

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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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.

Victor Helped City Build First Armory

Editors, The News: I am more than a coincidence that your story on the occasion of Henry M. Victor's 90th birthday should come at the same time as the announcement of the Park and Recreation Commission's decision to rebuild the old Charlotte Armory. For he was responsible more than any one else for its erection.

When it was first decided in 1929 to invite the Confederate Veterans Association to hold its last large meeting in Charlotte, plans were made for an auditorium and funds were hurriedly added for so that the invitation could be extended in time.

After all arrangements had been made it was found impossible to raise the \$80,000 necessary to finance its construction in time for the event at the last minute. Mr. Victor stepped in and guaranteed the amount and the building was rushed to completion.

Two connections with this I would like to throw a bouquet to the Goetz Construction Co., for completing this job in the 90 days specified in spite of the fact that it was built on the location of the old waterworks reservoir.

—OSMOND L. BARRINGER

for some other arrangement whereby the local people become more interested in the particular industry that is locating in our community. We know that the exceptions to this rule are few, and we know that we are not bringing anyone to make these concessions because practically all of them ask of the community, and they will locate in another community and new industry will eventually pay back every dime that the local community will invest in their coming to their community. The new industry will eventually pay back every dime that the local community will invest in their coming to their community. The new industry will eventually pay back every dime that the local community will invest in their coming to their community.

We feel that you have picked out an isolated case in the American Theatre Company which is located in Sevier, North Carolina. We know that industry is willing to pay its own way, and when concessions are made so far as loans are concerned it is a temporary financing by the local community and new industry will eventually pay back every dime that the local community will invest in their coming to their community.

We, too, can show good housing, and schools, and recreational facilities, along with sufficient water, power, and distribution facilities.

Although you deny crying sour grapes, what other construction could be put on your infrastructure? We are extremely happy that you did not write one more paragraph in your editorial because, if you had, we are afraid that we would have been accused of being communistic.

—E. R. SMITH, JR., President Coffee County Chamber of Commerce.

Thank You, Gentlemen, For Starting The Car

Editors, The News: I WOULD like to say "thank you" to four gentlemen who went to considerable trouble to get my car started one morning at the Doctors' Building.

After driving a block or two, I returned to thank them personally but did not see any of them and I do not want them to think me ungrateful.

It is a comforting thought that while Charlotte is growing by leaps and bounds it has not outgrown its spirit of cordiality and good old Southern civility.

—MRS. W. C. ALBRO.

Doctors Charge What The Patient Can Pay

Editors, The News: WITH Mr. Reimner's prize-winning editorial concerning free hospitalization for wealthy veterans with non-service-connected disabilities I can agree in part, but why do these men go to the VA hospital in the first place?

Is it because it's free, which is unfair to the taxpayers, or is it because they want to escape the services of the specialist who sits like a vampire ready to suck their last dollar? A lot of people don't mind paying their way, they don't like to be hooked either.

—R. G. STAVRAKAS

Charlotte Can Be Proud Of Its Oratorio Singers

Editors, The News: Sunday afternoon in the Sanctuary of Covenant Presbyterian Church a sterling, thrilling performance of Haydn's "The Creation" was given to a standing room only audience by the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte under the superb direction of Earl F. Berg.

The orchestra, soloists, and chorus did a job of which they can all well be proud.

The Singers were one of the first groups of its kind to be organized in North Carolina, and I doubt that there is a singing group anywhere in the country which puts forth more tireless effort, or, for that matter, accomplishes more.

—PHILLIP N. ALEXANDER



FEDERAL ELECTRIC POWER CAPACITY

(MILLIONS OF KILOWATTS)

	INSTALLED THROUGH 1954	UNDERWAY	TOTAL
Corps of Engineers	2.71	3.82	6.73
Bureau of Reclamation	4.95	.51	5.46
TVA	6.35	3.11	9.26
International Boundary and Water Commission	.06	0	.06
TOTAL	14.07	7.44	21.51

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Power Fight, Featuring Oregonians, Shapes Up

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON Oregonians will cross swords in the forthcoming debate over the Eisenhower administration's "partnership" policy for the development of natural resources.

