideration" for Negro schools, the Commission pointed out that "in 1945, over 60 per cent of the Negro high school children of the state were enrolled in schools below the standard required for accreditation. Of the 201 Negro high schools, 96 employed from one to three teachers. Children attending these schools cannot receive credits required for entrance to colleges."

Furthermore, the Commission found that the percentage of "satisfactory" classrooms in Negro schools was much lower than in white schools.

Then the Commission set forth its long range construction program:

1. The abandoning of 400 white and 1,000 Negro school plants.
2. The erection of 3,500 elementary classrooms, 2,500 high school classrooms and 500 dormitories for 1,500 large general rooms for white schools.
3. The construction of 1,500 elementary classrooms, 1,500 high school classrooms, 1,500 special instruction rooms, and 1,000 large general rooms for Negro schools.

Note that more than twice as many Negro schools would be abandoned, and that 7,500 of the envisioned 17,500 new classrooms would be for Negro school children if the Commission had its way.

HOW well does this \$25 million school bond issue meet this important prerequisite, as defined by the Education Commission experts? Obviously not at all. The discrimination which does exist today in our school system comes at the local level where funds for school buildings are supplied. The State does not discriminate in its expenditures for teacher salaries, school bus transportation, textbooks, and the other State contributions to education. It was the desire of the Education Commission to devote a proportionately greater share of any State funds to Negro schools for the very simple reason that they are in the condition of "shanties" as they were voted by the General Assembly, and the

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

NOBODY can accuse Mary Shaw and her Council of wantonly turning out to people and parties who are not in touch with political benches. They have represented practically everybody. At the same time, it's pretty rough on Campbell Ansel, one of the most efficient and popular heads in the whole organization, that he should be the victim of the administration's political obligation to Jim Armstrong.

Not only has he collected taxes right and left, a fairly easy feat, but he has recovered a lot of loss on personal property that weren't, before his time, being assessed. He has systematized the operation of the office with a "check and record" detail, and got his general ledgers in such good shape that the City can tell at a glance how it stands on the collection of taxes of any and all kinds for any and all years. His successor will inherit a smooth operation.

HONOR FOR MR. PRICE

THE election of W. Z. Price of Charlotte as moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the United States is a fitting tribute to his long and faithful devotion and service to his own church, and to the larger Presbyterian organization.

Mr. Price came to Charlotte from Virginia in 1906 and joined the First Presbyterian Church. Subsequently he assisted in the organization of the Caldwell Memorial Church, and has been a member there ever since. At present, he is a ruling elder of his church.

He has held many important positions and served on many committees of his

From The St. Louis Globe-Democrat

A SLAP AT WALLACE

INTEREST in young Franklin D. Roosevelt's routing victory in New York's special election which sent him to Congress, has overshadowed another aspect of the contest which concerns Henry Wallace. The candidate of the American Labor Party, Dr. Annette T. Rubenstein, Her campaign, reflecting the Wallace viewpoint, was directed against President Truman's foreign policy, particularly the North Atlantic Pact she called "a war of record" and said Roosevelt was "stabbing the United

\$25 million more from the proposed bond issue will not fulfill this obligation. The State will merely step into the picture and collect revenue for the General Fund to retire these bonds. This money will be collected from all the counties, of course, as it is now collected. But it will be turned over to the local boards of education who have clearly shown in the past their unwillingness to provide Negro children with "separate and equal" facilities. There is every reason to believe they will do so again.

If they do, it will, of course, pose a new legislative problem. Already we have had a test case filed in Federal Court charging unequal facilities in Durham County. The pattern has been set in various recent cases throughout the nation, and there is a strong probability that each county, individually, will be required to bring its Negro schools up to standard.

That will require a county-by-county legal battle that will take time and money. It will enter into the picture and begins to hand out money on an average daily membership basis, white and Negro. The State will in all probability become liable to suit action if it does not force the counties to spend the money in the same proportion that it is allocated.

This is not a matter of avoiding a court test. This is a matter of simple justice to the Negro school children of North Carolina. Just as Federal aid to education will be allocated according to need, so State aid should be allocated according to need.

The Better Schools & Roads proponents quote liberally from the Education Commission report in support of their arguments. But they significantly fail to mention that the proposed bond money will fall utterly to touch this greatest single problem.

They argue that the average value of school property per enrolled pupil for the entire nation in 1943-44 was \$341, and that the average value in North Carolina was only \$156. Yet they fail to point out that the North Carolina figure is so low because the investment in Negro schools is so low.

In hiding this fact, the proponents of the bond issue are being intellectually and morally dishonest. If the \$25 million bond issue had enough strings tied to it to assure the Negro school children of better facilities, it would be eminently more fair and more acceptable.

We will be on firm ground if we decide to reject this particular proposal. It conceals at its core, and starts all over again with a better plan which Governor Scott, according to all present political indications, should be able to get passed by the 1951 General Assembly without too much trouble.

