THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1955

Progress, Pocketbooks And Priority: A Checklist Of Urgent Civic Needs

THE quiet of City Hall this afternoon was the quiet of a storm center. Swirling around the heads of city councilmen considering the complex problem of bond issues was a gusty tempest of private tensions, political pressures, conflicting interests and honest doubts.

Under consideration was a long list of important community needs. For any item, a convincing case could be built. There is a measure of urgency in each.

They are:

Water improvements, including a 12-million-gallon filter plant, $6 million.

Sewer extensions, $500,000.

Auditorium-Coliseum, including furnishing, equipping, paving, etc., $750,000.

Memorial Hospital, additional facilities, $5 million.

Health center, $500,000.

West side fire station, $200,000.

Street improvements, $500,000.

Sugaw Creek improvements, $1 million.

Spastic Hospital, $190,000.

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BUT these cold fiscal facts had to be faced:

1—The present net bond debt of the city is $23,586,604. This figure, of course, changes as principal payments are made month by month.

2—The city's debt limit under North Carolina law is 8 per cent of the assessed valuation; *i. e.* 8 per cent of $382,532,000, or $30,602,560. This leaves a leeway, as of today, of $7,015,956.

3—The proposed $6 million bond issue for water improvements would not be charged against the bond total because the water department produces revenue to retire its bonds.

4—But all other bond issues proposed, including the one for sewer extension, would be charged against the allowable total. It seems that many years ago the county's legislative delegation got Mecklenburg exempted from the provisions of a statewide act listing "sewer extension" as revenue bonds not to be charged against a municipality's debt total.

The complete list of proposed bond issues, including the $6 million for water, totals $14,450,000—a whopping sum for any city to put on its books. Even without including the water bonds in calculating the allowable debt, the total would be $8,450,000 — still above the limit.

The problem, then, narrows to one of priority.

Certain items necessarily stand out in importance. One can hardly deny the extreme urgency of Charlotte's water-sewer needs. A 12-million-gallon filter plant must be added to meet the requirements of a growing city. Sewer lines must also be extended.

Furthermore, Charlotte cannot escape its obligation to complete its construction of the Auditorium-Coliseum. It is regrettable that circumstances have made it necessary to seek new funds time and time again to build this ambitious project. But now that the job has been undertaken and the end is in sight, it must be finished. There is nothing to do but provide the money needed—but certainly not a penny extra for afterthought frills.

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REGARDING the proposed $5 million hospital bond issue, no one can deny the urgency of greatly improved and expanded hospital facilities available to Negroes. We have said, many times, and say again that this is one of the community's most pressing needs. A new wing at Memorial Hospital, proposed by the Social Planning Council's health committee after long and careful study, is a reasonable answer to that need. But it is our feeling that methods of financing the hospital have not, as yet, been properly studied. There are many unanswered questions, like these:

How much will the new wing cost? Detailed cost figures, as the Social Planning Council reported, "must wait upon detailed plans."

Will the Memorial Hospital board agree to the new construction? So far there has been no commitment, at least not publicly.

Should not Mecklenburg County pay a portion of the cost, as it is paying a portion of the cost of the new library and some other facilities?

Will a special act of the legislature be required before the hospital bonds can be issued? Lawyers have raised the possibility.

In some communities, several counties near a regional medical center ask that federal funds for hospital construction, to which they might be entitled, go to the community with the medical center. Would adjacent counties served by this city's medical facilities thus contribute?

We raise these questions now because they ought to be answered promptly, in order to insure the successful completion of the proposed hospital facilities.

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THE remaining proposals—bonds for Sugaw Creek, city streets, a health center, fire station and spastic hospital—are needs with varying degrees of urgency. But, in the face of fiscal necessity, some of these latter proposals *could* be postponed without unbearable hardship. None, we believe, has the importance to the community of the water, sewer, Auditorium-Coliseum or hospital projects.

Certainly, if a bond election for additional hospital facilities is not approved today, it would be wise to retain enough leeway under the debt limit for possible use later when all the financial wrinkles in the Social Planning Council's proposal are ironed out.

A New Kind Of Bulletin In Georgia

THE News, twice in recent years, confessed surprise at some of the statements printed in a publication called the GEORGIA FARMERS' MARKET BULLETIN. We were taken aback by charges like:

"Ninety per cent" of Hawaiians are Communists;

The Democratic Party is "the chief advocate of godlessness," and

One who believes in non-segregation is "allied with the Communists."

