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THE HEART OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

To make the largest monetary savings and the greatest improvements to the quality and efficiency of public service, consolidation and personnel reorganization must go hand in hand.

THROUGH concluding views in the Institute of Government's survey of public personnel administration in Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte...

The revealing study, made public yesterday, steered clear of any specific recommendation in favor of consolidation...

In the event, the calibre of service rendered and the reality of the picture of the government of Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte...

MOST of us forget just how important people are in the fabric of our government. We are prone to be complacent...

Fifty-eight cents out of every dollar spent for current operating expenses of the two local governments...

Two and one-half per cent of the total working population of Mecklenburg County are employees of Mecklenburg County...

The total costs of government personnel administration in Mecklenburg County...

Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte recently employed a personnel director...

Our civil service systems are not entirely satisfactory. The Institute generally praised the Rural Police Civil Service Board...

It listed these criticisms which have been directed against the City civil service group:

- 1. For not being in sympathy with the public.
2. For seeking political office or being active members of a political party or organization.
3. For frequent changes of rules and policy.

REVALUATION DECISION

THE DECISION by the City Council and the County Commission to order a complete revaluation of all property in Mecklenburg County...

There has been no disagreement over the need for such a revaluation. The general view has been that a division of the cost...

As we have pointed out in these columns previously, local governments are dependent upon property taxes for most of their revenue. The taxes are levied on property...

WHAT WE'RE MISSING

THE RIGHT last week Asheville packed a schedule of a seasonal game between Wake Forest and the University of Tennessee played in the Mountain City municipal auditorium.

Also all of last week an ice show held forth at Raleigh's municipal auditorium, performing before capacity audiences...

as a result of the excessive turnover among board members; and
4. For interfering with department administration.

NOTE—The City Civil Service Commission was reorganized some months ago by the City Council which had recognized the deficiencies in the system.

In addition, the Institute found that there is widespread variation between city and county working hours, vacation provisions, training programs, pay plans, and promotion, discipline, dismissal and retirement practices.

A particularly strong bias was leveled at the failure of both governments to avail fully from the support of the retirement system.

Many older employees did not join the system lest they be forced to retire and many custodial and manual laborers did not join the system lest they be forced to retire...

DAVIDSON found that both Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte had been unusually fortunate in obtaining good service and of remaining free of fraud and graft.

- 1. Extension of civil service principles to all County and City employees;
2. Reorganization of both civil service boards to give them advisory functions;
3. Preparation of position-classification plans for both governments;
4. Publication of City and County job opportunities;
5. Physical and performance examinations of applicants;
6. Additional training programs;
7. Complete self-insurance of workmen's compensation to give them advisory functions;
8. Strengthening the present retirement systems.

These suggestions would hold true under partial functional consolidation. They would have to be revised somewhat under complete consolidation, mainly in detail. The principle is unchangeable.

Others are benefited. Thus revaluation has a two-fold purpose: (1) to lift the average assessment to a level more commensurate with the value of the property...

The first is essential for the simple reason that the capacity of a local government to issue bonds is limited by law to a percentage of its total assessed value.

The second is a matter of fairness and justice. Each property owner ought to carry his fair load, and no more. We are pleased that the two governments reached agreement on this matter...

There are now a few of the things that Greensboro is missing, with the influence and leadership of Greensboro in making this city an amusement, sports, music and entertainment center...

There will be a brief pause in this city upon property taxes for most of their revenue. The taxes are levied on property...

'We Got A Right To Look Into Things, Ain't We?'



People's Platform

A Mother's Contribution

Editors, The News: I WOULD like to speak in behalf of a person worthy of commendation for her interest and work in the field of mental hygiene...

Back in 1948 she began her efforts to publicize the pressing need for facilities to treat spastic paralytic cases...

In months following this meeting, Mrs. McAllister devoted her energy and strength to promoting the project. Meanwhile, the Carolina Spastics Association was formed...

Finally, it was decided to sponsor a demonstration Spastic Nursery, which was held at the parsonage of St. Martin's Episcopal Church...

Many Charolites have assisted in this worthy work to the best of their ability. We are sure that many more will find assistance and comfort for their afflicted loved ones...

The work has just begun. May every citizen readily respond, when called upon in the future to help in this great work...

China's Darkest Day

Editors, The News: CHINA'S darkest day! That the very blackness of the star, China hangs upon a cross of suffering. She hangs there bleeding and torn...

China has been overrun by the Communists because her sin was so huge. China has honored neither God nor man in this great work...

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

HERE is how the Republican-Democrat coalition is riding roughshod over the rights of the individual in the House of Representatives.

The Republican coalition not only demanded the reinstatement of the old gag rule by which the committee can bottle up any bill, but even refused to let the House vote on the issue...

Fair Dealer Backslides

HOWEVER, Pearson's motion to postpone action on the Cox resolution led to five House members a right to testify for or against it at a public hearing...

Economy Axes Make Deep Cuts During Time Of Red Quiet

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON ANY prediction as to what the Russians will do tomorrow or the day after tomorrow is a guess...

The significant aspect of the past two days was not the increasing quietude of the Soviets at those points where they come into contact with the West...

Consider the contrast with two days ago when an increasingly provocative incident built up to the blockade. Berlin and the German issue were on the front pages...

Now against this background of quiet, an absence of threat and shock and headlines on the front pages...

The combination can be had. It might mean that the government is now ready to accept a new proposal...

For the ECIA the President has requested \$100,000,000 for the year 1950—more than a billion under the amount for the current year.

Such steps in the past decade aimed at raising productivity and extending the life of the plant and equipment...

The drive being directed by ECIA Administrator Paul H. Hoffman is aimed at Europe's hampering barriers. One move in this direction is to create a special fund out of ECIA appropriations...

But even if all the obstacles are removed, Europe will in all likelihood need American aid after 1952. It is on this belief that the thinking for the longer future is now being based.

In demanding integration this country may well be asking Europe to do the impossible. Under present circumstances, with Germany divided and the economy in a state of a trickle, a Western European federation would eventually fall under the weight of its own economic side...

When the problem is posed this way it becomes clear that a great new forward step in American foreign policy is being taken...

THIS is a peculiarly American least one respect which is a much bigger consideration and the question of the ECIA have begun to think and to talk about this larger question.

It is absolutely necessary. If our government follows England in recognizing the Communist regime, we can not expect God to withhold His wrath and judgment from us.

Police Work Praised CHARLOTTE Editors, The News: I HAVE sent the following letter to Chief Frank N. HANEY, a resident of Charlotte for a number of years...

Having been a resident of Charlotte for a number of years, I had never had an opportunity to see the Police Department until the night of Dec. 19, 1949.

On the night of my visit to you and the entire detective division who worked so diligently without ceasing until the guilty parties were arrested and brought to trial...

One can appreciate the fine work your department is doing only after seeing them work. I was with these men I found each of them most able and alert.

The People's Platform is entitled to say reader who care to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words type-written if possible, and on only one side of the paper.

Wayward Minors Not Protected FROM the nation's roguish galleries, the Children's Bureau has done up a shameful, shocking story. It is a sad story of America's neglected children...

What this amounts to, though Delaney didn't say so, is that the new York favors giving seven men on this House Committee more power than 500 other members of Congress.

In Australia, The Animals Carry Warfare To Settlers

By ROBERT C. RUARK

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Schools For Crime

CRIMINAL studies show that jail doesn't cure as much crime as it is supposed to. It is a sad story of America's neglected children...

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