THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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HONOR AND INTEGRITY AT STAKE

THE redistricting bills now before the N. C. General Assembly will test the honor and integrity of our legislators.

If they are men of honor and integrity, they will live up to their oath to uphold the State Constitution, and they will redistrict House and Senate seats in line with the 1950 census.

If they are without honor and integrity, they will show it by a negative vote.

Never have the men in the General Assembly been offered a clearer choice between right and wrong.

The language of the State Constitution is plain and emphatic. It says that the Legislature *shall* redistrict the state after each decennial census, and it lays down the formula for allocating the 120 House seats and the 50 Senate seats.

Redistricting, then, becomes the duty of the legislator. He cannot shift the duty to others, nor can he evade the burden that will weigh upon his heart and his conscience if he wilfully refuses to do his sworn duty—a burden made all the heavier by the knowledgethat there is no force save his own conscience to force him to do that duty.

There are men in the General Assembly whose votes on this question will be dictated by the false god of political advantage. By many standards they are good men. They are leaders in their communities, in their business circles, yes, in their churches. But when this issue comes to a vote, they will become little men, shifty-eyed, sheepish. Looking from one to another, they will laugh brittle little laughs in a foolish effort to cover up the hurt that will burn into their conscience as they do something that is wrong.

Let us hope that these men will be in a minority, that most of the members in both House and Senate will be true to their own standards of honor and integrity. And it is important that it happen this way. The Constitution is our most sacred state document, the authority for our institutions and the protector of our rights. For our elected officials to trample upon any part of it is to diminish the people's respect for the whole.

A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT IS ESTABLISHED

OF THE SEVERAL reorganization bills rushed through the 1953 General Assembly, the measure ending the terms of office of State Board of Elections members appears to have set the most dangerous precedent.

Rep. R. Lee Whitmire, who introduced the bill in the House, said it was not an administration measure. Senator Terry Sanford, who fought it unsuccessfully in the Senate, said it was not an administration measure.

Even so, it was quite clearly a political bill—one more jab at former Gov. W. Kerr Scott, who named the present Board of Elections. And by our standards, the Board of Elections ought to be kept above such political shenanigans.

The State Board of Elections is charged with the grave responsibility of administering our election laws. Of all the state boards and agencies, it should be completely above suspicion. It may well be that the present board has fallen somewhat short of the highest standards of rigid objectivity in interpreting the statutes. It may even have reflected the Scott viewpoint in some of its decisions. But nothing beyond a personal affront to its members is to be gained by slicing their terms of office at May 31, instead of Dec. 31, when the terms expired anyway.

The precedent has now been set that the Board of Elections should reflect the views of the incoming Administration. That is most unfortunate, and we anticipate that it will lead to making the board an out-and-out political vehicle, completely destroying its usefulness as an informal, unbiased arbiter of our election laws.

If Governor Umstead did not promote the bill, he should have used his influence quietly to have it killed.

BETTER HEALTH FOR EVERYBODY

THE NEW MOVEMENT toward consolidating the city and county health departments merits the warm support of all Mecklenburg citizens who are interested in higher health standards for this county.

The move, initiated by the health committee of the Chamber of Commerce, is still in its formative stages. Under the leadership of Dr. James Alexander, it is proceeding in an orderly fashion. A speakers bureau has been set up to explain to city and county residents the benefits of a consolidated department, and the first session with Charlotte-Mecklenburg PTA councils arranged.

THE NEWS has favored health consolidation since the original Institute of Government study was first made public. Had it been possible to show substantial savings of money, we suspect that consolidation would have already come about.

Unfortunately, the evidence does not support hope for economy. There will be no curtailment of services or of personnel from a joint department. On the contrary, it may even require more money to bring county health standards up to those of the city.

That, after all, is the main purpose of consolidation. Disease is no respecter of arbitrary boundary lines. If sanitation standards just across the city limits are below those within the city, much of the good work within the municipality may be nullified. Consolidation would bring better health to everybody in the whole county. It is on that theme that the broad educational program anticipated by Dr. Alexander should be based.

Whether consolidation is finally achieved will largely depend on those who live beyond the city limits. In the past they have preferred less service and a lower tax rate. Consolidation will give them more service at a higher cost. The choice will be theirs to make.

