



Junius Scales Given 6-Year Prison Term

'Home Rule' Plan Backed By Committee

N. C. Constitution Changes Endorsed

RALEIGH (AP)—The principal of more "home rule" for Tar Heel counties and municipalities was unanimously approved by the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns today.

The committee gave favorable reports to substitute bills to amend the Constitution so as to allow the cities and counties to adopt "home rule" charters. The "home rule" bills are aimed at eliminating a large percentage of the local bills which consume a great deal of the time of the state legislature and which receive, for the most part, only perfunctory consideration with their passage depending on whether the legislator from the county involved wants them to pass.

WOULD VOTE IN '56
If the "home rule" bills are approved by the Legislature, they would be submitted to the people in the form of amendments to the state constitution for their approval in the 1956 general election.

If the people approve, then individual counties and cities would be authorized to adopt "home rule" charters. To adopt such a charter, the governing body of the county or municipality would first have to agree to submit it to the people. Such charters would give the local governing bodies limited authority to decide on many matters which now require local legislative action.

LIMITS SET
However, they could not pass criminal laws and they could levy taxes only within limits prescribed by the Legislature. Rep. Clyde A. Shreve of Guilford, chairman of the Counties, Cities and Towns Committee, told the group he felt the home rule measures would allow the local units "to fashion for themselves the government best adapted for local conditions."

"I believe if these bills are adopted, it will not only save time of the Legislature and save the state a great deal of money but will allow the people to solve problems at the local level where they are a whole lot more familiar with them," he said.

SENATE JUDICIARY 2 Committee, meanwhile, was giving its blessing to a bill providing for regulation of auto dealers, motor vehicle salesmen and distributors by the department of motor vehicles. The bill would require licensing of auto salesmen, dealers, motor vehicle factors, and distributors. It would give the motor vehicle commissioner the power to decline to issue licenses and to suspend or revoke them for cause once they were issued.

OTHER ACTIONS
The Counties, Cities and Towns Committee in other actions reported favorably on a bill to allow any two local government units in the state to form authorities for the building and operation of water supplies and sewer systems. The bill now goes to the county committee on conservation and development for further study.

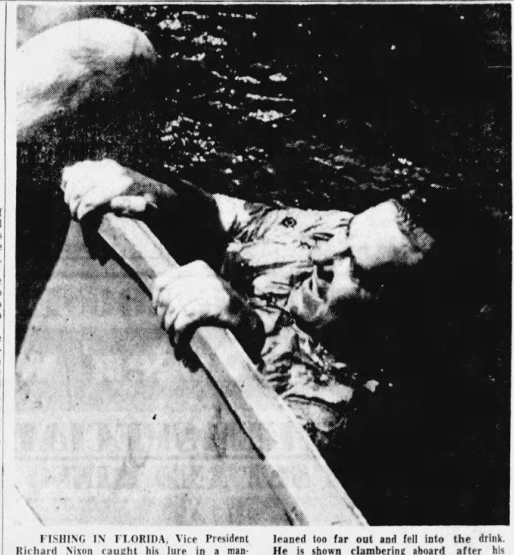
The committee gave a favorable report to a Senate-passed measure amending the county financial control law and turned over to a sub-committee a bill to allow counties and municipalities to buy supplies under contracts negotiated by the state division of purchase and contract.

He Finally Took That Long Vacation

EASTHAMPTON, Mass. — George H. Balford, 68, a dealer in Easthampton 41 years, put an advertisement in the local paper yesterday, saying: "I have waited a long time for a vacation. I wanted it before the rocking chair days got me." He sold his business and then he left for a long vacation. In 43 years, he said, he has taken only two one-week vacations.

Our Weather

Fair and mild today and to-night. Partly cloudy tomorrow and a little warmer.
High yesterday, 84.
High today, 84.
High tomorrow, 85.
Low this morning, 56.
Low tonight, 55.
Sunrise, 5:43 a.m.; sunset, 7:01 p.m.
More Weather Data on Page 14-A



FISHING IN FLORIDA Vice President Richard Nixon caught his lure in a manhole. Trying to free the hook, the Vice President

Big 3 Message To Russia Meeting On Austria Proposed

LONDON (AP)—The Western Big Three proposed to Russia today that their four ambassadors in Vienna meet with Austrian representatives May 2 to complete negotiations for an Austrian independence treaty.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said the United States, Britain and France delivered notes to the Kremlin today accepting the proposal for a foreign ministers conference to complete the long deadlocked treaty. But the West attached the condition that the ambassadors in the spokeswork first.

GOVERNOR PORTRAIT BILL IS DRAWN UP

RALEIGH—Sen. F. J. Blythe of Mecklenburg has a bill ready for introduction which will require governors to have their portraits painted while in office.

The measure provides that it shall be mandatory for a governor to have his portrait painted for education and historical reasons. The most would not exceed \$4,000 and would be handled by the Dept. of Archives and History.

