



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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When Civic Haste May Make Waste

THE live coals of an old controversy glowed with a spectral brightness today as the Park & Recreation Commission neared a decision on a proposal to rebuild Charlotte's fire-ravaged Armory-Auditorium. Indications are that a showdown vote will be taken immediately after settlement of insurance claims.

There is a grave danger that haste will make waste.

If the go-ahead order is given immediately commissioners will be acting before the need for a new auditorium facility has been fully documented. They will be rebuilding a structure for which there may not be sufficient demand to justify the expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars in public funds.

The Queen City has a vast multimillion-dollar community center — David Owens Auditorium and Charlotte Coliseum — near completion. Finishing touches will require the issuance of \$750,000 in additional bonds to be voted later this year. There is an excellent possibility that these facilities alone will adequately meet Charlotte's needs.

But some park and recreation commissioners disagree. They believe there is a definite demand for a small auditorium that can be rented at comparatively low rates for professional wrestling, high school basketball games, religious meetings and other functions with limited

gatherings of people. But this belief is based upon unknown factors—notably what sort of rates the Auditorium-Coliseum Authority will establish for its new facility (a sliding scale is in prospect), the degree of public acceptance of the Auditorium-Coliseum, its suitability for a variety of uses (large and small) and what left-over demand there will be for even more auditorium facilities in Charlotte.

To our mind, park and recreation commissioners would be acting hastily and unwisely in going ahead with plans to rebuild the old Armory-Auditorium before all factors are known and evaluated.

All factors cannot be known and evaluated until the Auditorium-Coliseum is completed and given the opportunity to demonstrate how it will meet Charlotte's requirements.

It would be both foolish and wasteful for Charlotte to build another competing auditorium when civic needs could be well served by other public structures.

There is the distinct possibility, too, that money commissioners would spend on a new Armory-Auditorium could be put to far better use in other park and recreation undertakings — projects, for instance, which would benefit a larger segment of Charlotte's population.

We urge commissioners to delay final action until all the facts are in.

A Test Of N. C. Senate's Integrity

HIGHEST priority ought to be accorded the resolution of Mecklenburg's Sen. Jack Blythe that would initiate redistricting of the state Senate. Sen. Blythe's resolution calls for the appointment, by Senate President Luther Barnhardt of neighboring Cabarrus, of a committee of nine senators which will propose alterations in Senate district lines to reflect population changes.

It is no exaggeration to say that the speed and nature of the Senate's action on this resolution will be a test of its integrity.

Mature Sex Education In Charlotte

ONE OF THE rules of the writing game, sometimes honored in the breach, is that children are reared and livestock is raised. It used to be that children were reared, and the technique of child-raising was not unlike that of stock-raising. Parents today may point to the similarities between the care and feeding of puppies and one-year-olds, but the changes in child care during the past century are brought home upon reading the article reprinted elsewhere on this page from an 1854 edition of PRAIRIE FARMER.

People in those days were ignorant of the facts of life and good health. One reason for this was their prudishness, their repugnance to old wives' tales instead of frank discussion. The result: a distressingly high infant mortality.

And it was only about 20 years ago that Surgeon General Thomas Parran and public health officials broke down the taboos against discussion of venereal disease. The words "syphilis" and "gonorrhea" finally entered the respectable vocabulary. It was not only wondrous drugs which helped virtually stamp out these diseases. Some of the success was due to the campaign pioneered by the health educators.

Sex education—and thus normal and healthy sexual adjustments—has suffered from similar restrictions. Only a few years ago the University of Oregon's film entitled *HUMAN SEX*, a sex education film for fifth and sixth grade children, stirred bitter controversy. But now, in community after community, parents and teachers have recognized the worth of this and similar visual presentations.

We are pleased that Charlotte is one of these communities. The Family Life Education program in Charlotte schools, directed by Dr. George A. Douglas, who is aided by health educators, teachers and many parents, has afforded many children a healthy understanding of a subject they might otherwise be uninformed or misinformed about, with resulting anxiety and anguish.

Sometimes the press has been too quick to condemn the judiciary for herring new communications media. Hasty editorials locked doors that polite requests and conversations could have opened. Some judges, on the other hand, have laid down capricious restraints. But the right to know and the obligations of the judiciary can both be achieved by friendly cooperation between newsmen and judges, as exemplified in Charlotte this week.

A New Dimension, With No Bother

There were no flashbulbs, no posing, no interruptions and commotion. (Photographer Zeep Hunter) didn't bother me a bit.

That was Superior Court Judge Francis O. Clarkson's reaction to photography in his courtroom this week, the results of which appeared in Tuesday's News.

We congratulate him on joining the growing number of judges who have opened their courtrooms to photographers. This courtroom development reflects a growing understanding between the judiciary and the press. The judges have recognized that recent developments in photography permit pictures to be taken without distracting flash bulbs, and at long range. Recently in a Guilford

County court a photographer was so unobtrusive the judge didn't realize that the pictures had been taken. On the other hand, the press is better appreciating the responsibility of the judges to conduct judicial proceedings without the disturbances which some photographers have caused.

