



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Some Questions For The Park Board

IN CALLING for a thorough study of all factors before launching any move to rebuild the Armory-Auditorium, the Park & Recreation Commission took the logical course.

The basic premise voiced by several members of the commission—that some kind of armory will have to be constructed—is entirely valid. The four National Guard units that have been quartered in the Armory basement will need quarters.

There are, however, at least three big questions that will have to be answered:

1. Is it the responsibility of the city, or the county, or both, to provide an armory for the National Guard? Or is this partly or wholly the responsibility of the state and federal governments?
2. What kind of a building will be needed, assuming that the local governments have some responsibility in the matter?
3. Where should it be situated?

The first question is largely one of law, and it should not be too difficult to find the answer. Answering the second and third questions will require a combination of intelligent planning and plain common sense.

It would seem obvious on the face of it that the structure should be small in comparison with the new auditorium and coliseum now under construction, and that it should be of simple design to keep down the cost.

We have some reservations, however, about rebuilding an armory on the present site. Cecil Street is not wide enough to handle the traffic around a public armory, and parking space is inadequate. Moreover, if the new armory were placed elsewhere, it would be possible to extend the stadium and make it a complete oval, with a field house built under the new segment.

If the Park & Recreation Commission decides it would be better to have the new armory in the general vicinity, it may be possible to use a part of Independence Park across Independence Blvd. from the stadium. Another ideal site would be the land between Central and Commonwealth Aves. originally reserved for a veterans hospital. Still another possibility is the tract of land across Independence Blvd. from the stadium, originally planned as a site for a junior high school and more recently suggested by Councilman Herman Brown as a place for a public park. This site would offer the best opportunity for including a large amount of land in the coliseum and auditorium, and adequate parking space.

In answering these questions, the Park & Recreation Commission members will surely remember that the city's recreation program is already hard-pressed for funds, and that Charlotte taxpayers are not presently in a mood to authorize large new capital expenditures until the total city-county indebtedness is trimmed substantially.

Politics And The Judiciary

By APPOINTING Winston-Salem attorney Carlisle Higgins to the N. C. Supreme Court, Gov. William Umstead left himself open to the charge of playing politics with the judiciary—a charge that will not be completely shunted aside just because Mr. Higgins has a good record as a lawyer.

The two appointments that Gov. Umstead was able to arrange in filling the Senate vacancy caused by the death of Sen. Clyde R. Hoey add something to the picture of a political appointment. By elevating Justice Ervin, a Supreme Court vacancy was created. To this Attorney Higgins was named, thus rewarding him for having managed Gov. Umstead's campaign in 1952.

And since Higgins was national committee man of the Democratic Party, his appointment to the bench will create still another plum to be handed out by the state executive committee, in all probability on the recommendation of Gov. Umstead.

Patronage is an essential part of the

two-party political system. It is the adhesive that holds together a political machine by rewarding those who have been faithful and effective.

There is nothing on the statutes requiring that members of the Supreme Court have prior experience on the bench. Governors and U. S. Presidents alike have frequently made political appointments to already hard-pressed courts and the nation respectively.

The fact that such appointments are made, however, does not mean that they are right and good. If qualified jurists with proven qualities of judicial temperament and ability are available, as they were available in North Carolina, they ought to get first consideration for Supreme Court vacancies.

If there are future vacancies in the Supreme Court during Gov. Umstead's term, we hope he will return to the precedent of naming qualified lower court judges, as he did when he elevated Charlotte's Judge William H. Bobbitt to the high court.

It's So Peaceful (Ha) In The Country

CHARLIE, the big, friendly collie down the way, and Tinker, his mongrel friend from across the street, were rolling around the big willow oak at the bottom of the lot. They fell to talking, as dogs will do, and we decided to listen in.

"You know," said Charlie, "we're going to have to find a better spot to lie on. It's pretty damp here in the shade of the willow oak since this fellow is having some trouble."

"I've noticed that too," said Tink. "And I thought about going up by the pump house, but a dog can't get any rest up there, with that fellow trying to rime his pump and cussing away at the sweat runs into his eyes."

"He could have used some of today's heat last winter," recalled Charlie. "Remember when it got down to 18 degrees, and several of the pumps on the road froze? I saw him pay the pump man \$15 for a repair job that time. And then the darn thing froze up again, just a few days after the new baby came."

"Well, but at least he usually has good water," said Tink. "Over on my side of the street those folks finally have water—but I ought to see it running out of the faucet, so thick with mud you can almost cut it. Not fittin' for a dog to drink."

"It's better than drinking out of that branch in back here," replied the collie. "I'd take a drink out of it on a wash day my name might be 'Typhoid Charlie.'"

