

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## An Opportunity To Give Charlotte Better Bus Transportation Service

**BUNDLED** up in the application for transfer of franchise filed with the City Council yesterday by City Coach Lines Inc. is a promise of improved bus service for Charlotte and its populous fringe areas. The firm which purchased Duke Power Company's transportation system has a record of efficient operation and good public relations in other communities. Its financial condition appears to be sound. There is reason to believe that it could give Charlotteans better service than they have been receiving from Duke's 50-year-old transit network.

These conclusions are not based on mere supposition. They grew out of talks with the men who operate City Coach Lines and a study of the firm's reputation, policies and service in three cities—Evansville, Ind., Flint, Mich., and Jacksonville, Fla.

The picture is by no means all rosy. Urban bus service seldom pleases everybody. Even the speediest and most efficient line cannot run schedules that fit the personal needs of every potential customer. But City Coach Lines is apparently doing a reasonable job of meeting public needs in communities served by its subsidiaries. At least, that is the opinion of the people who have known municipal officials and newsmen whose business it is to observe the local scene closely. These individuals were asked to give The News their candid evaluation of CCL operations.

The opinion of Mayor H. O. Roberts of Evansville was fairly typical. Said he:

"The subject firm has operated in Evansville for a number of years and has always tried to provide the best possible service consistent with their earnings. They have had some labor difficulty over wage demands but cooperated amicably with the city administration in effecting settlement. . . . The company has worked closely with my administration in effecting improved service, new routes, etc. I am personally acquainted with Manfred Burleigh, president of the company, and have always found him to be honorable and cooperative. I am sure your community will make no mistake in having them operate your transportation system."

We also asked Franklin A. Hunt, managing editor of the EVANSVILLE COURIER, for his impression of CCL service. He presented a detailed report of the firm's efforts to increase fares in Evansville and its occasional skirmishes with organized labor but concluded:

"I believe the company makes an honest effort to give reasonably good service, such as 15-minute buses on weekdays and stepped up service during the evening rush hour."

**CITY** Manager Harold C. Chirgwin of Flint told how CCL's Flint Trolley Coach Company is now operating on a "day-to-day" agreement with the City Commission (with 60-day notice of termination required by either party) following forfeiture of its franchise during a fare dispute. He added:

"Although service here cannot be described as ideal and we do receive occasional complaints, the management of the company has always been cooperative and I believe has made sincere efforts to comply with the city's requests. The company states that it has not been receiving a fair return on its capital investment here and that has served to impair its service and expansion. There are, however, plans underway for new expansion into newly developed residential areas not now being served."

Bud Johns of the FLINT JOURNAL said the bus line's services are "generally considered good, as are its relations both with the public and the employees, who are organized by the CIO Trans-

portation Workers of America." In addition, he said:

"The company has done much to improve its facilities and is now completing a large extension to its garage and terminal facilities. It operates currently with 96 diesel and trolley coach buses, with an emphasis on diesels because of their flexibility and the absence of the need for expensive overhead wiring."

Mayor-Commissioner Hayden Burns of Jacksonville, Fla., told us that he had found CCL's Jacksonville Coach Company "very cooperative" and said that he believed it was meeting the Florida city's transit needs as well as could be expected. Said he:

"Taking everything into consideration, the operation of the Jacksonville Coach Company by City Coach Lines Inc. has been very satisfactory from the city's point of view. Of course, it is impossible to get such urban bus service as will satisfy all of the citizens at all times. For example, it is obvious that an urban bus company could not provide sufficient buses to give seats to all of its patrons during peak hours unless it charged a prohibitive fare and it has been my experience that some of the citizens will grumble about this notwithstanding the fact that it is economically impossible to furnish such service."

The Jacksonville mayor added that relationships between the bus line and the community were quite friendly since CCL took over control of the local company.

Prior to that time the situation had been different and public relations were quite strained where the change of ownership occurred, but this situation has greatly improved during the past 2½ years. Whereas I received many complaints about the service under the old ownership, the company during the past 2½ years has been very few."

J. S. C. Butz, managing editor of the FLORENCE TIMES-UNION in Jacksonville echoed Mr. Burns' sentiments:

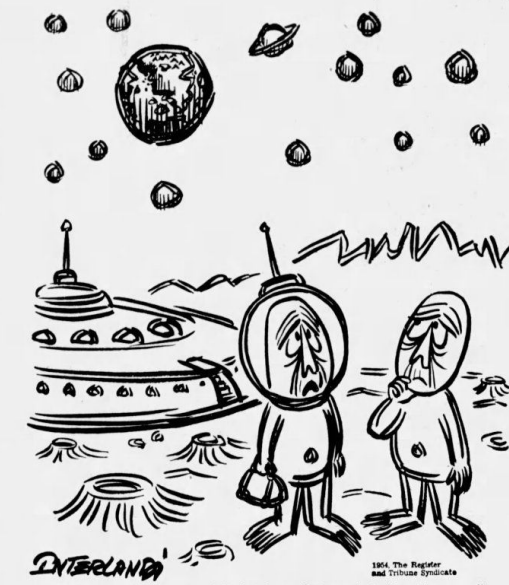
"No one can be too popular in the business of public transportation, of course, but from all indications, City Coach Lines has handled the problem quite well. There has been a strike of operating employees for higher wages a year or more ago but that was handled quickly and there has been no trouble in that direction. . . . The only way we can judge as to the adequacy of the service is through complaints. We have received few. The company's attitude toward the city is, as far as I know, one of cooperation."

