

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher  
J. R. DOWD, General Manager  
B. A. GRIFFITH, Executive Editor  
C. A. MCKINNEY, Editor

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## CRIME AND SOCIETY

**T**he report of the Senate Crime Investigating Committee, released yesterday, revealed many things that were not generally known. But the two major, though not bluntly stated, revelations of the Committee are obvious to any thinking citizen.

1. Organized crime prospers because it provides opportunity for the human being to indulge himself in certain activities—gambling, premarital or extra-marital sex, and narcotics—which are considered detrimental to the morals and the physical health of society; crime prospers because it panders to the "less noble" instincts of the human being.

2. Because these "less noble" instincts are so widespread, there is no clear demand from the public that laws against indulgence of these instincts be strictly enforced; organized crime prospers because law enforcement agencies permit it to.

We are not totally without sympathy for the law enforcement agencies. Often there is pressure from the top. If the police chief attempts to close down a racket, he is told, every house of prostitution; if he tries to enforce to the letter the law against illegal sale of alcohol, he may find himself without a job. Sometimes, of course, it is the chief himself who gets the graft; some times it is the patrolman on the beat; sometimes the governor or the mayor or the police commissioner.

The Crime Committee's report will have a disturbing effect on the American people.

## THE CITY PRIMARY

**T**HE light voting in the municipal primary Monday reflects a characteristic of Americans voters in general—they don't bother to vote unless there is a heated clash of personalities or issues. Since the municipal primary campaign produced neither, only 13,563 Charlotteans went to the polls.

The vote was about one-third of the total registered vote in the city. It is about one-third of the total population of the City. In brief, it made possible the election of candidates for next Tuesday's election by a minority, and by a very small minority at that.

That has been said. It should be pointed out that the voters who did go to the polls displayed good judgment.

Mayor Victor Shivers' thumping majority reflected widespread popularity, his obvious sincerity in wanting to serve his City, his vision of the City's long-range needs, and his persistent efforts to meet those needs. In winning the nomination for a second term Mayor defeated a good man, Ernest Sifford, and a nosedive, Manley Dunaway, whose frequent excursions into politics have yet to produce a ripple of response from the people.

The thirteen men surviving the Council primary offer the prospect for a strong and effective City governing board. A newcomer to politics, Philip Van Evert, lived up to the promise of his election by leading by example the clerk despite the fact that his strength in Negro precincts was much less than that of the second man, Councilman Basil M.

## THE FACTS—AT LAST

**N**OW that countless millions of words on the Greater Debate have had their moment and then faded away, the nation is about to get some real facts on the controversy.

Tomorrow the Senate Armed Forces and Foreign Relations Committee will begin its joint investigation of our military and diplomatic policy in the Far East—an investigation that will inevitably lead to an exhaustive study of our larger global military and diplomatic policy.

The first witness will be the respected military chiefs whose opinions about fighting the Korean War have served as a rallying point for all those discontented with our present foreign policy. General Douglas MacArthur will be heard behind closed doors, but committee officials have promised that all of his testimony except that involving high military secrets will be released.

It would be ideal, of course, to conduct the inquiry in plain view of the worried American people. But the safety of our young

While most of us are aware that the moral foundations of the nation are far from firm, we have never before been forced to examine these shaky foundations so thoroughly.

We were not aware of the great power of the two major crime syndicates: the Accardo-Gurik-Fischetti Syndicate in Chicago and the Costello-Adonis-Lanki Syndicate in New York.

We have never had "the fix" so bluntly called to our attention. "The fix," by the way, is not always the direct payment of money to law enforcement officials, although the committee has run across considerable evidence of such bribery," the report points out.

"The fix," it continues, "may also come about through the acquisition of political power by contributions to political organizations or otherwise, by creating economic ties with apparently respectable and reputable businessmen and lawyers, and by buying good will through charitable contributions and press relations."

In its 195-page report, the Crime Committee sketched a picture of an inefficient and venal law enforcement system and beyond that a society dangerously weakened by immorality and indulgence.

The Committee's recommendations will go far to correct the present evils of law enforcement, but only if our society is sufficiently concerned with morality to demand efficient law enforcement.

