



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## Medical Examiners: Key To Justice

AFTER lingering in legislative moth balls for 78 days, a bill to change the method of investigating sudden death in North Carolina was finally reported out of a House Judiciary Committee yesterday. It was a timely political answer to a serious social need.

Under North Carolina's ancient coroner system, the investigation of sudden, violent and unexplained death is a tragedy of errors. The result: Negligence, incompetence and an invitation to murder. Merely because of tradition and the strait jacket of politics, most Tar Heel counties permit their chief investigator of mysterious deaths to be a man totally untrained and almost always without a proper medical background.

PROPOSED legislation now before the House would not completely reform the system but it would be an important step in the right direction.

The bill provides for the appointment of county medical examiners for counties "which come under the provisions of the act." It would be the duty of the medical examiner to investigate all deaths where criminal acts are involved, all suicides and all deaths occurring under mysterious circumstances.

Where he deemed it necessary, the medical examiner could order autopsies performed.

In addition, a new system to handle the post mortem examinations would be established.

North Carolina is by no means alone with the coroner problem. In most of the nation's 3,072 counties, no special medical or legal qualifications are applied to the office of coroner. Coroners in all but seven states need not be physicians, nor must they have legal or investigative training.

Three states are cited by the National Municipal League, the American Medical Association and the American Bar Association for their advanced medico-legal investigative systems, which replace the coroner system entirely. They are Massa-

chusetts (since 1877), Maryland (since 1939) and Virginia (since 1946). Three other states (Louisiana, Ohio and Rhode Island) have laws specifying that coroner functions shall be performed in all counties by doctors of medicine—or in all counties except where no physician will accept office.

Coroner qualifications are generally more rigid in metropolitan areas where local laws often prevail in lieu of state-wide requirements. Cities and counties where modern medico-legal investigative systems prevail include Bergen, Mercer and Somerset counties, New Jersey; Birmingham, Ala.; Dutchess, Erie, Westchester and Nassau counties, New York; New York City, N. Y.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Pontiac, Flint, Grand Rapids and Detroit, Mich.; Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville and St. Petersburg, Fla.; Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Francisco, Calif. and Milwaukee, Wis.

Efforts to modernize or to institute medical examiner systems to replace coroners have been made in at least 26 states within recent years. Most state-wide attempts to abolish the coroner system have been unsuccessful, however. Many proposals, when advanced, have simply died in state legislature committees.

That North Carolina's attempt to modernize the system escaped committee with a unanimous vote—is something of an achievement.

THE GOAL in North Carolina, of course, should be the total abolishment of the coroner system. As it stands now, the system is disgracefully inadequate. In these modern times, there is no sensible reason why all Tar Heel counties should not be served by trained medical examiners.

The medical examiner system is practical to establish. It is not unduly expensive. It uses modern medical science. It is as necessary as pure food laws. A society unprotected from murder is a society defenseless.

Only report cards and segregation have triggered many arguments in the school board race.

The campaign then narrows down to interwoven questions of sound government and who can provide it.

To have sound government, Charlotte obviously must have men of character and competence in office. Government is no better than the people in it.

It is here that we must do better now and the time you mark your ballot: Study the candidates. Look up their past records, what they stand for, whether they have a reputation for living up to their promises. Find out everything you can about them.

Then, by all means, vote. Express your preference under all circumstances. If your choice is limited to candidates who are not ideal, remember that a vote for the best available man or woman is better than no vote at all.

If you want good government, you'll have to do something about it individually. It is not enough to let others decide and then grumble about the result.

Later, Government is best where citizens stop being spectators and become informed participants.

could be beaten if the public would give medical science the tools—was enormous. He was determined to stick it out to the triumphant end.

There were times when the going was difficult—the 1944 and 1948 epidemics, for instance. And in 1951 and 1952 Mr. Phillips served as state chairman of the March of Dimes.

There is still work to be done. It is this challenge that Mr. Phillips is responding to in 1955—as he always has in the past.

For his great service, he richly deserves the community's salute.

## Tar Heel Quandary

# Education At The Crossroads

By PETE IVEY

In The Shelby Daily Star

"WILL My children be able to pass tests that will admit them to college 10 years from now?"

