

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Question Of Local Legislation: Some Creaks In Democracy's Joints

IF POET T. S. Eliot were a newsman covering last night's meeting with Mecklenburg's legislative delegation, he might have summed up the evening's work with one of his own famous lines: "The intolerable wrestle with words and meanings."

For two hours legislators, city councilmen and county commissioners wrestled with words like "home rule," meanings like "formulas agreeable to all parties and for the good of all concerned."

After a month of gauging the political winds and diagramming programs, councilmen and commissioners had marched into Mayor Phil Van Every's office to present their requests to Mecklenburg's legislators. But many an official present had clearer, more forceful ideas about what he didn't want than about what he did want.

Councilman Claude Albea strenuously opposed a suggested measure that would permit prison labor to be used in cleaning the City Hall. Councilman Basil Boyd found fault with different tax payment schedules for the city and the county. Several county commissioners raised stern objections to a proposal that would board for the City Council a final review board for permitting zoning appeals.

THESSE were merely the creakings and squeaks of a many-jointed democracy trying to pull itself together for a united effort. Despite the poor preparation for the meeting, internal bickering over the semantics of politics and some confusion over the applicability of certain legislation, there were clear signs of progress.

For example, the question of home rule was unscrambled at last. The mayor had asked for "an act making present home rule legislation applicable in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County together with such additional legislative acts conferring greater home rule which may be enacted by the next General Assembly."

"What are you talking about?" asked Councilman Boyd.

"I don't know what home rule means," said City Atty. John Shaw.

Obviously, no wave of a legislative wind will confer greater home rule on local governing bodies. These bodies must ask the legislature for the specific authority they seek—authority that now rests in the hands of the General Assembly itself.

Urban Traffic & Hardening Arteries

IT MIGHT HAVE been an embarrassing moment for Mayor Phil Van Every—but it wasn't. He was caught in a bumper-to-bumper jam on one of Charlotte's hardening traffic arteries. Another motorist leaned out of his car to taunt: "When are you going to do something about this traffic, Van Every?" he shouted.

The mayor grinned. "How would you like it if we didn't have all this traffic?" he said.

In a sense, heavy traffic is an earmark of Charlotte's astounding postwar growth. With this growth have come economic advantages that affect all levels of the city's population.

But for years public facilities did not keep pace with the expansion of the Queen City. It is only in very recent times that the "treasures" of sudden traffic ailments have been replaced by a system of enlightened planning and bold improvements. Herman J. Hoose, the city's traffic engineer, deserves much of the credit.

Despite early skepticism and some opposition, he has performed an outstanding job in trying to help Charlotte catch up with its needs.

But Charlotte has not caught up.

And, as the metropolitan growth continues, more and more cars will be fun-

From The Asheville Citizen BIG (SHH!) GOVERNMENT

THE old house has 107 rooms, counting all the pantries but the secretaries and stenographers and mail clerks have to sit elbow to elbow churning out a day's work.

If the boss wants to meet the press on the premises or the nation's governors or a big delegation of ladies from back home everybody has to make into the Rose Garden. No room anywhere else, and that's out in cold weather. It certainly cramps a fellow's style.

Of course we're talking about the White House. The complaints come from President Eisenhower's staff, who say that they must function in what is by all odds the most crowded building in Washington. And Uncle Sam spent \$5,700,000 on that place only a few years ago while Harry was there! One thing Harry wanted besides that upstairs balcony was an addition on the west wing to give all hands a little more room. Congress said, No, it would spoil the architectural lines. The Society of Natives and Oldest Inhabitants Association, or the cliff-dwellers, put in a rousing send.

We suppose the country will just have to accept the fact that Presidential gov-

Life In The Year 2000: The Crystal Gazers Tell A

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

THE British Royal Society of Arts decided to hold a competition on what life would be like in the year 2000. Entries were received from all over the world; the prophets included clergymen and doctors, engineers and architects, schoolboys and housewives.

What follows are some of the more general predictions—veiled as well as normal.

Science And Medicine—A device will have been invented to prevent at a distance the fission of atomic nuclei, and thus will counter the dangers of atomic bombing.

Radio therapy will be the basis of medical diagnosis and treatment on the theory that all viruses and bacteria radiate detectable energy on fixed frequencies related to their particular species.

The greatest advance in medicine will have been the recognition that physical and mental illnesses are connected and must be treated together.

Virus infections will still be rampant though their tendency to modify themselves to meet new treatments.

Hypnotism will be the accepted means of banishing physical and emotional pain. An illustration given is a couple seeking escape from a top-story fire: the man, not previously conditioned, suggests to the conditioned woman that she should fall into a rigid trance thereby providing him with a plank on which to escape via a nearby tree. He then rescues the "plank."