"What I can't understand," said Tink, "is this. That proposed city limits extension would take in this neighborhood. I'd take a drink out of it on a wash day before city sewer and water would come in, and there wouldn't be any need for all this pump priming and pulling and the repair bills and adding more dirt above the sewer lines and digging new pits for the wash machine water. Quite a few fellows are opposed to this extension, but don't you think it would be cheaper for them in the long run?"

"Dog-boner if I don't think you're right," said Charlie. "Phew—let's move along, the wind direction has changed."

From The Richmond News Leader

WOMEN, COFFEE AND COMMUNISTS

WHAT women need with the vote has escaped a lot of philosophers, who have always and quite properly stood in awe of what women can accomplish without it.

The thought comes uneasily to mind in reviewing recent events in Guatemala which have set the United States Government and the entire Organization of American States by the ears.

While the powerful — and still largely masculine — governments of 20 nations have dithered helplessly over what to do about communism in this misguided little Central American republic, the women of the United States — or so we read in the papers — have gone quietly to work getting the matter straight.

They have been deluging the distributors of popular brands of coffee, it says here, with inquiries about how much Guatemalan coffee is used in their blends and warning them sternly that no Communist or fellow-traveling coffee at all will be tolerated at the American breakfast table. And wobbling visibly at the knees, the coffee buyers have been countermanding their orders for Guatemalan coffee right and left. As this commodity makes up about 80 per cent of Guatemala's exports, and the United States normally buys almost all of it, this

should settle the question of economic sanctions without the need of convening a conference and persuading a lot of skeptical Latin Americans that sanctions ought to be applied.

Of course, it is regrettable that most of the coffee growers in Guatemala are violently anti-Communist, and the news seems to be that if they are the chief sufferers from the unofficial boycott, it serves them right for tolerating a government that traffics with communism.

There is something to be said for this feminine logic. There usually is — and a great deal more for the decisive women with which it is applied. Men always make a great fuss about having the proper tool for a job, but when it is left to the women, they will a times out of 10 go ahead and do it just as well with a bobby pin.

An expert says children don't get the proper amount of exercise. He should visit our home some rainy afternoon. — GREENSBORO (GA.) JOURNAL-HERALD.

Some view the problem of the auto makers as overproduction, and others say it is underconsumption. Still others see it as a lack of demand for storage. — NEW ORLEANS STATES.

Armistice Or Intervention Likely Within Two Weeks

By MARQUIS CHILDS

EDITORS' NOTE: In the following column Marquis Childs reveals how close to actual war the U. S. is, on the side of France, in the Indochina conflict. He maintains that the next 10 days or two weeks will produce the turning point.

WASHINGTON THE days just ahead will test the issue of war or peace more gravely than at any time since the end of World War II nearly nine years ago.

Within 10 days or two weeks it will be clear whether an armistice in Indochina acceptable to the Laniel government in Paris, can be reached. The opinion is growing here that if a reasonable armistice cannot be agreed upon, either in Geneva or in Paris, then the United States will intervene in the war even if this means intervention without the British and other allies.

High French officials are saying more or less openly that American policy-makers have promised American action if the Communist forces in Indochina press on for the full measure of victory. The French are saying, in effect, this:

Either the Communists agree to end the war or the United States moves in with air and sea power. Nothing else is now possible and we shall know in 10 days or more how it is to go.

Whether the American commitment to France is as final as this cannot be determined from American sources. Even if it were not as final, there would be no inclination at this point to disavow it, since the bargaining power of the United States would be gravely weakened.

Informed observers are now inclined to believe that talk of intervention is not a bluff put out to bolster the position of the West at Geneva. They take as a fairly accurate statement of American policy intentions the remarks of Sen. Knowland, Republican majority leader, that the United States must act with military force if it develops that within the next 20 days there is no armistice in Indochina and the Communists push forward to take Hanoi and the rich Red River delta.

Troop officials who have passed the word to American policy-makers French estimate that the Viet Minh will soon have available in the delta around Hanoi eight full divisions. Even with the recent

French reinforcements from elsewhere in Indochina, this Red force is considerably in excess of that at the disposal of the new French commander-in-chief, Gen. Paul Ely.

Whether these eight divisions will be unleashed against French strongpoints protecting Hanoi and the vital Hanoi-Haiphong communications line is the element of uncertainty.

EMBARRASSING LIKE For President Eisenhower the situation is distinctly embarrassing. In his campaign two years ago he repeatedly promised to try to end the war in Korea. To students at the University of Illinois, for example, in the heat of the contest he said from the end of his campaign that Asians should fight Asians and that Illinois farm boys should stay on the farm.

But not long before the fall of Dien Bien Phu the President at a press conference said that the fall of Indochina would be a disaster to the free world. It is between these two extremes that the President must try to steer a course that will not seem too openly to repudiate what is already in the record.