Boyd. Four other incumbents—Claude L. Altes, Sandy R. Jordan, William J. Coddington, and Emmett M. Wilkinson—remain in the race. Altes, a perennially effective vote-getter, was third high man, Mr. Jordan fifth, and Mr. Coddington sixth. Mr. Wilkinson fell to ninth spot.

Fernando Mayor Herbert Baxter was in seventh place when the tabulation was completed, and should make a strong showing in the election Tuesday.

Radio announcer Altona G. Squires, businessman Steve W. Dellinger, and Kelly M. Alexander, candidate of the National Association of Colored People, captured 7th, 8th, and 10th places. Mr. Alexander got strong "single shot" support in Negro precincts. The four remaining candidates, V. P. Kline, William J. Yates, Parks A. Yandell, and Samuel H. Payne, have a long way to go if they are to survive the final balloting.

All seven candidates for the City School Board were nominated. The only woman candidate, Mrs. Emily H. Bellows, achieved third place. J. Gordon Christian Jr. and J. P. Johnson led the race, and following Mrs. Bellows were Mr. M. Milburn, Louis Duval, James F. Wertz, and J. S. Nathaniel Tross.

If as many as 13,000 voters go back to the polls next week, there is every reason to believe that Charlotte will have a strong, stable city government. More facts are needed, however, but then I find something that justifies the urge to reply. In a recent issue you carried a very excellent letter by Frank W. Seeger in which you as well as I must have found worthy, as you featured it.

Here is a portion of said letter to which I take exception:

"In World War II in Europe we applied MacArthur's doctrine. Military considerations dominated political ones. We made our main effort in Europe across the Channel, seeking 'unconditional surrender,' rather than taking the militarily more difficult course advocated by Winston Churchill—to strike through the Balkans, thus interposing our forces between the Russian army and Western Europe. Today we reap the bitter fruits of our decision."

With the conclusion expressed in the last sentence I find myself in complete agreement. However, either he or I have read history erroneously; either that, or we read different histories. As I have, I feel compelled to correct the error.

The military wanted the cross Channel Campaign in the Summer of 1943. It was delayed for a year, during which time the Russian armies had not only checked the German armies, but were rolling them back westward. We put on the African and Italian campaigns, and the cross Channel Campaign in 1945, we could have met the Russian armies in the middle of the Balkans. Or we might have followed the wishes of

men stationed in Korea and in other far-flung sections of the globe must have first consideration. Information that might jeopardize their safety simply cannot be made public.

So far, General MacArthur has been able to advance his ideas without having to answer the questions those ideas have raised. It is a foregone conclusion that he will be subjected to searching cross-examination in this and other appearances before the committee. The committee members, the members of State and the members of the other experts who face the committee may expect the same treatment.

That is as it should be. There has been entirely too much loose talk about our foreign policy. More facts are needed—hard facts, brutal facts, unadorned by the magic of personalities and unencumbered by the considerations of party politics. Not until all the facts are in can the American people be expected to line up solidly behind the nation's foreign policy, whatever the shape it may finally assume.

Kansas City friends are planning raising money to build a library on the old Truman farm at Grandview. Besides book shelves it should also have adequate letter files.—Joplin (Mo.) Globe.

## 'I Can't Stand To See You Suffer Like This'



## 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.

### Reckless Business

CHARLOTTE

**W**HEN a tragedy happens a lot of discussion usually follows about the cause, and the possibility of its having been prevented. The head-on collision that occurred near Statesville last Saturday, taking the lives of four people, and possibly more, is a case in point. The cause was obvious, speeding on the part of one of the drivers. Further, the story indicated that the speeding driver was being chased by a highway patrolman.

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### Suppression Of News

SPARTANBURG, S. C.

**N**EWSPAPER editors have been advised to "fight" the suppression of news by Sterling F. Green published on the front page of The News April 21.

Knowing that many newspapers are guilty of suppression of news, it is not surprising that it strikes me that the press is now in the role of living in glass houses and throwing stones. I trust the point will not be argued and that the press will, as the former, let its own house be seen.

John W. Hester.

### Thanks From The Red Cross

CHARLOTTE

**M**AY we take this opportunity to thank you for the generous co-operation which you have extended to the Red Cross not only during the 1951 Campaign but throughout the year. It is a privilege for each member of our community to have the opportunity to participate directly in an important way in the defense program of our country through Red Cross activities. Such participation is greatly encouraged when the public is better informed of the activities through the fine coverage extended by The News.

