

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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PRODUCT OF MISUNDERSTANDING

UNTIL there is some evidence to the contrary, we shall assume that the County Commissioners' decision to block the runway extension at the Charlotte airport is the result of misunderstanding. Any other explanation of so grave an error would be unthinkable.

To begin with, no one ever bothered to invite official representatives of the U. S. Air Force or the National Guard to explain to the Commissioners and the citizens who live near the airport the full story of a project that is clearly in the interest of the national security program.

An official of the National Guard gave the first full explanation in The News yesterday. It is straightforward and easily understood. Because of its strategic importance, because of the large number of reserve pilots living here, Charlotte was selected as a base for an Air National Guard squadron some years ago. That squadron has since been activated and it is performing distinguished service in the Korean war effort.

Since U. S. defense planning envisions a long period of preparedness, it is proposed to re-establish the squadron in Charlotte with its period of active duty is over.

Originally, 7,000-foot runways were specified for Air National Guard units. But a few airports with 5,000-foot runways, like Charlotte's, were approved because of their

importance in the whole picture. The Guard has been planning to lengthen the runway since 1947, but funds did not become available until recently.

The longer runway is important for three reasons:

1. It is important to national defense in the event of a full emergency, this community's only protection against air attack would be from fast jet interceptors which need longer runways than propeller planes.

2. It is important to the safety of the people who live around the airport. The longer runway would decrease the probability of fatal accidents in the vicinity of the airport.

3. It is important to the safety of the young men in the Air National Guard—young men who have already served their nation, but who unselfishly keep themselves at reserve training in the event they are needed again.

That is not The News' analysis; that is the analysis of a high National Guard official. Had it been stated forcefully to the County Commissioners at one of the earlier public hearings, they would hardly have voted to block the runway expansion. For they are honest, patriotic men, who would certainly not want to hamper the national defense program of the people of our community who expect and demand that they reverse their decision, now that the facts have been made known.

CHURCHILL AVOIDS HIS BABY

ONE of the most surprising results of the recent Strasbourg and Rome conferences of European and American legislators and political and military leaders has been the refusal of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to endorse the European Union idea which is fast-growing from blueprint and plan to actual fact. The idea of European Union was, to a large degree, Prime Minister Churchill's baby, and observers felt that his return to office would give the movement impetus. But the Churchill Government now seemingly regards the idea as an unwanted, illegitimate son.

The British are joined in their reluctance by the Scandinavians, and some Belgian and Dutch leaders. Meanwhile, France is booming along the idea of European Union, with General de Gaulle's followers suddenly reversing their stand and supporting the idea, and with ratification of Schuman Plan for unification of French, German, Italian and Benelux coal and steel industries coming up for vote in the French National Assembly.

Original U. S. Congressmen who participated in the Strasbourg Conference of Atlantic legislators said further U. S. aid to Europe should be withheld until Europe unifies, and they scolded Europeans for not making more progress before effecting the unification. They said that concrete results made great progress in overcoming centuries-old laws and traditions, too harshly, it seems well to consider the arguments against a strictly European Union by critics.

Britain fears that federation with Europe would damage her ties with the Commonwealth and the U. S. As Jack Tait of the New York Herald Tribune reports from London, "Britain would prefer to operate on a loose framework of what it calls the Atlantic Union, which includes the United States, Labrador, as well as Conservatives, hold this view. The leader of the British Labor delegation to the 1950 Strasbourg con-

ference said "The British Labor Party greatly welcomes the developments toward the concept of Atlantic unity and away from the concept of unity which is limited only to the region of the British Isles." Dutchmen fear Germany will dominate a strictly European Union. As the New Rotterdam Courant puts it, "No matter what guarantees... in a purely continental bloc... the Dutchman is not sure that the people of their mentality also inevitably point toward a predominant German influence, even if Germany's partition is maintained... Therefore a closer union of Europe raises additional objections against the European form part of the Atlantic community, America's influence might work as a brake on a Germany trying to usurp hegemony."