Challenger is Richard L. Neuberger, who won a first round last November when he scored an upset victory to become the first Oregon Democrat elected to the Senate in 10 years.

Defender is Douglas McKay, former governor of Oregon, who as secretary of the interior champions the Eisenhower policy of emphasizing Uncle Sam's role in resources development, especially in the wats and volts business of generating electric power.

The public-private power controversy raged through the 83rd Congress, culminating in the campaign battle over the Hoover-Yale contract, a partnership arrangement designed to encourage "local initiative."

What's the focus is on freshman Sen. Neuberger, some of his Democratic colleagues from the power-conscious Northwest and Tennessee Valley are equally outspoken in their criticism of administration policy.

So far the administration shows no signs of backing down in its determination to cut back on federal power development. The president's proposed 1955 budget, for example, includes \$246.8 million for construction of projects with hydroelectric facilities.

In general, the budget provides for continuation of power projects already under way, but for few new undertakings. Two exceptions are the Upper Colorado and Fryingpan-Grand projects — eventually to cost \$1.1 billion — which the administration plans to spend \$3 million next year.

In an interview with Congressional Quarterly, Sen. Neuberger said the focus is on freshman Sen. Neuberger, some of his Democratic colleagues from the power-conscious Northwest and Tennessee Valley are equally outspoken in their criticism of administration policy.

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Injured Workers Deserve More Pay

GOV. LUTHER HODGES has suggested legislation covering a wide range of subjects. Many bills have already been introduced in the General Assembly. But nowhere, in the governor's speeches or reports of his press conferences, or in the daily account of legislative action compiled by the Institute of Government, do we see mention of what The News believes to be one of the most urgent tasks of this legislature. That is the revision, upward, of the scale of workmen's compensation in North Carolina.

Compensation is now woefully inadequate. A totally disabled worker, injured through no fault of his own, receives a maximum "weekly compensation equal to 60 per cent of his average weekly wages but not more than \$30." And the maximum total payment is \$8,000. This means

that the disabled workman—who probably has had hospital bills to pay as well as several months to feed, receives a maximum of \$1,960 a year, and in less than six years this meager compensation is cut off completely.

Some employers make up the difference between an employee's compensation check and his average weekly wage. But many don't. The result: Injured workmen become dependent upon charity and public welfare.

Adequate compensation would better protect workmen and their families and employers as well, for it would lessen the number of damage suits resulting from on-the-job injuries.

We hope the General Assembly speedily turns its attention to this matter. We would be pleased to see Mecklenburg lead the way.

Economy Can Be Carried Too Far

SALARIES of several elected county officials are too low in Mecklenburg.

Top level jobs—such as those of the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, clerk of court and county treasurer—require a high degree of ability and administrative skill. Yet the pay allotted for the services for these important public officials is generally below—often far below—the level for comparable positions in private industry. In Mecklenburg the sheriff is one of the few office-holders getting about what his job is worth under the present setup.

What can be done about it? Any adjustments will have to be made by the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh.

Mecklenburg's own Board of County Commissioners here at home simply do not have the authority to set the earnings of these key local officials. It is one of the many penalties the county must pay for insisting on more home rule.

Meanwhile, county payrolls continue to be a source of political friction.

This week the Board of County Commissioners refused to endorse a proposed bill that would give increases to five elected officials.

New salaries suggested: Chairman of the board, \$10,000, up \$2,500; clerk of court, \$10,000, up \$2,000; register of deeds, \$8,500, up \$1,900; sheriff, \$8,500, up \$2,000; treasurer, \$7,500, up \$2,000. The total annual pay increases for these jobs, beginning July 1, would be \$10,400.

Commissioner Sam McIninch opposed the proposed bill, complaining that the schedule had been drawn up by "individual department heads." He moved that

the matter be tabled and the motion carried.

This same Board of County Commissioners last week refused to endorse proposed home rule legislation giving the board salary-setting power.

Adjustments are needed in the pay scale for elected officials and, clearly, county commissioners are best qualified to determine what salaries should be paid. But until the board faces up to its responsibility in this matter—until it insists upon home rule and exercises its authority when and if home rule is granted—county salaries will probably continue to reflect inequities.