NO MORE EXILES

WE HAVE NEVER understood why any city, or any county, or any state had the right to exile its undesirable citizens, to push them off on other unsuspecting communities.

Nor did we see any good in the practice beyond the temporary abatement of one nuisance, just to have it pop up somewhere else to plague other people.

This week the State Supreme Court rapped the practice hard. In ruling on an Edgecombe County case, the court held that banishment from the state cannot be made a condition of suspending a prison sentence.

"It is not sound policy to make other states a dumping ground for our criminals," wrote Associate Justice R. Hunt Parker. "It is not fair to (the defendant) to force him to go for two years into another state where the state of North Carolina can exercise no restraining effect on him."

The ruling is long overdue. It should end the silly practice.

From The Christian Science Monitor

IMPUTATIONS COMPOUNDED

A RESOLUTION just passed by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States indicates that members and employes of at least one of the Congressional committees investigating communism have circulated charges against individuals upon committee letterheads without prior substantiation or, it is said, even investigation.

Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, president of the World Council of Churches, documents the resolution with his own experience. Members of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, says he, thus accused him falsely of having belonged to the American League Against War and Fascism, which is named on the Attorney General's list of subversive and "front" organizations.

Here is a chain of assumptions hanging on an asserted authority which does not itself claim to be even prima facie evidence.

Such a procedure assumes without a hearing or chance for refutation that because allegations are to be found in committee files that John Doe once belonged to X association he *did* belong; that because X association is on the Attorney General's list all its members and ex-members are uncontrovertibly subversive and that, Q.E.D., John Doe is subversive too.

The Attorney General's list rests simply upon an Executive order and administrative judgments (which we have no reason to question at this time), not upon judicial decisions. It was transmitted to the Loyalty Review Board five years ago by the Attorney General with this caution:

> I wish to reiterate . . . that membership in, affiliation with, or sympathetic association with any organization designated is simply one piece of evidence which may or may not be helpful at arriving at a conclusion . . .

Thus it is that the practice which this great church council indicts amounts to no less than imputations of guilt without solid proof.

Not believing she did, a man asked his wife if she knew what radar was. "Sure," she answered. "Radar is something that when it's foggy outside the airplane lands anyhow."—*Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat.*

Newspapers read more than ever.—Headline. Just make a mistake in one if you don't think so.—*Elizabethtown (Ky.) News.*

Nothing unusual has happened around here this week. No fires, funerals, wife beatings, shootings—no nothing. And if it did happen there would be no way under the sun to keep it a secret until the paper came out.—*Omega (Ga.) News.*

When you pay $4 for a steak, the gravy should match your vest.—*Cairo (Ga.) Messenger.*

Politics can be kept out of anything that human beings can be kept out of.—*Bristol Herald-Courier.*

'Anything Specific?'

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Facts On The Cemetery

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

PLEASE permit me to give some facts and comments regarding the historic W. 5th St. cemetery.

Last Spring I had all tombstones and monuments needing repair repaired by an outstanding marble firm of the city, and paid the bill for this work, (with the exception of re-setting one monument which was paid for by a relative of the person interred there.)

This repair work was to have been done during the Fall before, but owing to the illness of the man to have charge, was deferred until Spring.

I state this because a picture carried by The News March 9 of employees of the cemetery seem putting some cement under a small broken tombstone, and caption above ("A cemetery comes to life,") gives the impression that nothing has been done but the crude work going on now. The cemetery has been under the care of Supt. McFarland for eleven years, but with a mere pittance of money from the City to spend. For a long period of time before that some of us who have relatives buried there and others interested in preserving the cemetery, have done what we could, giving of our money and securing contributions which did not amount to much.

It is now a source of distress that ghoulish hands have recently been throwing away some of the tombstones from this place which we regard as sacred, and families are much concerned over this vandalism.

JULIA M. ALEXANDER

Our Handicapped Children

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

ONE night in January Dr. Brunner, the cerebral palsy specialist, and I were at dinner. I posed him a question which was, is, and will be pertinent. "How much would it cost Mecklenburg County to provide for its exceptional children, its handicapped?" The answer was brief and staggering. "One million dollars a year for an adequate job."

In 1952 we Americans spent about twenty thousand times this amount for candy, soft and hard drinks, and cigarettes. What more need be said about relative importance?

What a frightening toll in broken homes, in heartaches, in financial burdens, in hopeless bewilderment confront the parents of the handicapped child!