That is the question many fathers and mothers anxiously ask when they hear that college and university admission standards are certain to be raised. They wonder whether higher educational advantages will be denied their sons and daughters.

The questions arising are reasonable ones; it is already being suggested that "the wave of the future" meaning the extra-large numbers of children now growing up—will more than fill up the colleges.

Will the colleges construct new classroom buildings and dormitories and hire more faculty to take care of increased enrollments? Or will they remain about the same size they are now?

COLLEGE DILEMMA  
Or will colleges and universities remain about the same size they are now?

If college trustees hold the line on faculty and faculty expansion, student selectivity is a foregone conclusion. One of the best and most logical means of selection is by choosing to educate those most likely to benefit by higher education—those "showing promise of contribution most to society" by virtue of further training after high school.

The college quandary is both state and national in scope. It affects private and public colleges and universities in all of the 48 states. It has been recognized in North Carolina.

1963 AND BEFORE  
The President of the University of North Carolina has repeatedly expressed his concern over the higher education enrollment dilemma—less than 10 years away in North Carolina.

On the national scene former President of Harvard University James Bryant Conant, devoted attention four years ago to the im-

pending crisis in congested halls of academe.

UNC President Gordon Gray has said: "The three institutions comprising the University are obviously faced with increases in enrollment sufficient to change the structure, operating procedures, and even the basic nature and function of each. We need to consider our admissions policies."

ALTERNATIVES  
"Our alternatives range between two poles. We may continue to hold our doors open and take in virtually all comers. Or we may raise our admission standards significantly, so as to hold enrollments at a relatively stable figure."

I am now inclined to think that should raise our scholastic standards and requirements gradually and reasonably, so that we may in the same way raise our standards of undergraduate education.

CONANT'S DOCUMENT  
Dr. Conant's report with the accompanying series of lectures at the University of Virginia and he later expanded on his remarks in a book, "Education and Liberty" published by Harvard University Press in 1953.

Conant compared the American system of higher education with that of Great Britain. He showed the strong and the weak points of both systems.

Speaking of standards and the tremendous growth of secondary schools and colleges in this country, Conant said, "America has started down the road which in the twentieth century has led to the situation where American academic degrees are almost without meaning; the mere fact that an institution is a university or college or university today in the United States is no guarantee of the quality of the instruction offered."

The idea of a bachelor's degree as the hallmark of a four-year course following 12 years of school work "became firmly fixed in the minds of the educated classes in the United States."

10-POINT PLAN  
Conant suggested in re-shuffling of emphasis in his recommended "program of the future":

1. We do not expand our four-year colleges either as to number or as to size.

2. We do not expand the four-year programs in our universities. Rather, we contract them.

3. We attempt to make a two-year college course fashionable; to this end we might award a bachelor's degree of general studies to graduates of such institutions.

4. We endeavor to create a climate of opinion in which the length of education beyond eight years is not considered the hallmark of its respectability.

5. We continue the expansion of our junior and senior high schools to meet the new influx of enrollments, but in so doing we recognize the need for remaking the curriculum in many schools.

COMMON CORE  
6. We adhere to the principle of a comprehensive high school with a common core of studies and differentiated special programs, but in so doing we make far more effort to identify the gifted youth and give him or her more rigorous academic training in languages and mathematics.

7. We explore the success of some high schools in recent years with "work experience programs" and expand these programs, including particularly the thirteenth and fourteenth grades (the two-year college).

8. We provide by private and public action for more scholarships for high school graduates, but only for those who show potential professional men and women (advanced education for others should in general be offered locally).



DR. JAMES B. CONANT

GORDON GRAY

Where Do We Go From Here?

cally by two-year terminal colleges."

9. We endeavor to transform all the present four-year colleges into institutions with higher academic standards and arrange the curricula with the thought that a majority of students in these colleges will go on to professional training after two, three, or four years, depending on the ability and drive of the individual.

10. We continue to experiment with general education at every level for the future manual worker, the future salesman or executive, and the most highly specialized.

LOCAL COLLEGES, TOO  
Mr. Conant's plan would emphasize quality education in four-year colleges and universities. At the same time he would start community colleges, tied in with that would be a more effective public school system.

Perhaps an appropriate logical step in North Carolina will be to look not solely at the University and college enrollment problems, but at the entire public school system from top to bottom.