The Norwegians prefer the Atlantic, rather than the continental concept, for economic reasons. Finn Mo, the chairman of the Norwegian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, warned in Strasbourg against the idea that political unification of Europe would lead to prompt solution of Europe's economic problems, declaring that formation of an Atlantic Union, which would create a more diverse economic community, would be preferable.

Winning of the federation would create many problems, to be sure, and may not be possible for some time. But there are economic advantages for us in promoting free trade across the Atlantic, there are political advantages in promoting free trade, rather than two or twelve political policies for the Atlantic countries, there are military advantages in replacing the committee-bound advisory NATO Council with a body capable of making swift decisions.

General Eisenhower succinctly summed up the free world's problem at the Rome meeting, "We must stop sovereignty," he said, "We must stop sovereignty. We must attempt the impossible."

That is the problem in a nutshell. Norwegians, Frenchmen, Britons, Canadians, Americans are all in the same boat, but each one is a captain of a different part of the boat.

CAESAR WAS SO RIGHT

TRULY, the income tax is really in the spotlight these days. This is so not only in our country, with the Bureau of Internal Revenue "fixing" scandals and the passage of whopping big income tax legislation. Even the Italians, with a long tradition of light-hearted Latin disregard for such matters, are lining up before the tax collector.

To understand the radical change that has taken place in Italy it is necessary to know something of past revenue-raising practices here in this country. For generations citizens have kept two sets of books. One set for themselves, one for the tax collector. The wise collector paid little attention to the books maintained for him, but would feel the furthest, the more he knew about the books. Inquiries of neighbors. Any neighbor who declared his true income was suspected of insanity. It was sort of a game—and the Government usually lost.

From The Shelby Daily Star

FOR OUR CHILDREN

WE HAVE never been squeamish about what Santa Claus had in his pack. We've trusted the Old Gent implicitly, although at times we felt he acted unwise.

Year after year we have watched him bring shooting irons and sword and dagger and we have kept our fingers crossed for the fellow who got them. We're trusting they wouldn't grow up to want their adult counterparts. We've seen him leave drums and tootin' horns at houses where people were nervous. It was the way we think he has gone a little too far. A story comes out of the mouth of R. L. telling of the trip of a newsmen through toy stores. He found on display complete

This year, however, an estimated three and a half million Italians filed returns. The Economic Cooperation Administration devotes orchids for helping inaugurate the change. ECA pressure, plus simplified tax forms and more realistic taxes than were previously demanded, did the trick.

Incidentally, the changed tax picture boomeranged to wealthy Italian landholders. Italy is finally getting some land reform under way, the wealthy absentee landholders receiving as compensation their declared value of the land plus ten per cent. Some of the landlords are now kicking themselves, not declaring the land at something close to its true value.

It's a long time since Caesar Augustus decreed, as recorded in the Book of Luke, that "all the taxes shall be paid." Verily, the decree has now been oh so heartily carried out, and now comes home to root. Caesar's seizures cease not.

A lawyer was attending a funeral. A friend arrived late and took a seat beside him, whispering, "How far has the service gone?" The lawyer nodded toward the minister in the pulpit and said, "He just opened the defense."—Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.



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.

Greatness Through Diversity

McBEE, S. C. THE united States of America, not because we are the greatest nation, but because we are the only one that has made progress demarcated that we take world leadership.

God in His infinite wisdom, knowledge and celestial love has granted us bountiful resources, favorable climatic conditions, geographical location and in a great measure a diffused nationality, different religious cultures and mixed races which, contrary to popular belief, is not a detriment but one of the greatest sources of our national and world greatness.

It can justly be said that we are great because we are of many races, creeds, colors and religions. For therein lies our true greatness. Differences in this case are not a hindrance, but a mark of quality that is distinctly American.

