THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE AIRPORT MUST BE ENLARGED

A PROJECTED extension of one of the runways at Charlotte's Municipal airport has placed the County Commissioners in a dilemma that faces every governing body at one time or another and from which there is no simple, easy escape.

No law has ever been passed without hurting or inconveniencing someone. No new street has ever been cut through developed property, no school building erected, no airport built or enlarged without causing some consternation or dismay among nearby residents.

In the case at point, one of the oldest communities in the nation, Mecklenburg's famed Steele Creek, is affected. The big planes that use the Charlotte airport in ever-increasing numbers are already disturbing the residents of Steele Creek. And the people are not only right, but they are also within their rights, when they express concern over the probability of even greater disturbance in the future.

Even so, there is but one choice the Commissioners can make. That is to approve the routine petition to close a small section of Dixie Road and permit the extension of the runway. To do otherwise would be unthinkable.

A full presentation of the case for favorable action, complete with statistical documentation, would require more space than these columns offer. Here are some of the main points:

1. There has been too much emphasis in the public discussion on the probable use of jets by an Air National Guard squadron. It is a factor, to be sure, and all other things being equal, Charlotte and Mecklenburg County owe it to the nation to provide a place for Air National Guardsmen to stay in training for emergency if, as it appears, Guard officials need a training base here. But the fact is that Charlotte's airport needs longer runways *now*, not for military jets but for the bigger commercial propeller planes operating today. And the era of commercial jet airplanes, which need long runways because of their high landing speed, is just over the horizon.

2. It is useless to suggest that a new airport should be built somewhere else in Mecklenburg County. Already there is a total investment at the present site running into the millions, and another million dollar improvement program is under way at present. It would be an extravagant waste of public money to abandon the present airport and build a new one. Furthermore, the Commissioners would quickly find new opposition from the residents of the alternate site as vigorous, or even more vigorous, than that they have heard.

3. Charlotte has achieved an eminent position in modern commercial aviation. The City fought hard in the postwar era to get new lines and new routes, and it was notably successful. Now there are dozens of flights a day branching out in all direction. Passenger and freight traffic are booming. It is one of the major air centers of the nation, and simply must keep its facilities up to date if it hopes to remain a major center.

4. The Commissioners should remember, also, that interest in this project is not limited to the residents of Steele Creek alone. The Commissioners represent the people of Charlotte as well as the people of the County area. The County Government has enjoyed through the years the increasing revenue from taxable property in Charlotte, without assuming many of the responsibilities for public services in the City area. Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have developed together, and the Commissioners must do nothing that might hinder this development.

5. Finally, the Commissioners might well ponder their legal and moral right to deny the Dixie Road application. Since 1931, the Mecklenburg Board, like all other County boards in North Carolina, has conveniently relieved itself of any responsibility for county roads. When a petition for road improvement is received, the Commissioners merely shrug their shoulders, stamp it with approval, and pass the buck to the State Highway Commission. It would be most unbecoming, and quite improper, for them, at this late date, to try to exercise a negative "veto" power over a project so vital to the whole community.

In sum, Charlotte's airport will have to be expanded sooner or later. It cannot be moved to another site. And with all due deference to Attorney Henry Fisher and others who suggested that the City ought to turn down this Federal "handout", this is true: if the Defense Department, through the National Guard, doesn't pay for the runway extension for its training program, the people of Charlotte will have to pay for it later through bonds or through taxes. This is not a convincing argument from people who live around the fringe of the city, who make their living in the city, whose property is increased in value because it is near the city, and who nonetheless dodge the taxes that a city dweller has to pay. It is kind of them to suggest that this new million-dollar-plus burden be borne by Charlotte residents, but the suggestion leaves us cold.

The Commissioners must approve the application.

THREAT TO SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

TWO factors complicate the problem facing the Southern Conference posed by bowl bids to two members, Maryland and Clemson.

The first is that the basic purposes of college athletic conferences have been thoroughly subverted by intersectional contests. It is meaningless for a team from a conference with stiff academic and scholarship requirements to do battle with a team from a conference with loose regulations. And the inability of conferences to make and hold to rigid rules is traceable to the desire of some members to play intersectional rivals on an equal footing.

The second factor is that the Southern Conference, at best, is a motley, ungainly, and ill-assorted collection of schools that range from the ridiculous to the sublime in the emphasis they place on football. Imagine Davidson, which didn't place a single man on the first two all-State squads (and got only two in the big honorable mention category) tangling with Jim Tatum's Maryland powerhouse!