Instead of setting up an overall board to oversee the public institutions to higher learning in North Carolina, perhaps it will be even better to establish a board that would take a broad look at public education from the first grade through two-year junior colleges and on to the four-year institutions and the opportunities for graduate professional study beyond.

THE FUTURE  
That may seem a rather big bite to chew on educationally, but time is not far distant when something will have to be done about it. Perhaps planning should begin now.

There is no real need to take a pessimistic view of the educational future of the people of the

state—if we adhere to the idea that limiting enrollment in the University and raising standards is just one way to strengthen the public school system and establish and strengthen junior community colleges.

Further, the opportunity afforded by the educational system will be broadened under such a plan, not contracted, and there will be a chance to give a better program of education to more people as they demonstrate their capacity to learn.

NOT AN ELITE PRINCIPLE  
What must be guarded against in a drastic reorganization of the educational structure is development of class cleavages, setting up an elite of intellectual aristocracy that could be a retreat from democracy.

How to do the job and preserve tenets of democracy—that is the chief hurdle the educators will have to surmount. It will have to be made clear that there will be more about there seeming to be upward for more people, and continued opportunity for every individual to advance as far as his educational system as he can commensurate with his intellectual endowment.

Other than that, more questions which are automatically posed are:

What about enough school teachers? Shall there be new investigations into the "methodology" of education as far as the same time a new education system is planned? To what extent is educational evolution and vocational and adult education a part of the picture of the future in public instruction?

The educators are presenting a startling new concept that has promising elements of good—it is revolutionary, evolutionary, depending upon how fast we move. And the growing youth population is pushing the question.



"Having taken the necessary precautions, I would now like to state my views... needless to say, they differ from yours..."

## People's Platform

### Hip, Hip, Hooray

### For Advertising

Kings Mountain Editors: The News.

ADVERTISING is Big Business. I would sometimes if I realize just how advertising affects us. I have had a few experiences lately that convince me that whether we know it or not, advertising plays a pretty big part in our lives.

The husband of a friend of mine had spent a hectic hour with the lawn mower, one rather warm day last week, and when he finished, he staggered into the

house and fell panting. In the easy chair in the living room, he had just started to relax when he was suddenly brought out of his chair by a blood-curdling yell from the kitchen. He rushed in expecting to find his wife had cut her hand off with the electric mixer, only to find her clutching a can of detergent in her hand, and with a horrified look on her face. On demanding an explanation, his wife said, "Can't you see? It's pink!"

That one can only be matched by the six year old in our neighborhood who decided to see whether semi-conducted tunes are still under pressure.

Hitherto, it's been a Defense Department rule that matters pertaining to the dog food that nourishes EVERYTHING! Vive la advertising!

Well, you move some, since there isn't anything else to do, and you hitherto down as far as Savannah and see the first palm trees you ever saw in winter, and you are sitting on a dock one day watching the ships when a ship comes up to her cradle and the lines snake out and somebody makes 'em fast to the dock.

A great big man chases another man all the length of the ship, grabs him by the pants, and hurls him off the fore-sleek, and when you look back you see him ever come back, you see him

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By the time I hit Europe I had already cut as a tourist, and Eugene O'Neill's sea stories had lost their charm. I also had a broken nose and sundry other contusions. I made it back to Liverpool and Antwerp, and the world so wide grew and swelled and filled until I couldn't believe it.

Finally, I got to Holland, to Amsterdam and Antwerp, and I saw clean, bearded people with blond hair and red cheeks and wooden shoes and tulips and remembered Hans Brinker and the silver skates.

I got the same feeling today of a neat mess in a mussy world. Like I said, you got to harden the old man some nostalgia. I can't be an ordinary seaman in one ball of a long time.

### Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

HARRY Truman's crackdown on the press for not publishing all the facts on the Eisenhower administration, coupled with the severe news censorship by certain parts of the Eisenhower administration, present vitally important problems for the American Society of Newspaper Editors meeting here this week.

Many editors, among them Russell W. Brown of the Washington Post and V. M. Newton Jr. of the Tampa Tribune, have been waging a vigorous campaign, not only to print the truth but also to break the tightening wall of censorship. They realize, as most people don't, that about 70 per cent of the taxpayers money is sent by the Federal Government to any company goes to the giant firm which Secretary of Defense Wilson once headed, General Motors.

