



Tax Increase Proposed To Aid City's Schools

Board Seeks 10-Cent Hike On Valuation

Delegates Attend To Hear Of Needs

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer
An increase in the local school tax levy to meet the demand of a constantly increasing school enrollment was proposed at a meeting of the City School Board today.

Amendment to the state school law raising the local school tax limit from 50 cents to 60 cents per \$100 valuation was offered. If the state school law is amended and the school tax limit raised, a special election for an approving vote of the people on a tax increase is contemplated.

All members of the Mecklenburg Legislative Delegation were invited by James F. Hobson, chairman of the board's finance committee, to attend the meeting for discussion of Charlotte's pressing school problems. At the outset of the legislative conference, Mr. Hobson pointed to Charlotte's unprecedented increase in school enrollment.

In 1947 the enrollment stood at 18,313 and today the number of students totals 26,784.

On the other hand the taxable valuations are not keeping pace with the needs of financial support for the schools, Mr. Hobson pointed out.

Copies of various amendments necessary to change the state school law were handed the legislators by Brock Barkley, attorney for the school board.

These amendments provide for change in the local tax levy from the present limit of 50 cent to 60 cents per \$100 of valuation for school districts having population of not less than 100,000.

At the suggestion of the delegation the proposed amendment will be brought to the attention of the Board of Education, which of course would be interested in any change in the state school law.

Members of the local delegation were uncertain of the reception of the amendment to the state school law.

But Rep. O'Herron pointed out that the thinking of the present legislature is toward the assumption of greater financial responsibility of schools at the local level.

The suggested change on the local school tax limit is in that direction, Rep. O'Herron said.

ASK APPROVAL
If the legislature approves the amendment and raises the limit then the citizens and taxpayers of Charlotte would be asked to approve an increase in the local school tax limit.

While the limit is now set at 50 cents the present school tax levy is only 45 cents but the demands of the growing system to the necessity for a levy beyond the present 50-cent limit.

This prospect was brought to the board's attention through a letter directed to members of the finance committee by John M. Dunlap, business manager.

Mr. Dunlap amplifying this letter explained that the school budget for 1955 is \$1,000,000.

See HIKE on page 2-A

EVENING PRAYER

O God, our heavenly Father, this world is troubled and ill at ease. But Thou art a sure refuge from every fear. Help us to run to Thee and hide ourselves in the safety of Thy love. Help us, while there is yet time, to run to Thee and hide ourselves with Christ in Thee.

HIROSHIMA A-BOMB 'GREY METAL SPHERE'

LONDON.—A man who saw the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima described it today as a "grey-colored metal sphere."

The description was given by Group Capt. Leonard Cheshire, now retired from the Royal Air Force, who was Britain's official observer at the dropping of the bomb.

Writing in the Daily Sketch, Cheshire said the atomic bomb "among a confusion of scientific instruments" in a "bomb" but surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards.

He gave no further details.

PERCY W. HERMAN'S CONVICTION STANDS

RICHMOND, Va.—The U. S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals today affirmed the conviction of Percy William Herman, a 50-year-old runaway bridegroom, who was charged with transporting more than \$10,000 of his wife's money and jewels across state lines.

Herman now is serving an eight-year sentence on the conviction. The appeal, argued before the appellate court Jan. 3 in Charlotte, N. C., set forth as one of the six reasons for reversing the district court's convictions that incompetent evidence had been submitted to the grand jury that indicted Herman.

The point referred to testimony given by Mrs. Dyll Prather Havens Herman, 67, whose marriage was later annulled, concerning the defendant, who was her husband at the time.

In Phenix City Case

Padgett Is Called For More Quizzing

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(Greil Padgett, the surprise witness who linked both Albert Fuller and Arce Ferrell to the A. L. Patterson murder, was called back to court today for another stage of cross-examination.

Defense attorneys have aimed their attack on the state's case principally at Padgett because his testimony is the nearest to an eyewitness account of the slaying that Fuller's trial has produced.

