

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1954

### Public Projects Need To Be Planned

**E**VEN before the Charlotte Planning Board meets to study future needs of the various municipal departments, it has become obvious from news stories that expenditures for public projects within the next few years will run high into the millions. And with a bonded indebtedness already approaching the legal limit, the city will have great difficulty financing even the most urgent of the new projects. It may well be necessary to spend a larger sum from current revenues instead of borrowing.

If any event, the time has come when the Charlotte City Council should consider adopting a capital expenditures budget that would provide a more businesslike procedure than that followed in the past.

A capital expenditures budget is nothing more than a planned program of public works. As a general rule, it is divided into three parts: (1) projects deemed essential for the next year; (2) projects that will be needed within five or six years; (3) long-range projects.

When the annual budget is made up, the planning board or the city manager or both would present to the Council a suggested arrangement of priorities within all three divisions. The Council, in

turn, using standard criteria for weighing the desirability of the projects, would either accept the priority list, or reshuffle it. All city departments would be required to stick to the budget in carrying out their projects.

At all times, the members of the Council, as well as the taxpayers, would have set before them a clear picture of municipal improvements. And the temptation for logrolling or vote swapping among councilmen with "pet" projects would be minimized.

In an article in a recent issue of *Public Administration*, Philip P. Green, Jr., assistant director of the N. C. Institute of Government, says the growing popularity of the capital expenditures budget "represents a significant step in the movement toward more businesslike procedures in municipal government." He writes that several of the major cities in the state have created committees charged with the creation of such a budget. Charlotte is not among them.



"What're you trying to do, live forever?"

### 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.

#### Will Pressure Council For Smoke Abatement

**Charlotte**  
 Editors, The News: **THE** article in Tuesday's News by Vic Reimener on "Why Charlotte is 'The Smoky City,'" and also the accompanying editorial, interested me very much. I wish to put all the pressure I can on our City Council, and see that they bring about control of this smoke menace.

Every time I drive toward our home, I see that curtain of black hanging over my house I become furious. It is bound to be a menace to health, to say nothing of the beauty and cleanliness of our city.

I have lived here all my life and I love Charlotte, and I am tired of having to be ashamed of this dirty smoky cloud that perpetually hides it. I thank the News for its stand on the issue.

—CHARLOTTE A. KELLY

#### News' Reasoning In Lee Case Questioned

**Pinehurst**  
 Editors, The News: **Y**OUR editorial of Jan. 25, "Why the FCC Is No Place For Lee," hardly seems in accord with the usual forthright position you take on such issues.

Had the editorial been confined to a discussion that "Lee should not be confirmed for the simple reason that he is not professionally qualified for the job" you could have made a very strong case. Instead you brought into the discussion the facts that he is "a friend of Sen. Joe McCarthy"; "had a part in the unethical Maryland campaign"; and "he has been associated with H. L. Hunt." Then you say (these) "are examples of the guilt by association technique which the McCarthy crowd uses."

Here you are on solid ground—certainly you who oppose all of McCarthy's methods should not condone such tactics by using them in our own cause. Later you say, "Neither should a member of the press participate in a dirty campaign held against him." Why not? How "incidental" was Lee's participation? Surely that 1950 Maryland campaign was not very old before its trend could be

#### Need More Letters Like Hurwitz's

**Charlotte**  
 Editors, The News: **THAT** was a fine letter on modern education by Z. Hurwitz in Jan. 20 *People's Platform*. We need many more like it.

—MRS. M. G. DAVIS

#### An Ironic Point, From An Iron Horse Man

**Charlotte**  
 Editors, The News: **R**ECENTLY an officer of a Charlotte's civic clubs on the subject of "30 Years' Development of Aviation" — from the Wright Brothers to the present.

—GEORGE C. POTTER  
 Asst. Freight Traffic Mgr. Southern Railway System

### Cluttering Up The Constitution

**A**FTER EXHAUSTING every tactic of persuasion and diplomacy, Senate Majority Leader Knowland found that he could not reason with Sen. John W. Bricker of Ohio, sponsor of the controversial amendment which would limit the President's power to conduct international affairs. So Mr. Knowland is working on a "new approach" to the proposal, which involves amending Article VI of the Constitution. Concurrently, senators are considering another compromise version of the Bricker amendment proposed yesterday by Sen. George.

