

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON..... E. DOWD.... C. A. McKNIGHT (On Leave)_____

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1954

Loophole In Liability Insurance Law

North Carolina law to Carry Handuly Insurance or not? If it is then why lan't it enforced for everybody?"

The answer to her first question is "No." The 1983 General Assembly induced many North Carolinians to carry auto liability insurance. The legislature passed the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Law, which became effective Jan. 1, 1984. It provides that operators of all cars involved in accledents that result in injury or property damages in excess of the control of the cont

A CHARLOTTE lady who was injured a in an auto accident asks, in Prootat's PLATFORM, a question most appropriate on Safe Driving Day, "Is It", she asks, "a North Carolina law to carry liability insurance. Only one state, Massachusetts, now requires liability insurance or not? If it is then why isn't it enforced for everybody?"

The answer to her first question is "No." The 1953 General Assembly induced many North Carolinans to carry dutto liability insurance. The legislature passed the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Law, which became effective Jan. 1, 1954. It provides that operators of all Injury or property damages in excess of \$100 must immediately report the actification of the provides that a driver's license must be revoked within 90 days of the accident unless he has been, released to the compulsory plan plus state to a policeman or patrolines.

Gov. Thomas Dewey of New York tried hard but unsuccessfully to get his state to adoot the compulsory plan olus this worthwhile feature—a special fund to help persons injured by histandrual law and uninsured out-of-state drivers. North Carollius's Motor Vehicle Responsibility Law is good, as far as it goes. Motor Vehicles Commissioner Scheidt has done a good job of administering it. But we are persuaded that the law does not go far enough. The next General Assembly should in our onioning require insurance, or other proof of financial resnonsibility, before, not after, the accident. No car should be licensed unless it is covered. And in addition the legislators outh to explore the sneedly fund idea which Gov. Dewey proposed for accident victims who are not compensated by compulsory liability insurance.

Hodges: A Blow For Majority Rule

TN A political climate of timidity and a vaciliation about legislative redistricting, Gov. Hodges' words were like a breath of fresh air:

breath of fresh air:

I would like to express my interest
in the noper redistricting of our state,
as provided for by the constitution of
North Carolina. As you know, the 1951
and 1953 sessions of the General Assembly
did not comply with this requirement. If
we are to continue to have representative government, under the provisions of
General Assembly should act upon this
matter during the next session.

matter during the next session.

The statement, made at a capitol news conference, left no doubt about where the governor stood on one of the most important political questions to face North Carolina in years. Significantly, his audience was composed of a large number of editors of country weeklies. Such a forthright stand is worthy of commendation.

The constitution provides in crystal-clear language for the redistricting of the state for senators and the reallotment of representatives after each federal census. Yet members of both the Senate and the House, who took a solemn oath to support the state constitution before beginning their duties in the 1951 and 1953 sessions, stubbornly refused to do their duty.

The legislative scheme in North Care

sessions, stubbornly refused to do their duty.

The legislative scheme in North Carolina is the reverse of the situation in the U. S. Congress. In the Tar Heel state, Senate membership is based solely on population while the 120 seats of the House are allotted on the basis of one to each of the 100 counties with the remaining 20 seats going to the larger counties on the basis of population by the application of a mathematical formula.

As the governor said, the problem boils down to the question of whether representative government is to be continued in North Carolina.

Representative government means gov-

tinued in North Carolina.

Representative government means government by majority rule expressed through the machinery of the constitution with the protection of certain fundamental rights even from the will of the majority. It emphatically does not mean the placing of power in the hands of the minority—power which the minority

could even use to abuse and tax the

majority.

But because legislators have neglected to implement a constitutional mandate ("each senate district shall contain as near as may be an equal number of inhabitants"), a rural minority of people has gained enormous power in the state Senate.

habbanas *, at minutes, at the Senate.

A comparison of several districts will serve to illustrate. The First Senatorial District consists of eight counties—Ber-tile, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates. Hertford, Pasquotank and Perquimans. All eight of these counties had a total population of 115,360 in the 1950 census. The senatorial district has two senators. The 20th Senatorial District, which consists of MecKlenburg County, had a 1950 population of 197,052 and yet has only one senator.

The Second Senatorial District consists of seven counties—Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Pamilico, Tyrrell and Washington. It had a 1950 population of 105,177. It has two senators. Yet the 17th Senatorial District which consists of Guilford County had a 1950 population of 191,057 and has only one senator.