Fortunately for humanity, more has been done constructively for the handicapped in the past ten years than since the Spartans exposed them to die.

Here in Mecklenburg, aided by the brilliance of Howard Hickes' thinking, the scope of the Easter Seal Campaign (the North Carolina Association for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc.) has been broadened to include the hard of hearing, the badly-sighted, the mentally-retarded.

This is the season of two very holy periods, Easter and Passover. Christ has risen! Help these children to rise to health and dignity. The Israelites crossed the Red Sea from peril to safety. Buy seals that these handicapped may do the same.

LEON K. GUTMANN
President, Mecklenburg
County Association

Too Many Local Editorials?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

CAN it be that the editorial page is gradually disappearing from American newspapers?

Can it be that the American newspaper, in its editorial page, is retiring to the discussion and treatment of local affairs, such, for instance, as "Zoning", "Firemen's Pensions", and "Automobile Inspection", leaving all the real significant subjects of national and international importance to the columnists?

Can it be that there is forming a brain trust in the person of those who send out articles which solve all the questions of mankind for the masses? Can it be that the American people are retiring into an intellectual condition comparable to the people of the ancient Roman Empire who had an oracle and when the oracle spoke they followed his arbitrary dictum?

As long as the newspaper profession is abdicating its ancient prestige to these hired intellectuals we should be satisfied. We can now get all the wisdom of the nation in one newspaper for five cents.

HOYT EAVES

Mauldin Stand Criticized

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

ALONG with many other parents, taxpayers, and those interested in the education of tomorrow's adults, I have been following the reports, pro and con, about the recent school controversies in your newspaper. I think that you have done a fine job of representing all sides on this question.

As I read Tuesday's paper (Mar. 17) is hard to accept. The attitude of R. M. Mauldin, "veteran school board member", whose supercilious mien towards Mrs. Bellows' proposal to consider the limitation of class room size in the elementary grades could stand considerable modification. His reply to this proposal of an obviously sincere woman was the sarcastic quip to the effect that she was not an architect, and that amateurs had no right to tell such highly qualified men as Dr. Engelhardt what to do.

Neither a community, nor its representatives has the right to absolve themselves from the effort of thinking, evaluating, and criticizing, once the expert makes his appearance.

If Mrs. Bellows' proposal is so out of line, then Mr. Mauldin, with information from the experts, might have offered her an explanation as to why her plan is unfeasible, rather than brusquely cutting her off. Mrs. Bellows admittedly does not hold engineering degrees, but nevertheless, she is doing what the voters expect of her via questions and suggestions.

The Observer's stand in questioning overdesign in the Charlotte schools was a healthy one. Dr. Engelhardt, stating his position and reasons affecting decisions (in The News) was a good example of an expert with a sense of civic responsibility. But that Mauldin derogates a proposal tendered by a fellow colleague without consideration, on the ground that her name is not gilded by the chain of letters representing degrees, is an example of the surrender of individual thought to the altar of the expert, be he right or wrong.

MRS. Z. HURWITZ.

Some Tough Policy Decisions Facing Interior Boss McKay

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

WHILE Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay is inspecting Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, part of the vast domain coming under his jurisdiction, he may find time to think about the big decisions just ahead of him. Along with almost every other member of the Eisenhower Administration, McKay is finding the course far rougher than had been expected.

These newcomers to government are appalled at what seems to them the gigantism of the Federal machine. They distrust the extraordinary powers that go with the offices they hold. They have been nerving themselves up to pull some of the levers that will reverse at least a part of the machinery.

For McKay this becomes a matter of almost literally pulling levers, since the Secretary of Interior has to make policy on the public power program developed over the past 20 weeks. In three or four instances McKay must shortly come down on one side or the other. The most important case involves the development of Hell's Canyon on the Snake River, along the Idaho-Oregon border.

OXBOW PROJECT TEST

Hell's Canyon has been described as the biggest hole in the world. A gorge deeper than the Grand Canyon, it is one of the last-remaining great dam sites on the North American continent. The Idaho Power Company has applied to the Federal Power Commission to build a series of dams on the river, known as the Oxbow Project. The company argues that by spending up to $176,000,000 of its own funds it can generate nearly as much power as a Federal project.

