

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## Big Job Ahead For Civic Tailors

**M**ETROPOLITAN Charlotte, a big boy who has grown too fast for his britches, needs help.

If proposed perimeter zoning and subdivision control bills are not approved soon, his new garments will be shoddy and ill-fitting.

But if appropriate legislation is provided and if civic tailors do a good job, Queen City's fast-growing metropolitan area can become the pride and joy of Mecklenburg.

Planning experts have been aware of these facts for years. But political timidity has prevented progress.

This week the tables were turned. Chances for adequate perimeter zoning suddenly looked very, very good.

The Mecklenburg legislative delegation has unanimously approved a brace of bills sent to Raleigh by Charlotte City Council and Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners. One measure would authorize the creation of a zoning board of adjustment with five members representing the city and five representing the county. The other would give the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning

Commission supervision over the establishments of plats and subdivisions. Transfer of lots in unapproved subdivisions would constitute a misdemeanor.

The two bills serve a commendable purpose.

If passed, they will help provide for the orderly growth of metropolitan Charlotte.

They are designed to promote and protect the health, safety, morals, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of all inhabitants of the perimeter area.

This sort of zoning and subdivision control is merely the application of common sense and fairness to public regulations governing the use of private real estate. Zoning gives everyone who lives in or does business in a community the chance for a reasonable enjoyment of his property rights and, at the same time, protects him from unreasonable injury to himself and his property.

The principle of perimeter zoning is sound. If they meet the approval of the attorney general on technical grounds, the two bills should be speedily enacted by the General Assembly.

## 'Give Us Hope'—The Prisoners' Plea

**O**NE WAS a cop-killer, in for life. One was a robber. The third was a rapist, burglar, serving 46 years. The fourth was serving 35 to 49 years on charges of assault, escape, larceny, kidnapping, carrying a gun and attempting to escape.

These were the four prisoners who held the Massachusetts State Prison last month. Those were the men who asked to tell their story to two chaplains, a doctor and an editor who tried to help them.

The editor was Erwin D. Canham, of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. Here, in part, is what he wrote after the long conversations leading to the prisoners' surrender of hostages and return to their cells:

These were desperate men, but desperate earnest ones. They had a sincere and passionate appeal to make. It was, in a phrase, "Give us hope."

"For three solid hours we sat and talked—mostly, the convicts complained of their utter frustration, but most of all the horrors of prison solitary confinement. You note they said.

Then they took us out in the cell block to see where they were granie in floor and walls, and there the men had to sleep on the rock without bed, mattress or blanket. Under such primitive conditions they got a loaf of bread and some water each day.

They claimed to have been shut in such cells for over 20 days at a stretch. Teddy Green (the robber) asked me to step into one of these gloomy dungeons. He shut and barred the door and turned out the lights in the corridor. Then, in his tense, hard voice, he described life in these cells.

No makeshift note, no false sympathy, no disguise of their crimes entered the discussion. They freely avowed they had a debt to pay to society. But they wanted to be brought to trial, to get on with their punishment, and to see whether—way down at the end of the road—there might not be a year or two of liberty for them.

## Literary Score Card: One For Three

**J**UDGES for the 1955 National Book Awards scored only one clean hit for three times as bad. That came when they gave the nomination prize to Joseph Wood Krutch for *The Measure of Man*.

Mr. Krutch, a versatile and learned man of letters, wrote with considerable eloquence on a subject as old as philosophy itself—"What is man?" In brief, his book answers the rather dull, but not unteaching questions of some social scientists that man is at best only an animal and at worst an animated machine.

Unlike Pavlov's dog, men are thinking and feeling creatures quite capable of making moral decisions, says the author.

In some detail, he traces how man's consciousness leads through logical sequence to moral responsibility through choice—consciousness, sensation, emotion, thought, preference, value judgment and standards of morality. Men do make moral choices, he says. They do not the helpless victims of environment. He adds:

The grand paradox of our society is this: We magnify man's rights but minimize his capacities. But on we go.

Periodically, an outbreak like that in Massachusetts, or the prison deaths of a Loeb, or Remington, or Rush, focuses attention on the ills of the U. S. prison system. And then the doors clang shut and the newsmen go away, until prison brutality, homosexuality or hopelessness again rears its death or break-out cry.

What is the answer? How can prisoners be given hope, and rehabilitated, and the public still be protected?

Ralph S. Brana, who was formerly in charge of the psychiatric clinic at Sing Sing, a doctor who would seek private gain at his expense.

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While he disclaims proposing substitution of psycho-therapy for penalty, his suggestion is too sweeping. But there is enough truth in what he says to build a case for substantial revision in the prison system.

There is too much of the Old Testament idea of an eye for an eye in the present prison system, and not enough of the New Testament philosophy and modern rehabilitation techniques. In federal, and in North Carolina state prisons the majority of inmates are repeat offenders, whose first incarceration is more often than not a post-graduate course in crime.

