

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Thomas L. Robinson President and Publisher
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Consolidation: File For The Future

COMMISSIONER Sam McNinch's plan for stem-to-stern consolidation of city and county governments was like a shotgun blast in a cornfield. From all the resultant flapping and cawing, it was apparent that Mecklenburg's political birds had not, after all, gone south for the winter.

Opposition was instant and eloquent. For instance, Mayor Phil Van Every hastily labeled the plan impractical and "unfeasible." Several of Mr. McNinch's own colleagues joined the "No" chorus. In fact, faithful murmurs of dissent were detected among political types both in and out of the twin government buildings on E. Trade St.

The outlook for consolidation in the near future is dim indeed.

The matter is too mired in political prejudice for easy extraction and rendering.

Furthermore, Mr. McNinch had not prepared his ground. Organized support was nowhere to be seen—or heard.

Some of the city's older, more experienced Courthouse hands called the plan a "political skyrocket"—something that flares brilliantly on the front pages for a day or so, then burns itself out and disappears from public view.

Be that as it may, the solemn fact remains that sooner or later the governments of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County must be consolidated.

Common sense and the growing demands for governmental simplicity, efficiency and economy demand it.

Such a project will take time and much preparation. It will not only mean merging duplicated facilities but a careful reorganization of procedures as well.

As Institute of Government experts told Mecklenburgers in 1949, governmental expenditures have increased and are increasing rapidly—due to swift pop-



A Bearing On Civil Rights Gas Issue Divides Democrats

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THERE has been much self-complacently talking among Democrats about the marvelous party unity they have achieved since 1952. But there is one issue which they are likely to start one of the bitterest party rows in years—more bitter even than the offshore oil issue which took the party apart in the last presidential election.

Moreover, the Johnson forces have been warned to expect a fight, Johnson's Texas colleague, Price Daniel, recently remarked to Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois that he hoped the natural gas bill would go through quickly, without

having to work very hard. According to his own reported estimate as of September, he could count on a sure majority of 53 votes. And just because passage of the Fulbright bill seemed so certain, it was thought it would meet its own opposition.

But now all is changed. Previously, the oil companies which have favored the bill and which probably constitute the most politically powerful of all business groups, have met no opposition from within the business community. But now 40 utility companies from all over the country, fearing that big increases in gas prices would hurt their businesses, have bandied together to fight the Fulbright bill. And the utilities are also not without political influence.

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Dixie's Convention Strength Is Boosted By Both Parties

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON

OLD sayings to the contrary, southern politicians have proved conclusively you can have your cake and eat it too.

The Dixie statesmen have done so by coming out of their 1952 Eisenhower romance with increased influence, not only in the Republican party they heretofore led but in the Democratic party they spurned.

Evidence of this is in the new distribution of votes in the Presidential nominating conventions. The Republicans rewarded the South by increasing its delegation from 229 to 325 votes. This increased its share of the 1,323 total convention votes from 19 to 25 per cent.

SOUTHERN COMFORT

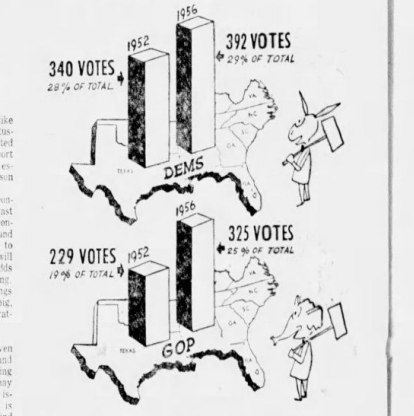
On the Democratic side, there was comfort for the South, but not quite so much. The Dixie-lancers' convention vote was increased from 340 to 392 votes; their percentage of the total vote from 28 to 29—giving the South a larger total than any other section on the issue.

North Carolina will get a four-vote bonus in the Democratic National Convention and two-vote bonus in the Republican National Convention.

Tar Heel Democrats had 32 votes in 1952, will have 36 in 1956. Maximum number of delegates: 72. Maximum number of alternates: 48.

