

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1954

A New Awakening In Mecklenburg

A STRONG new tool is available at last for the job of directing the orderly growth of Mecklenburg County in the 20th century. If fully utilized, it can bolster the health, comfort, well-being and economic security of the entire metropolitan area. This is the newly created city-county joint planning board.

Mayor Phil Van Every, Charlotte City Councilmen and Mecklenburg County commissioners merit commendation for the governmental machinery they fashioned yesterday. For 50 busy minutes, officials refused to allow partisanship and prejudice to obscure the essential task before them—formation of a single agency to develop a comprehensive planning program for the entire metropolitan community.

In rapid succession, they:
1—Discarded the inappropriate "Greater Charlotte" name, which meant that the body should be known as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Board.
2—Tacked on a wise provision allowing Mecklenburg's small incorporated towns to come into the planning program if they wished—with the approval, of course, of the appropriate legislative bodies.
3—Agreed to finance the project this year with funds already appropriated for planning (\$20,000 in the city budget, \$7,500 in the county budget) but share future expenses on a reasonable 60-40

percentage basis—with the city paying the larger share. This arrangement triggered the only serious debate of the session.

Later, Mayor Van Every, who had vigorously opposed several aspects of joint planning, gave the project his personal blessing, adding that he hoped it would "live on to be successful." It was a gracious gesture and obviously a sincere one.

A choice has been made for progress. It has finally and officially been recognized that Charlotte and Mecklenburg make up a single community of interest. It has unity. And, as most officials are now willing to admit, it will function to best advantage when its development is planned and carried out as a well-integrated whole.

Now work must begin in earnest. After selection of a professionally trained and experienced staff, the initial need will be to define the goals in each step to be prepared and adopt plans. A long-range program then must be established for the execution of those plans. But underlying all this is the essential matter of participation of the jobless people and the vigorous support of all stages of building the new Mecklenburg—from conception to realization. Failing this, no plan can survive the long process of legal, financial and administrative actions required for accomplishment.

A Worthwhile Service Gets Under Way

ONE OF OUR favorite James Thurber cartoons showed two ladies talking at a cocktail party. One of them was pointing at a little bespectacled man over in the corner. She said something like this: "Oh, he's so dull—all he knows is facts."

It is sad but true that facts are frequently duller than fiction. It is also true that people usually don't let facts intrude in the way of their emotions. They act according to how they feel instead of what they know. But, thus handicapped though they may be, facts are ever welcome. They are particularly welcome when they concern an emotion-ridden subject like abolition of segregation in the public schools. That is why we are pleased with what we see in the first issue of *Southern Education*, which is the official publication of the Southern Education Reporting Service, an objective, fact-finding agency established by southern newspaper editors and educators with the aim of "providing accurate, unbiased information to school administrators, public officials and interested lay citizens on developments in education arising from the U. S. Supreme Court opinion of May 17, 1954, declaring segregation in the public schools unconsti-

titutional." It is the organization of which C. A. (Pete) McKnight, editor (on leave) of *The News*, is executive director.

This first issue is a detailed documentary of the public school situation in the District of Columbia and in each of the 17 states where segregation has been required by law. Top newsmen in each of the 17 states and the District of Columbia serve as correspondents. This first issue also includes the full text of the Supreme Court decision, an exchange of correspondence explaining the purpose of *SERS*, and a report by Executive Director McKnight in which he charts this future for the publication.

Future monthly issues will not only carry along the chronological story, state by state, but will look closely at key communities, give excerpts from significant public education legislative proposals and court decisions, report editorial and other opinion from responsible sources, digest important articles and other writing on the subject, and analyze statistical information compiled by state departments of education and their agencies.

Thus an ambitious and desirable service gets under way, one which we believe can do much to help southerners solve "the South's problem."

One Plus One Plus One Equals One

A ONE-TIME Polish legislature, which accomplished nothing because the constitution in force required unanimous agreement, has been labeled the least effective government ever by historians. However, another form of government runs a close second. The antics of Napoleon, Stalin and both the Caesars must be chuckling over the ghosts of mortals who persist in forming triumvirates.

Last week the short-lived triumvirate in Guatemala flopped. Two members resigned, leaving Col. Carlos Castillo Armas in full control.

Lasting only slightly longer was the Malenkov-Beria-Molotov triumvirate in the Soviet Union. Beria was bumped off speedily. And it is only a matter of time until one man emerges as undisputed Kremlin kingly, if history offers any guide.

Stalin, you may recall, was part of a triumvirate formed in 1923 as a common front against Trotsky. Stalin ended the other two men, Zinoviev and Kamenev, out of power, and had them bumped off after the purge trials of 1936.

THE FAULKNERIAN SENTENCE

IN A RECENT issue of the *New York Times* "Book Review" section a journalist who had bought William Faulkner's new novel *A FABLE* to read on a fishing trip vacation in the Gulf was "bogged down in one of Faulkner's sentences—this one ran to two full pages—and lost heart."

