



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1955

School Consolidation: Pave The Way

IN AN essentially adolescent community, it is imperative that plans for future educational development be made in terms of the geographical area, in terms of the children and in terms of total resources.

Thus Henry W. Lewis, an assistant director of the University of North Carolina's Institute of Government, summed up his 1949 survey of problems involved in consolidating the separate school systems of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. He recommended that "serious thought" be given to a merger.

In six long years, there has been time for much serious thought. Consolidation has been debated with exhaustive—and exhausting—thoroughness. But despite the proposal's many advantages, city and county authorities have been reluctant to take decisive action.

The matter was resurrected again yesterday at a meeting of the City School Board—but in an offhand manner and certainly not one calculated to raise the hopes of consolidation's advocates. Concerning a proposal for construction of a central school administration headquarters for Charlotte, Commissioner J. P. Hobson said:

"We ought to go easy on this matter because I can envision a consolidation administration of the city and county systems into one building. We are getting closer and closer in our physical planning and maybe in 10 years we will have one school system for both the city and county."

Closer cooperation between the two school units has been one of the happier aspects of recent education history in Charlotte and there have been many joint enterprises.

Negligence Caused Patients' Injuries

A PRUDENT man would not haul 72 pigs or cows on a 1½-ton truck with "insubstantial siding." That would be inviting an accident such as occurred near Goldsboro Tuesday when 30 of 72 mental patients crammed onto a 1½-ton truck with "insubstantial siding" were injured. The truck was carrying the women patients to a field owned by the driver to pick cotton.

There may be, as the hospital claims, therapeutic value for the patients and cash returns for the hospital in this outside work. If this justifies the program, it ought to be surrounded with some common sense regard for the patients' welfare, both in transit and in the fields. News reports say the patients may be

But there are still many good reasons why complete consolidation would better serve the needs of all Mecklenburgers.

The main task of consolidation would be to equalize the educational opportunities for all children in the county—without lowering them for any children. The requirement of a uniform system of public schools in which every child and every locality is to have the same advantages is, of course, a constitutional as well as a moral responsibility. A merger would clearly make uniformity more easily attainable.

The interdependence of metropolitan Charlotte and suburban and rural Mecklenburg requires such uniformity.

AS MR LEWIS pointed out in 1949, a merger would mean that future building programs could be planned from the standpoint of need for the whole area and with reference to true communities without the division caused by unit lines. Merger of the two units would also mean centralization of plant operation and maintenance work. This would also offer opportunities for money savings in the form of competitive bulk purchasing.

And Mr. Lewis shrewdly noted that "common business experience will make the citizens see chances for economy in one planning program, one building program, or a maintenance program, as against two of each."

Consolidation, however, must not be relegated to the "someday-somewhere" file of school commissioners. If it is indeed inevitable, plans ought to be made to welcome it with as much speed and ease as possible. It should not take 10 years.

transported, while standing, as far as 10 miles from the hospital apartment with out accompaniment in the field by hospital attendants.

Gross negligence obviously was the cause of the needless highway accident, similar to one 12 years ago. And the hospital's statement that "many times 72 persons have been transported in this manner" merely underscores the negligence and the need for some knuckle-rapping at Goldsboro.

The State Hospital Board of Control should investigate this incident thoroughly. Negligence and carelessness in mental institutions is hard to combat. The highway accident could be a symptom of an even greater lack of care.

The South Is Part Of The Mainstream

IF MUCH of the South is out of tune with policies of both major political parties—and the sounds of discord are heard again from the Southern Governor's Conference—it is for a long winter of discontent. There is more sound, surely, than substance in talk of an effective third party, and the plan for a southern bloc vote in the Democratic convention ignores not only a new and widespread diversity of regional thinking, but also the national ambitions of some of the South's leaders.

The situation that Texas Gov. Allan Shivers finds himself in embodies the frustrations of many traditional southerners. In 1952, Shivers backed Mr. Eisenhower, and he is still waging what appears to be a personal vendetta against the Democrats' candidate, Adlai Stevenson. But after Mr. Eisenhower won, Mr. Shivers had occasion to blast "dominant trends in both parties. Recently he has said he would like another Eisenhower-type administration, but it is difficult to conceive of that state of affairs without an Eisenhower. And even so, Mr. Shivers can't go on jumping from one side to another without getting into very serious trouble within the Democratic Party under whose banner he gets himself elected.