Education—No specific subjects will be taught in schools; education will consist of games and occupational therapy.

Hypnosis will be used as a mechanical aid to learning.

Great importance will be at-

tached to voice training as a result of the development of television and recorded talks.

Communications—The traffic problem in cities will have been solved by the use of rooftop roadways. Automobiles will run along the roofs of business buildings all of the same height, thus saving road and building space.

Underground roadways will accommodate those vehicles which do not run along the rooftops.

The rocket letter post will make possible return mail to Australia in a single day.

Pedestrians will move quickly along main streets on automatic speed walks. Pavements in main streets will be raised to first-story level to allow wider roadways for any traffic below and passengers can therefore board buses from the top deck.

Airports will require much less surface area as most of each runway will be underground.

A channel tunnel will connect England and France.

Agriculture—A new drug will have produced a variety of giant-sized animals. They will have a shortened life span and great appetites, but these will be met by a new type of fodder.

Whales will be kept in captivity, bred and herded like cattle.

Timber will be cut electrically, by a form of electric charge, to any desired shape, thus avoiding the double process of sawing and planing.

Spraying and dusting soil with special preparations at the time of seed sowing will have done away with the need for weeding.

Farmyard manure will have almost entirely been replaced as a fertilizer by sewage sludge and many industrial waste materials.

Technology and Industry—Domestic heating and ventilation

will be controlled by covering each house and garden with a plastic shell entered by an air-lock.

A single vast plastic dome will cover London.

Sources of domestic heat will be cosmic rays and solar energy. House lighting will be provided from fluorescent walls.

Advertisements will be projected onto the night sky and space will be sold by reference to position of the stars.

Solid plastic tires will have succeeded the pneumatic type.

The coal industry will have had a great revival but coal, instead of being burned as fuel, will be used entirely for its various chemical derivatives. Gas and electricity will be employed for heating. Coal will no longer be burned to provide this because, apart from the waste involved, it will have been discovered that, with oil, tobacco and radioactivity, coal smoke is a common source of cancer.

A start will have been made in the radio transmission of power and in the bulk storage of electricity.

Food And Living—A vegetable diet will be compulsory to avoid the land waste involved in meat production.

Conventional distinctions between different types of meals—breakfast, lunch and dinner—will have disappeared.

Packaged foods will be the basic diet. In time only the fostering of a creative urge in the cook will prevent the disappearance of effect and novelty on the table.

Sea mosses will be cultivated as food and the British product will be acknowledged to be the best in the world. The harvesting



"Maybe you won't need the lead box, dear... They're going to invent an anti-atom-bomb device..."

of plankton will have developed into a highly organized activity.

There will be edible acorns and sugar will be made from wood, but food will be prohibited in the United States.

Painting will be a universal form of recreation.

Family life will have been revived by television.

A new human species will appear as a result of mutation, with

two heads and four arms, the latter able to assimilate the complications of our civilization. The finest qualities in man will thereby be doubled.

England—As the year 2000 thunders in with that portentous clang, that milder deservant anticlimax which is the fate of the purely chrono-grammatical jour de fête, the chances are three to one of the rabbit that in southern England it will be raising.

'Wait A Minute—One At A Time!'



THERE were a few gaping holes in the legislative program. For one thing, no one asked for adequate urban redevelopment legislation. But both the council and the board of county commissioners will have additional opportunities to make their wishes known to the county legislative delegation.

We hope these opportunities will not be frittered away. And we hope the members of the two governing bodies will adopt a somewhat firmer, more positive approach to their legislative needs in the future.

This situation is directly and personally evident to every driver fighting the daily congestion, the snail's pace progress, the intersection jams that cost money in lost time, lost business, wasted mileage and gasoline.

Commercial vehicles and passenger cars, carrying workers, businessmen and shoppers already overflow the main thoroughfares, clutter up side streets in a zigzagging, vain effort to bypass the congestion.

We shudder to think of what the situation would be like without Mr. Hoose's innovations and improvements. But the point is that much more remains to be done if Charlotte is ever to ease its traffic woes to any real degree.

One thing is practically certain: The growth of the young city of Piedmont will continue. But the rate and the health of that growth will depend to a large extent on how easily passenger and commercial vehicles can get around.

Farsighted plans are needed to provide for the Queen City's needs. Mr. Hoose has many of these plans in various stages of development on his drawing boards today. He deserves every ounce of cooperation Charlotte can give to transfer them from paper to steel and concrete. There is no time to lose.

News Major Factor In Shrine Game Success

EDITORS: THE NEWS: I WOULD like to express my appreciation for the splendid promotion of The News in the promotion of the 1954 Shrine Bowl Game. We are aware that the support of the papers has been a major factor in the success of the Shrine Bowl games.

