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NOW WE ARE 133,212

That wind-rushing sound you hear is a sigh of disappointment that was heaved today when 133,212 Charlotteans discovered that they did not add up to 150,000 Charlotteans. Somehow the city had become what it contained 150,000 residents. We had 100,000 in 1949, hadn't we? There were 15,000 or 20,000 people in the peripheral area taken into the city limits, weren't there? And 120,000 plus a normal growth of 30,000 made 150,000, didn't it?

BEAR IN THE WOODS

We probably needed that reminder from President Truman last week that the Russians "have preached peace" but devoted their energies to fomenting rebellion and preparing for war.

Regrettably, that doesn't seem to be the case. The Russians still have the largest peacetime army in history—and so far as the American public can determine from the scanty information we get from behind the Iron Curtain, they're building bombers, fighters and submarines rapidly.

Assuming then that they are preparing a fighting machine to fight, it would be valuable for us to know whether their preparations are defensive or aggressive. The Kremlin has indicated quite plainly that it views the recent consolidation of Western defenses as an aggressive move.

The fact that we have no plans for aggression would not deter the Russians from preparation.

High in the Smokies a cork bubbles forth a mercury-like trickle that leaps with icy vigor over clean pebbles and down mossy cataracts, tumbling through the ferns out of Yancey and Mitchell and McDowell to join in blue beauty at sprawling Lake James, stretching into long Lake Rhodhiss, slowing as it moves through the gentler hills of Alexander and taking on the color of the sea at the Catwaba and Tredell, Lincoln, Gaston and Mecklenburg.

At Charlotte, the Catwaba—darker and slow as sorghum—pauses as if to rest, to retire in the thousand quiet coves that stretch finger-like into Gaston and South Carolina. Here, in Springtime, it becomes the city's own.

PROMISE OF ACTION

The Asheville conference on bootleg liquor produced information that shows, and clearly, that one reason for the shipments of liquor into dry areas is the negligence of the Federal law governing the issuance of liquor stamps.

Under the present law, the stamps issued dealers to sell tax-paid liquor are issued with only a cursory paper investigation of the dealers so licensed. As a result, many dealers who flaunt State laws with the shipments are able to obtain stamps in their own names or under a fictitious name.

in a growing community. Figures for the other cities of the Carolinas, some of which already have been announced, will certainly show that Charlotte has not only held but has increased its predominance as the big city of the two states. In all probability, its rank among the cities of the nation at large will bring it a few numbers up the list.

Many people maintain that growth is not especially desirable in itself, that the city is large enough already. We cannot hold with this attitude, much as we agree that there are factors more important than size. There are things more important than money, too, but as a measurement of intrinsic worth and the value of the effort that the weak effort that the city is about as reliable an index as there is. By the same token, a city's growth is in itself nothing to brag about. But as evidence of enlarging commercial importance, continued growth is essential and the population of 133,212 at least confirms what most of us feel about Charlotte, that it is a good place in which to live and do business.

People's Platform

Editors, The News: Since Mr. Smith asked for a run-off I have regretted my previous editorial supporting him and find no reason to change three statements I made following your editorial of May 8, when I chose, but that we had the right to expect something stronger than the weak effort that the city is about as reliable an index as there is.

Arms races are not pleasant. They invariably lead to war. We have often agreed that the greatest efforts should be made to bring an end to the piling up of armaments race. It can only lose it.

The President will be commended with hater-mongering and the Communists will say themselves to create in the public an emotional state that will prepare us for war. But it seems to us that the President is not so much stirring up hate as warning us that there's a bear in the woods—and we'd better not forget it.

The evening makes dull metal of the slow-flowing water. A weather-worn rowboat tumbles lazily in the casual current, sprouting fish-pole antennae. The whisper of the rolling water cushions chirping notes of new birds. An outboard motor buzzes and music escapes, thin and filtered, from a yellow coteau window. In the shadows of the trees a quiet wind stirs pine needles.

But the Catwaba isn't Charlotte's river, though it seem so in Spring. Lighter and retire in the thousand quiet coves that stretch finger-like into Gaston and South Carolina. Here, in Springtime, it becomes the city's own.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

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'Well, Now We Can Worry About The Heat Again'



'All-Time Low In Editorial Support'

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Drew Pearson's Wood Had Servant On Government Pay

WASHINGTON. It's a peculiar thing about Congressman John E. Wood, Jr. of Georgia Democrat whose office took a \$1,000 fee from the Georgia State for a report on the Communist Party.

The peculiar thing is that financially Wood is well off. As most Congressmen are, he has a large income. Yet, on top of the fee from Ralph Sanfield, the Congressman also enjoys a neat arrangement in his home office.

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Stalin Hands Lie Old Line, Reds Want Communist Europe

WASHINGTON. THIS REPORTER has been asked to write a summary of a long investigation in Europe, of the history of the Communist Party in the United States since the war. The investigation is being conducted by the State Department and the results will be published in a report of the Committee on Un-American Activities.

Gals With Ideas Of Millet Should Be Conked By Millet

EVERY SO OFTEN you get the impression that the world is a vast, unexplored territory. It is not. It is a world that has been explored and mapped, and the results are being used to guide us.

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