Then there was one big headline which read (to the delight of logic teachers ever in search of material illustrating irrational arguments): "All Communists Are Internationalists. All Internationalists Are Communists."

Our surprise did not stem mainly from the error or excess of the statements. Rather, it stemmed from the knowledge that this was an official Georgia Department of Agriculture publication, paid for by taxpayers and sent free to many thousands of readers, supposedly as an agricultural information service.

The editor of the BULLETIN was Commissioner of Agriculture Tom Linder. We were not surprised when he announced his candidacy for the Georgia governorship last year.

He lost. He also lost his job as commissioner of agriculture.

The new commissioner of agriculture, Phil Campbell, has markedly changed the BULLETIN. He has announced that the publication will be devoted to things agricultural instead of political. The first issue bears him out.

Georgia farmers may now get their money's worth. But the most heartening aspect of the BULLETIN change is that many Georgia citizens and newspapers had become indignant over the excesses of the paper under its former editor. And that, happening in a state where fulmination has frequently been politically advantageous, is worth noting outside of Georgia, and outside the South.

From The Wall Street Journal

SCIENTIFIC COOKING

IF SOMEONE'S in the kitchen with Dinah it's not the lady of the house, the way things are going now. Technology, we are happy to note, is emancipating women in ways Susan B. Anthony's philosophy never dreamed of.

Household drudgery and the chores that used to keep the ladies so busy are part of a rapidly passing scene, our Mr. Hillery reported recently. The pre-cooked meal has joined the electric iron, the electric dishwasher, the electric washing machine, the electric freezer. The old saw that man's work's from sun to sun but woman's work is never done is as outdated as MCGUFFEY'S READER.

The pre-cooked meal. You buy it, you stock it in the freezer, you take it out and thaw it, you cook it for 25 minutes and you serve it in its container. No spots or pans to wash, no dishwater hands and no husbands to complain about late meals from the delicatessen. He can bring the pre-cooked meal home himself, even.

Well, we're all for it. There'll be more leisure time around our house for the lady to go visiting, for bridge, for school, library, political and neighborhood projects and for those serious discussions about what in the world has happened to Sally's taste in hats. There'll be more time for the TV and the radio; though we doubt if they will ever supplant the telephone at our house as a source of amusement. In fact if this scientific trend continues there is a chance that all this leisure may prove boring and some day in the future the lady at our house may decide to try her hand at that amusing fad of cooking up some meals that will be going the rounds.

We've tried these pre-cooked meals and they're fine. Others seem to like them, too. Mr. Hillery reports they're going like the hot cakes Mother used to make.

Actress Susan Hayward failed to receive court permission to take her two sons on location to Hong Kong when her ex-husband claimed that they might contract diseases there because "life is held cheap." As cheap as marital vows in Hollywood?—ARKANSAS GAZETTE.

Migration: Mecklenburg Gains, North Carolina Loses

By DR. HORACE HAMILTON
North Carolina State College

(Editors' Note: The following article is reprinted from the University of North Carolina News Letter whose editor attached these comments: "(This article) deals with net migration in population in and out of North Carolina, and in and out of the counties. The net loss of some 261,000 people from 1940-50 should be a matter of grave concern. It probably cost nearly four billion dollars to raise these people, and in addition we will lose the billions of income they would have made in North Carolina had they found suitable employment and stayed at home.")

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DURING the decade of 1940-1950, North Carolina lost about 261,199 people by migration to other states and countries. This migration from the state represents 6.8 per cent of the state's main population during the decade and is more than three times the amount of net migration in any previous decade. In the decade 1930-1940 the state lost only 80,000 people by net migration.

POPULATION UP

In spite of the heavy migration from the state during the 1940's, the population of the state increased 490,306. This net gain represents the excess of natural increase over the lost by migration. The natural increase of North Carolina's population during the 1940's was 751,505, or 19.7 per cent of the mean population of the decade. Births during the decade, corrected for underregistration amounted to 1,032,914 and deaths amounted to 301,409. The difference between births and deaths is referred to as natural increase.

The net outmigration of nonwhite population (almost all Negroes), amounting to 162,557, was relatively four times as great as the net outmigration of white population which amounted to only 98,642. The ratios of net outmigration to the white and nonwhite mean populations were 3.6 per cent and 15.6 per cent, respectively.