Even so, the course of action for the Southern Conference is clear where Maryland is concerned. Article IV, Section 6 of the conference bylaws requires that the "consent of the conference" must be obtained before any post-season game is played. Maryland, with its best grid squad in years, thumbed its nose at the conference, signed for a Sugar Bowl appearance against Tennessee without asking anybody's consent. It is beside the question to argue that Maryland should be permitted to play in the Sugar Bowl. Fact is that Maryland openly and deliberately flouted the bylaw provision, a provision that has been observed by every other conference bowl team in the past. There is but one answer: expulsion of Maryland from the conference.

Clemson's action differs in degree only from that of Maryland. Clemson went through the motions of asking permission from the conference to play in the Gator Bowl. Permission was refused, but Clemson is going to play in the bowl game anyway. Clemson deserves a spanking, too, despite the statement of Dr. Lee Milford, faculty chairman of athletics, that:

"Our acceptance of this bowl bid, which has not met the approval of the Southern Conference, is not intended in any way to be a defiance of the action of the Southern Conference."

When all the shouting is over, Commissioner Wallace Wade must answer for his ineffectual role in this conference rhubarb. It was at Wade's suggestion that the conference presidents, on Sept. 28, voted 14 to 3 against bowl games this season. The vote was taken at the beginning of the season so that member teams might know, in advance, the sentiment of the prexies before their December meeting, when bowl plans would have been completed.

Since then, Mr. Wade, who carries a big stick in enforcing conference rulings, has been strangely silent. His favorite answer to queries has been "no comment". If a conference commissioner is not to be of service in settling big issues like this, then, what, pray, is he for?

AN INVITATION TO TRAGEDY

OVER and over it happens. A police car chases a law violator through crowded cities or along crowded highways, and somebody gets hurt or killed—the speeder, the policeman, or some innocent motorist or pedestrian who just happened to be around at the moment.

This week in Asheville, funeral services were held for popular Chief of Police H. C. Enloe. He was killed, and two other high police officials injured, when their automobile overturned while they were chasing a car that had roared through the business district a short time before.

Police officers argue that speeding drivers or suspicious automobiles must be chased. They say they never know whether the speeder has committed a major crime. They point out that they must positively identify the driver to make traffic violations stand up in court. They contend that they must seize the driver and cargo when bootlegging is involved.

All this may be very true, but we doubt seriously that the chasing of offending motorists should be carried out so assiduously by police officers, especially in areas of congested traffic. No policeman in his right mind would run down a crowded sidewalk, shooting wildly at a fleeing robber. It seems only reasonable to us that the same precaution should be taken when officers are in automobiles.

Better to let a speeder or a bootlegger escape now and then than to kill or maim innocent citizens or, as in the Asheville case, valuable and conscientious officers.

A lot of people get credit for being well behaved who haven't the money to be otherwise.—Maggie McGee in *Camden County (Ga.) Tribune.*

A boy, who, instead of going to school had gone fishing, on his way home met one of his school chums. Seeing that the boy was carrying a fishing line, the chum asked: "Catch anything?" "No," replied the boy, "I ain't been home yet."—*Pelham (Ga.) Journal.*

Begone!

People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Surprised At Steele Creek

Editors, THE NEWS:

CHARLOTTE

HAVING just returned from Korea, I was somewhat surprised at the attitude of the citizens of Steele Creek, who seem to feel toward the Air National Guard as does the motorist who curses the fire trucks when there is no fire.

After reading Monday's article, I wonder if these good citizens and their committee know that there are several Air National Guard units now flying in Korea. Some pilots of these units have been shot down, some killed. Yet Mr. Watts says: "Our community does not want a National Guard unit there."

I also wonder if these citizens realize that their survival may depend on the kind of training these very units receive, possibly within the next few years. Of course, the County Commissioners can consult Mr. Watts, who seems to be an authority on space required for operation of jet bombers—even those yet on the drawing board.

Shall the progress of aviation in our region and the preservation of our national defense units be halted by this backwoods attitude?

—CLIFF W. BROWN
1st Lt., USAF

Truman Is For Working Man

Editors, THE NEWS:

CHERAW, S. C.

AS AN American and a Southern working man I am writing about my remembrance of the condition of our country during the Administration of our Government by the Republican Party of former President Herbert Hoover.