A two-page sentence is a long one certainly, but too long? Surely not if it is constructed carefully and well. Make one of the failings of our time is the horror any longish sentence inspires in so many impatient readers, raised on business English and Hemingway.

Can they ever read Sir Thomas Browne without irritation? Or tolerate Taylor and Gibbon? Or deQuincey? And what do they do with Ruskin if they open him? He is full of beautifully long sentences, wondrously graceful, magnificently sweeping, that crowd with color and music between capital letter and remote period. One, for example, in his description in *MODERN PAINTERS* of the Falls of Schaffhausen, counts near 300 words. And in *STONES OF VENICE* in a great

passage describing the approach to the city, a sentence of 201 words is followed by a second of 253 and then the paragraph ends with a third that is only 108.

Have we reached the time when it is the essence of good writing to contrive only such statements as "He said, 'No'" and "The day was very hot." Are our eyes and minds so feeble that they are at once fatigued and worried by any sentence that runs to more than a couple of lines of print? Admit that, and we must close some of the greatest of our books forever.

"How can I ever show my appreciation to the woman guided to my attention who had just won a million-dollar case for her. The lawyer looked her up and down. 'Madam,' he said, 'ever since the Phoenicians invented money there has been a woman who answers to that question.'"

—LAMAR (MO.) DEMOCRAT.

A rugged individualist is one who drives into a motel that isn't air conditioned. —MIAMI HERALD.

Care To Look Over Our Line, Friend?



People's Platform

A Student Guidance Program Is Needed

Editors, The News: ANSONVILLE
I COMPLIMENT you on your Aug. 31 editorial, "Negro Teachers: A New Job Problem." However, the situation facing Negro teachers in Mecklenburg County, and the probability once integration is completed in the South, it should be stated that the surplus of Negro teachers (similar to the proportion found in Mecklenburg County) exists throughout the state of North Carolina and the majority of the southern states, regardless of the high rate of employment of Negro teachers. Why the surplus of teachers? You answered the question in your final statement: "More economic opportunities must be found for the Negro. This is today's problem—and challenge."

This is not a new problem but one which has existed for quite some time. It is examined in a new and progressive light we, the South, shall pay for it not only with economic we, but with social, moral and cultural ruins. Since the frontiers are over what effects one generation has on the next, then spreading to national and international concern.

Economic prosperity is a primary concern and the peak of most of our endeavor. However, there are certain things which must be done before we can attain this prosperity. The roots and foundation of this must be found in our children and in our classrooms—accomplished by a sound student guidance program.

This student guidance program is the greatest need in the South, though there have been great improvements in the past 10 years. How does that fit in the problem at hand? Unless a student's ability, drive, and ambition are channeled in the better direction of sound counseling, he or she will idolize someone, who to him or her seemingly has the greatest economic and social prestige and say, "That's for me." Knowing the Negroes plight in the South, why not the teacher?

There the student has 12 years of association and a false sense of appreciation for the teacher. Job opportunities for the Negro will open in the South. Why not place a trained individual in student counseling, testing and guidance in all schools in the South? Maybe someone will say all teachers should be trained to do the job. They are trained to a certain extent, but there is little

Time For Town Women To Assert Themselves

Editors, The News: MARCHAND CITY BEACH
A town woman whose family has lived on the farm for generations, I speak my mind. The time has come for town women to assert themselves. We pay what the merchant asks. If our husband happens to be a merchant, he pays what the farmer, middleman or manufacturer asks. No one comes on state-paid salaries to help us run our store, to arrange our factories, or to buy our tires. Neither do the farm people. We hear farm, farm extension, subsidies all the time. These congressmen who make such a fuss about "our people" only want to stay in Congress. We hear who counts people doing all the time. Papers just filled with it. We are tired of seeing it in the papers and tired about hearing it over the radio.

Radio start off with what state college specialists say, specialists who have had four years of college like our sons and daughters. We hear hubbly times for country people who are above listening to it. Every-

one is just tired of seeing and hearing farm, farm extension, farm extension, home demonstration, home demonstration.

We have mills we have factories, we have electrical plants, read on down the directory. How many papers give a full page to any one of these enterprises?

We pay taxes to subsidize foods and then pay higher prices for these goods. We pay high taxes for a big staff of men and women at the University of North Carolina who use these offices for pure propaganda. Pick up any paper and see how much space goes to these schools and then look into the amount of trash cans filled with it for it is not filled.

Editors and directors of radio—we country-reared folks are filled up on farm news—let's have something else. We are filled up on cheap music. We are just as well off educated than the specialists and farm leaders who keep on the front page "helping" us country rubes.

We can get more help from one visit to any interior dealer shop or any big store in Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Durham, Fayetteville, Wilmington, High Point, Richmond, Spartanburg, Charleston and other towns than a home agent will give us in years. Wake up!