No important differences in net migration by sex were found among either white or nonwhite populations.

WIDE DIFFERENCES

There were great and important differences in net migration among the counties of the state. Fourteen counties, mostly urban, gained by migration and 86 counties lost. The ten counties losing most heavily by migration were:

Swain	-45.8 per cent
Hyde	-33.0 per cent
Clay	-31.0 per cent
Cherokee	-28.7 per cent
Greene	-28.6 per cent
Madison	-28.4 per cent
Yancey	-27.9 per cent
Mitchell	-27.8 per cent
Graham	-27.4 per cent
Tyrrell	-27.0 per cent

None of these ten counties has any urban population.

GAINING COUNTIES

The ten counties gaining most by migration were:

Onslow	+61.6 per cent
Craven	+26.4 per cent
Cumberland	+24.3 per cent
Orange	+19.5 per cent
Mecklenburg	+8.7 per cent
Durham	+7.5 per cent
Cateret	+6.1 per cent
Wake	+5.8 per cent
Guilford	+5.7 per cent
New Hanover	+5.6 per cent

All of these counties have substantial urban populations. The three counties gaining most by migration have large military installations.

A more detailed analysis of migration, rural-farm, and rural-non-farm areas of the state is in progress. Preliminary estimates indicate that something like 500,000 people net left the farms of North Carolina during the decade 1940-1950.

The major factors responsible for the great net migration from North Carolina and between the counties of the state are:

(1) Population pressure, particularly in the rural areas where a surplus of children is produced.

(2) Population vacuums of deficits in the urban areas because of the relatively low birth rates therein.

(3) Continued growth of urban industry, business, and service, enhanced by wartime production demands and postwar prosperity and rising levels of living.

(4) Location of military installations and war industries in certain areas. By and large, North Carolina did not get her share of large war industry, but did get and keep a few large military installations.

(5) Mechanization of agriculture and changes in the types and amounts of agricultural production.

(6) The continued drift of Negroes from rural areas of the South, a movement which has been going on for the last 50 years and which has been accelerated by the war and its aftermath.

SIGNIFICANCE

It hardly needs to be said that the net migration of more than a quarter of a million people from North Carolina is a tremendously significant fact from both a human and an economic point of view. We shall only outline here the major significant aspects:

(1) The contribution of 261,000 persons to other states and countries (mainly to other states) represents a transfer of real economic wealth directly and indirectly. Many of the migrants from the state take money and other personal property with them and hold title to or will inherit real estate and other property which cannot be moved physically. A heavy net outmigration may add to the volume of absentee ownership of our state's wealth, although many of the outmigrants may eventually return to the state.

(2) An indirect economic loss to the state is represented by the cost of rearing and educating the thousands of outmigrants who will provide population deficit areas with a young and productive labor supply. Previous studies show that migrants from rural states are mostly young adults without families. The cost of rearing a person from birth to 18 years of age has been estimated by Louis I. Dublin and Alfre. J. Lotka, at $7,766 in a family of five persons with an annual income of $2,500, and at $16,766 in a family of five having an income of from $5,000 to $10,000. These estimates were based on the ways of living and the price levels of 1935-1936.

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

These estimates, Dublin and Lotka point out, do not include an allowance for the value of personal services rendered by members of the household other than the father. For example, it is most difficult to estimate in dollars and cents the value of the services of mothers who carry the major burden of managing and operating homes and of taking care of children.

(3) There is, of course, a social significance to this great outmigration of North Carolinians which cannot be put into economic terms. Migrants leaving their home state and home communities must make many personal and social adjustments. New employers, new friends, new homes, new church affiliations, new play groups, and new ways of living must be taken on. No doubt many of these new social adjustments are happy ones; but, on the other hand, we do know that high rates of social mobility frequently lead to personal and social problems of a pathological character. It takes a generation or more for a new population to become firmly established in a new community.

ADJUSTMENTS

(4) Finally, this great outmigration of people suggests that institutions (public and private) in the communities to which migrants go should develop programs which will help these people make profitable and happy social and economic adjustments. These programs will be particularly acute in the fields of new housing, vocational guidance, recreation, health services, and public welfare.

At present price levels it probably costs from $15,000 to $30,000 to rear a child from birth to 18 years of age, depending somewhat on the incomes and standards of living of the families involved. It must be remembered, of course, that a large percentage of our out-of-date migrants came from the low income rural families of the state. On the other hand, we must also consider the value of these outmigrant laborers to urban industry where most of them go. How much, for instance, would it cost an urban family and the urban community to feed, clothe, educate and otherwise service a potential laborer from birth to 18 years of age?