But the Bureau of Reclamation in the Interior Department has had plans to develop a multi-purpose dam at the main site which would cost upwards of $450,000,000. McKay's predecessor, Oscar Chapman, intervened with the power commission, arguing that the Hell's Canyon dam was essential as one more unit in the Columbia River system to make up for the serious power deficiency in the Northwest.

This would produce over one million kilowatts of power, Chapman argued, and thereby permit development of Idaho phosphate deposits for low-cost fertilizer. The private company's project would, in this interpretation, produce only 106,000 kilowatts and make the development of the large site forever impossible.

Likewise, the former Secretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Brannan, intervened to argue for Hell's Canyon. He had been urged to take this stand by Clyde Ellis, manager of the National Rural Electric Co-operative Association. The present Secretary, Ezra T. Benson, has already acted to reverse Brannan's stand, withdrawing the formal petition of intervention.

The best guess is that McKay will follow suit. With no objection from agencies of the government, the Federal Power Commission would presumably then grant the site to the private company. McKay also is said to be opposed to the provision in the public power law that grants preference in the right to buy low-cost power to rural electric co-ops, public utility districts and municipalities with their own power systems. The latter privilege is prized by the rural co-ops and they exert a potent political influence through the farm bloc in Congress.

PROBLEM IN GEORGIA

At another point, too, McKay will come up against organized farmers. He must make a decision in the controversy between the Georgia Power Company and the rural electric co-ops in Georgia, which are seeking direct access to low-cost Federally developed power. The Georgia delegation in Congress has close ties with the co-ops.

So, McKay is bound to step on some political toes when he finally take his stand. For the Secretary, a jaunty, self-assured, highly successful automobile salesman turned politician who likes to please people, this is not altogether a happy prospect.

Small wonder then that the inclination is to go slowly. The driver's seat with that instrument panel loaded with control buttons is an awesome place.

Everything Wrong On Safari But It Was Fun All The Same

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NAIROBI, Kenya

WE ARE winding this thing up now, after some strife and some fun and considerable fear. He who embarks on a safari must necessarily be a philosophical man, because I never knew one to run anywhere on schedule, or close to it.

Some of the less typical aspects of this one is that on one occasion we mislaid for an entire week a five-ton truck with 15 Africans perched on it. It is hard to lose a five-ton truck, but nothing is impossible for the Messrs. Harry Selby and John Sutton, my associates who have earned the enduring title of Rover Boys.

We were proceeding along to Uganda, on some whim or other, and had sent the old truck ahead of us. Going through Hyanna Province, the anti-Mau Mau police snatched my truck driver Chege, a Kikuyu, and took both him and the truck away to some never-never land.

HAD TO BACKTRACK

We passed on, assuming the lorry to be well ahead, and never found it. Whereupon we had to backtrack better than 800 miles, eventually, scouring strange country for a lost truck. By the time we found it — and poor old Chege in jail — I felt that Mr. John Steinbeck's vagrant bus was a pitiful piker.

We finally collected our forces—after a slight stop in Mbarara or some such to jerk an infected tooth out of one boy's head — and achieved our goal, which was the national park on Lake George. We had spent Lord knows how much time and money to get there, purely for the purpose of taking pictures.

It never rains up there at this time of the year. It rained. It rained in sheets for a solid week. Hapana piga picha. We just sat in the tents, freezing, and cursed.

Arriving in Nairobi dead at 4 A. M., after 24 hours of solid driving without sleep and multiple contusions of the land rover's innards, I woke up a sleepy clerk and asked where the Ruarks were living. He said cottage so-and-so, and the armed night watchman went along to let me in. We unlocked the door, and the most horrid screech I ever heard roused the neighborhood.

They had switched rooms on me and I had fallen over a crib containing a very vocal baby. Shaken, the askari and I retreated. We were then forced to burglarize the Mau Mau-proof cottage where I hoped I lived. The askari boosted me through a window, and crawled in after me. There was a female form asleep under the mosquito netting.

"Is this your woman?" the askari asked me.

"I don't know," I said. "But if she ain't she's going to get an awful shock when she sees what's sleeping in that other bed tomorrow morning. Good night."

MAU MAU MEDDLING

There was some interruption, earlier in the trip, to the service in our hotel when the Mau Mau chopped the head off my cook, a boy, 100 yards from the hotel. But one becomes used to annoyances of that nature.

