THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WAY TO A BETTER LIFE

TOMORROW the people of Charlotte have an opportunity to register a vote of confidence in the future of their city . . . a city which needs desperately to grow better as it grows bigger.

Charlotteans are by nature conservative when it comes to spending money for public improvements. It's a natural and understandable trait when one considers that the people of this city are often called upon to carry more than their normal share of State and national projects.

This conservatism is shared by THE NEWS, which has a consistent record of favoring sane, economic government and opposing all waste and profligacy in the use of public funds.

THE NEWS further opposes the gradual drift toward more centralized power in Raleigh and in Washington, feeling that local government and local initiatives are the wellsprings of democracy.

It is for precisely this reason that this newspaper has endorsed, as strongly as possible and in good conscience, the several bond issues which will be presented to the voters tomorrow. We prefer to do things at home.

The total amount is not large—$4,575,000. And the projects are all needed. Water, sewers, recreation, parking, police facilities, fire alarm system . . . these rank at the very top of municipal problems here and in every other American city.

We are a growing city, and a prosperous city. The people are confident of their future, of their continued progress.

It is the earnest hope of this newspaper that the people of Charlotte will go to the polls tomorrow and overwhelmingly endorse this program of progress which will make Charlotte a better place to live and work.

PAVING BOND ISSUE

IN all fairness to everyone concerned, it should be pointed out that there is no blueprint, no priority list for spending the million dollars for street paving listed on tomorrow's bond ballot.

The facts are these:

Charlotte has a tremendous backlog of paving which would cost many millions if every legitimate need were met. No paving was done during the war, and little has been done since.

The accumulated needs are of many types.

We have, for example, 450 miles of public streets in the city of Charlotte. Of this total, 75 miles are a part of the State highway system, and are under State maintenance. Of the remaining 375 miles, 200 miles, more than half, are without hard surface.

But in addition to the tremendous needs in the residential areas, there is a long list of special projects which have been under consideration for some years. Some of them:

1. Widening Stonewall St. from S. Graham St. to Independence Blvd., including an underpass under the Southern Railroad tracks.
2. Widening Hill and Vance Sts.
3. Widening 11th St. from Brevard to N. Graham, including a new overpass.
4. Construction of a link between Kings Drive and Independence Blvd.
5. Acquiring right-of-way for the third segment of Independence Blvd., from S. Blvd. to Wilkinson Blvd.
6. Elimination of the many grade crossings and opening up of dead-end streets by construction of underpasses or overpasses, especially on the western side of the city.

There are many more. All of them will cost money, many times more money than would be provided by the million dollar bond issue.

All of the expense will not, of course, be borne by the City Government. In residential and business areas, ordinary paving projects will be assessed against the property on either side. But the City must advance the money originally and then collect from the property owners over a period of years.

In other cases, where the assessments would clearly be discriminatory, the City has the legal authority to bear a part of the expense.

The paving bonds have not been definitely committed to any of these projects. It will be up to the new Council to exercise its good judgment and prepare a priority list for the various projects. There will be ample opportunity for public hearings before such a list is adopted.

THE NEWS is confident that the Council will spend the money wisely, and sincerely hopes that the people of Charlotte will authorize this first step in an urgently-needed, long-range paving program.

NO TIME FOR ANGER

LET us hope that the Congress will not let its understandable vexation with John L. Lewis becloud what should be clear, orderly thinking about our national labor law. It will be unfortunate for labor, and for the nation as a whole, if this happens.

It's easy to get mad at John L. Lewis. And it's easy to judge all labor by his United Mine Workers. Many think of him as typical of labor leaders, when in reality he is one of the worst possible examples.

Lewis has repeated his stunt of this Spring when, right before the House began debating repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, he called his miners out for a two-week memorial strike. Now, just as the Senate gets into the debate on the labor law, he calls them out again, this time frankly trying to cut down the nation's stored coal supplies.

Some Senators who favor a rigid labor law have seized upon the latest strike as a pretext for demanding an even more stringent act. But actually there is nothing new, no new evidence of power, in this present walk-out. Lewis has had the power all along, has used it in the past and will use it again in the future, and all the Senators know it.

The job facing this Congress is not cut out by the John L. Lewises of organized labor. It is determined by the national welfare, and the rights of all the people. Sincere men differ on the present Taft-Hartley Act. Their differences should be settled in calm, honest debate and not in any fit of temper or irritation.

GEORGIA'S HOSPITAL ROW

NOT since the days of two Governors has Georgia seen such headlong, heedless politics, such disregard for the welfare of the people.