ECONOMIC VALUE

What we are getting at is that the economic value of North Carolina's contribution of 260,000 people to the nation must be based not only on the cost of living in North Carolina but also on the cost of living in the urban out-of-state areas to which these people are going, as well as on their productive capacities in an urban environment.

Allowing for inflation and other factors, and for purposes of clarification and emphasis, let it be assumed that these migrants represent an economic contribution of at least $15,000 per capita, or a total of $15,000 x 260,000 equals $3,900,000,00. This amount of money would not pay off our national debt; but it would, if returned to North Carolina in the form of federal aid for educational, social, and health services, enable our state to "export" a more productive, healthier, and better educated human product.

People's Platform

There's No Short-Cut To Stream Sanitation

Burgaw

Editors, The News:

IT IS INDEED gratifying to see so much interest manifested in stream sanitation upon the part of the public and members of the General Assembly. To one who went through the legislative wars of the 1947-49-51 sessions of the legislature, when we were endeavoring to get a law on the statute books, and finally succeeded in 1951, it is truly heart-warming.

I can sympathize with the impatience of people who reside in areas where streams have become so polluted that they are not only a stench to the nostrils but a menace to health. However, there is no magic relief. Your committee wishes it could push a button and bring instant relief, but the state cannot pollute its streams for many years and then have them cleaned up with a wish. Because relief is beginning to appear on the horizon, it has occurred to me that everyone would like to know where we stand today in the effort to clean up our waters.

In 1954, we completed the classification of the Yadkin River Basin. That means after thorough study and public hearings we informed each industry, municipality and agricultural land owner within the Yadkin Basin the standard of purity at which each part of the river and its tributaries, including creeks and branches, would have to be maintained. It took two years to do the field work and complete the classification. Everyone involved has accepted their final classification. Many of them have begun to put their house in order and all will have to begin to do so by not later than April 6th. The committee is proud of the work its chemist and technical experts did on the Yadkin.

In 1955, the committee will classify the White Oak River Basin. Morehead City and Beaufort are within this basin. Also, we will classify the Chowan and Roanoke River Basins.

PROGRESS

During 1954, the committee's chemists and technical men began the field work on the Cape Fear River Basin (the Haw is a tributary); the Neuse River Basin; and the French Broad River Basin. We expect them to complete their work in all these basins during 1955 and we plan to classify these areas during 1956. Sometime during 1956 we expect the field men to move into the Catawba and Tar River Basins.

This work will complete the major part of the job of classifying our streams. The minor river basins will be classified immediately thereafter, and we expect to have all of our streams, both major and minor classified by 1960, for the committee knows the General Assembly will appropriate the money needed for that purpose.

While the people were slow to realize the need of a committee with legal authority to handle stream sanitation, once the State Stream Sanitation Committee became a legal entity within the Department of Health no organization with the state government has received greater cooperation—both from within and without the government. We have been given the funds with which to acquire competent personnel and have been recipients of "lend-lease" equipment from the State Department of Health and the federal government. We are equipped to do the work and we are proceeding to do it. However, the public must understand that the very nature of the job we have been assigned to do requires meticulously thorough work. And you just can't do that kind of work with a hop, skip, and a jump.

Our committee intends to classify the waters and the streams of North Carolina correctly from the standpoint of both the health and industrial welfare of our people. This we must do. That such can be done was demonstrated clearly in the classification of the Yadkin Basin.

REPORT SOON

At an early date, our executive secretary, Mr. E. C. Hubbard, will issue "Progress Report No. 2 of the State Stream Sanitation Committee." This report will give you in detail what the committee has done to date — not only in the cleaning up of our streams but the work we have done with municipalities within the state, and the conferences we have held with industrialists seeking to locate in North Carolina. The report will be distributed to the members of the General Assembly and will be available to anyone desiring a copy.

Naturally, we all want our particular stream cleaned up right away. Nevertheless, there is no short-cut. I believe though I have shown you that your State Stream Sanitation Committee is proceeding as rapidly as possible, for the type of work to be done, to bring relief to us all. And let me assure you that when once a stream is classified the committee will see to it that the classification under the law is maintained.