The best a third party movement could hope for would be enough electoral votes to throw the election of a president into the House of Representatives. That would require considerably more votes than the Dixiecrats gathered in 1952. It would re-

quire a single-mindedness among southerners that no longer exists, except in a negative aspect. What third party unit can be found in a region's political leadership that ranges from New Dealers like Kefauver, Sparkman, Hill, Folsom and others to more conservative but still solid party men like Russell, George, Hodges, Long and Ervin, to the dissidents of undecided course such as Timmerman, Shivers and Kennon?

What of a convention coalition to write a platform and pick a candidate acceptable to all southern Democrats? Hodges openly admires Stevenson whom Shivers detests. Florida's Gov. Collins is "not much of a coalition man." South Carolina's Gov. Timmerman said he would favor "a solid front of southern states along lines which reflect the views of the people of my state." Shivers said it would be almost impossible to organize a coalition of any real power.

The avenue of the South's real power to influence national politics remains in the two-party system. Through legislative longevity southerners wield national power disproportionate to their numbers. George of Georgia, for example, has more influence on foreign policy than a Republican legislator put together.

Daily, the region is bound closer—economically, culturally and politically—to the mainstream of the nation, of which the two-party system is a part. To reverse this trend, as many sincere southerners would like, would be to make the voice of the South a cry in a wilderness.

From The Anderson (S. C.) Daily Mail

ADVERTISING AND RIGHTS

A RUGGED individual in Michigan, whose name regrettably was omitted in the press dispatch, made history of a sort the other day when he was acquitted (on appeal to a higher court) for the alleged offense of taping-over on his car license plate the words "Water Wonderland."

Seems he felt no yen to drive around giving free advertising to his state after paying good money for the license tag, and although he was convicted in one court, he got a higher reversal.

As a matter of observable fact, most people are happy to boost their home towns, home states, their alma maters, their regional festivals and the like via stickers and placards. The tags designed for cars of many states refer proudly to peaches, potatoes, dairy products, sunshine and other specialties presumably exclusive, and there's seldom a protest. What is more common, and more to be marveled at, is the pride with which most motorists drive around with plates

and designs advertising the firms from which they bought their cars, although this generous coordination and reciprocity may be explainable if a motorist still owes the firm for his auto.

Yet human nature is a wonderful institution, and as a rule a fellow likes to do his regional rooting on a voluntary basis, as if he had thought up the idea and provided the gimmick and were simply satisfied with community or state enthusiasm.

Having a badge of devoted fervor wished off on him, via a state auto tag, isn't spontaneous at all; a guy can hardly claim credit for local pride in any special degree if forced to exhibit a uniform label. Far more understandable is the college boy who keeps a "Siwash College" sticker on his windshield long after he graduates (or flunks out). This Michigan case has now set a court precedent which establishes "law." Wait until some peevish persons in other states hear of this.

People's Platform

Charlotte
Editors, The News:
ABOUT a year or two ago, it was reported that a child dying of a malignancy was not expected to live until Christmas. This child was the recipient of a spontaneous response within his community which celebrated his Christmas a bit ahead of time. I think it was in October, in order to provide him with a last show of this spirit while he still had breath.

Similar reports are not uncommon about children who have physical disabilities but more particularly if they are maimed in their limbs.

SPECIAL CREDIT
Such, however, is not and has never been the case in the child who has the unfortunate luck to have a maiming of his limbs or spirit in the form of a psychosis or a severe emotional problem of living. This, however, is more of an oversight on the part of society at large rather than a neglect. Your recent article on the lack of facilities for the care of the psychotic child in North Carolina deserves special credit for public spirited interest in this concealed problem. It would seem to me, however, that many of your readers might indeed feel a twinge of desire to help in this area and would, no doubt, find themselves rather helpless as to which way to go and what to do.

It would seem further that a follow-up as to what could be accomplished on their part if their interests lie in this direction is indicated at this time. I should like to call your attention to the fact that the psychoses in children, as in adults, represent in large part a social breakdown in our system and that the society at large is to be held responsible.