This is the situation:

Last week thirteen members of the medical staff of the Milledgeville State Hospital (Georgia's sprawling mental institution) said they would walk out if Gov. Talmadge did not change his policy of making the State hospital "a political dumping ground."

First of all, they couldn't get along with the State welfare director, one J. M. (Jack) Forrester. Forrester, they contended, did not act in the best interest of the hospital and its patients.

Another sore spot for the doctors was Thomas A. Dechman, deputy welfare director in charge of the hospital. Dechman, they said, was guilty of "unethical practices." In addition, they said, Dechman "created so much turmoil in all departments of the hospital that it has degenerated into a state of chaos."

Politics, and political appointees like Forrester and Dechman, the doctors said, would have to go. Or the doctors themselves would go.

The doctors submitted their resignations on Monday, but Forrester would not accept them. Instead he handed them previously prepared notices of dismissal.

Furthermore, they were told that if they were not off the hospital property within 24 hours they would be regarded as trespassers and prosecuted as such.

They left — and Talmadge, Forrester and Dechman pulled in a number of other doctors, men unfamiliar with the complex records of the mentally ill patients at the hospital.

Then a meeting of the State Social Security Board, which Forrester heads, was called. The doctors were given an opportunity to make their complaints, but refused to do so when the board ruled they must appear one at a time. The board then whitewashed the hospital administration.

But apparently Talmadge and his appointees are now yielding to the mounting protest from the people of Georgia. Yesterday Forrester and Dechman both resigned, and asked the thirteen doctors to return to their posts and look after the patients. What will happen next is anybody's guess.

From this vantage point, and without the benefit of first hand information, it appears that the Governor acted hastily in the matter. After all, thirteen licensed members of a profession which studiously avoids public controversy don't simply threaten to quit unless conditions are absolutely abhorrent. And there certainly was the opportunity for Talmadge to show the same brand of statesmanship that the late J. Melville Broughton showed when he, as Governor of North Carolina, appointed a special commission to investigate conditions in our State hospitals and then fought hard to carry out their recommendations.

As a result, we have today a State Hospital Board of Control composed of outstanding medical men and laymen who have lifted the operation and staffing of our hospitals above politics. We would suggest that a similar set-up in Georgia would prevent any more such occurrences, and would guarantee that the welfare of these pathetic wards of the State will not be jeopardized by petty politics.

Ola Garrison, teacher of Bethel School, Cabarrus County, is charged with assault with a deadly weapon (a stick) on Roy Barrier, nine years old. It's a softer generation in Cabarrus nowadays: Roy's daddy's generation — and anyhow his grandad's —were licked with a piece of two-by-four and nobody thought anything of it. — *Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News.*

'Get Back In That Dungeon!'

Stewart Alsop

A Summing Up—III

HONG KONG

IT is time to stop asking nervously on what terms the West is to be allowed to trade with Communist China, as the Chinese coast businessmen do. The real question is, on what terms will Communist China be allowed to trade with the West. And there is every reason to believe that the Chinese Communists are fully aware of this.

The difficulties confronting the new rulers of China are already being dramatically underlined. The "Red Spears" are one of the traditional peasant undergrounds that have, for centuries, launched guerrilla war against any dynasty whose methods become too oppressive. And now, especially in Honan Province, the Red Spears have risen again, in revolt against Communist food collections for the cities. This is but one of many symptoms.

The truth is that the Communist problem is in some ways more difficult than that which has confronted the founders of any new Chinese government since the time of Chin Shih Huang Ti, over 2,000 years ago. The Communist movement has been a mainly peasant movement. It was easy to conciliate the peasants when there were no urban populations to be fed. But now that has changed. Their movement is also a Marxist movement. Consequently Mao Tse-tung has already raised the banner of "industrialization." But that means ever more grinding sacrifices for the peasantry. The idyllic agrarian period which the U. S. State Dept. observers at Yenan used to describe in language suitable for Arcadia, is now over for good.

Mao Tse-tung and his comrades hope, however, to escape from the worst of their dilemma by trading with the Western world. To this end, they have already established a "Foreign Trade Control Bureau." Its function is clearly to play one rapacious, profit-hungry capitalist nation off against the other. Thus they expect to hold the whip hand in this dangerous trade—and with some reason, if the Western nations permit their policies to be shaped by certain of their business representatives here.

THE WHIP HAND

If the China coast businessman can be controlled, however, there is an easy way out for the We The Western trading nations, as especially the United States an Britain, must reach a firm agre ment on common economic and p litical objectives in China. The must then set up an internation authority, or devise some other m chanism, to enforce the agreement If all trade with China, down t the last machine tool and barr of fuel oil, is thus brought und control, the whip hand will pa to the West.