So it is that 115,360 people have twice the voing power of 191,052. Consider also the 29th Senatorial District, consisting of Alleghany, Ashe and Wataga counties. It had a 1950 population of 403.75. It has one senator. So 48,375 people in this district have equal voing power with 197,052 in the 20th and 191,057 in the 17th.

Rep. Thomas Turner Ir, of Guilford recently pointed to these curious facts about North Carolina's senator a foresenator (noted above) represents

about North Carolina's senatorial representation;
One senator (noted above) represents under 50,000 people. Eleven senators represent under 60,000 people. Nine senators represent under 70,000 people. Ten senators represent under 80,000 people. This condition violates the fundamental concept upon which constitutional government is founded. Unless this state wishes to discard the principle of majority rule. Tar Heel legislators must heed the recommendation of the governor and redistrict in 1955.

From The Wrightsville (Ga.) Headlight

OUR TREELESS JUNGLES

SOME years back it was the fashion for small towns to want to be as citified as possible.

Noting that cities had almost universally whacked down every tree in sight to enjoy the advantages of telephone lines, electric lines and blistering hot pawements, the country cousins were not long following.

were not long following.

The pleasant old oaks and elms that dotted the business districts of sleepy little towns gave way to the ax of progress. Checker games that took place under the restful shade were discontinued.

Progress brought the barren look, the arked mortgaged car, the searing as-

parked mortgaged car, the searing as-phait.

Southern towns marched like lovely ladies to the execution block, shearing their old trees, leaving their heads bald and exposed to a mercless sun.

Now we enjoy the full benefits of such a policy. No one in his right mind would stand on the average smalltown street more than one minute in the summer. To linger longer risks having your brains cooked out.

Even sadder, the younger generation

has forgotten what tree-lined streets were like and new homes line the approaches to our little towns like sanitary white ovens in a blistering sun. From April until October these poor young couples bake and blister in their FHA havens, never suspecting that it is not illegal to set out a tree.

Teacher: "Junior—if I take 83 from 107, what's the difference?"
Junior: "That's what I say—who cares?"—LAMAR (Mo.) DEMOCRAT.

If any campaigner forgot to mention America was at the crossroads, bringing it up now will be of little avail.— Laurel (Miss.) Leader-Call.

Every time I hear a defeated candidate complain about his loss, I remember that no man with four aces ever howls for a new deal. — CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS.



The Debt Will Rise Again

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON
WHEN Treasury & erretary
George M. Humphrey acknowledged Dec. 6 that the Eisenbawer
administration "cannot balance
the budget" for facal 1996, he
flarry Flood Byd (D.Va.).
"It is time that the administration and the Congress face up
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Chairman of the Senate Finance
committee in the \$4th Congress face
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A Life Is Soved

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Late 'Loyalty Oath' Was Neither Oath Nor Pledge

From The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

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A DISPATCH to the Pilot

I Late of the secolide from the Support the national nominees, a support the national nominees, and the filot of the second party in 1825 convention, as saying that "any such pilots in subtract the first for the so-called loyalty assist a support the so-called floating to the pilot of the second party nominees, is to disregard the words of the resolution shall be the second paragraph is the key section. The collubor of 1986, in the convention had there paragraph is the key section. The collubor of 1986, in the convention believes in the creation of the Convention for President and Vice provide that the nominees of the convention of the Sundan Sundan

People's Platform

Please keep letters brief, and give name and address. Names may be withheld. The News reserves the right to condense.

Is There A Loophole In Car Accident Law?

Is There A Loophole
In Car Accident Law?

If HAVE read the People's Platform? For some time and enjoy it very much. People seem to respond to your column your readers might have for me an answer to something I, have been wondering about for some time.

I had the understanding that North Carolina has a law that everybody have one managed the supposed to own liability insurance, which would take care of any damages done the financially able to cover a lamedical cost or property damage. I thought this was a North Carolina law to take out this insurance to protect my fellow drivers and myself in case of an accident.

This past October, mother the country of the

Drew Pearson's How McCarthyism Hurt 'Little People' Mestry-Go-Round WASHINGTON Tills week happens to be the 22nd birthday of the column which whiris under the above caption; also it's the matal aniversary of the author of the column. Saint's been four homeron, diartite on the saint's been four homeron, diartite on the homeron homeron, diartite on