Certainly, in the beginning intervention would be announced on the basis of air and sea power. The impression gained by the British military chiefs from Gen. Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was that Radford believed the tide could be turned without the use of ground forces.

This was one of the sharpest cleavages between the British and the American view. Because of their skepticism on this score, the British took a dim view of Radford's claim that in from six to nine months Gen. James Van Fleet, who successfully trained Korean divisions and fighting army of Viet Namese.

President Eisenhower would be extremely reluctant to go to Congress with a request for authorization to intervene in the long and bitter jungle war. He has several times shown more caution than either Radford or Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

At last week's press conference he was asked about statements made by two senators to the effect that he would shortly address with a resolution empowering him to act. He replied that nothing like a firm decision in that respect had been taken.

But the previous acts and deeds of the chief members of the Eisenhower military-diplomatic team, plus developing circumstances in the Indochinese struggle, may leave him with no alternative.

A rising tide of sympathy for the plight of those civilians would endanger the convictions of the American military chiefs, and conspicuously Radford, that intervention is imperative to American security.

So in the days and weeks ahead the United States will be on the edge of the abyss.

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.

Can't Blame Yankee Or Negroes For This

Charlotte

EDITORS, THE NEWS: I HAVE read with much interest the many different reactions to the recent Supreme Court ruling on segregation. It is indeed amusing to see how many people try to justify the ruling to their beliefs in segregation of God's handiwork.

Now, let's set the record straight. If God intended as so many say, that mankind be of the colors He set, who was it that was not satisfied and went about changing God's color pattern all over the world? Certainly not the Negro.

There are to believe the history of the South, the blame can't even be placed on "Them Damn Yankees."

—FRED D. ALEXANDER

Too Much Pride In Americans' Hearts

Charlotte

EDITORS, THE NEWS: AS I read the letter in "The Charlotte News" headed, "Why Do Christians Walk Like Ugly Lemons?" there came to my mind many thoughts, and wonders.

I wondered why we're almost in a race with the world, to God really forsaking America, because its leadership in being a Christian nation is falling? Are we now war because our nation is asleep? Will not pride, and pleasure ruin the people's minds with pride?

The best thing I know of that the men who live in this office of this country could do would be to let the people of this land live in ease for a while and stop trying to be another Hitler.

—LELAND HOWARD SCOTT

His Kids Won't Ever Mix With Non-Whites

Nashville, N. C.

EDITORS, THE NEWS: THE South is so darn bad that the Negro who are all of them down here? Why is the northern part of our country trying to run the South? Are they trying to start a race war among southern white and Negro people? Do the Negroes think maybe this decision by the U. S. Supreme Court will help to keep most of the Negro people from wanting to go north?

Let me say this, I have been all over the North and also in the West as far as California and I have seen how the Negro is herded around like an animal, and I must say a very very bad thing.

One place in New York City I was having lunch when an old Negro man came in and sat down at the counter just a very short step from me. He looked like he might have been walking a long way without food or on the bum as they say in New York. Well, anyway, I heard what took place.

The price quoted to the old man for a cup of coffee was \$1 and also \$1 for coffee cake which I thought was a little high for the South at any place for five cents to the Negro or white. But the Yankee has a sly way of getting the half-bred whites would stop going in the place if he didn't have some people know in the northern states you will find more than 25 per cent foreign Negro, less than 20 per cent Negro and the other 55 per cent half-bred and Yankees. I say the Negro knows what part of this country is the best place for them to live in. I think like most of the southern whites do about this decision of the U. S. Supreme Court on segregation among its southerners.

I am sure of one thing and that is when my wife and I were married I thought of five or six children and to give them five or all a good home, love, devotion, education and most of all to help them grow up without hatred in their little hearts.

We only have three children as of now and I don't think I would want any more because too many people in this old world are trying

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Intervention



McCarthy's Poison Spreads

By ROBERT C. RUARK

YOU BEEN reading about that cute little Kaffeekeitsch in Des Moines, in town seen to have banded together in an independent spy-catching confab.

Every member of the Christian Association of Public Affairs, according to one of the head honchos, "is a secret investigator."

"We are the old-time vigilantes," the old gal said. "The official ladies have let no load untoned in their valiant efforts to track down communism in Des Moines. They have investigated homes for the aged and the feeble-minded. They have been peering at politicians and police officials and passing them the names of as drunks in barrooms in order to tabulate the incidence of communism in Joe's Bucket."

Another member for Party Members in BUCK. AN OLD CUSTOM. Sure, it is very silly, and harmless enough from a standpoint of

Vigilantes In The Backwaters

achievement, and it's good for a laugh — except for a few sinister undertones. This checkup on thy neighbor isn't new, where they burn a passel of witches in Salem, Mass., on the same technique, and hanged and buried some Negroes in the South, on the same technique, and ruined some reputations since time immemorial — on the same technique.