I note the address of the Hon. Sam Rayburn of Texas to the Southern Governors' Conference in Hot Springs, Ark. I for one agree with Representative Rayburn. How many of our people have refrigerators, washing machines and such things for better living conditions? We could not have had a washing of soap in Hoover times. Of course we did not need it for we had few clothes to wash and no job to get soiled by. Today we have pay lines instead of soup lines and lines of unemployed on the highways.

Our President may have his faults, but we all do. I admire him for the job he's done with some of the sorry co-operation he's had from the Republican Party in Washington.

We need a man like the one we have, a fighter for the masses of all the people, not one just for one part of the people. Therefore let me say to our working people—Support Harry S. Truman for President again if he chooses to run. FDR and HST have been the best friends the poor and forgotten people ever had in Washington. Forget the would-be Democrats as they are doing no one any good, only harming themselves.

Here's a vote for Harry S. Truman, President.

—J. A. GRAHAM

Keep To Issue On Vatican Debate

Editors, THE NEWS:

CHARLOTTE

A GENTLEMAN from Marion wrote to say that he was getting a little impatient with the battling over the issue of an ambassador to the Vatican. I am too.

It is an important issue and it should be thoroughly discussed and debated but the debate is valid only when it stays within legitimate bounds. All too often attacks against the appointment have disintegrated into attacks on the Catholic Church.

There are two legitimate points of argument. First, the wisdom of the appointment can be debated. Second, it can be argued the appointment is out of harmony with national tradition. There is no question about the constitutionality of the appointment since the Constitution states that no law respecting the establishment of religion can be passed and, of course, no law is involved in this appointment. But opponents of the appointment can legitimately claim that it is unwise or contrary to national tradition and be within the bounds of proper debate.

What they should not do is to use this as an excuse for attacking Catholics and the Catholic Church—and as everyone knows this is exactly what many have done. Oddly enough, all of the organized efforts in this debate have been carried on by Protestant church groups who, while pressuring the Government as religious organizations, have been doing it in the name of separation of church and state.

I am only one Catholic but I believe that all Catholics, lay and clergy, feel as I do when I say that not one of us would wish the appointment to be made if we did not feel it was for the best interests of our nation. Such an appointment is of little value to the Catholic Church and it has already aroused half-hidden hatreds that do us harm. So as Catholics we are little concerned with whether the appointment is made at all. But as Americans many of us believe that the nation — and all free people—will benefit by such an appointment. We are joined in this belief by many sincere Protestants and Jews.

But whatever our convictions on this issue we must all be vigilant in our efforts to keep to the issue. When arguments stray into attacks then this is the danger zone, here is the area of real un-Americanism.

—DALE FRANCIS

Short Life Likely For The U.N. Unless Drastic Changes Made

By MARQUIS CHILDS

PARIS

IN THIS BEAUTIFUL city that is like a dream of the vanished past, the contestants in the battle between West and East are going at it once again. They are belaboring each other with the old, worn-out words, employing the same transparent stratagems, going through the familiar motions.

For many of the delegates, a deepening sense of disillusion is developing. For some, of course, the trip to Paris is merely another outing and they accept it with frank cynicism. But many brought to the United Nations, a generous idealism. They had real hope that this was the beginning of an era in which lasting peace could evolve.

For them the disintegration of the new world organization into two quarreling camps is a cause for something close to despair. The utmost limit of their hope today is that in some now unforeseen fashion the quarrel of words can be prevented from becoming a quarrel of guns and atom bombs.

The American disarmament plan, ably presented by Secretary of State Acheson, has served for the moment at least to put the Russians on the spot and to give the tactical initiative to the West. But it will soon be pushed into the background, with Korea taking top place at this assembly session. Yet, despite the disillusion, you find no one ready to abandon the U. N. For the delegates it continues to be a life raft to which they cling. It is perilous, threatening to break up altogether.

But all around is the cold, cruel, lonely sea. There is no other haven in sight. And so they hang on to this insubstantial bit of flotsam for dear life.

At first glance, the margin between hope and despair appears to be narrow. The votes taken thus far show that if it were not for the Soviet Union and its satellites, a wide area of harmony would exist. The Iron Curtain countries are almost alone, if one ignores two or three timid abstainers.