MARK A. BROWN

Bring Back Saloons

YOUR correspondent, Wm. Henry Jordan ("Gold-En Rule" Temperance candidate for Governor of North Carolina) offers a suggestion in the hands of the liquor problem, which falls far short of being a solution. He wants the State to manufacture all the liquor and sell the stuff at the County Court House in each locality. He wants a record kept of the purchases for "future use in case of misuse" of the stuff.

What Mr. Jordan proposes is that we become a state of "John Doe." We would have to enact new legislation to "enforce" the use of correct measures, and thus require the construction of an archives of "biography" and "genealogy" in each county in the State. If we did establish these archives, the folks would then send each, their man-servant or each, their maid-servant, or office clerk to purchase the bottle of beer, and thus Mr. Jordan's archives and the county sheriffs would be at the horns of a new dilemma.

There is only one real solution to the liquor problem and that is the re-establishment of the old-fashioned saloon. In the days of the corner saloon, there were real men, instead of a civilization of artful dodgers ushered in by the "temperance" movement. There was peace in the world, and good fellowship, and a good story, and fine, free lunch and a little insurance. So through his father, young Howard got to know most of the Irish in the small state of Rhode Island.

Today, he must buy a bottle, and when you

a bottle of the stuff, the temptation to drain it of all its contents is just too much to ask of mortal man. The old fashioned saloon with its swinging doors was a place where a man could find privacy from women and boys-in-short-pants. Today there's no such place of temperance, decency, and refuge from every one his brother's trespasses. Many young men who will stand for the re-establishment of this wonderful oasis of decent and gentle living, that true symbol of civilization, the corner saloon.

F. L. LINSEY

Forgive Caudle And Taxes

ALL these people up in Washington and all over are talking about Mr. Caudle and tax fixes and everything else. Some even call him "Cut-Rate" Caudle and talk about his wife's cat. Doth they know that Mr. Caudle is a man of "forgiveness" For it is written in the Good Book that a lord forgave his servant a debt of 10,000 talents. Then the servant sent to prison a man who owed him only a hundred pence. And when the lord found out about what the servant he had forgiven did the lord was angry and turned the servant over to his tormentors. And then, as it is written in Matthew 18:35, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother's trespasses." (Some scholars say "trespasses" means "debts".)

Furthermore, it is written that it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter heaven. And "blessed are the poor." We are supposed to give to those who ask. It says in the Book of St. Mark to "sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor." In Jerusalem the rich cast money into the Treasury, but they didn't give enough, because they didn't give all their money, like the poor did.

Is Mr. Caudle a blime? Who can say that taxes and Mr. Caudle—should not be forgiven, and that everyone should not give a money?

MRS. J. P. RASMUSSEN

Folk Tunes And Hymns

NOTICE that a great many people have written about the kind of music they like. This is a free world. Everyone has a right to hear a kind of music he likes. Some persons like folk music and others like the classics. As for me, I enjoy folk music and good hymns more than any other kind. I agree with the lady who wrote about hillbilly music: "They may knock it but they can't stop it."

—MRS. MAYNE BARGER.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

(Ed. note—The brass ring, good for one free, though rather rough ride on the Washington Merry-Go-Round, goes today to Attorney General J. Howard McGrath.)

THOSE who have worked with likable Howard McGrath as Attorney General say there are only two things wrong with him.

One is that he seldom around the place where he is supposed to be—the Justice Department.

Two is that he has eyes so firmly fixed on the U. S. Supreme Court that he is afraid to make any moves that might make trouble for the Court.

Real fact is that McGrath entered the Justice Department with every expectation of being reed to the Supreme Court within a year, Justice Stanley Reed, not in the best of health, was expected to retire.

Shrew Partnerships

IN addition, McGrath formed a law partnership with the late Senator New England blood of the state, Theodore Francis Green, one of the most courageous members of U. S. Senate.

