

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## REJECTION OF KAESONG SITE

IF THE Communists accept General Ridgway's statement yesterday that Kaesong is an unsuitable site for further cease-fire negotiations, perhaps the talks will resume. But a Red acceptance of that proposed change of locale should not be construed as indicating any change in their Korean strategy. It will merely mean they have decided to do some more haranguing, possibly with the hope of thus easing the current Allied military pressure.

In view of the abrupt walkout by Communist liaison officers this morning speedy resumption of talks seems unlikely. However, Allied officials still see a possibility for further negotiations if a new site and other conditions are agreed upon.

Actual agreement on a new site will be difficult. Other areas near the present battle line will present problems similar to those encountered at Kaesong, such as the proximity of marauding partisans, responsible to neither command, as well as the regular forces of both armies. For prestige reasons, neither side would care to go deep into its adversary's territory.

It seems that a shipboard rendezvous would be the logical alternative. But, it will be remembered, the Communists rejected Ridgway's original suggestion last Summer that the two groups meet on the Danish hospital ship "Utlandia".

Thus, Communist agreement on the unsuitability of Kaesong for further talks, if such agreement is forthcoming, will not mean that talks will necessarily resume. If the Reds flatly reject the latest Ridgway note we may wonder, as our cartoonist does today, if perhaps the Communists' suddenly announced desire to resume negotiations resulted from the reading of the wrong script by some underling—poor fellow.

## GOOD HEALTH IS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE

ONE of the doctors who attended the health consolidation study session last week expressed the main point to be considered in any move toward unification of the City and County departments.

"We doctors are interested in the health of the people, and in the quality of public health services. And we want to be sure that the standards of public health will not be lowered by consolidation," he said.

He was right beyond dispute. Of course the efficiency and quality of health services is the main point to be considered. And were it not for the public health, the consolidation would be improved by consolidation, this newspaper would have long ago discounted the whole idea.

Apparently there is a substantial difference between the level of public health services in the City of Charlotte and in the county area around the city limits. Until a special committee from the medical society presents a detailed report at the next study session, the reasons for this double standard will not be clear.

Much, however, is clear. If health services in the county area are as deficient as the medical spokesmen indicated, they should be brought to the attention of the city immediately—whether or not consolidation is ever brought about.

Disease respects no boundaries. The people within and without the city limits live close together and work close together. The people in the county area are vitally interested in better public health services. And the people in the city fully share that interest.

Instead of thinking up reasons why the two health departments should not be consolidated, the responsible County Government officials should find out wherein their department is deficient, and correct the deficiency. The people of Charlotte, who are

## GOOD NEWS DEPT.

ALTHOUGH the first two sections of Independence Boulevard have proved highly useful in taking traffic off other congested streets and moving it rapidly across town, the thoroughfares have not yet been able to fulfill its basic purpose to tie together the Albemarle-Monroe highways on the East, ending as it does, at the Morehead-South Boulevard bottleneck. Independence Boulevard has created new traffic control problems.

Thus the announcement that the State Highway Commission is ready to proceed with the third and last link of the big road project, will be a most welcome development. The third segment, to run from Caldwell to Wilkinson Boulevard, will solve two problems. It will give a swift, convenient route for east-west traffic, and will take a great deal of traffic off Morehead.

The City's share of the project is the proposed widening of the road to 100 feet.

Not all news can be good. By recent estimates, two-thirds of the population, including children and expectant mothers, would not be eligible. The remaining one-third of the population who can give blood would amount to 187,000, or more than 100 persons. Each person can safely give a pint five times a year.

In other words, if all eligible donors in Mecklenburg County had donated four times already this year, our blood supply would be 700,000 pints, rather than 8,871 pints. Our record of little more than three per cent is truly shameful.

Previous contributors have taken care of the local need for blood. Your donation will probably be sent to Korea, where it is urgently needed.

You can call the Blood Center—Phone 4-2891—for an appointment, or just drop in at 808 E. Morehead at your convenience. If you live in an outlying district of the county, you can contribute where the mobile unit blood your community, or you can stop at the Blood Center when you're in Charlotte.

The Blood Center is open from 9:30 to 4:30 p.m. daily.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 to 6:30 on Tuesday, 9:30 to 12:30 on Thursday, and 10:30 to 12:30 on Saturday.

The whole process—of the removal of blood from the donor—takes only 10 to 15 minutes. And the final part of the half hour you're comfortably having a drink—of coffee or juice—on the house.

It doesn't hurt to give blood. It makes you feel good.

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## Surplus Revenue Refunded How Virginia Cuts Taxes

By WILLIAM G. WING

(The New York Herald Tribune)

AMID the universal croaking over rising costs of government, one bright spot is heard from Virginia, where 1950 state income taxes have been reduced one-fifth by a singular new law that turns part of any surplus revenue to the taxpayers each year.