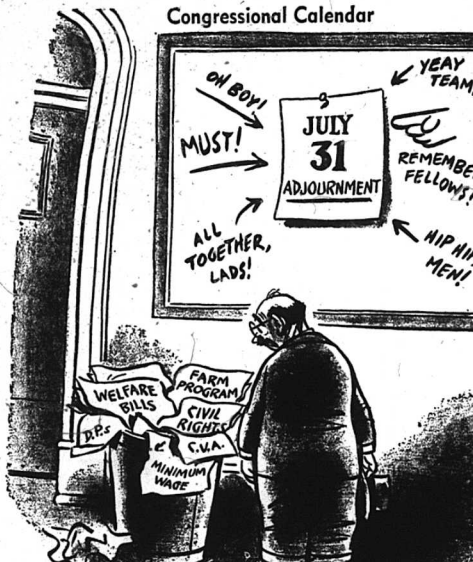
There has been talk that Ansel was undignified and had offended a good many people. The first duty of a tax collector is to collect taxes; thereby equalizing the load on all taxpayers. His watchdog has to be how to influence people rather than to win friends through the more palatable make it makes it, the better. But nobody denies that he has made an outstanding record.

Mr. Armstrong may do as well, though the extensiveness of his political interests may lead to the more palatable make it makes it, the better. But nobody denies that he has made an outstanding record.

Just recently the Caldwell Church education board elected to the office of Mr. Price in recognition of his generous service.

In becoming moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Price joins the distinguished ranks of two other Mecklenburg moderators, the late Dr. R. A. Dunn and the late Dr. James H. Robertson. Formerly of the First Presbyterian Church, both of whom also gave liberally of their time and their energy to the work of their denomination.

ed Nations in the back" by supporting it. Her frequent description of the other candidates was that they were "cold war candidates." And her most ardent supporter was Representative Marcanotto, the leftist, who is an anti-war member of the House. What happened to Dr. Rubenstein? She ran last in a field of four. She garnered only a trifling more than 6 per cent of the 80,872 votes cast. This should say something about the Wallace, but he probably won't hear it.



Review Of Litigation

Equal Educational Facilities

By HERBERT C. BRADSHAW
(Reprinted From Durham Herald)

THE suit presented for trial in the United States Court of the Middle District of North Carolina asking for a declaratory judgment and injunction relating to local and State school districts discriminating against Negro students introduced in North Carolina a policy which has been in practice in Virginia for the past decade.

The Durham suit has been brought by 60 Negro pupils and 28 parents or guardians against the Durham Public School District, the School Control Board of Education of Durham; L. Stacy Weaver, superintendent of schools; the North Carolina State Board of Education; and Clyde A. Erwin, State superintendent of public instruction. The complaint charges discrimination in the organization of the school system, pointing out that while schools are organized on the basis of the professional grades, three years of junior high school and three years of senior high school in the "old system" (seven elementary grades and five years of high school) under which Negro schools are organized, in better and more complete, physical education and athletic facilities at the Durham High School than at the Middle High School in the overcrowded Negro schools and inadequate playgrounds at Negro schools; in libraries; and in furniture and equipment.

A review of the litigation which has been taking place in Virginia concerning Negro teachers and school facilities for the past several years throws some light on the local suit.

The first such suit was filed in the United States Court of the Eastern District of Virginia by Melvin O. Alston, a Negro teacher of Norfolk and the Norfolk Teachers Association. The District Court decided against the plaintiffs who then appealed to the Fourth Circuit. In 1940 the Circuit reversed the decision of the District Court and affirmed that Negro teachers should be paid the same salaries as similar qualifications constituted racial discrimination and as such violated the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The defendants then appealed this decision to the United States Supreme Court, which upheld the decision of the District Court. The Norfolk school authorities established salary schedules in the light of this decision, and the issue was settled.

In the neighboring city of Newport News, however, the matter was not so readily settled. The Negro teachers of that city filed suit in the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Virginia, charging discrimination in salaries and asking that it be stopped. It should be added that previously in December, 1942, the defendants presented to the city school board a petition asking for an increase in the professional salaries because of race or color. The District Court in January, 1943, decided in favor of the teachers.

At the beginning of the 1943-44 session three Negro principals and three Negro teachers were not recognized by the School Board. The issue was taken to the United States District Court in Virginia, Colgate W. Darden, Jr., who approved their proposal that the board be required to build Negro schools in consideration of its action in not offering contracts to six or some 5,000 citizens, both white and Negro. This review of the situation in Virginia concerning school equalization shows that the Negroes have won in every case heard in the Federal courts for equalization of pay of Negro teachers; for equal transportation facilities, although the less complete facilities of the Negro schools have been built; for equal equipment, libraries, laboratories and sanitary facilities; and for equal opportunity to attend the Gloucester County school authorities, the court has given evidence that it will hold school officials liable for failure to provide equal facilities for white and Negro pupils.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE State Dept.'s "Voice of America" was carrying on an unusual broadcast in Europe. It told about a chief who was not feared and hated, but who was so loved and respected that the American people were raising money voluntarily to build a boys' school in his honor.