But so long as the framework of the U. N. remains unchanged, with the veto in the center of it, this numerical margin is an insurmountable obstacle. The U. N. will continue to be a cockpit, the only variation being the degree of intensity of the fighting.

This is not meant to be a calculatedly gloomy forecast of doom for the United Nations. It is a report on what appear to be the realities here at this moment. To look around those realities is to invite the final dissolution of the only organization to which most nations give at least lip service.

To one observer, the necessity to repair the life raft of the U. N. seems at this moment extremely urgent. How that can be done, short of eliminating the Communist obstructors, it is hard to see. But in view of the gale winds now blowing, neither can one foresee a very long life for that frail bark in its present condition.

Huge Campaign Contributions Lower Standards Of Congress

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THE TAX scandals have now succeeded the RFC scandals. Next will probably come the scandals in the Office of Alien Property. And then, if the Congressional investigators find the guts to stop scratching for peanuts and to begin digging for the big potatoes, we may see other, infinitely larger influence scandals.

All these different scandals are widely said to result from a sort of moral relapse in the United States. In fact, however, they result from certain vital changes in the relationship between business and politics. And since this problem has become very serious and very urgent, the present report is the first of three concerning the cause and cure of this trouble which is worrying everyone.

The first change to note is the staggering change in the pattern, and therefore in the expense, of modern American politics. As late as the middle 30's a statewide primary was the natural opportunity of any ambitious young Southern politician who owned an old jalopy, picked the right issue and could pay for his own fatback and hominy during a year of cultivating the grass roots. In this manner former Sen. Robert R. Reynolds defeated the late Cameron Morrison, mainly on the ground that the prosperous Morrison had become an addict of "red Russian fish eggs"—or in other words, caviar,—while representing the plain people of North Carolina in sinful, luxurious Washington.

BIG SPENDER EXPELLED

In the North, elections have always been more expensive. Yet as late as the 20's Truman H. Newberry was expelled from the Senate with bellows of indignant horror, because he had laid out a couple of hundred thousand dollars to get himself elected in Michigan.

Those simple, inexpensive days are over now, thanks to the cost of radio, television and other means of mass appeal to the voters. The cheapest Southern election now costs several tens of thousands of dollars, even for a professional gallus-wearer.

In the North, in the Ohio Senatorial campaign in 1950, the friends of Sen. Robert A. Taft are reported to have laid out more than five times the Newberry figure.

The increasing need for money to finance campaigns has in turn produced a situation that may not be new in pattern, but is entirely new in scale. In the later Roosevelt years, in the "clear-it-with-Sidney" period, the labor groups made large political contributions to the Democrats and enjoyed proportionate influence. At present, however, businessmen and corporations pay at least 85 per cent of the American political bills, mostly under the table.

The businessmen are hardly to be blamed, for politics have become enormously important to them, and they can purchase political influence that may be worth many millions for sums which they and their corporations hardly feel. The politicians are no more to blame than the businessmen, since the campaign bills have got to be paid somehow.

Meanwhile, the results are increasingly manifest. In the Congress, on the one hand, any informed observer nowadays can show you rows of Senators whose votes are controlled when the chips are down by the banks, the local utilities, the mining and mineral interests and other big business groups which play big parts in state politics. There is even a soft drink company which has a Senator. What has always gone on in a small way has now become common; and this has produced the general lowering of standards typified by the Senate's bland refusal to be shocked by such episodes as the Lustron Corporation's $10,000 payment for Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin.

In the Federal Administration, meanwhile, influence born of campaign contributions has tended to become the decisive factor in the sectors of the Government which have special importance to big business, such as the Civil Aeronautics Board. And hand in hand with this growth in the power of money influence, has gone the general lowering of standards typified by the scandals now engaging the national attention.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

DiSalle, Wilson Clash On Price Hikes

WASHINGTON

THOUGH price boss Mike DiSalle is a genial, fun-loving man, his relations with mobilization boss Charlie Wilson have just about reached the boiling point. The clash is over stimulating production by increasing prices which, in turn, boosts the cost of living.

Wilson has adopted this policy over DiSalle's bitter objections. As an incentive to step up production, Wilson has increased the price of machine tools, lead and zinc, and is considering a price boost to relieve the sulphur shortage.

But the result has been an increase in prices all down the line. The price boost for lead and zinc, for instance, caused a corresponding increase in all lead and zinc products, such as automobile batteries. DiSalle has argued that this brings cracks in the economy without actually solving the production bottleneck.