There was a moment of fright when we broke down one of the hunting cars in the middle of a herd of elephants, and I recognized the old cow who'd charged us the day before. That was the day the carboy forgot to put the jack in the car, causing some nervous difficulty in the changing of a tire.

The weather was wonderful. It rained on the northern frontier, where it's supposed to be dry, and burnt out the Masai, where it's supposed to be wet. The Mau Mau interrupted our peaceful pursuits in various way. Harry cracked up the land rover one night and concussioned the gunbearer's skull, while taking a sizable chunk out of his own head. The tsetse flies were active and the dust was awful.

I never had more fun in my life.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Ike Settles Hassle Over Loan To Brazil

WASHINGTON

SOME will-o-the-wisp, sleight-of-hand diplomacy reminiscent of Truman days took place backstage before the Eisenhower Administration granted the recent $300,000,000 loan to Brazil. The diplomats didn't know it, but it was like himself, not the State Department, who finally OK'd the loan. And the man who deftly secured Ike's OK was Fortune Publisher C. D. Jackson, now head of psychological warfare.

The inside story indicates the difficulty of forming a definite policy on foreign loans, especially to Latin America. Secretary of State Dulles announced some time ago that the Republicans would push the Good-Neighbor policy. But at the same time he himself almost reneged on the Brazilian loan, and in a conversation with suave Brazilian Ambassador Walther Moreira Salles, the new Secretary of State made this rather undiplomatic remark:

"Don't forget, Mr. Ambassador," Dulles said, "the Republicans are in control now. We're not Democrats. We don't buy friendship."

"And Brazil's friendship," snapped the ambassador, "is not for sale."

Down On Brazil

EARLIER the Ambassador had met with something of a rebuff from Undersecretary of the Treasury Randolph Burgess when he called to discuss the loan.

"My boss doesn't like Brazil very much," Burgess stated bluntly, and went on to tell how the M. A. Hanna Co. of which Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey was long the president, had been negotiating for the manganese concession in the territory of Amapa, north of the Amazon, when suddenly it found that Bethlehem Steel got the concession instead.

Undersecretary Burgess, formerly of the National City Bank, a company which negotiated a sour loan of $100,000,000 to Peru in the 1920's, was one of the chief opponents of the current loan to Brazil. Finally he proposed that Brazil take one-third—or $100,000,000—instead of $300,000,000.

Simultaneously, Assistant Secretary of State Linder lectured the Brazilians about not letting American oil companies operate in Brazil.

"What does Brazil mean," he asked, "by blocking oil exploitation and then turning around and importing $200,000,000 worth of oil a year? You'll never be solvent?"

When the result of these negotiations was cabled back to Brazil, it hit the front pages with a bang. "U. S. Abandons Brazil!" flared the headlines. Other papers talked of Yankee imperialism wanting oil in return for a loan.

It was at this point that the Ambassador called on Secretary Dulles, held an hour-long session reminding him that Argentina—no friend of the U. S.—had received a healthy loan, that Brazil had come into two World Wars on the side of the United States while Argentina flirted with the enemy. The Ambassador's potent appeal partially converted Dulles.

But in the end, Nelson Rockefeller, who knows Latin-American problems better than anyone else around Washington, put the facts before C. D. Jackson inside the White House, and Jackson got them to Eisenhower. Overnight, the President acted where his Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury had delayed. The full loan to Brazil was OK'd.

Inside Russia

U. S. diplomats and intelligence experts have worked out some theories on why the new Kremlin has been shooting down and bulldozing U. S.-British planes, but so far no definite plan has been evolved as to what we should do about it.

Probable reasons behind the Red brazenness are:

1. To create the impression inside Russia that the Soviet is being attacked; must defend itself from the outside world.

2. To impress the satellite countries—where the Kremlin is weakest—that the new Kremlin is afraid of nothing, would deal ruthlessly with satellite revolt.

3. To impress the outside world that while the new Kremlin is willing to negotiate it's not afraid of anyone.

Chief danger in all this is that a weak and uncertain Kremlin may blunder into war. Malenkov probably doesn't want war, first because he doesn't entirely control the Red Army, second because he doesn't control the secret police. But a dictator who isn't sure of himself, and who relies on airplane incidents, can always "incident" himself into war.

On the other hand, the fluid condition inside Russia presents a golden opportunity for the United States to pry open some diplomatic doors, later widen them.