Congressional Calendar

Joseph Alsop

This Lillenthal Thing

WASHINGTON
THERE is a good chance that the current venomous attack on Daniel Lillenthal by the Atomic Energy Commission is not profitable, to be sure. But they are the volume of production opportunity they have created for a long time—an opportunity to call public attention to the Atomic Energy Commission's record of practical accomplishments.

It is possible, of course, that the Congressional committee headed by Sen. McMahon of Connecticut will have a hearing on the Lillenthal case. Sen. Hickenlooper of Iowa, who has demanded Lillenthal's resignation, took a strong position at the hearing last week. Having charged "maladministration" in the AEC, he then indicated that he was not especially interested in the results secured by the AEC's administrative efforts.

This is like denying the old proverb "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," and making the test of the pudding the gross weight of the house built on the pudding. The men whose scientific qualifications on which the AEC's teachers were being paid on the new scale, more than Lillenthal asserts, that the AEC has made no mistakes. But it is not the AEC's record which the public is watching with interest. It is the fact that the total record is creditable enough to make the mistake of not listening to the AEC's record.

These men comprise a good many of the country's most distinguished scientists and engineers. They are the ablest business men. Their word is not only for rather than for the judgment of the kind of politicians and political observers who have been busy in the past few days in distaste for intelligent men in public office.

Without entering into the secret domain, moreover, which is almost known to convince and convince able citizen that the achievements of the AEC are pretty remarkable. The AEC's record is a record of course as measured against the standard of the country's progress in the past few years. The AEC's record is a record of the Manhattan District's military management, which has many AEC detractors with it.

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Marquis Childs

Connection Retained

WASHINGTON
WHEN a man stops being a successful lawyer in private practice or a successful businessman in the stock market, he is in a peculiar position, can be finally and effectively sever his previous connection with the government, and disinterested decisions when his former connections are involved in government business?

These are the questions, it seems to me, which should be asked in connection with the awarding of large new contracts for B-36 bombers to the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation of San Diego, Utah. It has become Secretary of Defense, Louis A. Howe, has a direct connection with the company and he has a close association with Floyd Collins, the chairman of the board of the company. Mr. Collins is said to control Consolidated Vultee.

Quite properly, in my opinion, Congress should try to get the facts about the performance of the B-36 and the technical findings upon which the decision to concentrate on production of that plane was based. The public has every right to information.

But it is unfair to prejudice the issue by the decision of the Senate's previous association. It is not fair to say that Mr. Collins has never had any connections of any sort, political or business, can be said to be kind of a clean slate.

With business and government increasingly entwined, as in the case of the B-36, it is not surprising that one of the most difficult and troubling questions which are raised by the awarding of large new contracts to the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation of San Diego, Utah, is whether the language was "because our shareholders are interested in the language was the government" mentioned first time and time again and I don't think that should be the case. We have a strong agreement we had and we agreed that your nomination should be reported by the chairman, provided these letters were satisfactory, which they have proven not to be to certain members of the committee, in the language they contain now.

As previously agreed, you will not participate in the firm or in its earnings in any way during the period in which your government service. It was further agreed that, knowingly, this firm will neither be connected with the firm or in its earnings in any way during the period in which your government service. It was further agreed that, knowingly, this firm will neither be connected with the firm or in its earnings in any way during the period in which your government service.

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Boysin, Alabama

BOYKIN made sure-fire headlines, but race harmony doesn't. That's why you won't see front-page headlines about Boykin, Ala.

In the last analysis, is an organization reasonably comparable to the United States Steel Co., for example. The bulk of its work are not profits, to be sure. But they are the volume of production opportunity they have created for a long time—an opportunity to call public attention to the Atomic Energy Commission's record of practical accomplishments.

On this all-important head, major facts are known already. Some of the reactions were deteriorating, may depend upon our rate of production of atomic energy. The Manhattan District has been operating at the increased production rate by more than 50 per cent—much more. At the Hanford plutonium plant, the reaction was deteriorating, may depend upon our rate of production of atomic energy. The Manhattan District has been operating at the increased production rate by more than 50 per cent—much more.

Again, the cost of the whole program of the taxpayer is not one of indifference. And although it seems queer to talk of the "unprofitable" nature of the program, the material, the AEC has given hard-core profit to the government. Unit costs have been sharply reduced. In every plant, more financially sound than the production by less people, at less expense.

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People of the American Police Chief

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Vishinsky Optimism

SECRETARY of State Acheson reported to President Truman that Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky has been very cordial in the opening sessions of the United Nations conference that was reported in the press. Vishinsky's optimism was attributed to the opening of the conference, but to a slight touch of St. Vitus dance which the Russian chief has been suffering for some time. It was said that the reason why he went to the conference was to see the American people.

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