The poison that the heroic hank, McCarthy, has spread under a guise of patriotism has been creeping for a long time into the backwaters, and before McCarthy it was always some blabbermouth who set the neighbors to conniving Hitler and Goebbels did with Jews, as I recall.

A man I have admired for the 20 years I've known him, John Edgar Hoover, made a real good speech a while ago when he pleaded with the public for gossakes to leave the investigation to the FBI and other organizations that know what they are investigating. The vigilantes and

Miss Myrtle Beach Was A Finalist Too

Myrtle Beach, S. C.

FOUR reporter omitted the name of Miss Myrtle Beach (Miss Myrtle Beach) in the list of the 11 finalists in the first annual Carolina Beauty Contest last Saturday night here at the beach.

Thanks for your attention to this. I hope to continue to enjoy The News each day.

—MRS. W. E. CAMERON

Dew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

HUMAN emotions, human prejudices play a part in any Senate hearing. But more so than in the McCarthy Army investigation. One reason: Most Republicans on the committee were picked because they were pro-McCarthy.

Another reason: The personal backgrounds of the Democratic Senators. This while Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri, a Democrat, may be produced in favor of Secretary of the Army Stevens, a Republican, he is no more prejudiced than Sen. Dirksen and McNamara, who are against Stevens, for reasons that will become obvious if you examine the tangled skein of personalities and backgrounds on the McCarthy committee, as follows:

Sen. Symington — It was natural for Secretary of the Army Stevens to appeal to Symington for advice for two reasons: 1. Symington has had bipartisan inclinations and is married to the daughter of the late congressman Jim Wadsworth, a revered Republican; 2. Symington, a former secretary of the Air Force, understands Stevens' problems as secretary of the Army. Symington's father-in-law, Jim Wadsworth, was defeated as Senator from New York, but modestly got back to a

Symington Appreciates Stevens' Role

WASHINGTON

humdrum job in the House of Representatives, where scores of Republicans had a soft spot for him and his family. Sen. McNamara, a Republican backer, paid for a band to welcome Tom Dewey in St. Louis in 1944; also has many high-GOP friends.

Symington's support for Stevens and Eisenhower is chiefly based on his long experience in the executive branch of the government, where he served as head of war surplus property, as first secretary of the Air Force, as chairman of the National Security Resources Council, and as director of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. He was one of Truman's chief troubleshooters.

Symington got embroiled in the same sort of row that the secretary of the Army is embroiled in today. Certain Navy admirals, sore at the growth of air power, started vicious rumors that Symington had a personal, even a pecuniary, interest in building the giant B-36, designed to carry the bomb to Moscow. Symington took off the gloves, appeared before congressional committees, fired back at Navy accusations. So Sen. McNamara, who served as secretary of the Army, knowing Symington's own experience with congressional investigators, naturally appealed to him.

Sen. McClellan of Arkansas—Was not expected to be anti-McCarthy, but got his eyes opened

So Sen. McClellan, who had served as committee counsel J. B. Matthews, who charged that the Protestant clergy was infiltrated by Communists. McClellan immediately stepped from Baptist Methodist Arkansas and led the Democratic bolt from the McCarthy committee.

There is also a tragic chapter in McClellan's life which he doesn't like to think about, when after the North African landings, he got a letter from his son that he had been quite ill, but the Army doctors didn't think anything was wrong. The boy added that he didn't want his father to do anything, because he felt a Senator's son should not play favorites. Simultaneously, the letter came a telegram from the Army that the boy had died of spinal meningitis.

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Sen. Dirksen and McNamara—Both have been close friends of the Joe McCarthy. Mary Mundt, wife of the Senator, is an intimate of the McCarthy clique and sees Joe or Jean several

times a week. She is one of the McCarthy's closest friends, and Karl has had to study her. He has seen his wife and the anti-McCarthy public, who sometimes bombards him with telegrams. Dirksen of Illinois, one of the ablest men in the Senate, is a close friend with McCarthy, but didn't really get busy pulling Joe's chestnuts out of the fire until he was elected to the Chicago Tribune's Col. McCormick.

Other Senate members — Henry "scop" Dirksen of Wisconsin — was picked for the McCarthy committee because he had training as a district attorney. He is considered one of the up-and-coming men in the Senate, but both he and Symington labor under the handicap of being freshmen. Seniority rates high in the Senate. Porter of Michigan, also a freshman, is possibly more pro-Republican than pro-Eisenhower. Dirksen has been careful not to tangle with him. Dwojshakoff, an honest conservative who puts the Republican Party ahead of Eisenhower. He is consistently loyal to the GOP majority. All four Republicans have more in common than they would their fellow Senator from Wisconsin toward the Eisenhower Administration in their cross-examination.