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From The Kingsport (Tenn.) News

IT'S OKAY TO WHISTLE

IS IT PROPER to whistle at a pretty girl?

It all depends. Out at the University of Kansas, some 1,200 men students have been gathering on the campus to whistle and wolf-call at a shapely blonde coed as she walks to classes.

She doesn't go for this attention.

"It's a shattering experience," the blonde says.

But a comely young brunette at a Chattanooga girls' school doesn't agree. She thinks wolf-calls and whistles make a girl feel as if she has "accomplished a purpose."

"Girls think it's silly," she confides,

"but we like it."

There is a limit. Wolf calls and whistles from seedling-looking characters aren't welcome.

(Maybe the boys at K. U. are seedier looking than Tennessee boys.)

But what should a girl do if whistled at, while back?

By no means.

She should keep moving (after all, that produces the whistles) and pretend to ignore the salutation.

Then after she's gone a discreet distance, she may be permitted to look back.

So there it is fellows.

Whistle away—at least in Chattanooga!

Reds Eye Thailand Southeast Asia's Richest Prize

By JOSEPH ALSEP

BANGKOK, Thailand (The first is the simple reason of geography. Back in the bad old imperialist days, when the French seized Thailand's border provinces to form Laos and enlarge Cambodia, they drew the new frontier with the purpose of preparing their next planned move, which was to have been a grab for Bangkok itself. This any force concentrated at Siem Reap, the Cambodian border, looks right down the throat of any government in Bangkok. It is only 108 miles, and easy walking or driving distance all the way, with no natural defense positions, a narrow strip between Siem Reap and this city.)

When the time of more acute danger may probably be, a couple of years from now, the army of the Viet Minh will comprise somewhere between 15 and 20 tough regular divisions. The present Thai forces, which are not likely to be effectively increased, comprise an army of about 30,000 combat troops and approximately 15,000 paramilitary police. Hence the unbalance will be overwhelming.

WALLS OF JERICHO Consequently no allied SEATO or other force could arrive in time to save Bangkok from a determined Viet Minh attack from Siem Reap. A relieving force would only "liberate" Thailand after it had been subjugated, pillaged and purged. This is a prospect which few Thais enjoy, the mere appearance of an enemy force at Siem Reap, the mere threat to

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JOHN FOSTER DULLES Giggles in Bangkok

invade, might well bring Thailand down as Joshua's trumpets brought down the Walls of Jericho.

"Massive retaliation" will be complicated to employ in these circumstances. It is much wiser

to stop talking about massive retaliation, and to face the hard fact that if Cambodia falls, it is almost sure to be fatal to Thailand, one way or another.

As for the loss of Laos, it will be economically disastrous but it may not be fatal. And it is just as well that there is this much difference between Laos and Cambodia, for whereas Cambodia is virtually free of Viet Minh infiltration, the Viet Minh stocks, the "Free Laos" are strongly established in two Laotian provinces. The country has been utterly disorganized by the Indochinese fighting, and the non-Communist Laotian government is just as disorganized as the country it seeks to govern.

The border between Laos and Thailand is very long. It is not effectively patrolled — I went from Nakhon Phanom up the Mekong River to Vietnam in Laos in a border patrol launch, and since we went around three times, patrolling can hardly be a regular activity.

Furthermore, on the Thai side of this border with Laos, there is the northeastern Thai region, already somewhat disaffected because it is drought stricken and poorer than the rest of the country, and containing too many ready-made fifth columns. One of these fifth columns is a group of about 45,000 Viet Minh forces from the French. These people were admitted to Thailand eight years ago by the then Prime Minister Pla Phumyong, who is now a Communist stooge in Peking. I saw these Vietnamese when

I was in the North. The vast majority of them are absolutely controlled by an underground Viet Minh government, with its own Communist headmen, its own policy and even Communist courts. The Viet Minh grip is such that even the Catholic Vietnamese around Nakhon Phanom are politically ruled by the Communists, and their priests can do nothing about it but wring their hands. The Thai government is trying, rather vaguely, to repatriate the Viet Minh fifth column to their own country. But in northeast Thailand, also, there are the adherents of a magnetic local chieftain, Tieng Sirikondh, who may have as many as three or four hundred thousand followers in these provinces. After being rumored dead, Tieng Sirikondh has turned up with the Chi Minh. He is now trying to recruit bold spirits throughout northeast Thailand, for training with the Viet Minh as future infiltrators.

For the reason given in a previous report, that the mass of Thais hate the Chinese and Vietnamese and regard communism as an enemy export, the situation may still be rescued if Laos falls. But it will not be rescued if facts are not faced; if wordy boasts continue to be substituted for serious policy making; and if we fail to show the kind of preparatory frugality so recklessly demonstrated by the activities of Tieng Sirikondh, whose masters have already instructed him to go to the aid of the Viet Minh in Thailand he knows it is still some years ahead in time.