This is a traditional concept in this country and is evidenced in many ways included among which are our continuing support and the improvement of our state institutions.

UNITED APPEAL

What can the individual citizen do, however? The answer, at least for our community, is very simple: combine on a community-wide level to provide the facilities and the climate in our culture to make these things impossible when they occur to get them early and treat them properly. To this end, a dynamic effort on the part of the community in support of the present United Appeal campaign will be to help in October to the mentally and emotionally ill. If there are those who would like to further express their great desire to help this area, they might consider joining the North Carolina Association for Mental Health, which is as far as I know, the only lay organization presently interested in furthering the needs of these as well as many other unfortunate.

Again permit me to thank you with the depth of gratitude which only one who is professional and socially involved in this field can understand and appreciate in its full measure. Contributions to the United Appeal can be sent directly and within the campaign presently being carried out. Membership in the North Carolina Mental Health Association may be addressed to this writer.

—MRS. L. L. FISHER, M.D., Director, Charlotte Mental Health Clinic

Mrs Evans Is Fine

But Not UNESCO

Charlotte

Editors, The News:
I T'S GIVE Martha Evans a big hand! No finer Charlotte representative could have gone to Rome. She brought back one idea that should sink into every heart. That little boy, keeping the torches burning in spite of the rain, explained he is a Roman, and no Roman torch ever went out! And of course, he wasn't being paid! And Martha, true American, commented that she could only feel admiration for one so young to whom a heritage meant so much, and ached with the hope that in our way of building and rebuilding that we have thought to preserve more and more things of meaning in our heritage.

We who cling to our American heritage must withstand all the liberal blandishments of such as F. S. Truman, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Mr. Brownell, the Ford Foundation, Civil Rights, Housing Carter, the Southern Education Reporting Service, the NAACP, and liberal churchmen! And another big hand to J. Addison Wagner, new national commander of the American Legion. He and his three million fellow-veterans turned down the urging from some quarters to endorse UNESCO! We can be glad he would not want to forget his first American. Their Americanism Commission has contended

Psychotic Children: A Social Responsibility



"More Of An Oversight Than A Neglect"

ed as have many others, that Communist sympathizers have infiltrated UNESCO. And, of course, Harry S. Truman would say the Legion has gone "haywire." He and his fellow liberals are playing hand-in-glove with the Russians in supporting UNESCO, which is avowedly planning to teach our school children to forget their patriotism learned in the home, and instead to espouse one-worldism. Mr. Truman, you are wrong, the veterans do "know what they are doing." They are standing on their traditional foundation of love of country, and they'll never sell us down the river! And the veterans are eternally right in wanting us to withhold further aid to India. Don't Nehru go whole-log over to the Communies on his recent visit to Moscow? Our veterans are not, in politics, and please God they never will be. And Mr. Truman is wrong again when he states "They'll get over it soon!"

The two thousand teachers meeting here Friday were addressed by a supposed representative of UNESCO. May they evaluate what they heard in terms of the best interest of their young charges.

—MRS. L. L. SCOTT

Put Integration Issue

To Statewide Vote

Pittsboro

Editors, The News:
I AM happy to note that Miss Nell Bartle Lewis in her column in the Sunday issue of the News and Observer has come out with the suggestion that the people of the state be given an opportunity to express themselves via the ballot as to whether we want integrated schools or public schools to be expressed in the form of a proposed constitutional amendment. I have been hammering away on the idea that such be done for the past two months, but to no avail. I hope she has better luck.

Really, this process of just coasting along one suggestion today and another tomorrow for some further study of the problem is becoming most dangerous. Soon the NAACP will have won this fight by default on the part of the state's top officials.

Why should we not go to the

people's representatives with the matter of determining what disposition to make of the remainder of the special bond issue money rather than turn the matter over to a commission for study or further study? We are already afflicted with too much commission government, certainly of the policy-making type of commission. This is the function of the legislature, not of a commission.

Let's have some real representative government and less talk about what others think about our way of doing things.

—JOHN W. HESTER

'Look What I Found Again'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
PRESIDENT EISENHOWER has not been given the full impact and would be distressed if he knew it, but his administration has decided that the "Geneva spirit" is dead.