Other countries have applied modifications of the Banay proposal, and achieved remarkable results. Sweden, for example, has but a few thousand prisoners. They are given periodic home leaves, a practice which helps a prisoner maintain normal home ties and a measure of self-respect.

In the words of the Massachusetts prisoners, this permits men to hope. Surely it is worth trying such a program among the many prisoners whose occasional release would not endanger the public.

But in the wonderful world of American literature, not even Judel like North Carolina's Randall Jarrell (who served on this year's panel) can please everyone. Few can really complain with this: We magnify man's rights but minimize his capacities. But on we go.

From The Johnson (Tenn.) Press-Chronicle

## 'WHOOPEE,' MAYBE

OUR older cousins, the British, are working themselves into quite a state these days over a matter which, to them, is dead serious.

Their minds are disturbed over how many "hips" should precede a "hurray."

# Queen City Revisited: 'A Feeling of Quiet Sureness'

By JAMES RATHBURN

**(Editors' Note: Mr. Rathburn, planner for Charlotte's Redevelopment Commission from September 1952 to May 1953, returned to the Queen City recently for a brief visit. Here are some of his observations—a professional planner's slant on Charlotte's capacity to meet old and new problems and the relationship of those problems to similar ones in his new home, Puerto Rico.)**

**J**N certain ways, at least, San Juan has not been entirely unlike Charlotte for me. After a year and a few months' work with the San Juan Housing Authority, I transferred to the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Co. The company is a Commonwealth government agency, program aimed to help bind the economic development program here.

**LIKE CHARLOTTE** At the housing authority, my work had been in the slum clearance and urban redevelopment program. In the afternoon, I old slacks were still there. The unhealthy housing was still crowded along

the stream that serves the double purpose of being a "play area" for the children as well as being an open sewer. But these scenes did not call up the reaction of the past; for I had been worse in Puerto Rico. Let me say flatly that San Juan has some of the worst slums in the world. By comparison, the slums of Charlotte are fairly decent residential areas.

Does this mean that Charlotte can forget its slums? I think not. However, this is something which the people of Charlotte must decide. This is their backyard; San Juan is a long way off. Let the people of Charlotte go to their slums during a cold winter rain, and again in the heat of summer; and let them decide if they can forget their slums.

**'ENCHANTED ISLAND'** As to Puerto Rico, aside from the slums and the economic problems, it is a lovely place. Officially it is known as the "enchanted island"; and for one, officialdom may be right. The island is tropical, with coconut trees, lush green fields, and brilliant flowers and friendly people. (The shooting in Congress caused more anger and

regret in Puerto Rico than in the States, I suspect. People here were outraged at this act of a few unwise persons. The nation's stateside reaction was a warning insight into the American mind.)

The most remarkable aspect of Puerto Rico during the past ten years is the economic progress that has occurred. Puerto Rico is a poor country with a tremendous population to support. There is a vigor and purpose, however, which springs from and is maintained by an honest and efficient government. There is room to hope that the progress of the past decade will continue; and to the present urgent need to raise the standard of living will one day become a historical memory, much as the American frontier is to us today.

**DEVELOPMENT** The Commonwealth government is actively supporting the development program with tax exemptions, factory construction loans, employment training programs and a multitude of special services. Many of the leading national firms have established plants here. It may be to the benefit of Charlotte to investigate

the possibilities. Puerto Rico can be of interest to Charlotte for reasons of more value than economic considerations. Puerto Rico is an example of what a group of dedicated leaders can do for their people. The resources are few; they are almost limited to the basic ingredients of ability and moral fiber of the people. Failure and misdirection have occurred, of course; but the progress has been steady and there is hope for the future.

**DEDICATION, URGENCY** Is there a similar atmosphere in Charlotte? Is there a sense of dedication, of urgency? Is there a struggle to accomplish things that will be remembered by those who come after us?

I said before that I had felt a quiet sureness in Charlotte, a sense of being up to something. I hope it was a sureness of being up to great things, and not an obsession with the fall of routine which had resulted from the answers which our predecessors had given to these challenges. Each age has its own problems. Ignoring them is worse than not solving them.

# South Asia Teeters While U. S. Frets Over Formosa

By JOSEPH ALSOP

**R**ANGOON, Burma FOR any citizen of the free world with a spark of human political sympathy, there is something very disturbing about a visit to this small, determined, hopeful country.

The enchantment is not on the surface of life, in the sure Rangoon has not a trace of its old claim, stuffy pretentious, which this reporter remembers from the time when he was here with Gen. Chennault, in the bad old imperialistic days before Pearl Harbor. The city is stark, scarred, and street sweeping does not stir the same enthusiasm in Free Burma as in the former British Raj.