Flat fares for adults are now 15 cents in each city.

**THE** business reputation and financial condition of the firm appears to be satisfactory. Vice President William H. Hoey of the National Bank of Detroit says Manfred Burleigh, CCL president and general manager, is "recognized in the bus transportation field as an outstanding competent operator and is highly regarded by us in both personal and business respects."

Here, obviously, is an opportunity to get Charlotte's bus system into the hands of a transportation specialist—a firm anxious to make an efficient, convenient operation of it. To Duke, the line was a white elephant, an unwanted sideline. Duke is determined to get out of the bus business and there is always the possibility that, unless the franchise is transferred to another private operator soon, the whole system will be dropped in the lap of the city someday—and the people will find themselves paying taxes to support it.

We believe that CCL can make a success of the line and, at the same time, give Charlotte the transportation system it needs.



"Oh, it's a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there . . ."

## 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.

### Change The Date

#### Of Carousel Parade

Charlotte, The News:

"We feel that the Carousel parade on Thanksgiving Day detracts from the real meaning of Thanksgiving. The Carousel parade is commercializing a day that should be spent in thanksgiving to God and in company with the family. Some other day should be found for this parade. We urge the support of the public and ask that the proper steps be taken to correct this situation."

—SENIOR HIGH DEPT.  
Christ Episcopal Church

### Reader Simply 'Ain't

#### Got No Confidence'

Charlotte, The News:

"ONE OF your recent, somewhat biased blasts at Senator Joe McCarthy concluded with this bit of impassioned verbiage: 'Surely even his defenders ought to see clearly by now the despicable man who consistently infers that disagreement with him amounts to disloyalty.'"

As a defender generally (and proudly so) of this man whom you apparently begrudge even a defense, let me say that I don't follow you. As a creator of fact, you especially couldn't convince me of the validity of your conclusion—even though at some future time I might change my opinion of McCarthy. You see, I simply ain't got no confidence in either your knowledge or ability to express sound opinions on the subjects with which McCarthy's work is so intimately connected—the subjects of security, subversion, loyalty, and disloyalty."

Here's why I lack that confidence: I've noticed you've rather consistently (and valiantly at times) defended either directly or indirectly the shenanigans of such characters as Owen Lattimore, William Remington, Robert Oppenheimer and Bishop Omon, whose coverings, however innocently indulged in by some, with Reds and fellow travelers are rather well known. In this connection, it should be emphasized that the cause of the common enemy was advanced by the common treason."

—EVANSVILLE, IND.

### Drew Pearson's

#### Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

**WHEN** President Eisenhower went out of his way to refer to Speaker-to-be Sam Rayburn as "Mr. Sam" during the morning news conference, it may be that he had heard of "Mr. Sam's" irate feelings. Certainly Sam has taken no trouble to conceal them.

For, though Sam Rayburn meant it when he told the President that House Democrats would support him 100 per cent on foreign policy and national defense, he also meant it when he told friends that he was going to show up the fidelity of the "McNixon" charges of Democratic treason.

Rayburn is a man who has served his country more than 40 years in the House of Representatives and he is just as proud of that record as Gen. Eisenhower is of his 40 years in the U. S. Army.

Rayburn began as a young congressman in Woodrow Wilson's day and he has lived through the two world wars and seen President Nixon in the White House. He has seen the nation in order to maintain prosperity.

Sam resents that and he resents it deeply, because he helped make that history known to the facts. He feels that he knows them far better than a Johnny-come-lately vice president whose service consisted largely of negotiating naval contracts in the Pentagon and then borrowing money from one of the contractors with whom he was negotiating.

So Rayburn proposes to show that the Communists first infiltrated the United

States and then the Democrats.

favorable recognition extended by men like these toward enemy organizations and certain ideologies.

Now, on the other hand, I've noticed you've maintained the consistent record of either remaining silent, attacking or poking fun at (directly or indirectly), men who had the solid American good sense and foresight to recognize the "wolf in sheep's clothing" and avoid him. Specifically, men like Joe McCarthy, whose deadly fire at the enemy over the past four years has wrought much damage, thus contributing to the internal security of the Republic. Yet, how eager you seem to be to silence the guns of this American, however unpunished he is at times. Your unfavorable attitude even goes further—encompassing men who were once Communists, but later turned their backs on communism and became militant anti-Communists in some cases. I might say at this point that your editorials over the past year or two would, I'm confident, reflect substantially the contentions made above."