We are solidly in favor of economy in government. But we believe that it is false economy to skimp on salaries so much that top public jobs do not attract men of ability.

On any level, government can function effectively only so long as it is conducted by able and intelligent people. Government will never attract such men and women until adequate compensation is provided.

On either the elective or appointive job front, North Carolina cities and counties have a particularly shabby record when it comes to salaries. According to the U. S. Bureau of the Census, public employees of Tar Heel local governments make an average of only \$219 a month. That puts North Carolina 43rd on the list of states with a figure only about 73 per cent of the \$298 national average.

This is hardly the way to make public service attractive to capable men and women.

Most Industries Get Concessions

Editors, The News: DOUGLAS, Ga. WE have received a copy of The Charlotte News of Wednesday, January 5, 1955, in which you reprinted an article by Miss Margaret Shannon that was carried in The Atlanta Journal and also wrote an editorial entitled "No Need To Bribe Industries," which also dealt with a plant's decision to locate here.

We have read with interest your editorial and certain comments agree with you, but on other comments beg to disagree. It is true that Georgia people are on their toes, are aggressive, and persistent. We are aware of the fact that Georgians are interested in developing their communities, and results have been obtained because of this interest.

It is true that we did make some concessions in order to attract the new hosiery mill, but what you did not know was that when these concessions were made for industry we were seeking local industry and local establishments of an industrial nature were given the benefits of any concessions that we made for any industry coming into our community. On taxes and on electricity, this was true.

We know that practically all industrial prospects asked for the best of all possible terms, and we know that they came to us with a building on which they pay rent under a lease for a period of time to pay for the building, or asked

Liquor Law Violators Get Off Too Light

Editors, The News: DO you suppose that the general contempt for laws and the breakdown in law enforcement can be laid partly, and perhaps largely, to the brand of court action reflected in the enclosed clipping from The News of January 13, concerning liquor law violation charges heard in County Recorder's Court? Six law violators for various degrees of law violation, and not one day in jail—all permitted to pay out, generally with very small fines, and one of them accused of driving 120 miles an hour on North Tryon through heavy traffic, endangering the lives of others, found to be in possession of illegal whisky, and fleeing from the law.

Has it ever occurred to you that possibly criminals are released with no or nominal punishment in order that they may be put back in circulation so that they can again go through the legal merry-go-round time after time, thus giving more business and income to those who profit from this maneuver?

—J. C. FOKES

'A Rose By Any Other Name

I counted two-and-seventy stinkes All well defined, and several stinks.

—Coleridge

WE WERE perfectly willing to hold Greensboro's cat while she slogged it out with actor Paul Douglas but now it seems we must defend our own honor—or smell.

Mr. Douglas, you remember, was quoted in the GREENSBORO DAILY News as saying "Dixie stinks." Later, he insisted that he didn't mean the South in general but just Greensboro.

Up to this point we were nobly resisting the inclination to get cosmic about comparative odors. In fact, we were minding our own business. Then the RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER chimed in. Said "The Old Reliable":

The truth of the matter is that Greensboro really smells pretty good, maybe not as nice as Raleigh, but better than Durham or Winston-Salem. And, of course, as in all things, Charlotte has the biggest smell of all.

Humph! The Queen City, in truth, has only the gentlest of odors—the amber scent of industry, the fine, fresh aroma of progress, the elegant fragrance of old leather, the quiet perfume of well-tended business, the aged-in-wood bouquet of proper Presbyterianism and a trace here and there of the essence of prim, completely confident, nobility.

And if that isn't enough, we will try to remember to burn a little incense the next time Paul Douglas and the N&O come to town.

From The Plainview (Tex.) Evening Herald

TONER-UPPER

SLIGHTLY faded, a dingy yellow with age, is a mimeographed sheet which someone, probably Higginbotham-Bartlett, circulated during the early days as a toner-upper among business folk and prospective customers.

Times were gloomy. Banks, which weren't closed, were shaky. Money was tight. Debt high and creditors pressing hard for collections.

