

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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First Leg On Better Bus Service

CITY Coach Lines officials strode into Charlotte's City Council chamber yesterday with the brisk confidence of men on solid, well-secured ground. Twenty minutes later they filed out smiling. Councilmen had approved on first reading the transfer to CCL of Duke Power Company's franchise to operate a bus transportation system in and around the fast-growing Queen City.

The business had been conducted in snappy fashion. Representatives of CCL and Duke spoke briefly. Councilman Basil Boyd inserted a line or two in the agreement nailing down the line's responsibility to render satisfactory service. A voice vote was taken and it was unanimous.

Action, however, was not as hasty as it might have seemed. Councilmen had had weeks to study the transfer and the fitness of CCL to serve Charlotte's transportation needs. They found nothing to convince them that the transfer would be unwise.

We believe that the decision was a sound one. Manfred Burleigh, president and general manager of CCL, is an experienced operator of bus lines in several U. S. cities. His firm is highly regarded. Its financial condition appears to be satisfactory. It is an organization of transportation specialists—while Duke views the bus business as an unwanted sideline.

There is every reason to believe that CCL will give Charlotte an efficient, convenient urban transportation system. Yesterday's action does not end the matter, however. The City Council will have the question before it for a second and final reading Dec. 15. Approval of the North Carolina Utilities Commission is also required.

But, barring some unusual development, clear sailing is ahead for CCL. This should be welcome news to the Queen City's thousands of bus riders. Improved public transportation service for Charlotte is in sight at last.

Home Rule: What Exactly Is It?

FASHIONING a legislative program to be sought in the 1955 General Assembly, city councilmen balked momentarily at Mayor Phil Van Every's suggestion that they request acts permitting greater home rule in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. One official grumbled that the term "home rule" had no clear meaning. Another called it "an abstract phrase that the League of Women Voters picked up in the Midwest somewhere." Still another observed that the county has greater resources (particularly the power to fix salaries of certain county officials) than the city so there is no reason for the council to be too concerned.

The proposal was held in abeyance for further discussion next week. Home rule is not simply a political catchword. It has a rather definite meaning and we might send councilmen to A DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN POLITICS by Edward Conrad Smith and Arnold John Zurcher for a textbook definition:

Home Rule—The practice sanctioned by custom or law of allowing local units

of government, particularly cities, to determine within the limits of general law their framework of government and to conduct local affairs with a minimum of legislative or administrative interference by higher state authorities.

Less than an hour before the home rule matter came up, councilmen agreed informally that they would ask state legislators for a law giving specific authority to Charlotte for the disposal of stolen bicycles remaining in the hands of the Police Dept. where owners cannot be found or identified.

It seems ridiculous to us that the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh should be called upon to deliberate and act upon such a minor local matter. What a waste of legislators' time and tax money. Yet in the past 30 years or so, nearly 70 per cent of all laws passed by the legislature have been of this type—purely local, private or special acts.

The council would be rendering a service to the community and the state by urging Mecklenburg's county delegation to press for greater home rule in North Carolina in 1955.

Slip A Muzzle On Hall And Butler

BIPARTISAN foreign policy is no idealistic dream. Neither is cooperation between Republicans and Democrats on some domestic issues—these things have been accomplished in the past. With President Eisenhower and Democratic committee chairmen in agreement on many fundamentals, there is no reason why they cannot be accomplished during the next two years—at least up until the eve of the 1956 election.

But listen to these remarks by the chairmen of the two parties. Said Democratic Chairman Paul M. Butler in New Orleans:

We intend to call to the attention of the American people President Eisenhower's lack of capacity to govern, to unite the people. The responsibility is with the President to see that the nation is united and there is ever-increasing

evidence of his lack of capacity to do it. Retorted Republican Chairman Leonard Hall:

The pledge of Democratic leaders to cooperate with the President in the best interests of the nation has been thrown into the ashcan. . . . There can be no misunderstanding of the fact that Democratic leaders, now that the 1954 election is over, are determined to undercut President Eisenhower in every possible way.