The hanging of the portrait would be turned over to the Dept. of Buildings and Grounds. It was Sen. Blythe who spearheaded the movement to have the late Cameron Morrison's picture hung recently. He will introduce the bill next week, he said.

Councilmen Would Go Easy On Creek Action

BY DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer
City Councilmen won't be any for the County Commissioners' take over the Sugar Creek problem.

In fact they have maintained that the drainage of the creek is the legal responsibility of the county government.

But before vast sums are spent for dredging the creek the effectiveness of the city's industrial waste ordinance, effective June 1, should be awaited.

BLYTE BILL
These sentiments were expressed by members of the City Council today following yesterday's introduction of Sen. Blythe's bill for the improvement of Sugar Creek and other streams in Mecklenburg County.

Question was raised as to the feasibility of Sen. Blythe's proposed assessment of the cost. Most councilmen felt that Sugar Creek is a community problem and costs of its improvement should be the responsibility of the entire city and not just those in the creek vicinity.

THE COMMENTS
Comments of councilmen included these: H. H. Baxter—"I am glad that our legislators are recognizing the need for doing something about Sugar Creek. But I don't think they are approaching the matter in the right way because I feel it is a community problem."

Herman A. Brown—"As long as they are keeping the council out of it I'd be in favor of it. But before we put several million dollars down the drain I think we ought to give our industrial waste ordinance a chance." Steve W. Bellinger—"I'd be in favor of anything to clean up Sugar Creek but I don't think

The Foreign Office simultaneously announced that American, British and French officials would start work here April 27 to lay the groundwork for another Big Four foreign ministers meeting of wider scope—particularly on the German question.

The British spokesman indicated the officials would prepare a suggested agenda for the later meeting. "West German representatives will be associated with the discussions whenever German questions are examined," he added.

Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov proposed the Big Four meeting April 19 following conclusion of his talks with Chancellor Julius Raab. After those talks in Moscow, he and Raab announced Russia had agreed to end the 10-year occupation of Austria while Raab had pledged that his government never would join a military alliance with a foreign power or allow foreign military bases on Austrian soil.

The job of the Big Four and Austrian representatives in Vienna, as Allied officials see it, would be to:

1. Bring the 1948 draft Austrian treaty up to date because some of its provisions have become obsolete.
2. Spell out the new arrangements arrived at between Austria and Russia concerning reduction of Russia's reparations claims.
3. Formulate a four-power declaration to guarantee the future territorial integrity and military neutrality of an independent Austria after the treaty is signed.

BAND CONCERT
BADIN—The Badin Band will give a concert in the park adjacent to the Badin Theater Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Bandmaster Leo W. Gabriel will be in charge.

See CREEK on page 14-A

Just Bringing Act Up-To-Date Blythe 'Not Selling' Sugar Creek Bill

BY JULIAN SCHIFF
Sen. F. J. Blythe, making like a man who lit a firecracker and then was surprised that it went off, said today he is "not selling the Sugar Creek bill."

"I am merely giving 'em a wagon to ride in," he said, referring to a measure he introduced yesterday in the State at Raleigh which would enable the Mecklenburg Drainage Commission to clean up Sugar Creek.

"I'm not trying to sell this thing," he said. "This just gives 'em' a way to do something about Sugar Creek if they want to do it. All I'm doing is starting 'em' and to bring up-to-date the 1911 drainage act. This local law has been on the books a long time and my bill just makes a few changes in it."

BOARD MEMBERS
Under the Blythe measure, members of the County Commission would become ex-officio members of the Drainage Commission.

Convicted Red Denied Bail Pending Appeal

Carolinas Communist Chairman Sentenced

By AUSTIN ADKINSON
GREENSBORO (AP)—Communist Junius S. Scales was sentenced to six years in prison today for advocating violent revolution. Federal District Judge Albert V. Bryan refused to let him continue on bail pending an appeal to the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The maximum sentence under the conviction returned last night could have been 10 years and a \$10,000 fine. Scales told the court, "I am innocent of the charges in this case."

As chairman of the Communist party's Carolinas District he was charged with knowing that the party sought to overthrow the government by force and violence and with working towards that end.

READS STATEMENT
Reading a statement he had written in pencil on a sheet of lined yellow paper, Scales said, "My beliefs cannot be tried in court."

He said it was impossible to try anyone for what he believed. "This jury had small opportunity to make such a statement with the rags and tatters of unfamiliar weapons, distorted by government witnesses," he said.

SAYS HE'S AGAINST FORCE
Scales declared that he would not belong to any organization advocating force and violence. He

EVERY PRESIDES
Avery, as chairman, enjoyed the prerogative of presiding on the stage. Wolfson and his associates were assigned to spectator seats on the right side of the main floor near the stage.

The main event was the vote by stockholders. At stake were all nine positions on the Ward board of directors. Each side offered a full slate of nine candidates—one headed by Avery and the other by Wolfson.

Protests Are Heard Bridge Repairs May Be Delayed

By HARRY SHUFORD
Charlotte News Staff Writer

In the face of an apparent storm of protest over a highway department announcement that the Buster Boyd Bridge will be closed Monday for repairs, there is a chance the repair job will be postponed.