Today, when many people feel that the world is in a chaotic condition and dismal ruin faces our nation, despite the unprecedented prosperity, we may read what the prophets of doom in other years have said. Probably their utterances seemed profound when made, but time has placed other ideas in the minds and hearts of the people.

Here are the quotations from the apostles of doom of other years, as wrong as their like is today, and always: William Pitt in 1792 said: "This is scarcely anything among us but ruin and despair."

Wilberforce in the early 1800's said: "I dare not marry, the future is so dark and unsettled."

Lord Grey in 1819 . . . "believed everything was tending to convulsion."

The Duke of Wellington on the eve of his death (1851) thanked God he would "be spared from seeing the consummation of ruin that is gathering around us."

Disraeli (1849) "In Industry, Commerce and Agriculture there is no hope." Green Adelaide said she . . . had only

one desire—to play the part of Marie Antoinette with bravery in the revolution that was coming on England."

Lord Shaftesbury (1848) "Nothing can save the British Empire from shipwreck."

HARPER'S WEEKLY (1857) said, "What is the use of discussing matters 1000 feet from the shore when the difficulties we shall all be slaves?"

A senator from Massachusetts some 60 years ago, when the appropriation bill for the Interior Department was under consideration, moved that \$100,000 for the support of the activities of the patent office be eliminated from the bill, for said he, "Everything that man could think of has already been invented."

A big man isn't the one who makes no mistakes, but one who is bigger than any mistake he makes—HARTWELL (Ga.) SUN.

Escaped criminals are described as "armed and dangerous," which seems somewhat unnecessary as you never hear of any being called "armed but lovable."

—JACKSONVILLE TIMES-UNION.

The modern car not only controls its own temperature, but also shifts for itself. That's something that many a human can't do.—MARSHALLTOWN (Iowa) TIMES-REPUBLICAN.

Women dress to please men, but usually miss it about 15 minutes.—ELLA VILLE (Ga.) SUN.



"Oh, it's you . . . come on in, we're discussing controversial subjects."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON DON'T start buying a couple of steers and selling them away in the deep freeze as a result of the current rash of messages to Congress, National Security Council meetings and secret hideouts at the White House. The chances are about 10 to 1 there will be no general shooting war. Here are some of the reasons why.

1. The last thing Eisenhower wants, as a military man, is to go down in history as having plunged the United States into war. He is straining at the leash away from too much risk in the Far East, and some of his military advisers complain bitterly against it.

2. The Republicans Party—or at least one-half of it—can't afford the stigma of getting the United States into war. They bristled at accusations at the Democrats as

the "war party" at the last election. If the Republicans fell for the same thing they accused the Democrats of doing, they would be political goose who were cooked for years.

3. British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden has some tricks up his sleeve, namely pressure on the Chinese Reds for more reasonable behavior, also, an olive branch plus a face-saving solution which will let the U.S. off the hook—though it won't please Chiang Kai-shek. This solution is: turn Formosa over to the United Nations, though keeping Chiang in control.

Stacked up against these favorable factors for peace, there is one unpredictable, worrisome factor—namely the brass, boldness of the Chinese Communists.

General Shooting War Is Unlikely

Note—Pentagon advisers tell the White House that because the Chinese Reds are so bold and brash, they had better be stopped now before they get stronger; we can't go on brooding to them forever.

Randall and Dulles got so vehement at one White House meeting over the release of American fliers, that Eisenhower intervened. . . . The Admiral clearly was the flier, and it was to blockade the China coast. The Secretary of State argued that Russia had just released three American citizens, which was her way of setting the example to China. Therefore the United States must be patient. . . . Randall vigorously disagreed. . . . In response Ike got peeved, gave Randall a lecture on the importance of considering political factors in handling foreign affairs.

cocky nation, more experienced, less cocky nation would never precipitate war at this time. . . . They were surprised and pleased at their own ability to fight in Korea. Swollen with success, they could rush into war.

If so, military strategists at the Pentagon are betting that Russia will not come in.

This is the big risk Eisenhower takes. He is taking it especially in the defense of the small islands of Quemoy and Matsu which are within swimming distance of the Chinese mainland and which can be taken by Red China, unless the United States gives Chiang all-out support.