GOP Strategists Set Stage For 'Draft Ike' Movement

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON To major parties have begun to compete with one another in the effort to bring maximum advantage from their "new look" presidential nominating conventions and campaigns.

Democrats tentatively announced last Friday that they will open their 1956 convention Monday, Aug. 27. This is about five weeks later than usual, but carries on the custom of a Monday opening by which delegates travel need not break in to the previous work week.

A Republican subcommittee met last night and tentatively approved a September, 1956, convention to meet the week following Labor Day. If their timetable stands, it

will be the first time since 1884 that they will hold their convention after the Democrats.

CAREFUL CANVASS Democrats who had carefully canvassed the 1956 calendar before they set their own date are raising the question of whether Republicans can make their date stand because it runs into a period of historic Jewish religious observances.

Jewish religious authorities confirm the following schedule: In 1956, their "Ten Days of Repentance" will begin at sundown Wednesday, Sept. 5, with Rosh Ha'Shona, the Jewish New Year, and conclude Sunday, Sept. 16, with Yom Kippur, the Day of

Atonement. It was said that the overwhelming majority of American Jews are of the orthodox or conservative faith and orthodox Jews consulted agree with the date.

It would appear therefore that the Republicans are squeezed during the first week of September between the national holiday, Labor Day, which is Monday, Sept. 2, in 1956, and sundown Wednesday, Sept. 6. All of the second week in September is embraced within the Ten Days of Repentance. Unless Republicans can be reassured on this point, it would appear to fix their first possible September, 1956, date as Monday, Sept. 17, or — making an allowance for travel time — Tuesday, Sept. 18.

Democrats decided that it would be the very least not to be tactful to meet during the first part of September, and the Jewish authorities consulted agree with them.

RENOMINATION SET The fact that Republicans propose to renominate President Eisenhower does make it possible for them to run a very short campaign. Their campaign will necessarily be in the public eye up to that point. They are indeed by design creating conditions which will make it impossible for the President to refuse a draft. The 1956 election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 6. With the convention in September, even if it were early, the campaign period would be very short.

A new candidate simply could not be built up in so short a time. DID IKE AGREE? It is permissible to wonder whether the President, when he is asked to run again, really understood this when he expressed approval in August of the convention of a September nominating convention. Of course, if he did understand it, that is tantamount to an admission that he is running.

Democrats certainly expect that they will have to defeat Eisenhower. The President's name of politics there is always room for prudence and a second line of defense. When the Republican National Convention meets with its large number of experienced members, the present tentative proposal will get a searching scrutiny.

'Yoo Hoo There, My Good Friend'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

White House To Fire Charley Willis

WASHINGTON The White House has finally decided to jettison some of its political liabilities. In particular, it has given notice to bright, nosy, ambitious Charley Willis that he will be out of a job in 45 days.

Charley Willis is the White House aid who has made himself the "secretary in charge of jobs," the "secretary in charge of handing out TV licenses," and the "secretary in charge of interstate commerce." A nice guy, but too busy for his own hand, he has stepped on more people's toes than anyone, save Sherman Adams.

Even though his father-in-law is none other than Harvey Firestone of the Firestone Rubber Co. and friend and heavy supporter of Ike, Willis is being given the ax.

Harry Vaughan got a lot of publicity for pulling wires for pals and handing out deep freezes, but Charley Willis has made Vaughan a piker in comparison. Instead of dealing deep freezes, he has dealt in TV licenses worth millions and airline routes worth even more. He has had two FCC commissioners, John Doerfer and Robert E. Lee, in the palm of his hand and

hasn't hesitated to tell them bluntly and baldly to give TV licenses to certain publishers because they helped the Republican Party.

At first, Willis got into "hot water" with the Republicans in Capitol Hill, who complained they weren't consulted. Then, he worked out a system for clearing federal jobs quietly with GOP senators and congressmen. But his plan leaked to the papers and stirred up a public protest.

FBI Intervenes

J. Edgar Hoover, who deserted his usual nonpolitical position to support Sen. McCarthy, has made another interesting backstage move. Two of his men came up to the Senate the other day and advised Sen. Harley Kilgore, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to retain Richard Arenas as counsel of the Judiciary Committee.

This is highly unusual advice. For members of the executive branch of the government do not advise the legislative branch in the American system of checks and balances, especially when there is an inference that the FBI would not cooperate if Arenas were removed.

Stepped On Civil Service

Willis also got in wrong—even with Republicans—because of his zeal in planting Republicans in career jobs. In doing so he won the name "Jobs-for-Republicans." Willis. What caused the trouble was the way he rode roughshod over civil service laws, thereby incurring certain Democratic investigations.

Judging jobs, of course, is a thankless assignment. In the first place, Willis had more available applicants than available jobs. He also had to clear each applicant with three or four senators and congressmen, get the endorsement of the local politicians, check with

the GOP National Committee, keep the White House happy — yet supposedly not violate the civil service laws against political appointments.

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