



## In Surprise Move

# City-County Merger Proposed By McNinch

## Consolidation Talk Began Years Ago

## Says Government Union Answer To Rising Taxes

By ANN SAWYER  
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A complete consolidation of the city and county governments was proposed today in a surprise move by Commissioner Sam McNinch.

The long-time advocate of a government merger said in a five-page statement to the commissioners:

"... I am convinced that consolidation is the only answer to the problem of a rising tax rate on a larger city and county budgets."

McNinch proposed to consolidate "every unit of the governments, except those created by the Constitution of North Carolina."

He immediately met with strong opposition from his colleagues, particularly Commissioner Davidson.

"I am proposing, and I hope you and the council will support me, that there be a complete consolidation of the two governments."

"I do not mean consolidation of just one or two offices, such as the health departments, and the tax collection offices, but every unit of the governments, except those created by the Constitution of North Carolina."

ONLY ANSWER  
"I am convinced that consolidation is the only answer to the problem of a rising tax rate and larger city and county budgets."

McNinch also has forecast tax reduction if the budget is balanced. But Sen. Knowland of California has come out for debt reduction instead of tax cuts, and has indicated his own firm views may not parallel those of Eisenberger.

A weekend medical report said the President still is recovering normally from his Sept. 24 heart attack. But his personal physician, Maj. Gen. Howard M. Snyder, said Eisenberger has shown signs of "fatigue" after some of his busier periods at Gettysburg.

Arrangements now call for a complete rest period from noon until 2:30 p.m. each day, with no interruptions. Otherwise there will be no changes in his schedule.

MID-FEBRUARY  
Snyder suggested the President wait at least until mid-February before deciding whether he feels physically able to seek a second term.

Meantime, Eisenberger went ahead with his announced schedule.

Tomorrow he will meet both Republican and Democratic congressional leaders for a review of defense and foreign policies before returning to his Gettysburg farm and office to continue his convalescence.

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County Policemen Surveys Jumbled Junk That Was A Jet Airplane

## Jet Pilot's Decision To Jump May Have Averted Disaster

By JULIAN SCHEER  
Charlotte News Staff Writer  
At 5,000 feet over the outer edge of Charlotte yesterday, Lt. Thomas E. Nott of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard made a decision which may have averted a local disaster.

When his T-33 jet trainer "flamed out"—ran out of fuel—he decided not to chance a slide-in to Douglas Municipal Airport but to turn away from the populated area, ditch the plane in the woods, and bail out.

The jet crashed at approximately 12:45 p.m. in J. C. Kuck's oak field in the Mt. Hill section where the paved Wilson Grove Rd. intersects with an unpaved road leading to Lawyers Rd.

LT. NOTT, a 29-year-old Charlottean, and Lt. Thomas J. Harmon

of Philadelphia bailed out about 12 miles from the city and a mile from the crash site. Both landed with only slight injuries nearby.

The pair was near the completion of a flight from Philadelphia. They had stopped at Andrews Field in Maryland, near Washington, to refuel at 11:30.

The aircraft was demolished when it came to rest in the oak field, digging a two and a half foot deep, 40-foot long ditch in the field, flipped over on its back 75 feet away. It barely missed the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Williams on Wilson Grove Rd. as it came in on a 75-degree angle.

NO TIPANKS  
Since he is a Charlottean, the son of Mrs. T. E. Nott of Norton Rd. he decided to fly here.

At Andrews the plane was refueled with an estimated 45 minutes of fuel (or more than 300 gallons) was stored for the 30-mile leg of the flight. After 50 minutes of air time, the jet flamed-out. Large capacity tip-tanks were not used in the flight.

LT. NOTT said there were no unusual delays in taking off at Andrews—which could be fuel-consuming — nor extra tough landings.

"There was nothing to interfere with our endurance," he told The News. "According to our figuring, we had 15 minutes to go."

100 KOREAN MISSIONS  
The ball out was Nott's second in a short period of time.

On June 22nd, he bailed out of another type of jet near Syracuse, N. Y., while on a training mission. The airplane developed mechanical trouble the first time.

LT. NOTT is a Korean war veteran who flew 100 missions and logged 400 hours aloft.

"Until last June," he said, "I never had as much as a 'cough' on an airplane."

LT. Harmon, an engineer for Philadelphia's Allied Chemical Co., said the plane was equipped with automatic ejector seats.

Harmon left the plane first, followed by Nott.

The local Air National Guard began clearing the Wilson Grove Rd. field of debris at 3:15 yesterday and the flyers were flown back to Philadelphia shortly after 7 p.m.

Both flyers were attached to the 103rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. The plane is a jet trainer, converted from an F-80 fighter.



Mr. McNinch As He Proposed Consolidation

## Campaign Blueprint 'State Of Union' Preliminary Begun

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower met with Republican congressional leaders today for a preview of his State of the Union message.

His outline of administration views and plans likely will be the basic blueprint for 1956 GOP campaigning.

In the face of orders from Eisenhower's staff for a slowdown from his recent work pace, the schedule called for an afternoon session in addition to the morning meeting. It was taken for granted, however, that careful observance would be given to the physicians' laid stress on that after a weekend check on Eisenhower's recovery from his September heart attack.

All the signs indicated the President would offer a program geared closely to the "peace and prosperity" theme which Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall has been sounding for months.

High on the Eisenhower list may be a broadened farm program aimed at halting falling agricultural prices.

COMPROMISES SEEN  
Rep. Martin of Massachusetts, the House minority leader, already has forecast proposals offering compromises with the Democrats on highway and school construction.

Two controversial issues left open: the people vote on consolidation of certain departments. That was in June of the year.