The law works this way. If income-tax collections rise above a predetermined figure—something above the total revenues forecast by the budget—each taxpayer is entitled to a credit or a refund on his income tax. The size of the credit depends on the amount of surplus.

The Byrd Act, named after its sponsor, State Senator Harry F. Byrd Jr., son of Virginia's United States Senator, first went into effect for the fiscal year 1950 when the state estimated its revenues would be in the neighborhood of \$95,000,000.

The act provided that if collections were higher than \$100,000,000, each taxpayer would get a credit of 10 per cent; if they rose above \$103,000,000, the credit would be 15 per cent, and if above \$105,000,000, 20 per cent.

Last June 29, the day before fiscal 1950 ended for the state, collections already were over the top when a cigarette manufacturers' strike in its return a month before they were due and made the taxpayers' jackpot certain. The check for \$320,000 from Philip Morris & Co. Inc., left no doubt that the cut would be for the maximum one-fifth.

The final tally for collections was \$105,664,345. Gov. John S. Battle announced that the state's 1950 income tax collections had exceeded the estimate by \$10,664,345, and that the surplus would be used to refund to taxpayers a credit of more than \$10,000,000.

The estimate of revenues for 1951 also is \$95,000,000. It seems likely that again this year will prove a modest figure and again a credit will be forthcoming. There has been opposition, of course, to the idea of the state's letting go of any of its revenues.

Last week a legislator who wants Virginia to build more hospitals and health centers bemoaned the Governor's refusal to release the surplus.

"He has the millions created by the Byrd Act hanging around his neck," the legislator said, "and is afraid that the release of the conditional appropriation will throw the budget out of balance."

The Governor himself speaks differently of the automatic tax-cutting plan. He says it is "a traditional 'pay-as-you-go' policy and of the careful control which has been exercised over state expenditures under our executive budget and unified accounting system."

The tradition of "pay-as-you-go" is not quite as old as others in that patriarchal state. It stems at least from 1867, when the government was reorganized under the prodding of the senior Harry Byrd, who then was Governor.

It proved to be a financially wise move. Four years later when the depression had presented most of the Southern states with staggering operating deficits, Virginia showed a substantial surplus.

## 'Wait—That's Our Story For Next Week'



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Virginia also has avoided heavy aid from the Federal Government. Gov. Battle asserts that Virginia received, on a per capita basis, less aid from the Federal Government in fiscal 1950 than any other state. It averaged out to \$6.42 a Virginian, as compared with \$13.74 per capita for all states combined.

Gov. Battle notes that in fiscal 1950 Virginia's per capita tax revenue was \$46.90 and general revenue \$65.49. Virginia's per capita spending for general purposes was \$64.10. The state was ninth from the bottom in both collecting categories and sixth from the bottom in spending compared with other states.

To the charge that Virginia sacrifices the welfare of its citizens in the interest of frugality, the Governor mentions that last year \$45,000,000 was appropriated by the state for localities to build schools.

In the last ten years, he says, appropriations have tripled for the public school system, higher education and public health. He states that Virginia has one of the best highway systems in the country and is one of the few states that have assumed responsibility for both state and county highways.

"Our Department of Public Health ranks with the best in the United States," he says. "Virginia has been among the leaders among the states in placing penal administration on a humane and efficient basis. Our Alcoholic Beverage Control System is generally regarded as a model by states which retain control of the sale of alcoholic liquors."

In other important state activities, Virginia, he believes, is generally abreast, and in some respects probably ahead, of the Southern group of states and others in our same economic level."

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## In Answer To American Query, Yes, The French Have Guts

By STEWART ALSON

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN GERMANY

"THE REAL question," said the young American supply officer, as he sipped his beer, "is have they got any guts?" This question about the French was asked in a natural one for an American, who remembered without understanding the shameful French collapse in 1940. But to this reporter, who saw the France of the wartime Resistance, the question brought back a flood of memories.

Indeed, it is a curious experience, full of the sudden recall of things thought forgotten, to see and talk to and train with French fighting men after so long a lapse of time. For the French Army of today has clearly inherited a good deal from those other days of the defeat, the occupation, and the Maquis. And here it must be said that not all of this influence from the past is good.

Consider, for example, a spectacle which this reporter witnessed recently. A French general, shouting and angrily at a French captain. Without turning a hair, the French captain then turned more loudly and more angrily right back at the general. This sort of thing is to be expected in the formal days of the Maquis, but it is surely a little disturbing in a regular army. After all, unfortunately, it may be, as an army must have its generals.

WARTIME BRASS BLAMED

This incident, moreover, whether typical or not, scarcely reflected a very real tension between the combat officers in the lower ranks of the higher command. It derives partly from the defeat in 1940, for which generals as a class are, rightly enough, held responsible. It derives partly from the fact that a good many of the older officers did not survive the war, and the younger ones resumed their full rank once the war was ended. And it derives also from the high premium placed on respect for authority in the Resistance.

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