District Highway Commissioner James Harrison of Wadesboro was quoted today as saying that he will attempt to have the work put off until after the summer if an immediate "safety factor" is not involved. McAllister Carson Jr. said today that he knows of a rapidly growing group of citizens protesting the repair work being done at this time.

"There may be a need for the work. I don't doubt that there is," he said, "but it is certainly unlikely to do it now. If the bridge is closed for 60 days or more as the highway department says it will be at least July before it is opened again."

WISDOM QUESTIONED
He added that there are thousands of people who will be affected, particularly with summer coming on. He said that the situation to know if the bridge repairs immediate repair, but he is checking into the matter today.

A spokesman for the highway department said this morning that the bridge maintenance department of the department recently checked the bridge and advised that there is a danger of the bridge floorings collapsing under heavy traffic this summer.

The plank flooring of the bridge has been patched several times before.

Buster Boyd Bridge serves N. C. Highway 49 between Charlotte and York & C. and during the repair work traffic will be detoured by way of U. S. Highway 21.

A general renovation of the 1,200-foot bridge is being planned at an estimated cost of \$35,000.

Evening Prayer
Dear heavenly Father, forgive us that so often we go our own way, forgetful of Thee. Help us realize Thy watchfulness and care over us. We thank Thee that Thou art always at hand to help and comfort any who will draw nigh to Thee. We praise Thee for Thy goodness to us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Rep. F. M. O'Herron Jr. said the delegation had discussed it informally a week or so ago while Rep. Arthur Goodman said he knew nothing of it until it was introduced yesterday.



Confident Sewell Avery, Ward Chairman, Ready For The Big Vote. (AP)
For Control Of Mail Order House

Avery-Wolfson Fight Opens

CHICAGO (AP)—Sewell L. Avery, who never has backed away from anything—including the U.S. Army—faces up to a new foe, Louis E. Wolfson, today.

The annual meeting of Montgomery Ward & Co. stockholders gave Avery and Wolfson an opportunity to confront each other in person for the first time.

Avery, 81, gray, erect and a rugged individual, is chairman of the company. Wolfson, 43, tall, dark and handsome, is trying to take control of the firm—the oldest and second largest mail order house in the country.

The battle arena for these men with the multimillion dollar muscles was the Midway Temple on Chicago's near North Side. There was room for 6,300 in the theater-style auditorium and basement. It could prove to be the largest gathering of its kind in American corporate history.

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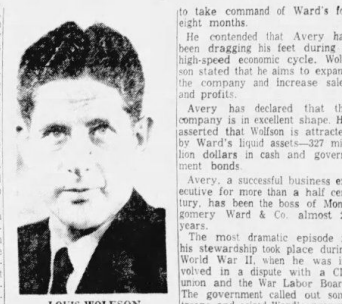
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LOUIS WOLFSON
to take command of Ward's first eight months.

He contended that Avery has been dragging his feet during a high-speed economic cycle. Wolfson stated that he aims to expand the company and increase sales and profits.

Avery has declared that the company is in excellent shape. He asserted that Wolfson is attracted by Ward's liquid assets—\$27 million dollars in cash and government bonds.

Avery, a successful business executive for more than a half century, has been boss of Montgomery Ward & Co. almost 24 years.

The most dramatic episode in his stewardship took place during World War II, when he was involved in a dispute with a CIO union and the War Labor Board. The government called out some troops and seized Ward's property April 25, 1944. The next day the adamant Avery was carried out of the company's headquarters by two soldiers.

He has been expanding his operations since then. He now controls many companies in the construction, transportation and manufacturing fields. Their total assets have been estimated at 230 million dollars.

BIG OPERATOR
He has last year expanded his side was sure of four positions on the Ward directorate, and the contest for majority control was so close it could go either way.

The management side said the Wolfson forces could win no more than two places on the board. Montgomery Ward & Co. founded in 1872, embraces 9 mail order stores, 265 catalog offices and 568 branches in 46 states. It has 53,000 employees.

Ward's sales last year added up to \$287,356,700, more than 100 million from the previous year. Net profits dropped more than 5 million to \$3,252,600.

Ward has approximately 68,000 shareholders and they own 6,703,392 shares of stock.

Bishop Purcell Heads Council
SEATTLE (AP)—The Methodist Council of Bishops ended its annual convention Thursday with the installation of Bishop Clare Purcell of Birmingham, Ala., as president and the election of Bishop W. Earl Ludden, Syracuse, N. Y., as the council's top succeeding officer in 1956.

Bishop Purcell, 70, president of the Council, was elected by a vote of 10-1 over Charles Wesley Brashares, Chicago. Bishop Fred P. Carson, Philadelphia, was elected to the position of secretary. The council's next general session will be held at Atlantic City, Dec. 6-9. The spring meeting will be held in Minneapolis April 17-21 advance of the quadrennial conference.

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