

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## FREE ADVICE TO ELECTION OFFICIALS

SINCE the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections is getting a lot of free advice on ways to speed up voting, we thought we would like to share some of our own.

There are two basic problems to be solved. One is the slow counting of votes. The other is slow voting.

The solution to the first is clearly the installation of voting machines. As soon as the polls are closed, totals can be taken from the machine and reported almost instantly. Furthermore, the possibility of error will be reduced. Election officials who have not finished a 12-hour stint at the polls are in no mental condition to make a completely accurate tally of the voting.

The problem of slow voting is not so easily solved. There are several reasons why the lines jam:

1. Biggest bottleneck is the single registration book. A better device would be to divide the registered voters alphabetically into two or three books (A through H, I through P, Q through Z, for example) and put up appropriate signs. The voters, then, could be qualified two or three times faster. Better still would be the use of a rapid card-index system.

2. The physical arrangement of many polling places, especially those in private homes, is bad. Each voting place must have an easy entry and exit so that those who have already voted may leave without threading their way through the congestion at the place of entry.

3. The process of handing out the ballots, where there are two or more different types, where there are two or more ways to sort the ballots in advance and package them, either by clips or in envelopes, so that each voter could be handed a complete kit.

4. In some polling places, more voting booths are needed. Despite the slow checking against the registration books, voters stood around waiting to get in booths at some places, while others used nearby tables or desks to mark their ballots.

5. The ballot boxes themselves are too small. They get jammed quickly, and much time is wasted punching ballots away from the opening so that new ones may be inserted.

These are relatively simple devices that would save a great deal of time at election day. And there are undoubtedly others.

The chairman of the election machinery in Mecklenburg proposes to increase, once again, the number of precincts by splitting the big ones into smaller ones. This is not just a palliative, not a cure. And it establishes a huge election machinery that will be totally unnecessary, but equally expensive, in another special election.

The better solution, we believe, is to streamline the voting process and then install machines for rapid, accurate tallying. Machines have been in use for many years in this country. They need no further testing.

## 'Well, It Looks As If We May Be Getting Rid Of Him'



## People's Platform

### Civil Service In The P. O.?

CHARLOTTE

Simple, isn't it? There is no politics involved in the procedure at all! And so this is the "so-called" Civil Service applicable to postmasters that is being stressed so much here [at the writer's work].

Further and irrefutable evidence is the fallacious idea that postmasters are under Civil Service as applied to postmasters that is being stressed so much here [at the writer's work].

There are approximately 1,600 post offices in North Carolina and of course the same number of postmasters and that is being virtually a complete turnover or replacement of postmasters during the past 20 years for one reason or other—monthly by displacement of Republicans during the middle 1930's. And up to this date I am quite sure not a single instance can be found where a Republican has been appointed postmaster in North Carolina during the past 20 years.

May I ask is this the kind of Civil Service we are being urged to believe under the present Democratic Incumbents? I could go on indefinitely exposing the fallacy of this "so-called" Civil Service as applied to postmasters that is being stressed so much here [at the writer's work].

I realize the premise on which my observations are based may be highly controversial, and am perfectly willing to further elaborate on specific details should occasion arise. All I would need more of is a like space for rebuttal.

—A. T. BARKLEY, Editor's note: See editorial, "Postmasters and Politics."

CHARLOTTE

TO serve the public interest is one of the prime duties of a newspaper. This letter is written to you to express appreciation to The News for its wonderful cooperation in the "Get-Out-the-Vote Campaign" and to your publisher, Mr. Thomas L. Robinson, not only because he initiated our campaign and molded us into a working group, but also because of his inspiration and help under most trying circumstances.

I indeed was not too difficult to obtain our working group because we obtained so much of our membership from the ranks of Women Voters whose preliminary work over these past many years was most instrumental to our success.