This proposal would provide that executive agreements other than treaties could become internal law only by act of Congress. And it would declare null any future treaties and international agreements that conflict with the Constitution. The Supreme Court of course would do this whether or not such an amendment were passed, but senators these days seem fearful of the ability of the Court, as well as the Senate, to pass on treaties.

It may be that President Eisenhower so firmly committed himself to a reasonable compromise last July that he felt bound to support the advocates of Congress. Even so, we rather wish that Mr. Eisenhower had stood firmly against any compromise whatsoever. Since the Bricker Amendment was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee last year, it has

### Modern Pilgrims Seeking New Life In Australia

**By ROBERT C. RUARK**

**AT SEA, AUSTRALIA-BOUND** there is an orchestra on the brave ship *Ride*, and she is steered and governed by all the latest devices, and her massive motors purr and hum like a fine symphony. She makes enough electricity to run a big city, and she has movies and a cordon blue chef, and the service is comparable to that of a fine hotel.

But one flight down from the first class of the good *M. V. Australia*—Lloyd-Tristram-owned and out of Genoa, bound for Fremantle and Melbourne and Sydney, there is a seething mass of humanity, some 400 souls, who pack as much drama in their individual lives as you could ever compress into a small space. This is the *odds* are good for you, when you see the children here we see the children. The doctor is a sentimentalist, and he wants the roster list to come out.

To the best of my knowledge there has been no fist fight among the men, and nothing more than a few sly, sly looks among the women, who are berthed in dormitories in the tourist class. There has been no epidemic of any sort, although a thousand men on a ship, with a quarter of the list composed of children, might be expected to come down with something serious.

These people have the bright, determined look that I imagine most of our forebears had when they departed an old, accustomed world for the terrors of tomorrow. Their aim is common: a new life in a new land, and an opportunity for their children.

It has been an exciting trip. There are a few brides who never saw their husbands, since they were married by proxy and are headed for a mysterious land to live with strange men. Their marriages were performed by mail.

There is a Greek family aboard that has provided our major gaiety. The husband, a huge man with an oily beard, related to us an old malaria, and literally never see again.

### McCarthy Bows To His Colleagues

**S**INCE last summer, the McCarthy investigating subcommittee has functioned without any Democratic members. Sens. McClellan, Symington and Jackson walked out after the Republican majority rammed through a rule giving Chairman McCarthy full authority to hire and fire committee employees, and to choose and direct the staff member assigned to the minority group.

This week McCarthy made peace with the Democrats—on their terms. He surrendered his exclusive authority to hire and dismiss staff members. He agreed that minority subcommittee members should have the right to select their own counsel and clerk. In still another major concession, no investigation will be launched over the

unanimous objection of the three Democrats until it has been approved by a majority vote of the parent Committee on Government Operations.

McCarthy now says it was "a dangerous precedent" for an investigating arm of the Senate to consist of Republicans only, though the president didn't seem to bother him during the last six months of 1953 when he operated as a one-man subcommittee most of the time.

With the return of the Democrats to the subcommittee, there is reason to believe that future investigations will be conducted with more bipartisanship and more impartiality, two qualities that are essential if the important investigative function of the Congress is to be carried out responsibly.

### Alien Corn On The Cob

**W**E'VE BEEN crying "Wurrah! Wurrah!" ever since some denizen of the glorious land beyond the Mason and Dixon Line proposed a few years ago that corn on the cob should be sprinkled with paprika before being eaten. Now comes another citizen from the same general area of the globe who carries the procedure several steps further by recommending that corn should be spread with chili and seeds, cheese, maple sugar or "exotic spices" before being roasted.

The smearing of ears of "cawn" with maple sugar, spices or cheese is comparable in sacrilege to the putting of sugar into corn bread. Indeed, the whole concept may have originated in the same befuddled cerebrum.