Tar Heel Republicans had 28 convention votes in 1952, will have 28 in 1956. The GOP conven-

INCREASE IN SOUTHERN STRENGTH At National Conventions



People's Platform

LABOR SHOULD FIGHT FOR POLITICAL RIGHTS

By CHARLES S. C

Editors: The News

THE citizens of this great Nation of ours as we approach the end of another year, are properly for many, let's give thanks for the continued progress of our country in many fields. Yet we have a long way to go. We will have those who would hinder that progress to achieve their ends—political or otherwise. We will always have that kind, as we will note that during the next few days statesmen in and out of office have taken the time to enlarge the founding of one large labor group.

NO RIGHT?

Who are they that this group has no right to support any candidate for public office? Have we who work no right to support whom we want as president or any other office? Are these people afraid that labor will have a large voice in the halls of Congress?

Let me tell you that it's time that those who work think about it and support the man for public office who has the needs of all the people at heart—not just the favored few. You may oppose what labor intends to do for its welfare and the American people, but you will have to bear with it.

Who would like to refer you to the statement of one of our great heroes: "Have not yet begun to fight!" That is the way

labor feels as it is mopping the battle lines for action. The voice of 16 million workers will be heard and their votes will count at the next election.

Those votes went for the present administration.

What have they done for labor in the past three years?

My friends, it is human to make mistakes, but I repeat items is stupid. So to labor: We love either to stand for something or fall for everything. So let us stand for something that will do us good. Let us stand for something that will do us good. Let us stand for something that will do us good. Let us stand for something that will do us good.

A few months ago the textile leaders asked the workers to petition Congress in opposition to lowering the tariffs on foreign textiles, come into this country and cut our domestic employment and cause great unemployment here. We were glad to respond to the plea. Yet you will note today in our textile industry here in our country that machinery is being sold into this country and put people out of work. Why does not someone ask labor to protest this to Congress? I can see machinery being put out of work by machinery or by the Japanese. I don't expect any better from the Japs but I do expect a little better from our textile industry here in America. It says in the Bible that cause unemployed here, I know better for I have seen it take place.

—J. A. GRAHAM

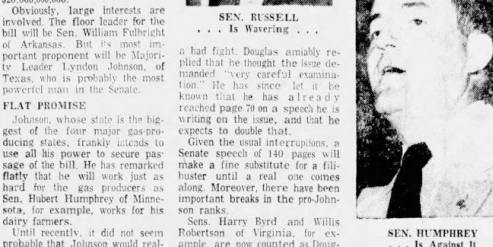
TV Goes To Court: Outcome Debatable

HAD A Waco, Texas, judge gone "big wild" when he permitted television coverage of a murder trial before him last week?

That was the view of Chief Justice W. H. Dickworth of the Georgia Supreme Court and doubtless of many other persons in the legal profession. Justice Dickworth is chairman of the Conference of Chief Justices. The American Bar Association's opposition to televised court proceedings already was known. The ABA views TV in court as "calculated to distract the witness... degrade the court..."

On the other hand the trial judge, D. Bartlett, said critics "twice object" if they "understood how this was being handled." Neither prosecution nor defense attorneys objected. Nor did the 200,000 citizens who watched the trial on TV.

A murder trial no longer fit in as Justice Dickworth says, but neither should be the issue of television and the law as the justice's "big wild" statement would style it. Any argument at present runs considerably "afraid of the facts" available to support it. The discussion, it seems to us, ought to be over whether the TV camera and thus the public en-



SEN. JOHNSON Likes Gas Bill
 SEN. RUSSELL ... Is Wavering ...
 SEN. HUMPHREY ... Is Against It

How 'Naughty' Is The Dope Problem?

TO paraphrase Thomas Hardy: Hollywood's prim Production Code, like the British constitution, owes its success in practice to its inconsistencies in principle. But it is flaunting inconsistency, but not radically when without blinking an eye, it gives enthusiastic approval to any number of films dealing with alcoholism but dourly withholds its seal from one dealing with drug addiction.

This is what has happened in the case of Otto Preminger's THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN ARM, a movie version of the Nelson Algren novel, distributed by United Artists.

Dope addiction and alcoholism are twin evils. They stem from the same vine. Identical human factors are involved.