During the fight over lead and zinc, DiSalle sent his righthand man, Ed Phelps, to have it out with Wilson.

"You guys always think of price increases as an incentive to production," argued Phelps. "We give you the price increase, and we still don't get the production. Then you think of other reasons for the production. But you never think of the other reasons until you force us to give the price increases."

"I don't give a damn what it does to stabilization," snapped Wilson. "We need the metals."

Shortly after this argument the cost-of-living index shot up again, automatically giving one million CIO auto workers a wage increase, which in turn sharpened the determination of CIO steelworkers and other unions to get a wage boost too.

Senator McCarran Gets Better

SEN. PAT McCARRAN is supposed to be a very sick man. He was not too sick, however, to dispatch a strange two-page telegram to Chairman Cecil King of the House committee investigating tax frauds, and to send his own personal investigator to barge into the tax situation.

Since a Senate Finance Subcommittee, under able Senator Williams of Delaware, is already probing tax frauds; and since a House committee is also probing taxes and doing a good job of it, Senator McCarran's sudden interest from a hospital bed in Reno has aroused interesting speculation. Perhaps, suggest some, the Senator's own shirttail is showing.

Those who make this suggestion recall that it's a matter of official record that one of McCarran's henchmen, deputy tax collector Pat Mooney in Reno, sold $5,000 in worthless Nevada mining stock to Gertrude Jenkins, the San Francisco abortionist, when she was under investigation for a $57,600 tax fraud.

Mooney, who got his tax-collecting job through Senator McCarran, also sold $2,400 of worthless mining stock to "Bones" Remmer, big-time gambler of northern California when Remmer faced a $910,000 income-tax deficiency.

These interesting little matters were probed by the Kefauver Crime Committee, but then dropped after Senate colleagues hastened to cut off funds for a further crime probe. Now, however, a House committee has rudely taken up where the Kefauver Committee left off and is scheduled to investigate northern California tax matters in January.

McCarran's Counterprobe

IN preparation for this, the House committee's West Coast investigator, Charles Tobin, showed up in Reno, which may have been why Senator McCarran sat bolt upright in bed and started to do his own investigating.

McCarran is chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which has nothing to do with taxes. Furthermore, his committee is not supposed to overlap the work of another committee. Despite this, McCarran sent his trusted investigator, J. C. Sourwine, to start a counterprobe.

Sourwine first slipped into San Francisco and proceeded to cross-examine Charles O'Gara, the assistant U. S. attorney who pioneered the first tax-fraud probe. Sourwine's line of questioning was not at all friendly. It was not that of a man who wants to see tax frauds cleaned up.

Incidentally, it was another McCarran man, U. S. Judge Edward Murphy, who dismissed the grand jury which was probing tax frauds under O'Gara. Murphy's father and McCarran were old prospecting pals and McCarran blocked the appointment of other judges until the Justice Department finally appointed Murphy to the bench.

Investigating The Investigators

AFTER butting into the San Francisco tax situation, McCarran's investigator Sourwine slipped down to Los Angeles to investigate Congressman King himself. Sourwine's line of inquiry in Los Angeles indicated that he was hunting for evidence that King may have exerted political pressure on the U. S. attorney's office in behalf of a friend, Thomas A. Gregory. Gregory is involved in a tax investigation of his affairs over the Long Beach Federal Savings & Loan Association.

However, McCarran didn't mention the Los Angeles phase of his investigation in the unprecedented telegram he later sent to Congressman King. Though this telegram has never been made public, this column has obtained a copy.

Explaining his committee's sudden interest in the San Francisco case, McCarran wired: "I am confident that further and detailed investigation of these matters would be proper function of Senate Judiciary Committee.

"However," he added, "I know my committee frowns on overlapping and duplication of effort . . . I am confident that members of the Judiciary Committee would agree that investigations undertaken with proper jurisdiction by one committee should be brought to a conclusion by that group unless there is evidence indicating unsatisfaction (sic) or incomplete handling of such matter."

It is strange this argument didn't occur to McCarran before he began his own, independent investigation—since both the King Committee and Senate Finance Committee were already looking into the San Francisco tax troubles. However, to avoid duplication, McCarran wired King that "I am instructing counsel Senate Judiciary Committee to turn over to your committee immediately all investigative reports dealing with above-mentioned subject matter."