—J. V. WHITFIELD
Member, State Stream Sanitation Committee.

'Hello — Ike?'

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

How To Keep Congressmen Honest

WASHINGTON

SOME Republican congressmen are getting cold feet on passing the pay increase for judges and congressmen recommended by Eisenhower. Some are worried over voter reaction at home, others have law practices or private incomes and don't need the money.

So, despite the fact that the Republican Congress initiated the pay increase last year and Eisenhower has consistently urged it, the proposal may be defeated when it comes to a vote today.

Temptation

It happens that this writer has been directly or indirectly responsible for putting four congressmen in jail for augmenting their salaries with kickbacks or bribes. This isn't a record I like to brag about. On the contrary I would rather do something to place congressional pay in a bracket where there should be no temptation to supplement salaries.

Unfortunately the cost of living in Washington, plus the cost of campaigning at home, plus the cost of traveling back and forth between, is so high that congressmen are generally being divided into the following categories:

1—Bachelors, who don't have to support a family.

2—Wealthy men who don't have to worry about low salaries.

3—Those who get subsidized by lobbyists or law firms, or have a personal expense fund a la Nixon.

Or, 4—Honest congressmen who scrimp and save and almost starve and eventually give up the struggle and leave Congress.

Bricker's Bonanza

To illustrate, Sen. Bricker of Ohio is against a pay increase. He doesn't have to worry. His law firm in Columbus has received an average of about $50,000 a year from the Pennsylvania Railroad ever since Bricker was on the Interstate Commerce Committee where he could vote on railroad problems and where he voted consistently against the St. Lawrence Seaway which the railroads opposed.

Another illustration: Ken Keating, Republican of Rochester, N. Y., is a conscientious congressman, but is a bachelor, also draws an income from a successful law firm. Another illustration: Congressman Clarence Brown of Blanchester, Ohio, also opposes the pay increase. Honest, forthright, lucky, Brown is personally wealthy.

Meanwhile, the struggle of the average honest congressman to maintain a home in his district and a home in Washington, with his expenses paid to travel home only once a year, has become so terrific that the amount of money borrowed in advance, on congressional salaries, from the sergeant-at-arms office, would shock the public.

Washington Pipeline

Congressman Jimmy Roosevelt uses a non-sked airline, North American, to fly home to make a speech in Los Angeles. He can't afford to take a regular airline, and few congressmen who live on their salaries can. If you see your congressman coming home frequently if he lives some distance from Washington, you'll know there something phony about his income . . . When Perle Mesta first went to see "Call Me Madam," with Mrs. Truman and Margaret, the Trumans considered Irving Berlin's takeoff on Mrs. Mesta's diplomatic career shocking. Perle, however, has been such a good sport that the other day she gave a large tea for Russell Nype, the actor who played the part of the young State Department diplomat opposite Ethel Merman, who played the part of Mrs. Mesta . . . Though the Luxemburgers were a little concerned at first at getting a lady minister, today they are nostalgic about Perle, frequently wish she was back . . . GI's in Frankfurt, Germany, are also nostalgic. They remember the big parties Mrs. Mesta gave on weekends to which they were invited. The American commander at Frankfurt would let them out by the busload to take the trip to Luxemburg and Mrs. Mesta's GI parties . . . Ike Eisenhower, who used to come to Luxemburg from Paris to cook in Perle's kitchen, is also a bit nostalgic.

A Congressman's Heart

Congressman Bob Kean of New Jersey, unlike most of his colleagues, is known to have a big bankroll. But it's not so well known that he has a big heart.

Mrs. Marge Moretti of Maplewood, N. J., however, has no doubts about just how big Kean's heart can be. The two got to know each other in February, 1953, when Mrs. Moretti, a widow with two children to support on a $40-a-week salary, lost her cash savings in a fire. The loss only compounded her anguish over her 12-year-old son Alfred's brave battle against muscular dystrophy, because the $1,600 that went up in smoke was needed for his medical expenses.

Like a good congressman, Kean came through for his constituent and expedited a Treasury Department refund of the charred bills.

In April, 1954, misfortune struck again, in the form of multiple sclerosis which forced Mrs. Moretti to leave her job. She desperately needed help to cover doctor and hospital bills. Without fanfare, Kean promptly sent a substantial check.

Last October Kean was instrumental in getting Mrs. Moretti, who by then was his personal "case," on the "Strike It Rich" TV show, where she won $500.