It is urgent to gain this adva tage. The emergency objective o our Far Eastern policy must be t prevent the catastrophe of the Co munization of all of Asia. T Peiping radio is already proclai "material aid and moral suppor to the southeast Asiatic Communi movements. If the West quickly a widely mobilizes its economic pow it should be possible to minimi this danger rather rapidly.

Using the economic weapon capitalize on this situation will r quire the most brilliant improvis tion by the West. But there is o basic rule: The aim must emphat cally not be to interfere with M Tse-tung's organization of Chi The sole aim must be to promo the Western contacts and the gr of Chinese national independen which the Kremlin, by its very n ture, will not tolerate.

TRUMP THE ACE

It is a curious device, to exchan oil, locomotives and diesel engin sheet steel and trucks, against C nese products plus freedom of mov ment in China, freedom of inf mation in China and a reasonal friendly attitude of the Chin Government. But it can be do Furthermore, it can probably done successfully, and may w produce major results, if consi ra is taken to stress the fact t Chinese independence is all t West desires.

After all, if Western imperiali is Moscow's trump card in A there is no reason why we cann make Moscow's far more brutal i perialism into our trump card. we need is the power of organi tion, the intelligence, and toughness which, unfortunately, i pear to be rather rare commodi ties in Washington at the mome

People's Platform

A Plug For Park Bonds

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

LITTLE JOE was brought before the Juvenile Court for the third time for stealing apples. The despairing probation officer asked Joe if he was really so hungry that he had to steal. Joe looked surprised, ducked his head and said, "I don't want the apples, but it's so much fun to have old Smudgy case me!"

Chase him! Why not? Children have been chasing each other from time immemorial. If Joe's instinct for chase had been directed into tag, prisoner's base, run sheep run, or other "chase" games, in a municipal supervised playground, it would not have lured him to stealing apples for the fun of being chased.

A group of young boys was arrested for vandalism of school property. At the police station they were warned, but when they asked, "Where shall we go? What can we do for fun?" there was no answer.

This gathering of young people in groups for loafing, club work, or gangs, is fundamentally the gregarious instinct of the human race to co-operate. The National Recreation Association says, "Upon this instinct depends the capacity of a people for any great public or national achievement. The nations of the earth which stand in the front in human progress, are the nations which have shown the greatest capacity for getting together."

This ability to co-operate will be needed on Saturday, when the voters of Charlotte decide on a vital community project. Less than one-third of the people of Charlotte now have access to public parks and recreation facilities. The facts and figures have been published, the need is unquestionable, the cost is $1.22 per capita per year year (equal to less than three trips to the movies), and everyone will benefit!

The difference between a good or bad child, in most cases, is simply the difference in the opportunities he has had to develop his capacities, and utilize his energy. Let us give our boys and girls this opportunity! Go to the polls on Saturday June 11, and vote yes for items 7 and 8 on the ballot. Help to provide Charlotte with recreation facilities for all!

—MRS. THOMAS W. SHARPE,
President, League of Women
Voters of Charlotte.

Oleo Bill Bogged Down

NEW YORK

Editors, THE NEWS:

THERE are 96 U. S. Senators. It should take them no longer than a few minutes to complete legislative action on the bill (H.R. 2033) to repeal the 63-year-old Federal anti-margarine law, provided of course that the butter bloc minority does not use dealing tactics. Only a few man hours would be involved.

On the other hand, if the Senate fails to act, homemakers will have to continue mixing color into margarine—a senseless task at which more than 66,000,000 woman hours are wasted yearly.

The House has passed a good and workable repeal bill. This measure (H.R. 2033) has been reported favorably by the Senate Finance Committee, and the issue now is squarely up to the U. S. Senate.

Word from Washington, however, is that the Senate "may not find time" to consider margarine legislation before it recesses in mid-Summer.

If the country's 31,000,000 margarine-using homemakers dislike the prospect of such a slap in the face, they should write today to their U. S. Senators. The time will never be more opportune.

—CLIFFORD W. PATTON,
Executive Secretary, National
Association of Consumers.

Forrestal Incident

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IN the Miami Herald's (June 6) "Voice Of The People" a writer expressed how I feel on a current topic. And I thought a voice from there might be interesting to some.

"The tragedy of Forrestal made many people bull with indignation at those who were critical of him. Is it not strange that many of these were entirely satisfied to let other members of the Cabinet be pilloried even more unmercifully and for a longer time? Mrs. Perkins was belabored most uncharitably, as was Morgenthau, and also Harold Ickes—on personal as well as official grounds.