Those statements would sound harsh even during a nasty campaign. Coming at this time, when the nation wounds should be cared for and the sober business of government attended to, they are damaging and dangerous.

It appears that all this talk about unity and bipartisanship won't party muzzles its chairman.

Some Observations On Independence

THIS SEEMS to be the season for independent Communists and capitalists are competing for the title of independent Marshal Tito. Republicans and Democrats are sweet to Independent Sen. Wayne Morse who left the Republicans. Democratic leaders are thinking about giving a New South convention to Independent Sen. William Lanham, nominally a Republican, in the hope that he will follow Morse. Both parties are buttering up Independent Senator-elect Strom Thurmond, Republicans hoping against hope that he will vote for them on Senate organization, the Democrats fearful that he might.

Of course there's always the other side of a coin. We're thinking particularly of the merger talks going on among AFL and CIO leaders, with the aging old champ, independent John L. Lewis, out in the cold—except for what support he can get from the oil heaters that are replacing those using "his" coal.

We're just, mind you, making observations. No conclusions regarding the success of independence will be in order until North Carolinians see how independent Gov. Luther Hodges gets along with a power-conscious General Assembly.

From The Christian Science Monitor

OF PONDS AND PEBBLES

HERE is a story with a moral, the first chapter of which we can only deduce:

A couple of weeks ago a mother—a father?—was dining in a great New York hotel where a state teachers' convention was in progress. She, or he, noticed two teachers sitting at a nearby table and felt somehow impelled to drop a pebble of gratitude into a great pond of need.

The second chapter is reported news: The two teachers finished their lunch and asked the waiter for their checks. No charge, he told them, and when pressed he handed them a note. Don't take any money from these teachers, said the note. I have two boys in school; I owe so much to the teachers. And, added the waiter, no tip please. That's my little token of the same.

That was the pebble. And the ripples? The story was spread from the convention platform. Also, no doubt, to the delegates' assembled to thousands of teachers back home, and perhaps, by some newspapers, to thousands more.

It would be our guess that many a teacher hearing of it, bending a bit

under today's added burdens laid on by ever zealous critics, looked up, as did Elisha's servant and glimpsed, if but for a moment, the hosts of people like the most of us around her.

And the moral? A very old one put in modern terms: New set your pebble short if it's a good one. The pond you drop it in may be bigger than you think.

Wouldn't it be great if somebody would figure out a contraption that would store some of that unbearable heat like we had all summer and convert it to fuel in the winter time. Right now we could use a little of it if the price was right and the down payment low enough.—OREZZA (GA.) NEWS.

Experts have estimated that the United States could increase its agricultural output per acre in a decade by 20 per cent. Food at present requires for 300 million people. But with such an increase in agriculture output what in the world would the government do for storage space?—DARYL OKLAHOMAN.



"Now here's a mystery about a couple murdered because they always browse in 2nd hand bookstores but never buy any books . . ."

'This Basket Of Eels'

Fresh Turmoil In Indochina

By JOSEPH ALSOP

HERE in southern Indochina

there are a few months at most to glue something together before the old wounds begin to fester.

The attempt is being made, with a certain variable desperation, by a model Franco-American partnership. The partners are Gen. Lawton Collins, U.S. Army, and Gen. Dien, Vietnamese. The latter is a French commander, Gen. Ely, and his old friend, President Eisenhower's special envoy, Gen. West. The two men could not work together more closely, and that is just as well, for the two are not only enemies but are just about 10 to 1.

Two little incidents will help to convey the difficulties of their task. The first concerns a very high French official who was giving a very grand official dinner. The desert was a rich cake. There was a good deal of eye-browsing when the cake appeared with its top beautifully decorated in the hither, open, personal quarters of the Communists here have inscribed on the head of the present Vietnamese government, President Ngo Dinh Diem.