—MRS. J. C. WILLIS

God Has Made No Inferior Races

Editors, The News: MONROE
IT IS alarming to see how many so-called Christians do not understand the basic principles of Christianity, love, and humility. Adolf Hitler served as an everlasting example in his crusade based on race superiority, and his speedy end as a result. Proud of his German heritage, God has made no inferior races. All that He made He pronounced good. There are uneducated people in all races, but none inferior. Those who feel superior because of their race, but lack the color of their skin should beware and remember that this everlasting example in his crusade to the Bible he recognizes only two classes of people—the good and the evil. One person is better than another only when he lives a more righteous life than another. Nothing else in God's sight makes him better.

—L. C. HOPE

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Washington Pipeline
Gen. Hodge is urging the joint chiefs of staff to abandon France entirely and concentrate on Germany and Spain in building European defense forces. The Secretary of the Navy recently promoted this time, except one, were from the class of 1927.

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Burke Has Advantages But The Bets Are On Bender

By STEWART ALSOP

CLEVELAND
THIS state will provide the acid test of whether a real trend toward Democratic success has actually set in. For it there is really such a trend, Ohio will elect a Democrat to the Senate for the first time in 20 years.

Sen. Thomas A. Burke, the Democratic candidate here, starts with a whole series of important advantages. Burke is a former mayor of Cleveland. He was appointed to the Senate by Gov. Frank J. Lausche in the late Sen. Robert A. Taft. He is a likable man who wears a map of Ireland face, a quiet wit, and a reserved, almost chilly manner, in sharp contrast to the flamboyance of his opponent, Rep. George H. Bender.

Burke is described as the most popular mayor Cleveland ever had, and this is one of his most important assets. Cleveland's Cuyahoga County is the key to Ohio elections, in the same sense that New York City is the key to New York State elections. To win, Burke needs a majority of at least 100,000 in Cuyahoga County, out of 500,000 on this point, both Burke and Bender solidly agree.

Bender has been the Republican choice of Cuyahoga County for many years, and he thus speaks with some authority when he says that he does not have the show of a chance of taking the needed majority. Burke is much less positive than Bender, as is his nature. But he thinks he can do it. Past voting statistics suggest that Burke can't do it, nobody can. Cleveland is the key industrial city, but Burke also needs, of course, heavy majorities in all Ohio's industrial areas, since rural Ohio is solid Republican. Burke needs, in other words, a big labor turnout.

We have mills we have factories, we have electrical plants, read on down the directory. How many papers give a full page to any one of these enterprises?

We pay taxes to subsidize foods and then pay higher prices for these goods. We pay high taxes for a big staff of men and women at the University of North Carolina who use these offices for pure propaganda. Pick up any paper and see how much space goes to these schools and then look into the amount of trash cans filled with it for it is not filled.

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Ohio's labor chiefs learned a lesson in 1950. That year, the CIO and the AFL all practical purposes took over the campaign against Sen. Taft. Taft won in the industrial areas. This year, Democrats to the Senate for the first time in 20 years.

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Ruark's EDC: Let French Cook, Sew For Democracy

By ROBERT C. RUARK

CALLING on all the Yorkies for setting foreign affairs to a global kid like me has available, I have finally reached a firm conclusion on France and her place in an EDC. Give her the Quartermaster Corps, and get Christian Dior to run it. That'll leave the other European countries free to fight.

A close inspection of what France can and cannot do has been made painstakingly, and the French has come to one conclusion: The French are good cooks. So let them cook for democracy.

Secondarily, the French are good dressmakers. That man Dior throws the whole world into an uproar every time he chops off the bosoms or lowers or shortens the hemlines. Eh, bien. Put Dior at the head of the corps which will cut and feed an armed force, and he can drive the enemy mad.

LOOK AT THE RECORD
This is a patently good suggestion, because a swift rundown on what the French can do yields little of worth, as see the following: "The French fight." No, not very well—not on the record of two World Wars and the business in Indochina.

Can the French keep a government going with the same cabinet after for more than a few weeks? No, not on the record.

Can the French administer their colonies? No, not very well, not on the record of North Africa, Madagascar, and Indochina.

Are the French so touchy about German rearmament? Well, if you rearm the Germans there will be less Germans to fight for France in the Forest of Arden, which is largely composed of Germans. This may be the Legion occasionally was one.

Can the French build? No, not on the record. They failed to make the Maggot Line long enough. Well, de Lesseps built a canal, and L'Entente laid out Washington, D. C. Look what happened to Suez and Washington. The Egyptians got one of McCarthy got the other.

Can the French do anything positively? Yes, the horror

good. At last count they had us on the arm for five billion dollars in relief. But we got enough borrowers on the arm, already, unrepaid. I have finally reached a firm conclusion on France and her place in an EDC. Give her the Quartermaster Corps, and get Christian Dior to run it. That'll leave the other European countries free to fight.

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