"The fact that none of these broke down as Forrestal did has nothing to do with the principle. Can it be that some of the loudest voices are quite willing to let others, (including President Roosevelt) be vilified without a word of protest? At least I do not recall that they have protested."

—B. H. EIDSON.

Change In Voting Law

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

HERETOFORE a stay-at-home registered voter counted against the issue of bonds. This law has now been changed and in order to count for or against the bonds it is necessary to actually vote. The ballots must be put in the box to count.

As this is an important change in the law, the voters should be fully advised.

—JOHN A. McRAE.

Note Of Appreciation

RALEIGH

Editors, THE NEWS:

PERSONALLY, and on behalf of the officers and directors of Better Schools & Roads, Inc., I wish to thank you and your fellow associates of the North Carolina press and radio for the thorough coverage given to the issues at stake in Saturday's election.

North Carolina will have advanced because its peoples—thanks to you—are more aware of our State's needs and opportunities.

—JOHN MARSHALL,
Executive Secretary.

Robert C. Ruark

The Real Heroes

COLUMBUS, OHIO.

THERE are all kinds and grades and shapes of valor, for which medals are bestowed. If the bestowal were up to me, I would be handing out a lot of decorations this week to girls named Mary and Jane and Betty, and their husbands, Joe, Jim and Pete.

At Ohio State University it is graduation time for 1,500 veterans, the finish of the first full cycle of the GI education plan. All over the nation, thousands of weary women are saying thank God, the old man's finally won his diploma. Maybe now we can start to live like human beings again.

You can cite me the pioneer woman, who birthed her babies in between Spring planting and a raid by the hos-tile Injuns, but I don't think she had it much rougher than the women whose husbands were collecting culture and know-how under the GI Bill of Rights. In a nation which was swollen with postwar plenty, these men and women are just emerging from what, for them, has been a bitter apprenticeship.

We paid the veterans, first, 90 bucks a month to feed them while they acquired learning, and later increased it to $120. It is scarcely necessary to say that this contribution, while generous, is not sufficiently elastic to clothe the late-blooming students in coonskin or equip them with yellow roadsters. Especially, as was so often the case, if the militant bookworm was also wearing a wife and child.

The fact that most of them had the guts to keep after an education is almost unbelievable. They put in the full study hours, plus Summer school, worked another half-dozen daily hours, boned on their home work, and in their spare time, worked valiantly at the assignment of husband and father.

They lived in trailers, in chopped-up army barracks, in furnished rooms at $17 a week with eight families using one bath. They had budgets so trimmed to the wind that a lost quarter was a tragedy.

A stud kid in the trailer was calamity that could only be swered by a loan shark. I kn one recent GI graduate who h been sending installments—on dead baby—to a hospital for ne ly two years.

Somehow, some way, the g you used to see around Ad and Navy bases during the w have been the winning ingre cts in the postwar battle of bulging cranium. They mana to spread the monthly gr around, to invest in diapers milk and hamburger and r They strode staunchly throu three years in a trailer set ment, walking a million smiles draw the water, and minister to each other in a comrade born of mutual desperation.

Atop the press of meeting ex they maneuvered to keep the b quiet when pa was boning on political science and ethics bandy. Most of them have little in the way of clothes or t ate time or money for prett They sublimated their frailties the big chore—pa's education.

The old man—who started be a freshman at an age when p war seniors were graduated — come out of the mill a pretty remarkable product. He is a gr man—a little grim, maybe a to cynical — but he seems to kn what he wants and what he's ing to do to get it.

He's 24, 25, 26, 27 years old. reads and thinks and questi His grades have shown him to a superior student. Only a perior student could have surv the sharp-down squalor in wh so many of them had to live order to learn. Nearly all, at time or another, needed cut rough decision over whether quit school for the fast buck needed something awful.

I've talked with a few of new, old-man, battle-and-p scarred graduates of 1948. At one of them will wind up in White House, and I will wa that none will ever decorate a lief roll with his name.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Marshall Plan Birth A Happy Accident

WASHINGTON

WHEN Washington dignitaries gathered at dinner this week to commemorate the Marshall Plan probably only one man present really knew how the Marshall Plan started—President Truman. And not even Truman knew or remembered all the details.

The birth of the Marshall Plan—believe it or not—was influenced by the illness of Sen. Bilbo of Mississippi. Furthermore, this plan—now a great force in revitalizing Europe—was a complete accident as far as the White House was concerned.

President Truman had been scheduled to make a speech at Cleveland, Miss., in the Winter of 1947 and called in Dean Acheson, then Undersecretary of State, to ask if he could get him out of a jam. He explained that to please some of his wife's friends he had promised to speak in Cleveland, that the folks in Mississippi had made elaborate preparations, and that this was to be the biggest event in the town's history.