Manley McWilliams, Chairman.

### MacArthur Saving Big Guns For Congressional Hearing

By ROBERT C. RUARK

**T**HE MACARTHUR story to date has been a saga of a man who, damned if he do, damned if he don't. Some newspapers have criticized his refusal to permit a public hearing of his activities during his 24-hour visit in growing because of his refusal to desert his position in the Warlord tower and submit to daily press conferences.

It's a little less simple than it looks. For a start, the general's return and the reception he received, plus the role he plays in relation to the President and the military, all seem to be unique.

I have been told that the stories by his aides have been planned; that they were offered as a substitute for personal MacArthur interviews, and were passed around more or less as peace pipe to a news-hungry press disinterested in the general's decision to catch up on much-needed rest.

I am also told that a great deal of the journalistic reception accorded General MacArthur was unplanned, and that the Roman holiday tossed at him was mostly the result of the press's desire to catch up to the time of his departure from Tokyo his schedule was open, and he never had to die, and that the general was actually naive, public relations-wise, in this particular instance.

Timing, on arrival and his acceptance of adulation, certainly has been planned, but that of an average movie star.

GENERAL "LOADED"

In the MacArthur piece the big emphasis rested on one thing: Would his refutation of his firing at his appearance before a joint session of the Senate and the House Foreign Relations committees of the Senate be closed or open? I understand the man is loaded with documentary "evidence" of his

position in regard to the Korean War. And all that goes with it are supporters in regard to it that is necessary that his presentation of the case be made in an open hearing, not in some closed chamber, as it has been in the past. It is not a matter of a few minutes, but of a few hours, and it is not a matter of a few days, but of a few weeks.

Some of the working press don't love MacArthur too much at this moment. That is understandable. You get tired of covering a guy who has been in the news for so long. But I suspect that Old Dad is saving up his trenchant quotes for when he goes before the Senate in Washington this week.

It is not for me to clean him up from a standpoint of public relations. He is a man of great stature, and he can't win his money on any position. He has the reputation of a big hunk, which occurs this week in Washington.

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## Breathing Spell? Not Used To Improve Inflation Dikes

By MARQUIS CHILDS

**T**HE PHRASE that President Truman applied to the present years in the upward swing of the economy was "breathing spell." But it might be more realistic to call it a "dike," since apparently a great many Americans seem to believe that the currency is a permanent condition.

It is still true, as it has been for the past six months, that no single section of the economy has been subjected to controls. They exist in theory, but the very fact of a pretense of an elaborate mechanism called control is almost more dangerous than nothing at all.

As for labor, the problem of the escalator clauses in the contracts of many big unions is not met by the President's message to Congress. Those who struggled to enforce price controls during World War II are convinced that some means must be found to overcome the inevitability of wage increases that are invariably matched by price increases.

**FARM FUZZLES**  
As for the farmer, the complex proposal to fix the parity price at the beginning of the marketing season and then to base controls on a year of established parity prices contains little realism. It is understood, too, by various farm groups that the government is providing for increases under certain circumstances. The new downward effort to limit the ceilings on beef prices is also of doubtful efficacy.

The President's message hints that Government subsidies may be necessary at a later date in order to keep farm prices under control. To face the lack of subsidies now, in order to roll back food prices to earlier levels, is the only realistic approach to bringing down the cost of living. Anything else is bound to feed the sham and the illusion.

As for business, the President pointed out that profits are now running at an all-time record rate of \$48 billion a year, about \$20 billion higher than in 1949. A study made by the Federal Trade

Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that profits in 1950 were 45 per cent higher than in '49. The President said in his first annual message that the Office of Price Administration will move as rapidly as is administratively feasible to apply a general ceiling of 10 per cent on price increases in any industry in which the level of profits for the last six months of 1950 was more than 10 per cent of its average profits for the last three of the four years 1946-1949.

It is not a "breathing spell," it is a "dike." It is a "dike" that is patently inadequate to do what needs to be done. This might not be too serious if there was no resolution in Congress to substitute for it what is mostly a bluff. Instead, the dike is being provided with more and more of the \$30 billion of the \$10 billion the Treasury has requested to close the gap when defense spending really begins to take hold in two months.

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