

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Smoke: A Dollars-And-Sense Story

ANYONE with a political Geiger counter in Charlotte's City Council chamber yesterday would have picked up a volley of clicks and clacks. Producing the radiation: Smoke abatement.

Councilmen once viewed the subject with the balky reluctance of small boys about to get their necks scrubbed. There were too many bitter memories of a 1952 misadventure. But as 1955 dawned, smoke was suddenly a burning issue again—kindled by civic organizations, newspapers and the specter of a May 3 municipal election.

Yesterday's display of enthusiasm cannot be traced directly to any of these factors, however. It was triggered instead by a skillful presentation of the case for smoke control by George E. O'Neal, chief engineer for Asheville's well-trenched smoke abatement program.

Mr. O'Neal pegged his argument to a word with instant appeal among penny-wise councilmen: Economy.

"A sound smoke abatement and air pollution program is not an expenditure," he said. "It is a profitable venture."

Mr. O'Neal spoke with authority and he spoke the truth. Most smoke problems can be traced to fuel-burning equipment that is faulty or improperly fired. The clouds of thick, black smoke rolling out of Charlotte chimneys indicate wasted fuel. It is estimated, for instance, that one out of every five tons of coal is wasted in smoke or soot.

Before an effective smoke abatement program was launched, Asheville estimated its annual loss at \$300,000. But the loss is not only in fuel and equipment. Damage to clothing, merchandise, buildings and crops runs into staggering figures.

SMOKE also contributes to that unhealthy condition known as smog or smaze—the mist commonly a relatively small proportion of soot, acids and organic material which can sometimes produce frightening consequences.

In the closing days of October, 1948, a weeklong smog settled over Donora, Pa., and carried the dubious fame of becoming the second such atmospheric pall in history to reach toxic intensity. Six thousand people were affected. For 20, the dosage was fatal.

The first killer smog on record hit Belgium's Meuse Valley area in 1930. There were 60 fatalities. Ordinarily, the atmosphere is a great purifier and most cities do not need to worry about air pollution. Winds, rain

and sunshine keep the supply of air replenished and reasonably fresh. The trouble comes when a temperature condition called an "inversion" occurs and the impurities discharged into the atmosphere cannot be carried off quickly. Charlotte has had brushes in the past with the unpleasantness of smoke, smog and smaze. The city will continue to be abated until a satisfactory smoke abatement program is established.

THE Asheville plan, outlined by Mr. O'Neal, is sound and sensible. It is based upon education and salesmanship, as well as enforcement. It is primarily designed to teach the operator of fuel-burning equipment that smoke control is cost control, economical in the long run. It has the solid support of Asheville's fuel dealers, heating engineers and city grades. Smoke control ordinances have teeth here, as Mr. O'Neal told The News earlier yesterday, you can catch more flies with sugar than you can with vinegar.

"You've got to let the public understand what the program is doing," he added, "this is the trouble about enforcement because they'll go along with it."

It was good advice. Obviously, Charlotte's City Councilmen should make arrangements at once to have an engineering study made of the smoke problem here (it won't cost the city a cent if conducted by a smoke abatement committee of U. S. coal producers) and lay groundwork for a strong, effective smoke control program. Councilmen might take their cue from Mr. O'Neal's closing words: "Smoke abatement will be an easy program to sell for Charlotte because it is an engineering study made of the smoke problem here (it won't cost the city a cent if conducted by a smoke abatement committee of U. S. coal producers) and lay groundwork for a strong, effective smoke control program.

Draging Feet

TAR HEELS should heed Gov. Hodges' advice and let themselves be heard on vital issues before the 1955 legislature. This is no time for complacency or dragging feet.

The General Assembly in two months has only barely scratched the surface of the major problems it faces. On some matters it has made alarmingly little headway. If any significant record of achievement is to be registered in another 30 days, legislators will have to hustle, sacrificing words for deeds.

High Voices In The Wilderness

"Really, none you ask me," said Alice, moseying out. "I don't think—"

General Assembly, for instance. The air is heavy with a sense of emergency. Scarcitation, taxes, faulty water resources: Momentous issues ripe for momentous decisions.

Seldom have legislative halls rung with such oratory. For righteous clamor, outraged desk-thumping and shocked eye-rolling, nothing has quite equaled it. And it's all about a little electronic gadget that can neither read nor write nor mark a ballot.

The lights of words occasionally reach such heights that they leave reason, common sense and judgment far, far behind.

The other day one Tar Heel statesman proposed that North Carolina should pass a law making it illegal for drivers to blink their lights at oncoming cars

to warn them of a whammy ahead. When motorists "test their lights," he said, it is likely to make them slow down and thus rob the State Highway Patrol of business.

But isn't the purpose of the whole highway safety program—to slow down drivers? And if light-blinking slows down drivers, then why... Oh, let it pass. Let it pass.

Determination

NO ANY doubt, Thomas, Charlotte City Councilmen indicated yesterday that they plan to leave no stone unturned in the search for a solution to the Memorial Hospital bond puzzle.

Major Phil Van Eperly, meanwhile, demonstrated admirable determination to meet the matter through, despite 11th hour legal difficulties.

Tar Heel Education: Approaching Crisis?

By GORDON GRAY

Editors' Note: This probing analysis of Tar Heel educational problems by the president of the Consolidated University of North Carolina was excerpted from his annual report, delivered this week to the governor and the university's board of trustees.

WE APPEAR, largely unheralded, to be approaching something of a major crisis in the educational life of North Carolina.

Two lines of development are converging. As is well known, state tax revenues have been declining during the current year. The prospect is that far from having a surplus as in recent years, present revenues will just barely meet current expenditures.