But, he said, he couldn't go. Sen. Bilbo was back in the state, ill, after Senate's refusal to seat him, and he had political aspirations. Truman felt, if he set foot inside the state at that time. He had written his Mississippi friends, he said, asking if they would accept a Cabinet member instead, and they replied that they were greatly interested in foreign affairs and the only man they would take as a substitute was Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

Acheson of course promptly accepted the President's personal plea, in fact told Truman he had been eager to make a major speech. But, he warned, it would be an explosive one.

Henry Wallace's Mistake

SO, having in mind Henry Wallace's famous speech on Russia which was officially cleared with the White House, but which Truman himself didn't read; Acheson took great pains to have his speech carefully examined. He asked that it be read by the Army-Navy, by Economic Adviser Dr. Edwin Nourse, and by the Commerce Dept., as well as by Truman. His strategy was to have so many Cabinet experts read it that it would not be sent to Sens. Tom Connally and Arthur Vandenberg whom he suspected might pour on the cold water.

The perusers of the speech later held a meeting. Since there was nothing in the speech about bases, the Army-Navy had no objection. Dr. Nourse suggested a few changes of figures, which were accepted. Secretary of Commerce Harriman, who had been talking to Acheson privately, was enthusiastic, while Truman was delighted that Acheson was getting him out of his Mississippi speaking jam.

After all this preparation, however, the speech got only two or three paragraphs buried inside the newspapers. Few people in the USA realized that Acheson had launched one of the most important policies since the U.N. or the Monroe Doctrine.

The British press, however, played up the story big. And as a result Scotty Reston of The New York Times called on Acheson to ask whether this was a new American foreign policy.

"You had better ask the White House," Acheson replied.

Planted Question

SO, at the next White House press conference, Reston asked a carefully worded question as to whether the Cleveland, Miss., speech represented Acheson's views or the Administration's views.

Truman, still full of gratitude, and recalling that the Army, Navy, et al had approved the speech, replied that it represented Administration policy.

A few days later, Acheson went to his chief, Secretary of State Marshall, and said in effect: "I have kicked a fairly important ball up in the air for you, but it's falling rapidly. How about catching it and scoring a touchdown?"

This led to another conference with Truman, then to Secretary Marshall's speech, which in the eyes of most people was the beginning of the Marshall Plan.

After the speech, Acheson picked up a suggestion by Sen. Vandenberg that a committee of prominent Americans be appointed to push the idea. Truman didn't like the suggestion, but Acheson argued him into it.

"Here is a man who more than anything else wants to get the Republican nomination for President of the United States," he told Truman, in effect. "Of his other two rivals, Gov. Dewey never says anything about anything, while Sen. Taft never loses an opportunity to attack you on domestic issues and crab at you on foreign policy. Vandenberg played the game very well on bipartisan policy, and you ou to agree to his idea in order to keep him sweet."

Thumbs Down On Hoover-Baruch

THE President did agree, and a meeting was held to app members of a committee to serve under Secretary Commerce Harriman. Vandenberg was present. Ache said he didn't care who was on the committee just so long Herbert Hoover and Bernard Baruch were not.

Vandenberg, however, looked over the suggested nam said he had nothing against them, but that what the c mittee really needed was an elder statesman as chairm who commanded the respect of the entire country.

Quickly, Acheson asked Secretary Marshall if he co answer that question, then went on to say that the co mittee's job was not to sell every filling-station operator aid to Europe, but to get the cooperation of labor and dustry leaders. Therefore the committee should be compo of younger men who were influential with labor and indus Once their support was enlisted, Acheson argued, the fill station operators would fall in line.

Truman immediately agreed and Acheson's propo committee was appointed.

And that was pretty much how the Marshall Plan re got started.

Merry-Go-Round

KEEPING the record straight—The first Congressman attack strikes contracts was in the Chicago Tribune of What the public doesn't know is that Congressman Brow a close friend and distant relative of ex-Congressman Hu Mosher of Ohio, who is the lobbyist for the Glenn Mc Co. which manufactures Navy planes but can't get m business from the Air Force. . . . Utah's Gov. J. Bracken checking a report that his ancestor came over on the M flower, found that his supposed Pilgrim forebear was Rich Clarke—who died a bachelor. . . . Secretary Acheson Foreign Minister Bevin haven't been getting along too wel Paris. Bevin thinks Acheson is hogging the spotlight, irritated when Acheson refused to go along with Bev plan for secret diplomacy.