The former chief deputy sheriff at Phenix City, where vice deeds flourished openly for decades, has rested his case except for the re-examination of young Padgett.

State's attorneys, offering rebuttal testimony, were permitted to put on 25 or so more witnesses before the evidence goes to the jury for a verdict, perhaps by midweek.

Padgett, a 30-year-old construction crew foreman and father of four children, told the jury he saw Fuller and Patterson together just before the fatal shooting last June 18 and that he saw Fuller and Ferrell flee from the murder scene. Ferrell was prosecuting attorney in Phenix City.

A TEMPTATION
The defense has laid bare Padgett's financial affairs in an effort to show he was heavily in debt and tempted by an offer of \$11,000 reward in the Patterson killing.

Fuller, still nonchalant despite a 4½-hour appearance on the stand in his own defense Saturday, is the first of three defendants to be tried for the killing of the Democratic nominee for attorney general who had vowed to clean up Phenix City.

He says he was in the county jail when Patterson was killed. Ferrell and former Atty. Gen. S. Garrett are awaiting trial.

Ferrell, meanwhile, was called up for trial today on a vote fraud charge growing out of the Democratic primary last June 1 when Patterson won his nomination.

He and Garrett and a young Birmingham attorney, Lamm Reid, are accused of manipulating votes in an effort to defeat the county jail Phenix City anticrime crusader.

Perjury Charges Faced By Turnabout Witness

WASHINGTON.—Mrs. Marie Natvig, turnabout witness at Federal Communications Commission hearings, was indicted today on charges of lying under oath.

Mrs. Natvig, 51, Miami Beach divorcee, first gave testimony tending to link Edward Lamb, publisher-broadcaster, with communism but later repudiated this testimony.

Lamb has denied any Communist connections. The perjury indictment against Mrs. Natvig was returned by a federal grand jury before U. S. District Judge Charles F. McLaughlin.

At the request of J. Frank Cunningham, a Justice Department attorney, Judge McLaughlin ordered a bench warrant issued for the arrest of Mrs. Natvig.

The judge also followed a suggestion by Cunningham that bond be fixed at \$250,000.

Cunningham told a reporter he does not know Mrs. Natvig whereabouts. In testimony at an FCC hearing last October, the three-married Mrs. Natvig linked Lamb with a Communist Party cell.

The hearing was recessed Feb. 24 after the examiner described Mrs. Natvig as an "incredible witness. Lamb's attorneys moved that the whole proceeding be junked.

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See JELKE's on page 2-A

Assembly Has Busy Schedule This Week

Trip To Greenville Slated Tomorrow

RALEIGH.—North Carolina's General Assembly, which moves into its 10th week tonight, faces a busy schedule this week, including several important committee hearings and a trip to Greenville.

The House and Senate will meet tonight at 8 o'clock. The lawmakers will travel to East Carolina College tomorrow for the dedication of two recently completed buildings and the observance of Founder's Day.

The occasion will mark the beginning of the college's 48th year. The House is expected to take final action Wednesday on a much-discussed bill to empower the State Milk Commission to fix minimum wholesale and retail milk prices.

The House passed the bill on second reading Friday after the longest debate of the session. It adopted an amendment which would increase the number of public representatives on the commission from one to three. If the measure is passed by the House, it will be returned to the Senate for concurrence in the House amendment.

HEARING SET
A hearing is scheduled tomorrow morning by House Judiciary 1 Committee on legislation which would create a state building code council.

Three hearings are scheduled Wednesday by the House Education Committee will consider proposed changes in county boards of education. The revised law proposes that school board members be elected for staggered terms of six years.

The boards would have six members, with the chairman having a vote only in case of a tie. With the exception of five or six counties, local boards of education are appointed by the legislature under an "ombudsman bill."

A hearing on proposed senatorial redistricting is scheduled by a special Senate group.

Also on Wednesday, legislation to rewrite the county and municipal control acts will be considered by the joint counties, cities and towns committee.