**GLAM OF PEACE** What is enchanting, rather, is the spirit. It is the gleam of grim pride in the eye of the tough young Burma colonel reciting statistics to show that the Communists and other insurgents are now on the run. It is the simple pleasure of the man at the airline counter, explaining how Burma has built up her own efficient national airline.

It is the intelligent enthusiasm of the able young official (in the

Burmese government you are venerable at 40) who explains the government's brilliantly original, yet simple, practical and successful program for bringing a better life to the farmers in their rice fields.

**JOINT PLAN** And in it the sardonic delight of the cabinet officer who announces that the great Bombay Burmah Company, slayers of the third Burma war, first grand exploiters of this country and stiffeners of all colonial enterprises, has at last decided that Free Burma merits renewed investment on the government's special joint plan for foreign capital.

These things, plus the quality of the Burmese government itself with its three remarkable leaders, U. Nu, U. Kyaw Nein and U. Ba Swe, justify the most hopeful forecast. One of the wisest men in this city, a brilliant Indo-Burmese physician, put the thing in a nutshell. "I really begin to believe," he said, "that we have a great future here in Burma if the rest of the world will just let us alone."

His "if," his careful proviso, sums up the potential tragedy of Burma, and indeed of the free

world. It also implies something very important to Americans—that there are other things to worry about in Asia besides the future of Formosa.

In the long run the greatest danger in Asia is the political chain

reaction that has started in Indochina. It is spreading, at this moment, to South Viet Nam. If it is not halted at the border, Cambodia and Laos will come next. Then Thailand will fall. And after the fall of Thailand, the rest of South Asia will be instantly involved.

**PREPARED PRESSURE** The Chinese Communist professions to the Burmese government, the Communists have already prepared their instruments of pressure for future use. They have their "Autonomous Federations" to stir up the Kachin tribes, their Communist fronts to stir up the Karen tribes, and their "progressive" front organizations (the Chinese are financing) to stir up the Shan tribes. They have their "Democratic Front" to stir up the Burmese government, and of course their remaining insurgents. These things do not matter much now. But let Thailand fall. Let the Communists and on three quarters of Burma's borders. Let all the timid and the doubtful be

swayed by continuous news Communist triumphs. And then the situation will arise of which Burma's U. Nu has already warned India's Jawaharlal Nehru. According to authentic reports, U. Nu has frankly told Nehru that the fall of Thailand will re-

nder Burma's position "untenable," even if there is no armed aggression to fear.

To meet this potential tragedy still more tragic, there is the Asian fear that neither the Asian nor the Western world will be ready doing much to avert it. Both India's and Burma's future are immediately at stake. Yet the Indians and Burmese are reluctant to commit themselves, by throwing their whole political and moral weight into the effort to halt the chain reaction where it can best be halted, in Laos and Cambodia.

Meanwhile, the American leaders are utterly preoccupied with Formosa, which evokes the reveries of the American people. And by the same token, the American leaders appear to be utterly forgetful of the vast and pressing danger of a complete upset of the world balance of power by the loss of South Asia.

All this is to remind what old Mohammed said when a high American official warned him the Communists were trying to wipe out the effort to "Too bad, too bad," he cried, gazing the while, "Too bad for us and too bad for you!"



CHOU EN-LAI  
Smooth Professions

world. It also implies something very important to Americans—that there are other things to worry about in Asia besides the future of Formosa.

## People's Platform

### Do Parents Live Up To Responsibilities?

**E**ITORS, The News: THERE are so many sad things happening today and that of so many mothers and dads who are brokenhearted over the trouble their children are having with their sons and daughters.

I wonder if in these homes that million have parents who read the Bible and pray in the home, if they live a clean, Christian life so sons and daughters will follow in their footsteps, do these homes have kindness and love and are they homes worth coming home to?

Mother and dad, are you living up to that name or are you throwing it away? Some day your sons and daughters will face you at the altar and you will have to answer for how you raised a child God trusted to you.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER Charlotte

### U. N. Offers 'Best Hope For Peace'

**E**ITORS, The News: I ADD my brief vote to the belief of many thoughtful people that all war, with its false values, is the apex of evil. Each of us should be concerned with some aspect of the Divine Spirit, "Humanity col-

lectively—past, present and future—is sacred. To destroy human life violates moral law.

With the advent of nuclear weapons, war, as an instrument of national policy, became obsolete.

Conflict is inevitable but such strife can be resolved by civilized, non-violent means. International disputes can and must be handled by mediation and arbitration. Any other method is a violation of moral law.

The United Nations is our best hope for peace.

—ORA WILBERT EADS

### There's Good And Bad In Every Race

**E**ITORS, The News: FOR quite some time I've had the opportunity of reading The Charlotte News, which I thoroughly enjoy. But one letter, "Why Have Whites Fought For Negro?"