Hitherto, the Defense Department has regularly published the list of the 100 largest companies getting contracts and the proportion of business they get. Wilson has published only the top list since he assumed office, and under pressure.

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## Your Vote Is The One That Counts

POLITICAL fires which burned briefly in Charlotte before the filing deadline had all but flickered out today. "The City Council race is so quiet," quipped one old pol, "that you can hear (Mayor) Phil Van Evrie picking tulips in Holland."

To a sensitive politician's ear, the silence is ominous. City Hall regulars had been confident that the "administration ticket" of five Council incumbents would triumph by merely looking pious and letting nature take its course. Independent incumbent James S. Smith was also considered a shoo-in.

But voter anxiety is a strange and tricky thing. Every true student of *Homos politicus* knows this and is properly respectful. The first test will come in Monday's primary.

We are not endorsing 1955 candidates singly or in bunches. We are, however, anxious to see a sizable turnout Monday and in the May 3 election. We simply want to see the largest expression of public opinion possible.

It is unfortunate that real issues have been so scarce. Issues we are interested in, so far, no genuinely important debating points have been tossed out in the Council race.

## Phillips: The Man Behind The March

THE MOMENT of triumph for medical science in the war on paralytic polio was a moment of particular satisfaction and happiness for W. Frank Phillips. As chairman of the Mecklenburg County Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis since 1942, he has labored long and tirelessly in the crusade against this crippling disease. Last night, he was re-elected to his 13th term. There are strong indications that he will choose to make it his last.

Perhaps other Charlotteans have worked as hard for a cause as Mr. Phillips—but not many.

His dedication to an ideal—that polio

could be beaten if the public would give medical science the tools—was enormous. He was determined to stick it out to the triumphant end.

There were times when the going was difficult—the 1944 and 1948 epidemics, for instance. And in 1951 and 1952 Mr. Phillips served as state chairman of the March of Dimes.

There is still work to be done. It is this challenge that Mr. Phillips is responding to in 1955—as he always has in the past.

For his great service, he richly deserves the community's salute.

From The Sanford Herald

## OF MAC'S AND MEN

DOES Harold MacMillan, Prime Minister of Anthony Eden's foreign secretary, spell his name with a second capital M, as here (and as the wire services have been carrying it), or does he sign it "Macmillan"? He's a member of the Commons, the English-Amer. House of Commons publishing house most definitely registered as The Macmillan Company Ltd.

There's no guarantee that all the Macmillan clansmen stick to the Scotch form. One might add the capital as a surrender to popular usage. One might even make it McMillan. Look at all of our "Mac's" around here who used to be "Mac's."

And look at the "Cottons" of Central Carolina—how do you remember which are "Cottens"? Someone told us once that the rural kin spell it with a "c" and their urban cousins spell it with a "t." It doesn't always work out that way, though.

A lot of people change their names for convenience—either theirs or somebody else's. The retiring Prime Minister of England was Winston Spencer-Churchill until he discovered, as a Sandhurst

## Happy Holland: Neat Oasis In A Mighty Mussy World

By ROBERT C. RUARK

AMSTERDAM, Holland

YOU got to put up with a little Amsterdam out of the old back today, because I just got back to the scene of a big old battle, and 20 years has scarcely passed since I was here. And it seems just like yesterday since I took my wet thumb out of the dice.

If the column doesn't come off, I'm sorry. But suppose you were 10 years old and an ordinary seaman on the good ship *Sanctuary*, bound from Savannah, Georgia, to places like London, Liverpool, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Hamburg, and Bremen—and all of your life you had lived in a little North Carolina town, except when you were off at school in the middle of the depression, and you had literally boozed your way to culture. If culture can be construed as being broke and young and educated to do nothing whatever, that anybody would be willing to pay you any money for it.

Two hours later we called it a dead heat, and I was hired for 10 bucks a week. No overtime, and we ate out of the kitchen. I was at night I still got extra muscles—muscles I grew from fighting everything that came up for me because muscles then were sailing as ails and mates were sailing ordinary, if they got a berth at all. This was the hungry depression, and nobody had any work, and I was a college graduate, which alone was enough to curse me.

TOURIST NO LONGER  
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