Mister Nhu, as the President's brother-in-law is called by the peculiar Vietnamese name-system, is a slender, immensely polite man who looks as if he came, as the brothers of heads of government are seldom found in little houses in back alleys. But Mr. Nhu is not really very humble. The subject of our conversation was the most urgent problem here, the problem of the army. Since the Geneva accords were signed until a few days ago, this country has been in tawny and brought close to anarchy by the bitter, open, personal quarrel between President Diem and the chief of Gen. Hinh.

President Diem was virtually besieged in his palace. He only survived because he was given a strong, efficient, forward-looking government and administration. He has used his influence to prevent the Communist advance into the key position in south Asia.

way for enormous Communist gains. Largely by the efforts of Generals Ely and Collins, however, Gen. Hinh has now been got out of Saigon and removed from the army command. Thus the opportunity now exists to bind the old wounds and begin to earn the gigantic task of restoring order and halting Communist penetration.

The strong colonialism had to be created, out of nothing to be sure. There was no great hurry because "the people of Viet Nam are for us."

Such were the themes of Mr. Nhu. The policy he described was to give the Communists unchallenged control of south Viet Nam within a few months. But Mr. Nhu continued to insist, with elegant blandness, that his brother-in-law really had a duty to cut off his nose to spite his face.

Being an ardent nationalist under the strong colonial regime does not conduce, unfortunately, to political realism. And besides having to struggle with those who will see the plain facts before their eyes, Generals Ely and Collins must also struggle with a quite remarkable collection of special interests, several of them with private armed forces.

'UNITY, UNITY' were the religious sects Cao Dai and Hoa Hao each have armies of 20,000 men or so and exercise direct control over their own territory. The so-called Binh Xuyen have an army of 5,000, own the fantastic gambling and other rackets of Saigon and also control the police. All these and other special interests talk "unity, unity" at the tops of their voices, but also insist loudly that they will fight if their preserves are encroached upon.

The other day, the basket of eels, then, a strong, efficient, forward-looking government and administration must be formed to prevent the Communist advance into the key position in south Asia.

Dulles managed to sew up his plan for a huge new Marshall Plan for Asia—which Humphrey had opposed. And Dwight D. Eisenhower also was in Rio, and Assistant Attorney General Stanley Barnes was in California. Secretary Weeks tried to pull some fast buttons to the Justice Department. What he tried to do was change the Sherman Antitrust Act to apply to labor unions. This is something the Supreme Court has ruled against, but which Weeks has repeatedly worked for. Time after time he has used his influence to get the antitrust laws revised so as to include labor unions. His Cabinet colleagues, Secretary of Labor Mitchell and Under Secretary of Commerce, have opposed. So has Attorney General Brownell.

However, Weeks has tried to pressure especially appointed committee studying the antitrust laws to write an antitrust provision into a new bill. Professor F. Chafford, the secretary of commerce, has his opportunity. Brownell's absence in Rio and Barnes' absence in California left mid-manned Professor F. Chafford, the secretary of commerce, as the only member of the antitrust study group, alone to face the powerful secretary of commerce. Weeks practically moved his office into the Justice Department that week. He then proceeded to stare the meek and unsuspecting professor with both blandishments and pressure. In addition to bombarding Oppenheim with all the old arguments rejected by

Prisons Fail To Rehabilitate The Men Society Locks Up

By JOHN BARTLOW MARTIN
In 'Break Down The Walls'

WE MUST give up the idea that prisons can rehabilitate anybody. We cannot rehabilitate a man until we know what made him a criminal.

To find out, we must establish a private endowed institution for research into the roots of criminality. When we know how to rehabilitate men, we will not put them in prison to do it. We can abolish prison. That must be our aim. Meanwhile, to make sure we do not continue to make men worse in prison, to quit placing obstacles in the way of inmates who will rehabilitate themselves, we must undertake at once a program of prison improvement, some of it legislative, some of it administrative.