It is impossible for me to name all newspapers, radio and television stations, individuals, and organizations who helped us. This letter is written to you to express appreciation to The News for its wonderful cooperation in the "Get-Out-the-Vote Campaign" and to your publisher, Mr. Thomas L. Robinson, not only because he initiated our campaign and molded us into a working group, but also because of his inspiration and help under most trying circumstances.

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—JOE E. JOSEPH, Chairman Mecklenburg "Get-Out-the-Vote Campaign"

## Europe Sorely Needs Bold Leadership By Eisenhower

By JOSEPH ALSOP

VIEWED from this perspective, President-elect Eisenhower's task will be even more difficult than it did in America. The most rapid sounding of the situation over here is the great problem in Indo-China has grown more acute. Partly because of the drain of the war, the great part of the European Defense Community is in growing danger here in Paris. This is the direct result of the plans for strengthening Europe's defenses with German divisions.

The future of NATO, General Eisenhower's own masterwork in the postwar years, will be menaced if the German divisions do not become available. NATO is also menaced by the extreme economic strains afflicting both Britain and the European member-countries.

Even the system of American money subsidies to our allies, which has accomplished so much in this regard, will be curtailed. It is practically impossible because the resulting depression in America is growing too unpalatable. Britain and France, especially, are looking for a radical re-adjustment of the economic relationships between the United States and other Western allies. Bold measures are needed to let our allies do their own thing without constant pleas to Congress for more subsidy-funds.

Each one of these problems is sufficiently crucial and sufficiently complex to deserve a separate report, which will be expressed by me in this space. All of them together will hit General Eisenhower like a cartload of brick, the way he enters the White House if not long before then. Behind all these problems, however, there is a common and more basic fact which can give a bright side to this current crisis in American foreign policy.

In brief, the role of the policy makers of the Truman Administration was well expressed by a Washington cynic, who said, "We never got out what we didn't not do." In other words, just what has been said and more basic fact which can give a bright side to this current crisis in American foreign policy.

## Iranian Problem Too, Will Be Left On White House Doorstep

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

SHORTLY before the political campaign took over the national stage a little drama, entitled "Can We Save Iran?" had been in the headlines. If anyone could do that, it is still there, but the margin by which that unhappy country is intact and still open to Western aid is being narrowed. It is another of those more or less desperate problems that are being left on the White House doorstep for the new boss.

While practically everybody was distracted by the loud political noise, a most important meeting was held in the President's office. Present were top-level security advisers, the military and the State Department.

They had been called to consider a proposed plan for getting oil production started again in Iran. It was suggested that the Iranian government has had no revenue coming in to pay Civil Service salaries and that a shaky government of five privy members is living on the edge of bankruptcy. While Mossadegh keeps on insisting that the British can never re-organize the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

The plan put forward at the White House meeting was for a "Red" oil company, owned by both British and American—to offer to pool their services and work for the Iranian government. The State Department, Hoffman said, was not in favor of the plan. It was a private citizen who had come out strong for Eisenhower.

Jack McClay probably has the best of all backgrounds to be Secretary of State. He was a member of the United States Navy under FDR, then head of the World Bank, then took over the tough job of administering Germany, knew his European enemies thoroughly.

## Herry-Go-Round

MERRY-GO-Round is one of those government officials who are in a constant state of flux. In general, the limousine riders who have chauffeurs will be replaced. The taxi riders, bus riders and commuter riders will add on their jobs.

There'll be a lot of changes at the White House after Jan. 20, including a change from bourbon and branch water to Scotch whisky and gin and tonics. The Vice President-elect, Senator Nixon, has hinted he may be replaced by a former Senator. The President-elect, Senator Nixon, has hinted he may be replaced by a former Senator.

Secretary of State  
The cabinet posts come away with the distinct impression that he is not going to appoint John Foster Dulles as Secretary of State, and that this administration is going to be more likely to go to Paul Hoffman, the Marshall Plan administrator, or John J. McCloy, former High Commissioner to Germany. The two are extremely able, with competent knowledge of foreign affairs.