One can clearly see the hatred and jealousy that white has for the Negro. I wonder if he has examined closely his own race. There's good and bad in every race.

Thank goodness for the decision of the Supreme Court. I would only add to this: "Education covers a lot of ground; but it doesn't necessarily civilize it."

—LEO H. WILLIAMS



"I don't care if you did learn it in school... it's an old fish-wife's tale."

## Drew Pearson's Merry Go-Round

**H**ERE are a few ways the government could save the taxpayers' money without hurting the efficiency of government—perhaps even improving it.

**Renegotiating Contracts**—Secretary of Commerce Weeks' chief friend of big business is the Eisenhower administration, has quietly killed the extremely important Renegotiation Act which protects the taxpayers against defense profiteers.

He also authorized the government to recover excess profits from defense contractors who were found to be soaking the public.

However, the act expired on Dec. 31. In the past, when it expired, President Truman asked Congress to renew it immediately. Defense Secretary Weeks gave a secret memo to the White House urging that the law be scrapped. By constant nagging, Weeks finally got his way. The White House has quietly discarded the Renegotiation Act.

This means that defense contractors can now collect from the government if their costs run higher than expected, but the government in turn will not be able to collect from contractors if their costs run lower than expected. This will mean millions more out of the taxpayers' pockets.

## How Uncle Sam Wastes Tax Dollars

**T**HIS was true. But it doesn't look right to thousands of other boys who can't get an airplane in which to fly to college—even though they may have a few trunks also. They take the trunks on the train.

But the Anderson family got to Albany, the deputy secretary of defense phoned an air base commander and found another plane that was "going near" Williams College as "a matter of routine."

**Hubbard and Wife Hops**—Frances Hubbard, an intricate life of Mrs. Wayne Parrish, wife of the publisher of American Aviation, turned up in Paris last September at the time her husband arrived in Albany. She did not go to the Department where she's Scott McLeod's right hand assistant and a contact of Sen. McCarthy. Some State Department officials describe her as McCarthy's "hook."

Miss Knight's excuse for going to Paris at the same time her husband did is that she wanted to make a "dip-bomb" inspection of the American Consulate there. Same consuls, she believes, are still displaying pictures of Harry Truman and Franklin Roosevelt and she wants to stop it.

In Paris she found no pictures of Truman and FDR, but she did find a picture of the city of Beirut, Syria, and there was no flag in the room where passengers are seated; and that the flag was on the floor—due to a tight State Department budget. Miss Knight will now try to take some money out of the already tight FDR budget. She has a budget so there can be a rug on the floor and a flag in the passport room. She will send a picture of the Grand Canyon to replace that of the city of Beirut.

She is writing a 40-page report on this, but strangely the report isn't finished. She made her trip in September—four months ago. Anyway she had a nice visit with her husband who was going to Paris in September, but she was there incidentally, in vacation time and a wonderful time of the year to be in Paris!

**Brothers-In-Law On The Pay Roll**—After 18 years of service to the State Department, H. Byron Mock, regional western administrator for the Bureau of Land Management, got notice to move from Lake City—a city in which he had worked for many years and in which his family had grown up. As a grade 15 civil servant, Mock is supposed to be protected from such abuse, however, Secretary of the Interior McKay told him to move anyway. Just to make sure he'd move, they also threatened to demote him. Mock took the hint, resigned.

It then became apparent why he was being pushed out. Appointed to his place was the brother-in-law of Sen. Welch of Idaho—Neal D. Nelson. For four years, Nelson had been an office boy for the man who is called "Junior Sen. McCarthy." With only 90 days in the Interior Department, he was given the intricate job of handling land management for our western states, with headquarters at Salt Lake City.

### U. S. Navy In Frisco

**M**ax Rabb, chief picker-up/broken-plumage around the White House, was busy picking up after the airplane carrier Midway visited South Africa, the most segregated anti-Negro nation in the world. It has been strict Navy policy for

some time to avoid segregated countries, so Max had quite a job picking up after the Navy's bad behavior.

First, Max called in Ethel Payne of the Chicago Defender and Alice Dunham of the Associated Negro Press to explain that the visit of the Midway actually had been a good demonstration to the South Africans of how non-segregated democracy works. The South Africans had been able to come aboard the Midway, he said, and see how white and Negro sailors shared the same quarters.

A couple of hours after Rabb's explanation to Negro reporters, the Navy put out exactly the same explanation; later inspired a story in the New York Times.

Real life was, however, that when American Negro and other non-white sailors went ashore in South Africa, they were ordered to visit only carefully segregated areas. If Negro personnel were ordered to mingle only with Negroes.

This was arranged in advance by Capt. R. D. Hagle, captain of the Midway, in cooperation with the American consul. It was in direct contradiction of previous Navy policy worked out under Truman when the U. S. Navy would not visit ports or countries where seamen could not be treated alike regardless of creed or color.