They were both pure accident, or it may have been—as the politicians say—because the Italian population is heavy in Rhode Island, but McGrath also formed a political partnership with John Pastore, Italian-American member of the State, who took McGrath's seat in the Senate when he became Attorney General.

With this array of nationalities behind him, nobody could lose in Rhode Island, and Howard has a long way to go.

They know, Howard that Howard doesn't have many opportunities to flinch; for the men below bring few complex or forthright cases to him for decision.

By MARQUIS CHILDS

THIS city is like a fabulously beautiful woman who occupies her time by some miscellaneous process that bespeaks the comprehension of the party that was the largest outside Russia.

The reason may be in the fact that the party to carry out five years ago is now definitely ended. That was the threat of Communism taking over Italy by a combination of legal and illegal methods operating through the party that was the largest outside Russia.

No less an authority than Minister of Defense Roderigo Pacifici has recently been reported to be a Communist in power to take over short of intervention by a Soviet force in war.

Much has been written about the methods Minister of Interior Mario Scelba used to stamp out Communism in Italy. The most important is the contribution of Pacifici in building up the modern and effective Italian army while staying, technically at least, within the framework of the several restrictions of the peace treaty. As Minister of Defense, Pacifici has carried out the program of reeducation for democracy in the army. He has also maintained high standards of health, discipline and morale.

Many younger conscripts who have inherited Communism were led in this fashion to tear at the party camps.

Some seasoned observers in Rome believe that the controls have been almost too tight, with the result that capitalism has been checked and the appearance created of monetary stability. Many younger conscripts who have inherited Communism were led in this fashion to tear at the party camps.

Various Medical Care Plans Up For Further Debate Soon

IT was then announced that legislation for the Ewing plan would be laid before Congress before adjournment of the 1951 session but it wasn't and there is some question as to whether the legislation is being withheld for the election year 1952.

Ewing suggested that free hospital care be provided for persons over 65 to be added to present benefits under the old-age and survivors insurance system. While his program would cost \$200 million in its first year of operation, Ewing said the outlay could be met from present old-age insurance funds. Because of the country's present financial straits, the plan has been put off until after the election year.

While the Ewing plan would not enable "all Americans to pay for the medical care they want," the President has said compulsory insurance would do it. It would meet the hospital care needs of all persons of some five million persons. Opponents of compulsory medical insurance see it as "an added wedge for socialism."

The Taft plan would give more extensive hospital care to the same people who would receive hospitalization under the Ewing plan, but it is condemned by the administration as "a system of poor-man's medicine involving a means test." A substitute for both the Ewing and Taft plans is the administration plan of compulsory medical insurance, proposed by Senator Flannery. It would provide for state subsidies to voluntary health insurance associations, with payments and costs of service would be made up by the Federal-state grants.

McGrath Just Hates to Prosecute

part in the gambling surrounding this activity, it's only natural that some of the A. G.'s subordinates should not feel enthusiastic about cracking down on gambling.

Undoubtedly there is no connection, but they also know that Howard McGrath has a firm in Rome and against deporting gambling king Frankie Costello when a fraud was discovered in his naturalization papers.

McGrath has other varied activities which tend to give him a firm in Rome and against deporting gambling king Frankie Costello when a fraud was discovered in his naturalization papers.

For instance, Howard has a prosperous Chrysler-Plymouth auto agency and has been considerable enough to put up with the rocky soil of New England. McGrath is on the board of directors of the Leitz Company, a German firm making Leica cameras, which the U. S. Government seized.

Howard also was president of the First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Providence, and has conspired to put his vice-president, Harold C. Paull, on the board of the same Leitz Company. McGrath has the power to do this through the Office of Alien Property, which is under him.

Too Many Friends' (The Attorney General's human reactions are of the best. He likes people. They like him. He hates to prosecute. That may be why his Justice Department has frittered around for so long with the prosecution of the Italian witnesses referred to it by the Senate after they gave perjured testimony in the Anna Rosenberg and the Maryland election case.)