FAVORED CONSOLIDATION  
For several months there was much discussion of consolidating the city and county governments. Members of the committee, headed by former Commissioner Ernest E. Nott, said they favored consolidation. But a report was never made by the committee composed of Commissioner McNinch, and Councilmen Herman A. Brown and James S. Smith.

Eventually, the committee, that had started off with so much enthusiasm, fizzled out.

Dear God, give us strength, courage, knowledge, and spirit, to live in these trying times. With those who are hungry, cold, and grief-stricken. Help us to keep our minds clear, our hearts open. In His name. Amen.

Yule Mass To Be Aired  
VATICAN CITY (AP)—A Christmas midnight Mass Pipe Plus XII will be broadcast by radio throughout the world.

What's Inside  
Business Classified 9A  
Classified 13-15B  
Comics 10-11B  
Editorial 10-11B  
Helen Erskine 13A  
Features 2B  
Jeux & His Times 10B  
Obituaries 13B  
Radio-TV 9A  
Serial 11A  
Sports 9-9B  
Theaters 12B  
Women 4-6B

### 11 Shopping Days to Christmas

Business Classified 9A  
Classified 13-15B  
Comics 10-11B  
Editorial 10-11B  
Helen Erskine 13A  
Features 2B  
Jeux & His Times 10B  
Obituaries 13B  
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Serial 11A  
Sports 9-9B  
Theaters 12B  
Women 4-6B

## Roads Ice-Coated Mountain Travel For The Eskimos

By JACK KISER  
Charlotte News Staff Writer  
A trip to the mountains over the weekend was for the birds—or for the Eskimos. Travel by air or dog sled was much more fitting (and safer) than the more common method of transportation.

Most of the northwestern section of North Carolina and adjoining Tennessee was wearing an icelined suit of snow.

Traffic on the well-traveled highways kept ice patches at a minimum, but the lesser-used roads resembled a snow-covered mirror.

Roads to and from Asheville remained in fair condition despite the sub-freezing temperatures and the wind-whipped snow.

DIFFERENT PICTURE  
But the highways leading north from Marion, Hickory and Morganton presented an entirely different picture. They were an almost unbroken sheet of ice and a deceptive covering of powder-like snow that slowed down traffic to a crawl.

Adding to the driving hazard was the brisk wind that kept the snow in continuous motion and cut visibility to a minimum.

Even car chains which were being used at a premium along the highways, failed to help the situation much, and many of the once-brave motorists decided to "slide up" until conditions were better.

For the native mountaineers it was an old story. But to the travelers it was an ice-coated, snow-contaminated bad dream.

Below-Normal Days Continue  
Winter tweaked the nose of the cold Carolina today, as 23 or 24 below normal temperatures set in. The temperature below freezing in practically every section of the state.

It was the sixth straight day of below normal temperatures as a cold air mass strengthened its position in the usually sunny Southeast.

The 23-degree low here was just another example of the bitter weather. But it was far from the lowest temperature recorded. The Asheville airport reported a 14-degree low, while the city of Asheville was slightly warmer off at 17. It was 19 in Winston-Salem, 17 in Greensboro, 26 in Wilmington, 25 in Anderson and 26 in Greenville, S. C.

The Weather Bureau said there is little chance of real relief from the biting cold until warm air infiltrates in from the South.

Tomorrow, as a matter of fact, will be some warmer. A 23 or 24 degree low is seen here, but a high of 50 is likely in the afternoon.

A bright sun should bring a bit of Christmas cheer to the air in the afternoon, but no real relief from the cold winter weather is in sight.

Our Weather  
Partly cloudy today and tomorrow. Fair and cold again tonight.  
Low this morning — 23.  
Low tonight — 25.  
High yesterday — 44.  
High today — 45.  
High tomorrow — 50.  
Sunrise 7:22 a.m.; Sunset 5:11 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 13B

## Mayor Asserts Merger 'Impractical, Unfeasible'

By DICK YOUNG  
Charlotte News Staff Writer  
"Impractical and unfeasible" was the characterization of Commissioner Sam McNinch's proposal for consolidation of city and county governments by Mayor Phil Van Every today.

The Charlotte mayor said that there is only one city that he knows of that has actually consolidated city and county governmental functions.

That is Denver, which 30 years ago initiated a consolidation movement. It was pointed out that the consolidation suggestion is an old proposal. It was also pointed out that there is ample law for carrying out Mr. McNinch's suggestion.

Mr. Van Every said, "Here's the question: Is it worth the cost of Denver and said this was going to be the city and county. The outer parts of the county which they didn't want, they merely leaped off and gave to adjacent counties."

"And today the city of Denver has an iron band encircling it, completely blocking any expansion of municipal boundaries," he said.

In support of his contention that the proposal is "impractical and unfeasible," Mr. Van Every said:

"If the two governments were consolidated, the territory served by the consolidated government would naturally have to embrace the entire county."

"That would mean that we could have to combine up the governments of the five incorporated towns of the county. And that wouldn't be right."

"Services such as water and sewer facilities would have to be provided and that would be an enormous task."

"I just don't see how the thing can be worked out on a practical and feasible basis."

In other city hall circles it was pointed out that the consolidation suggestion is an old proposal. It was also pointed out that there is ample law for carrying out Mr. McNinch's suggestion.

An act ratified by the State Legislature March 7, 1927, provides for the consolidation of the city and county governments and the municipal governments in the five incorporated towns and for the expansion of Charlotte's city limits to include the whole of Mecklenburg County.

A vote of the people on such a move is provided for.

An election for such a vote would be called by the County Board of Elections upon the presentation of a petition signed by 20 percent of the qualified voters of Mecklenburg County in the last preceding gubernatorial election.