The verdict was reached by the National Security Council exactly one week ago at a meeting in the White House with Vice President Nixon presiding.

Sober Estimate
The verdict was based partly on a sober estimate made by Allen Dulles, the secretary of state and head of Central Intelligence, that the cold war is continuing, that the present Russian leaders cannot be trusted, and that Russia would be able to triple her defense budget without any protest from the Western people.

Is 'Geneva Spirit' Dead And Gone?

hospital. Dulles confined himself to general remarks about East-West problems. He was fearful of upsetting the President's recovery; also, he himself has never been as optimistic as Eisenhower about the results of Geneva.

Stassen Hopeful

Some members of the White House staff do not go along with Dulles and the National Security Council regarding pessimistic state of the world. Harold Stassen, in charge of disarmament, still has genuine hopes for world peace. However, with the President away, Dulles and the Dulles brothers who are calling the foreign-policy tunes.

Gracie Pfozt's Earnings

One committee of congressmen who took a trip to Alaska this fall worked so hard that they could hardly go fishing, according to Rep. Lee O'Brien, New York Democrat.

"Jim Utt (R) of California and Rep. Gracie Pfozt (D) of Idaho had to get up at 5:30 one morning to get in some fishing," reported O'Brien. "There was a hearing scheduled for 8:30 a.m. that day."

"They came back with one fish, about as big as a sardine. Gracie was proud of it, though, and when I told her to catch another one and make herself a pair of earrings, boy, did she grieve!"

GOP Money-Raisers

Republican money-raisers weren't letting their right hand know what their left hand was collecting until this column recently published the secret quotas set for each state to raise and the amount collected. As a result, state finance committees were able to compare their assessments against other states for the first time.

Indiana, for example, discovered that its \$65,227 quota was up in the same

Make Charlotte King-Size City

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

IN THE midst of all this upheaval about integration in the schools, I would like to say this to the members of the "Education Society," and also to the signers of that "of the people, by the people, and for the people" stuff," as the right eye said to the left eye. "There is something between us that smells."

When it comes to teaching dogs, monkeys, elephants and tigers, you people are the most, but when it comes to letting "Uncle Tom" and his children in on a few of your tricks, I must say you are but really the "most."

One kind reason given for keeping the schools segregated was this: "The Negro would be made to feel self-conscious because he would likely fail in his studies."

Can there be that great a difference between the two school systems, or is it true that only the honest student fails?

Just because we are interested in learning about the business world is no reason why we should be falsely accused of wanting to intermingle socially.

What closer contact socially need a person other than a cook, a maid, a butler, a chauffeur and a nurse? Not to mention just being a spectator or a housewife.

As Nat King Cole would say: When the buzzard tried to throw the monkey off his back, the monkey said, now listen Jack, "straighten up and fly right."

For some time now Charlotte has been recognized as the "Queen City of the South." I might go a step farther and say that Charlotte has been and still is ruled by the will of a queen. So why not give the lady a rest by lowering the bars on education, opening our hearts to integration, closing our minds to segregation, laying aside our prejudices and make Charlotte the first "King-size city of the South."

—MRS. LOUISE ARDREY

Plebiscite Favored

In Cyprus Dispute

Charlotte

Editors, The News:
INTERNATIONAL law has favored a plebiscite in disputed areas; also this is intended finding the will complete, not merely a little bit, nor hurrying on which omits right.

Cyprus is a locale where a plebiscite should be held thus giving Greece and opponents a fair chance.

To those favoring a plebiscite I'd say: "Nocturna versate man, versate diurna."

—J. M. SHIELDS

bracket as the big states, such as New York, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Big League States

Promptly the Indiana Republican Citizens Finance Committee got out a confidential letter to GOP business and professional men, pleading for \$1,000 apiece to meet the quota.

"Indiana is classed with the 'big league' states in amount of assessment as it has been high in rank with regard to Republicans elected to office in each campaign," the letter explained. "However, the opportunity which Indiana gives us to be heard at the council table in Washington has always been forfeited because of our financial record. The patronage accorded to Indiana has been insignificant. The information set forth above comes from Drew Pearson's column, a copy of which we enclose."