Does the answer to your thinking lie in the basic fact that you are "liberal" and therefore are simply unable to follow an editorial-

course which does not veer to the left? If that's the answer, then phooey on the sophistry of liberalism! But seriously, the strange and alarming situation embodied in the above comparison of your editorializing is one very good reason why the extreme liberalism rampant among a good deal of the press today is so repulsive to this writer.

—BOB CHERRY JR.

### Cozy Toasts And

#### Personal Pronouns

Charlotte, The News:

**RE:** News picture showing actress Rhonda Fleming toasting a husband she will soon divorce. Rhonda had quietly established Swiss residence six months ago, well before this cozy scene of she and her husband exchanging a toast."

Oh, shocks. I'm disillusioned! After reading the caption, let's you and me drink a cozy toast to she and her husband."

—E. CLARKE  
(Editors' Note: And then a toast to us!)

### Life Begins At 80

#### The Time For Long Tasks

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**ROMERSET**, Maugham, just turned 80, says he has written his last line and proposes to "begin living." This does not, perhaps, mean precisely what you say. Maugham would be the first to admit that he has lived, and while writing. His desire all along, as he explained in the *Summing Up*, was to make writing "an essential element" in his life, which "would include all the other activities proper to man."

But, as he went on to say, he would do it without a begin in that same summing up, another kind of living because possible when one grows old. "I moved to old age without dismay," he wrote in that book first published 16 years ago. "The young man turns away from it, but he would do it to Nixon what he did to Gen. Patton when the latter was made to stand up before 10,000 troops and apologize for having a sick leg. But they don't expect an apology from either Ike or 'McNixon,' so they intend to go ahead with their investigations."

Some Democrats point out that if Eisenhower really wanted Democratic cooperation for a bipartisan foreign policy he would do it to Nixon what he did to Gen. Patton when the latter was made to stand up before 10,000 troops and apologize for having a sick leg. But they don't expect an apology from either Ike or 'McNixon,' so they intend to go ahead with their investigations."

### Ike's Picture

Democratic Sen. James Murray, just elected in Montana, told an ADA meeting how a pamphlet smearing him as a Red almost defeated him. In engaging, however, the pamphlet listed alleged reasons why Murray was aiding the Communist cause.

To counter this smear, Murray ran advertisements showing an autographed picture received from President Eisenhower with the inscription: "To Jim Murray,

my friend."

A Great American—Dwight D. Eisenhower."

Immediately, Congressman Wesley D'Ewart, Murray's opponent, complained that he was saying that he was feasting on his own party by letting this picture out. Ike immediately replied that he had not given the picture to Murray for political purposes. D'Ewart was unethical of Murray to use that way. D'Ewart then reprinted Eisenhower's letter in all local papers.

Murray, of course, was furious.

"As soon as the Congress opens," he told the ADA meeting, "I'm going to present Ike's picture to the clerk of the Senate with instructions that it be returned to the President. I don't want a picture with an inscription that's good only in old-numbered years."

### Numbers Game

Robert W. S. Browne is a walking, talking, ex-security risk. Only now he is no longer considered a risk, and is quite willing to talk about it. He has been fired from his job as an exhibit worker for the Smithsonian Institution. The security of the nation has been preserved.

Most interesting part of the story, though, is that he was hired by the Republicans, fired by the Republicans, and was not fired for security reasons, but he is listed among the most controversial group called "security risks."

He started to work for the government in the Senate, which anyone under the sun can enter, on Jan. 18, 1954, and

served several purposes. It kept the house bone dry, for one thing, and it discouraged the bugs, for another. And it made a fine haven for the storage of the house's tools, lawn mowers, old sidesaddles, and delightful junk for young males to peruse on rainy days. I reckon I spent more time under Grandpa's house than in it.

### A KIND OF IRON

These houses were largely constructed of Carolina fat pine, which will flare like tinder at first, but if it survives half a century it turns into a kind of iron.

I bought the old man's house back, some years ago, and the electricity was a sight to behold. Why it didn't burn up nobody knows, because the wiring hung in festoons against the naked wood, with no sign of insulation.

But that wood itself was so hard, so nearly petrified, that the remodelers had a time getting a modern nail into it. Nor was there a sprung beam or sagged joist. The back steps, being of interior wood, had rotted off, but the porch where the washbasin used to sit was firm and stout. The same roused beam bore the same augur holes from which depended a swing on which my mother and her sister swung as kids.

They must have built them differently in those days, with a measure of honest labor, only the best of seasoned materials, and some pride in craftsmanship which eludes the modern builder. You expect the floor to sag all the places, and crack in the new ones before you get the fireplace to working, if it draws at all. The shoddiness of modern workmanship, as I've observed it, is appalling, when you consider that an old fat-pine house on stilts can sneer at a hurricane. The same roused beam bore the same augur holes from which depended a swing on which my mother and her sister swung as kids.

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