

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Charlotte Must Win Its Wings

VENTURING into the wild blue yonder of municipal politics, a determined band of Chamber of Commerce leaders yesterday built a sound and sensible case for ordered airport development. The arguments simmered down to a single point: If Charlotte is to find its rightful place in the air age, it will have to have some expert advice and a roll of master plans.

The Queen City needs the services of a competent professional consultant and it needs a long-range plan for the healthy growth and expansion of airport facilities. It is the duty of the City Council to answer these twin needs with as little delay as possible.

WHY should Charlotte have an airport master plan? The answer was provided by McAlister Carson Jr., chairman of the chamber's aviation committee and leader of the task force that invaded City Hall's council chamber yesterday afternoon.

You plan for your business, the city's business. You plan for your schools, water, sewage, streets and transportation. Our airport represents a multimillion-dollar investment and can only be developed and protected by application of a master plan. Additional millions of dollars of investment capital are represented by planes, technical buildings and equipment. Jobs are now created for hundreds of taxpayers and are expanding every day.

Whether many citizens know it or not, Charlotte has become one of the air capitals of Dixie. Albert Gotch, Washington aviation consultant, noted as long ago as 1932 that while Charlotte was 69th in population, it was 25th in airport passengers explained. In terms of passengers enplaned per 1,000 population, Charlotte is outranked only by Dallas, Tex., among the nation's leading airline stations. For the year ending November, 1954, the number of air passengers boarding planes in Charlotte increased more than 15 per cent.

Even bigger things are in aviation's

future. Charlotte cannot afford to gamble haphazardly in making arrangements to meet these developments. Mr. Carson mentioned predictions that Charlotte will have commercial helicopter service within five years. The next step: Pure jet commercial airline transportation. A hint of things to come is included in the 1953 Civil Aeronautics Administration guide book on terminal buildings:

Helipot facilities in proximity to the terminal building for future helicopter service must be given due consideration, particularly at airports in large metropolitan areas.

And in addition:

The airport should provide positive separation of civil, military and/or manufacturing areas to minimize operational conflicts.

And this:

Most airports are developed in stages to meet the current and anticipated aeronautical requirements. This suggests the master plan should depict its various stages from the initial to the ultimate development. The master plan for layout of the entire airport, and particularly the building area, must allow for expansion of all facilities, in addition to being inherently flexible to permit accommodation of the continually changing pattern of airport activities. Flexibility and expandability are axiomatic when planning airport facilities.

CHARLOTTE already has one of the nation's finest airport terminals. It is a huge new stone in the foundation on which the community's economic prospects are built. It is a fine start.

But more remains to be done to prepare for the future use of that terminal and the field it serves.

The stability and growth of an area's industry and commerce are linked today to the adequacy of its air facilities. The airport has become a key to new enterprise, new expansion.

Charlotte must not be kept napping.

End Stop-And-Go Defense Planning

"WE NEED a new stop-and-go... that will call a halt to stop-and-go planning; an administration that will not demobilize and then hurriedly remobilize."

The words are those of candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower in Baltimore, Sept. 25, 1952.

But even with a famous general in the White House, defense planning in America has never shaken out of some of its old ruts, its old stop-and-go confusion. Swiftly changing world conditions have produced a few of the twists and turns in policy. Conflicting viewpoints within the administration itself have produced others.

There have been some curious decisions too—such as the one to trim the armed forces in spite of added military commitments and growing Soviet strength.

But that old devil, uncertainty, has been evident from the start. For instance, after ordering cuts in the Air Force in 1953, the administration did an about face and restored the cuts in 1954.

Now, the decision to make the Army bear the brunt of new military manpower reductions has been accompanied by several new contradictions.

On Dec. 10, the National Security Council was reported still undecided on just how large a role the Army should

play in U. S. defense. On Dec. 20, Defense Secretary Wilson announced a 100,000 cut in manpower, noting that "the relative danger of immediate war" had decreased. The following day, Secretary of State Dulles contradicted Mr. Wilson, saying "the reductions are not due to the fact that the threat of war has diminished but merely due to the fact that we think we have other ways to cope with the threat." On Jan. 31, Army Chief of Staff Ridgway said a slash in the size of the Army would "jeopardize security to a degree."

On the other hand, other top officials have indicated that the realignment of the armed forces team will promote the security of the nation and of the free world.

Now, the defense question has become a political football. Both Democrats and Republicans are attempting to make a party issue out of a problem which may, in the end, affect the survival of western democracy. It is not a happy situation.

National defense, like U. S. foreign policy, requires bipartisan cooperation. If, however, that is quite impossible in these highly partisan days, then the administration should adopt a level-line policy and stick to it, with as little internal discord and bickering as possible under the circumstances.

Redistricting: The Game Is Fixed

THE shell game North Carolina's General Assembly has been playing with redistricting is now a little thin but it looks as if this strange, rigged contest will go into another overtime period in 1955.