"Marsh Rens" Watterson, the famous Louisville editor, let go a good many years back with a searing blast at the monstrous practice of putting sugar in corn bread, pronouncing it "born of the devil, planted in England and reared South by our enemies." He added that "it makes men trifling and women frivolous, causes the servants to be insolent

### Drew Pearson's Fear Of Women Hated Butter Deal

**H**ERE is what happened inside the Eisenhower Cabinet regarding the controversial, dynamite-laden but very tempting Russian offer to buy 44 million pounds of surplus American butter.

Actually, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Agricultural Department subsidiary which buys and stores butter, had OK'd the butter deal. They felt that even if the Russian price was a little low, it would be wise to get part of our butter surplus out of warehouses before it spoiled.

That was the general line, therefore, that sincere, much-criticized Secretary of Agriculture Benson took at the Cabinet meeting. He pointed out that butter was accumulating in American warehouses at the rate of over one million pounds a day and that getting rid of it was a very real problem.

### Rhee Reneges

**U. S. officials** have a sigh of relief as yesterday passed without President Syngman Rhee carrying out his threat to move South Korean troops north. Jan. 27 was the deadline the hard-headed leader of South Korea had set for his offensive.

Actually, U. S. officials knew in advance that Rhee would not carry out his threat. They also know that Rhee now has in mind another troop movement which he probably will carry out. He has postponed his offensive for three months, until April 27.

That line indicates to send ROK troops north of the 38th parallel. However, he will halt them before they reach Communist defenses on the edge of

### French Request For Troops A Symptom Of Asian Crisis

**By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP**

**F**OR THE FIRST time, the French government has asked the American government to send American troops to the Indochina War.

The number requested is not great—only 400 air mechanics and maintenance men from the Far East Air Force, to meet an emergency that has recently arisen. The French have indicated that civilian mechanics will do just as well, if the needed number can be found in time. If the troops are sent, they will probably not go in uniform. When they arrive, they will find a small training mission of American air maintenance specialists already at work at the Hanoi and Hai Phong airfields.

Nonetheless, the French request marks a grave turning point. The French did not ask for the American training mission. In fact, they were most reluctant to accept it, because they were afraid of provoking Chinese Communist intervention. Until now, they have held out a request like the present one, because they did not want American troops in Indochina, but all that is changing now, as reported in this "space."

In short, the new French request, though small enough in itself, is very big as a symptom. And the cause of the request, although it will seem incredibly surprising to most of us, is also a very big symptom of the critical nature of the situation in the Far East.

The main events that led to the new French request began about a month ago. At that time, Gen. Navarre ordered the establishment of a fortified French outpost in the valley of Dien Bien Phu, a place in northern Indochina, and also the accompanying approach to Laos. Dien Bien Phu was taken by parachute. Some 13 of the best French battalions were flown in. The work of fortification and supply build-up was started.

**ATTACK HELD UNLIKELY**  
 When the report was given to establish the Dien Bien Phu Command, still firmly believed that the Communist armies of the Viet-

minh would never again attack a fortified French position. The Vietminh commanders were believed to be "once burned, twice shy." Moreover, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, the Vietminh commander-in-chief, had never before used more than about a division and a half in active combat at one time. The supply shortage had forbidden him to stage larger operations.

For these reasons, the occupation of Dien Bien Phu was thought to involve little or no risk. Thirteen battalions were too large a force to be endangered by a division and a half of the enemy. No enemy attack was expected anyway, but the hope was that a small number of battalions could hold the fortified post, while the main body of troops and Dien Bien Phu are extremely difficult.

All these assumptions and expectations began to explode with a loud bang when the Vietminh forces were fully committed at Dien Bien Phu. The enemy performed the remarkably difficult task of dragging a considerable number of 37 and 40 millimeter anti-aircraft guns over the mountains, and moving them into position around the Dien Bien Phu perimeter.

**VICTORY'S HARBINGER**  
 A victory at Dien Bien Phu—the smashing of the Viet Minh attack that is just now beginning—would be a brilliant and enormous return. The balance of the fighting in Indochina would be drastically improved. Almost all the major military operations in Paris would be much improved too.

But one thing, alas, is certain. A defeat at Dien Bien Phu, or even a fairly mild French reverse at Dien Bien Phu, will cause the same kind of reactions in Paris that Yorktown caused in Paris 171 years ago. The French will then start to pull out of Indochina. Of this the State Department has been plainly and officially warned. No wonder.

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