On the other hand, increasing enrollments, and other equally pressing imperatives, require that the public schools and the University not only proceed at current levels of expenditures during the next biennium, but also seek certain specified increases.

Our task is to seek the taxpayers of North Carolina to give more money for education. The state is doing a great deal in proportion to its means. In 1950-51, we spent \$143 per pupil in average daily attendance in the public schools.

Amid the status, our rank was forty-first. Yet the total amount spent on the public schools was 3.62 per cent of the state's income payments of that year. Only six other states spend a larger proportion of their income on public schools. The simple truth is that North Carolina is making a great educational effort.

This is true also with respect to higher education. In 1949-50, and, despite real progress in diversification, we are still largely dependent upon tobacco and other cash crops for income.

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The correct and honest view, though a hard one, of our situation in North Carolina must be the state and people in mid-passage from the real and relative poverty of a generation ago, to something approaching equal standing in the nation. I do not see how the agricultural, industrial, political, or educational leadership of the state can be recommended to the people unless we relax our efforts now. We have come a long way, and do not regret it. We must continue to go forward.

DEMANDS INCREASE The closer we approach national standards in all areas of our life, the more crucial becomes the role of the University. Demands for undergraduate education increase each year, in size and complexity. Just as urgent are the demands for special technical training at the higher levels, and for the carrying on of research on matters of vital importance in the social, industrial and agricultural life of the state. And still again, the University is increasingly called upon, to its list of special services to the state, such as, for instance, the opening next year of the psychiatric wing of the North Carolina Memorial Hospital for the improvement of mental health care in North Carolina. And, always, there are the central core demands, renewed annually, to maintain the level of university level basic scholarship, teaching, and research in the fundamental disciplines of knowledge. And, for as long as we have been undergirding all our other activities. These, then, have been the considerations guiding our judgments and requests for the next biennium.

On the basis of these considerations, it seems clear that we must continue our search for excellence, on the assumption that absolute standards in education will serve North Carolina best. At the same time, we realize that the state cannot do overnight everything that is desirable from a purely educational point of view. MAJOR REQUESTS We have, therefore, selected the priority positions of our requests for additional funds carefully. At the top, we have placed certain faculty positions urgently required to meet the needs of increased enrollment and to fill certain critical gaps of great importance, also, are a number of requests for maintenance of the maintenance of our greatly expanded physical plant.

Our major requests for the next biennium are: 1) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of biology, chemistry, and physics; 2) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of engineering and architecture; 3) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of law and medicine; 4) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of history and political science; 5) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of education and psychology; 6) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of mathematics and statistics; 7) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of music and art; 8) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of philosophy and sociology; 9) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of anthropology and linguistics; 10) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of geology and astronomy; 11) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of meteorology and oceanography; 12) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of botany and zoology; 13) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of entomology and microbiology; 14) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of forestry and agriculture; 15) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of home economics and nursing; 16) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of physical education and recreation; 17) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of drama and theater; 18) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of journalism and mass communications; 19) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of library science and information systems; 20) an increase in the number of faculty positions in the departments of public administration and political science.

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1955, The Register and Tribune Syndicate. INTERLANDI

"There's no doubt that he thinks of himself as presidential timber..."

People's Platform

Why Glamorize Juvenile Crime?

Charlotte Editor: The News published a small article on one of the pages near the back of the paper about a 12-year-old boy who had saved the lives of two men from drowning—a remarkably heroic feat for such a young fellow and one so worthy of much commendation.

On the front page of the same issue was the picture and a long write-up of the marriage in jail of two believed to be participants in the theft ring that has been uncovered in Charlotte and surrounding territory.

It seems to me that these articles were placed in wrong positions. Why glamorize crime among the youth? Many will

Reader 'Shocked And Saddened'

Charlotte Editor: I have always had the highest regard for your paper. Therefore I was shocked and saddened by the front page publicity you gave to two accused thieves. The write up that accompanied the front page picture of these two people would have done credit to any marriage announcement ever accorded honorable members of the social register of our town.

Let's reverse the order of such articles the next time and give publicity to the little hero who saved two lives and put the other article off in some corner where it will not be seen. We are not proud of that anyway.

—CHARLOTTE TEACHER P. S. Please do not use my name but the above if you see fit to publish this.

Warning

Charlotte Editor: I don't want to lose the space we were getting in the Kansas City Star. I have contacted them and they have declined their advertising in the Catholic Register.

Advertising Influences News—Pierce B. Adams, a former ad man for the Star, testified that he had a conversation with Jimmy Gleeson, a professional baseball player who ran a florist shop in Kansas City, regarding the fact that he was advertising in the Journal-Post as well as the Star.

"I saw it (the Journal-Post) myself and then I mentioned it to me," Adams testified, referring to Emil Sees, the Star's advertising manager. "He told me to tell Gleeson to get out of the Post or he wouldn't get any cooperation from the sports page."

Revenge

After that, Adams testified, he found that the Star carried less and less of his radio listings until he called on the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington who wrote a letter to the Star. Thereafter KCMO radio listings were published.

Religious Newspaper Competition—Another witness, H. R. Arnoff, operator of Lullaby House, a group of children's stores, testified that when he inserted a small ad in the Catholic Register he was called down to the Star and then after discontinued his advertising in the Catholic Register.

192 per cent of the personal incomes received by the people of the state was devoted to higher education. In the Southeast, only Mississippi put more of its income into higher education; elsewhere, only eight states did as well or better.

THREE JOBS In the upbuilding of North Carolina, we have had three main jobs. One, to improve agricultural practices and increase agricultural production and income. Two, to industrialize and diversify at a going rate, and, three, to educate and train our people for performance.

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