Instead of introducing a bill posthaste to redistrict senatorially along the lines of 1950 census figures, Mecklenburg's Sen. F. J. Blythe was polite. He proposed a special commission. It was to study the matter and, incidentally, have an opportunity to recommend its own special brand of realignment. It could, if it wished, advise on the district lines in the rural east, where inequities

exist too, while taking care of the needs of Mecklenburg and Guilford.

The strategy did not work. Time is running out. It appears that the commission will come up with no concrete suggestions.

Perhaps Mecklenburg deserves this treatment because of its apparent lack of interest in the matter and its failure to send a strong, enthusiastic delegation to yesterday's special hearing in Raleigh. But the mandate is clear: North Carolina is constitutionally bound to legislate redistricting. Arguments may be done on through the years but this study fact cannot really be denied. And four years for a shell game is too long, too long.

From The Christian Science Monitor

WITHOUT BENEFIT OF CLAQUE

YUGOSLAV cartoonists and artists drawing so-called comic strips assembled recently, says a dispatch from that country. They resolved unanimously:

(a) That humor must be funny.

(b) That individuals, as well as collectives, are fit subjects for humor.

(c) That it is not humor unless laughter results spontaneously.

One's first impulse is to observe that in wording and adopting these resolutions the Yugoslav gentlemen have met their own specifications—especially the one about invoking spontaneous laughter. But the man who draws cartoons and cartoon strips faces a sterner discipline than do funny men in some other callings.

The "consumer" views the drawings

and reads the "blubs" all by himself, not in groups. If they strike him as funny, he laughs. If he doesn't he turns to something else. But he doesn't laugh because the crowd is laughing, nor shrug because the crowd is silent. Pity the cartoonist everywhere. He doesn't have a studio audience!

A Cleveland apparel store sent out Christmas cards resembling checks worth "365 days of happiness" drawn on the "Bank of Friends." A bemused housewife recipient had her "check" cashed by an equally bemused clerk in an appliance store. He credited \$120 in full payment for a bill and gave her money in cash. She has promised restitution.—WALL STREET JOURNAL.

A Cloud No Bigger Than A Man's Future



People's Platform

The Old Testament Revisited

Editors, The News:

I WANT to compliment you on the editorial in the Feb. 4 issue of The Charlotte News entitled, "Give Us Hope—the Prisoners' Plea," and to say that I agree with the writer that our entire prison system needs study and revision. Possibly a completely new approach to the problem needs to be worked out, and your stand on this issue will have a great deal to do with its ultimate solution.

The writer, however, used one phrase with which I disagree. It is parenthetical to the main theme of the editorial, and its inclusion was not necessary. My objection is that it states an interpretation as if it were truth, as if it were an axiom, and places in contradiction two guides of life that seem to me to be more in agreement than disagreement.

Near the end of this fine editorial the writer says: "There is too much of the Old Testament idea of an eye for an eye in the present prison system, and not enough application of New Testament philosophy and modern rehabilitation techniques."

The teaching of the Old Testament of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, was given not in the spirit of vindictiveness or cruelty, but as a guard against exacting a greater penalty than was just. This law of retribution was designed to take vengeance out of the hands of private persons and commit it to the magistrate. It is not a law of retaliation, but was a civil law, given to regulate the procedure of the public magistrate in determining the amount of compensation in every case of injury.

In other words, the punishment should fit the crime—not two eyes for an eye, not a life for an eye, not two lives for one life. Furthermore, I know of no biblical record where the penalty was exacted literally, but provision was made for a monetary compensation for injury, or for whatever penalty was regarded as a proper equivalent for these offenses.

I have studied the Old Testament all my life, and have never felt that it taught vindictiveness or evil retaliation.

Since reading the editorial, I have referred several Christian commentaries on the New Testament, and one of them made the following statement:

"The teachings of the New Testament are not in antagonism to the law of Moses, but serve to carry out more fully its spirit and

design, to complete the law, not change it."

—I. D. BLUMENTHAL

The Death Penalty Is Unconstitutional

Editors, The News:

JAMES MORGAN, who joined the Army at the age of 14, was in combat in Korea on his 18th birthday. The immature, inexperienced boy that society taught to be a killer thus became a hero. The end of his story, however, is even more tragic. After his release from military service, he was involved in the slaying of a cab driver. Several weeks ago the young veteran, age 18, died in the electric chair at Rockville, Ga. As a sentence of life imprisonment would have satisfied justice, but the grace and charity that would have approved mercy were absent. This is a defect in society.

The death penalty is illegal by our federal courts. Clearly, however, this limitation is made applicable to each of the 48 states by the 14th amendment.

Honest people may disagree with my careful view that the death penalty actually is unlawful. Not more than a few when this is a matter of law. The old precept of a life for a life should be replaced with the Christian rule of mercy that precludes the sacrifice of human life on the altar of vengeance.

—ORA WILBERT EADS

Plea of Mitigation For An Old Soldier

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AS A practicing attorney and a veteran of more than four years service with the Army in World War II, I have been interested in the case of Sgt. Olson at Fort Bragg, S.C. Sgt. Olson has been found guilty as charged and ordered to imprisonment and dishonorable discharge, with forfeiture of pay and all allowances.