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EDEN BACK HOME
LONDON.—P.—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden returned to London today from the Bangkok conference and his Middle Eastern tour.

ADULT RESOLUTION
At yesterday's meeting on the Egyptian-Israeli border, the truce commission adopted an Egyptian resolution declaring the Gaza attack Feb. 28 "was committed by Israeli regular army forces against an Egyptian regular army force."

It was carried over Israeli objections by the votes of the Egyptian delegation and the U. N. chairman, Commandant Francis Giammagli of France.

At the same time the commission brushed aside an Israeli counter-complaint that an Egyptian unit had ambushed an Israeli patrol, starting a running fight that took the Israelis into Egyptian territory.

This complaint was killed off when the Egyptian patrol delegation voted against it and Giammagli abstained.



DRESSED IN HER SUNDAY BEST, Britain's Wealthy Lady Ducker, left, prepared to enter the "first women's marbles championship" in the British min town of Castleford. Sheila McKee, member of the factory girls' team opposing Lady Ducker's squad, also

dressed up for the game. Lady Ducker, whose goldplated limousine and amusing antics have made her a favorite of the reading public, won seven of her 10 matches for the title in the tourney staged for the British Empire Cancer relief fund Sunday. (AP Wirephoto)

Flash Biggest Of Series

Atomic Device Lights West

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—The largest atomic device tested in the 1953 nuclear series exploded today with a 30-second fireball and cloud, a power of about 50 kilodisintegrations, or 2 1/2 times normal atomic strength.

The blinding flash of the bigger than average A-weapon started observers on a mountain peak 35 miles away and lit up skies briefly like an early sunrise over Southern California, 250 miles away.

A house painter by trade, Spencer looked around for something else during a slack season. A newspaper ad landed him with a New Orleans firm that buys monkeys from South America for sale to zoos in this country.

"I was born and reared on a farm in Indiana, so I figured I'd do all right with monkeys," moaned Spencer from his bed in New Orleans Charity Hospital.

The job of feeding them and cleaning their cages netted him \$20 a week, 10 bites, chills, a 104-fer and a strange malady that doctors so far call "fever of unknown origin."

Spencer still thinks monkeys are "cute little fellows," but he's going back to painting.

IMPRESSIVE SHOT
A group of 50 observers saw the detonation from Angel's Peak on the Charleston range, west of the test site. They reported it was one of the most impressive shots ever seen from the mountain vantage point.

The explosion was from a 500-foot tower for the first time. A vapor trail was visible high above the fire ball, perhaps the central of a high-flying exploratory, or "sniffer" plane, which may have been in the area as part of Air Force maneuvers shortly before the explosion.

The blinding flash finally faded like the filament of a light bulb. The fireball, a perfect sphere, rose most immediately but held firm for about 20 seconds.

This was not the largest fireball or explosion at Yucca Flat. The

Rains Swell Ohio River

CINCINNATI, Ohio.—The swelling Ohio River—which had risen 16 feet of water from homes along its banks—will go higher than had been anticipated as water from heavy rains yesterday rolls in from tributaries.

There were no reports of heavy damage as the river continued to rise toward dike areas in low-lying areas from Pomeroy, Ohio, to Louisville, Ky. The Ohio highway patrol reported the river falling above Marietta, Ohio.

Some 2,400 people in 603 families were evacuated by last night, the patrol said.

At Catelettsburg, Ky., at the junction of the Big Sandy and Ohio rivers, 800 of the town's 4,700 people probably will be forced to leave their homes by the time the river crests there tomorrow, authorities estimated.

OUR WEATHER

Partly cloudy and colder today with frost tonight. Continued cold tomorrow with fair weather.

Low tonight, 35.
High yesterday, 71.
High today, 50.
High tomorrow, 50.
Sunrise, 6:45 a.m.; sunset, 6:34 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

FARM BOY, ANIMALS FAIL TO GET ALONG

NEW ORLEANS.—Harry D. Spencer swears today he is all through with monkey business.