Bob Quincy and his sports staff did a magnificent job in our behalf. The story by Ronald Green telling how the players are selected, has been said to be, by some of the Shrine Bowl officials, one of the finest bits of publicity we have ever had in our 18 years of existence.

—AL S. JONES
 Director of Publicity Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas, Inc.

'Grateful Appreciation' From Salvation Army

EDITORS: THE NEWS: AS LEADER of the Salvation Army in Charlotte, I want to publicly express the grateful appreciation of the Salvation Army and my own personal thanks to the thousands of people who believe in our organization and make it possible, by their generosity, for us to carry on a great program of Christmas cheer.

We want to thank, particularly, the fine newspapers, the radio and TV people; the many churches; the Marine Reserve; and especially thanks to the members of the Kettle House. To all of these, we are deeply grateful, and may we endeavor our best efforts to merit the continued good will and support of the fine people of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. May the New Year bring happiness and peace to all mankind.

—MAJ. W. H. ARNOLD

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IT WON'T be announced for some time whether he is denied, but the resignation of Charles E. Wilson as secretary of defense is already at the White House and for the Queen City's needs. Mr. Hoose has many of these plans in various stages of development on his drawing boards today. He deserves every ounce of cooperation Charlotte can give to transfer them from paper to steel and concrete. There is no time to lose.

Washington fall. That remark was credited by many with causing the defeat of Republican Sen. Homer Ferguson.

Wilson was also responsible for the policy of concentrating defense production with a few big companies, a policy in which he, as a General Motors production wizard, thoroughly believed, but which led to more contracts for GM, and eventually to the policy's reversal.

Texas Rancher

Bob Anderson, who will become the new secretary of defense, is a lifelong Texas Democrat, who bolted the party to work for Eisenhower in 1952. Manager of the second biggest ranch in the United States, the Waggoner estate at Vernon, Tex., with an acreage of 500,000, Texas and 200,000 in New Mexico, Anderson got to know Eisenhower through oil-tween Seth Richardson.

People's Platform

EXTRA PROBLEMS

What the psychiatrists did was to read their own personal emotion into their diagnosis of their patients' problems. They gave the patients extra problems to pile atop their old problems. They looked down in beliefs which already had enough bats. They started people to think about thinking. Anderson showed that he intended to run it. Unlike so many civilian secretaries, he did not allow the admirals to run him. He gave them a pointed rebuff when he promoted them as secretary. Hyman Rickover, the atomic specialist, to be an admiral after the admirals had twice turned him down. And also reprimanded a group of top officers for a strip-tease party at Key West, Fla., after a junior officer had been made the scapegoat.

When Roger Gyles, another General Motors man, got tired of Washington and resigned as deputy secretary of defense,

Wilson's Resignation On Ike's Desk

The appointment of a relatively unknown cattle rancher as secretary of the Navy was considered a tribute to Eisenhower's friendship with Texas and the tremendous amount of Texas money poured into his campaign.

Immediately after taking over the Navy, however, Anderson showed that he intended to run it. Unlike so many civilian secretaries, he did not allow the admirals to run him. He gave them a pointed rebuff when he promoted them as secretary. Hyman Rickover, the atomic specialist, to be an admiral after the admirals had twice turned him down. And also reprimanded a group of top officers for a strip-tease party at Key West, Fla., after a junior officer had been made the scapegoat.

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Hindsight

IN reading history, one is often moved to shout advice back down the vistas of time. A man feels, for example, that if he had been living during the witchcraft persecutions he would have spoken out against them, that participation in the serial calamity of humanity would never have been. But a moment's reflection is enough to show that this is a hallucination of hindsight.

Bible says that there are witches and that they are to be put to death, and the skeptic would simply have been hustled out to the pyre himself, one more wretch so far as the public knew.

No and alas! What evidence there is suggests that our fathers were much like us, credulous and increasing in error with time, enamored of their own ignorance, learning the simplest things only through repeated disasters and reserving their admiration chiefly for themselves—Bergen Evans in "The Spoil of Spooks and Other Nonsense."

Quote, Unquote

Americans, who once fought against taxation without representation, are now willing to accept compensation without pension. —Laurel (Miss) Leader-Carl.

Anderson was transferred from the Navy Department to take his place.

As secretary of defense, Anderson will not be in the headlines but he will run the Pentagon.

Hard-Luck Senator

John Sherman Cooper, the Kentucky Republican who has twice attained the Senate of the United States for short terms and twice been defeated, is being urged by White House advisers to start maneuvering to run again. And it looks as if he would succumb to the advisers.

Note—Though leaving the national headlines for Texas and the Senate, the Democratic whip of the Senate, is in large part responsible for the smooth-working organization there. Democratic members of the Steering Committee wish sometimes that he would occasionally call a meeting.