"I would have thought it was a matter for the jury to decide," commented Sen. Ed Thyne, Minnesota Republican. "The dismissal just doesn't look good."

Sen. Milton Young, North Dakota Republican, also expressed dissatisfaction. "How can American wheat farmers expect to sell abroad in competition with Canada if the Canadian maintains strict inspection of its wheat export while American wheat is sent to ports like Galveston where it's mixed with hog feed and sold there as friendly arrangement with the Galveston city grain elevators of which E. H. Thornton was manager, to mix its poor wheat with good-grade U. S. govern-

ment wheat right under the eyes of the U. S. inspector."

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Furthermore, though the Justice Department alibied that there was no evidence any Galveston dock officials profited from the transaction, this is directly contrary to the fact.

At Galveston, bribes were paid to D. J. Sweeney, assistant superintendent of elevator B, totaling \$5,500 during the same three years that the Canadian hog feed was secretly mixed and loaded. The bribes were paid by S. P. Perich, vice president of the Stone Forwarding Co., which handled all shipments for the Bunge Corp.

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U. S. Cuts Armed Strength As Global Dangers Mount

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE chief conviction that Secretary of State John Foster Dulles brought back from his Asian tour is the need for a much firmer stand if the Communists are not to gain large new areas. In the precarious balance that now prevails world alone will not mean the kind of firmness the weak, uncertain, still-uncommitted countries of Southeast Asia can understand and respect.

That is why, not only outside but also inside the administration, doubts are beginning to grow over the cutbacks in strength—both military and economic—which have been part of the economy program of the Eisenhower administration.

STOP-AND-START

In his 12 campaign Mr. Eisenhower spoke out against the kind of stop-and-start defense which has proved so costly in the past, while after each war in which America has participated the military machine put together an enormous cost on an emergency basis recklessly and wastefully dismantled. That happened in 1919 and in 1946, and there are some Army officials who believe it is in process of happening again in the wake of the ending of the Korean War.

One of the issues becoming more deeply embedded in politics is the effort to create a military reserve system that would provide a reservoir of trained manpower. This is the alternative to maintaining a large force in uniform. The plan is already being studied.

While in the past the United States has had months in which to prepare for war, it is agreed that there will be a contest when such a period of grace. That is why the decisions being taken today—or often simply being bypassed—are so momentous in relation to America's security.

The temptation is to lapse back into the illusion that things will be as they were in the past and that if trouble comes we shall have time to get ready for it.

SO LITTLE KNOWLEDGE

What is more, this is happening with the public having little awareness of what these decisions mean. Increasingly, congressional committees are hearing vital testimony in secret session and the most that comes out is a leak that often is distorted and inaccurate. Just as Ridgway has begun to testify over his concern about the reductions in the Army and their effect the inter-continental missile design committee was into closed session. Seldom, if ever, have issues of such far-reaching importance been decided without the public's knowledge and understanding.

PEANUTS

The total cost of getting such a small inter-continental missile recently been estimated as low as \$20 million—peanuts in the Pentagon—as against previous estimates of \$1 billion or more. And intelligence analyses of Soviet progress in missiles have made a \$0 million investment in a satellite project seem urgently desirable.

In recent months the Soviet press has been filled with boasts about future Soviet triumphs in space. Prof. Nesmeyanov, president of the august Soviet Academy of Sciences, passed the word: "Science has reached a point where it is realistic for us to speak of creating an artificial satellite of the earth."

Nesmeyanov's words have been echoed by numerous confident predictions from other Soviet scientists. The intelligence experts have learned from sad experience, notably from the Soviet Academy of Sciences, passed the word: "Science has reached a point where it is realistic for us to speak of creating an artificial satellite of the earth."

NO SERIOUS EFFORT

It is for precisely this reason that no serious effort to get a satellite into space has heretofore been made, even though seven or eight years ago the technicians of the Air Force's Rand Project ruled that a satellite was technically feasible. Opponents of the satellite project have hilted artfully to the fact that first priority must be given to weapons with real military value—above all to the decisive weapons of the inter-continental ballistic missile, or IBM.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

ATTORNEY General Brownell went out of his way at a press conference last week to try to allay the dismissal of five Galveston grain scandal indictments just before they were to go to trial and shortly after Governor Siver's Texas had lunched with President Eisenhower.

Brownell even brought his chief of the criminal division, Warren Olney, a competent public servant who did good job as counsel of the California Crime Commission, to the conference. They had the mandate to investigate the "Bank of Friends." A bemused housewife recipient had her "check" cashed by an equally bemused clerk in an appliance store. He credited \$120 in full payment for a bill and gave her money in cash. She has promised restitution.—WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Fimsy Alibi In Texas Grain Scandal

WASHINGTON

Thornton Sr., the father of Gov. Allan Shivers' commissioner of highways who was Shivers' roommate in college and manager of his re-election campaign last summer.

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