White Dulles also has a rich foreign-affairs background.

## POSTMASTERS AND POLITICS

TODAY in People's Platform a correspondent takes issue with a News story. This is one of those happy instances where The News and the critic are both on the right track, but more so. We shall try to say it, and in so doing point up a deficiency of our postal system, a deficiency which, incidentally, in no way reflects upon postal employees.

The news story said that postmasters are under Civil Service. Correspondent Barkley declares that political considerations determine who gets the postmasterhip. Well, these jobs are under Civil Service, but not in the same way that other Civil Service jobs are. This is because the present system of postmaster appointments is the one exception to the standard procedure for appointment of persons under classified Civil Service. This is how it works:

Postmasters take a Civil Service test all right, but the top man doesn't necessarily get the job. The names of the top three men are referred to the local Democratic Party. He usually talks them over with the Congressman from the district which includes the pertinent post office. Then the Senate, by law, confirms the appointments. And who gets the job? Well, if any Republican has been appointed recently we don't know about it. Not necessarily, but frequently, the job goes to a man who has been helpful to the incumbent party, the Democrats.

Some Democrats these days have tried to change the system even though it would remove another political patronage plum from their grasp. Democratic Sen. Mike Mansfield, who tried to put the post office under the usual merit system, pointed out another disadvantage of the present system with these words:

## IT'S A LONG RACE

TRY AS HARD as we might, we cannot view with anything approaching equanimity the continuing competition among automobile makers for first prize in the horsepower division.

One of the current trade publications reports that Manufacturer A (we'll skip brand names, lest we be thought unfair) will market a car next year with full 200 horsepower under its hood. The decision was made after Manufacturer B let out the word that his product's 150-horse engine would kick along at 205 hp. Meanwhile Manufacturer C is proceeding with plans for an engine of greater than 200 hp, and a fourth, Manufacturer D, will build an engine in excess of 200 hp for his bigger models.

The horsepower of an engine is not of course, the sole factor in speed, but it is an important one. And if our personal observa-

## HERE THEY ARE!

Whether the retirement of Ames & Andy strikes a cord of memory depends on the generation you grew up in. About 20 years ago when that familiar organ music rang out in the evening and filled all hearts, here they were, the boys who ruled over the country. Sometimes the movie houses piped in the "boys" at 7. It was a sad-ly announcing election returns and fight results.

In those days Ames & Andy set part of the climate of the early evening, especially the Winter evenings when the knee babies were hungry and the yard babies had been yanked in from their last full measure of play. Supper was steaming on the stove and the smell of those cooking, especially the door, rucking out as the wintry air rushed in. The young children enjoyed it as much as the old, and all associated Andy, Madam Queen and the Klinging with respect as much as they did Ames, blonde, and Andy became part of American

From The Greenboro Daily News

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## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

IT'S an ironic twist of fate that the first Supreme Court vacancy President Eisenhower will have to fill will probably be that of an ardent New Dealer, Justice Felix Frankfurter.

Day after tomorrow, Frankfurter has the right to retire on full salary, having then reached the age of 79. And since Frankfurter is the only Justice of the Supreme Court who proposed that Supreme Court justices should get off the bench at that age, it would be consistent for him to do so.

However, a strange thing has happened to Justice Frankfurter. Though he's accused by Republican critics of being an ardent New Dealer, in the man who's in the Ashcroft policies, actually he's become a strong Eisenhower man.

Gradually he's drifted away from the Truman Administration, now has few friends left high up in government except the Secretary of State, McManis, some of his old friends, such as Jack McClay, former high commissioner to Germany, and Kenneth Royall, former Secretary of War, have become Ike's strongest backers.

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And with McClay slated high on the list to be Secretary of State, Frankfurter may end up being just as close to the State Department under the Eisenhower Administration as during the Truman Administration.

## Battling HST

WASHINGTON

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