One is hardly any more uncommon or mystifying than the other. Newspapers, magazines and television treat the problem frankly. Why should Hollywood be so squeamish?

It is altogether possible that, as with alcoholism, an honest study of the horror or narcotics addiction can even steer a few souls away from the gates of this particular hell.

An urgent topical theme is involved here. It deserves to be aired. Hollywood censors display little Victorian virtue when it comes to some of the gamier on-screen antics of Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell. Why then should they snuff so harshly when the film colony attempts to treat a serious social problem seriously?

LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE

IT IS a relief to see that conservative, tradition-bound England is having its troubles over the Santa Claus myth. On a recent BBC discussion program, the rightness or wrongness of permitting children to believe in Santa Claus—called Father Christmas by the British—was debated.

The question was raised: "At what age should children be encouraged not to believe in Father Christmas—or should they ever be allowed to start? One of the participants, Dr. Jacob Bronowski, scientist and father of four, said he would like his children go on believing in Father Christmas as long they wanted to. Others took an opposite view, degrading the fraud.

It wasn't the opinions expressed but the very discussion of the subject which brought thousands of complaints from parents who said the broadcast had ruined Christmas for their children.

In the U.S. only a few voices have been raised publicly against Santa in recent years. One reason for the reluctance to do battle with Whiskers is perhaps the realization that in the unlikely event he could be polished off, there are all sorts

of heirs apparent, perhaps more troublesome than he, to take his place. Not the least of these is Rudolph, whose popularity began with a song but now seems firmly established in the lore of childhood. Imagine the complexity of explanations to young fry if a bibulous reindeer should become the symbol of Christmas largesse: How would he get down the chimney, what would he eat, how would he make toys with his nonprehensile hooves, how could he enforce discipline among the best-of-burden reindeer, Donner, Blitzen, et al.

Harnett Kane, the Louisiana author, was in town this week with the usual anecdote about his newest book. This one's about Belle Boyd, the famous Confederate spy, and Kane says he first heard of her from an old Confederate vet in New Orleans who claimed that she had the best pair of legs in the Confederacy. "How do you know she had the best pair?" asked Kane. Said the old-timer: "I counted them." — DALLAS MORNING NEWS.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Taft Wing Wants Ike To Decide Now

WASHINGTON

THE long-concealed irritation of Taft Republicans over the delayed decision on Ike's ability to run again, is now coming out into the open.

It first cropped out when strong Taftite like Congressman Carroll Reece of Tennessee and Walter Hallahan of West Virginia stayed away from Len Hall's GOP in Chicago. It became even more evident when Sen. Bill Knowland of California, who inherited Taft's shoes in the Senate, stepped out of a Gettysburg conference with Ike to say he was not at all sure the President would run again.

Now it's definite that Knowland, acknowledged leader of the old Taft forces, will run for President himself if Ike doesn't announce by Feb. 1.

Convictions

Behind all this are two convictions on the part of many Republicans.

1. That a Congressman Carroll Reece of Tennessee and Walter Hallahan of West Virginia stayed away from Len Hall's GOP in Chicago. It became even more evident when Sen. Bill Knowland of California, who inherited Taft's shoes in the Senate, stepped out of a Gettysburg conference with Ike to say he was not at all sure the President would run again.

2. This alone makes the Taft wing of the party sore. But on top of that they see Eisenhower's medical report postponed until February or March when it will be late for them to develop candidates and when the Dewey crowd can more easily slip one of its men, possibly Tom Dewey or the House speaker, into the White House.

This is behind the slow burn in one wing of the GOP and why Bill Knowland, whose candid honesty everyone admires, no matter how much they may disagree, has called for a showdown on one man.

Battle Of Arms

Such top Democratic Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas and Sen. Mike Monroney of Oklahoma came back to Washington for the "hot parties" conferences with blood in their eye.

Chief reason for the blood was the manner in which Eisenhower has talked about a bipartisan approach and then taken a strictly partisan tack. Specifically, they are sore over the way Democratic posts on various quasi-judicial agencies have been filled by "Republicans." Under the law they must be filled by the opposite political party, but most of them vote with the administration.

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