ACTION SOUGHT

And it would be a good thing if this program were helped along by the legislature and watched in its administration by some such civic group as the League to Women Voters, among the measures requiring legislative action are:

1. Money for more and better parole and probation supervisors.
2. Money to build numerous prison farms and camps, to build a few medium-security institutions and to build facilities for criminally insane but not money for another maximum-security institution.
3. Money to raze such gigantic maximum-security institutions as Jackson Prison (a Michigan institution) and replace them with several smaller institutions; or, if this is impossible, money to remodel them and break them up into little pieces.
4. Some (but not much) more money for classification staffs.
5. Some (but not much) more money for part-time psychiatric guards for parole and classification boards.
6. Money to raise guards' pay.
7. Civil Service for prison guards and for parole and probation officers.
8. Some (but not much) more money for improved educational and vocational programs in prison.
9. Laws requiring all tax-support institutions to buy their supplies from prison industries.
10. Revision of the inequitable laws of parole and probation.
11. Revision of the inequitable laws of parole and probation.
12. Abolition of the death penalty.
13. Laws establishing a board of medical experts to advise courts on defendants' sanity.
14. A new legal right of sanity.
15. The following things could be done administratively—without legislation—but many of them would require the support of public opinion.

He opinion and so would need the public before their release.

1. Let half the inmates out of prison (some to prison farms and camps, some on parole, including parole for military ex-convicts).
2. Integrate parole with community agencies.
3. Prepare prison inmates for parole before their release.
4. Educate inmates, wardens, guards and the public on parole.
5. Relax the Army regulation that virtually excludes ex-convicts from service.
6. Keep politics out of prisons, particularly of election boards and parole boards.
7. Establish high hiring standards for parole and probation guards (modeled on state police standards).
8. Indict brutal guards and parole officers.
9. Improve educational, recreational and vocational programs to a level of those of the federal system.
10. Enforce internal security measures at maximum-security institutions (such as those of Stateville, an Illinois prison).
11. Permit furloughs or conditional release for inmates.
12. IT CAN BE DONE.

Everybody knows the prison has failed. Even an old-time custody-minded warden has said of his prison, "There never should be another one of these things pressed on the residents of the state. Nobody wants to go to prison. Everybody wants to improve matters, and it can be done. A great deal can be done immediately, with the tools at hand."

The great difficulty, of course, is public indifference. People don't want to appropriate money for prisons. As one man thinks, "Well, the police caught him, the court sentenced him to prison, and now we can forget him."

The warden of the Illinois State Penitentiary, who has been in charge for 19 years, says he will, "I've seen 95 chances out of 100, so he will be back, free."

The truth is "Nothing more can be done. The public expect of its prisons." The truth is "Nothing more can be done. The public expect of its prisons." The truth is "Nothing more can be done. The public expect of its prisons."

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People's Platform

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

Don't Deprive Kids Of Needed Vacation

Charlotte
RE: Arthur Goodman's advocacy of an 11-month school year. The solution to teachers' pay, the solution to teachers' pay, however, in my opinion, it would be a grave injustice to the children and their parents.

If he wants our teachers to receive pay for 11 months, then let's pay it, but don't deprive our children of the needed three months vacation. Apparently Mr. Goodman has forgotten his childhood days for children do have problems as grave comparatively to them as we have in adult life.

As to suggestion of double shifts in all schools—this would require more teachers now already hard to find.

Mr. Goodman remarked about "vacations." He should check further as to how many vacations for lengthy periods in Europe, Bermuda, Florida, etc.

Mr. Goodman: "And poor people's children go to Juvenile Court." Our Court records indicate that rich people's children are sent to juvenile court.

Not all poor people's children end in Juvenile Court—some attend at Army Camps, YMCA, YMCA, etc.

Now, Mr. Goodman, if this was not a political bluff, and you are advocating more money for teachers, give it to us straight; not concealed like this.

—L. P. LEWIS
Charlotte
Editors: The News: 'Day To End All Days' Is Needed
SINCE the advent of a Safe Driving Day is sheer nonsense. So I drive safely on Dec. 15. How about Dec. 16 and 17 and how about Dec. 18 and 19 and into my old ways?

These special "ridiculous" and "silly" vacations. He should be getting to get a little ridiculous. What we need is a Day To End All Days. Perhaps we will have to wait until Judgment Day.

—JEFF MARTIN