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Deaf And Blind Couple Allowed To Keep Baby

AKRON, Ohio.—A deaf and blind couple today won their fight to keep their two-week-old baby, as a juvenile court judge ruled the county welfare department can't make them put it in a foster home.

Judge Russell Thomas said Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hathaway can keep their son "with no strings attached."

The ruling came after a two-hour informal hearing sought by the welfare department. Welfare Director Leo Mulhearn said he wanted the hearing to find out if the baby should not be placed with foster parents who could see.

Hathaway, 53, and his wife, Georgia, 52, were supported by friends and neighbors from near-by Stow where they live. They had claimed that despite their handicaps they were able to care for the child.

Mrs. Hathaway said the healthy, normal child "is the only thing I ever had of my own in my whole life."

Hathaway was informed of the judge's decision by a friend who wrote the words on his hand. He asked to be led to the judge. He shook the judge's hand, thanked him. Then Hathaway embraced his wife.

"I'll need a diaper service," was her first comment.

Judge Thomas said he based his finding "on the fact that there had been such terrific interest shown in this case all over the country, and so many people have offered to help."

"I am sure the Hathaways can rear their child with the help of friends and neighbors from near-by Stow where they live. They had claimed that despite their handicaps they were able to care for the child."

PRINCESS UNDER KNIFE
UTRECHT, Netherlands.—An emergency appendicitis operation was performed today on Princess Beatrix, 17-year-old heiress to the Netherlands throne.

Attorney Hints 'Bombshell' Mickey Jelke's New Trial Is Opened

NEW YORK.—Minot F. Mickey, Jelke's new trial on compulsory prostitution charges starts today and this time there may be women on the jury.

"Nobody knows a woman like a woman," Jelke's lawyer commented yesterday in saying he would welcome "courageous" women jurors. The prosecution's case in the past rested heavily on testimony of call girls connected with Jelke's alleged \$100-a-night vice operations.

Another change for the election phase of the trial, margarita heir this time will be the presence of the press and public throughout the trial. The first time, Judge Francis L. Valentine barred observers "in the interest of public decency and morals."

This ban eventually resulted in Jelke's conviction being upset by the state's highest court. It ruled that he was denied a fair trial because the court room was closed during the prosecution phase of the trial.

The defense asked Valentine to disqualify himself from presiding at the second trial on the ground that he would be prejudiced by the overruling of the first trial. Valentine refused to do so. Jelke and his attorneys then asked that he were sure the judge would conduct a fair trial.

KEY WITNESSES for the state in the trial of Mickey Jelke are Barbara Harmon, Marguerite Cordova, and Erica Steel, Pat Thompson and Ward (chief witness), Jelke goes on trial again Monday in New York on procuring charges.

Jelke's arrest in a fashionable east side apartment on Aug. 15, 1952, unleashed a major case society scandal even though Valentine's ban kept many names secret.

Asked if any sensations are brewing, Herl replied: "If the truth told, it will be a bombshell." Jelke, now 25, said he is con-



A TROUBLESHOOTER WAS crowned Miss Hermitage High School (Richmond, Va.) when pretty 18-year-old Barbara Slaughter clipped two teeth and had an upper lip stitched as a result of an automobile accident just before the crowning ceremony. Her next crowning will be in the dentist's chair. (AP Wirephoto)

Aggression Is Charged To Israel

JERUSALEM.—Israel has been charged by the U. N. Mixed Armistice Commission as a "brutal" aggressor who deliberately attacked Egyptian forces in the Gaza Strip a week ago.

The armistice group said the bloody assault in which 38 Egyptians and 8 Israelis died violated the 1949 Palestine truce agreement.

The commission's ruling yesterday heightened speculation at U. N. headquarters in New York that the Security Council would vote similar censure against Israel when it takes up the explosive issue again next week.

Maj. Gen. Edson L. M. Burns of Canada, U. N. Palestine truce chief, was expected to leave for New York in a few days to give the Security Council a personal report on the Gaza incident, which has strained relations in Palestine to the breaking point.

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