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Small Claims Court Needed Now

NORTH CAROLINA'S General Assembly put finishing touches yesterday on judicial streamlining legislation has needed for years.

The new legislation will permit County Commissioners to establish a small claims court to break a legal logjam that interferes with the administration of justice in Mecklenburg.

To many Charlotteans, it is the most important single piece of local legislation to come rolling off Raleigh's Assembly line this year.

It is, however, an enabling act. It is now up to County Commissioners to take the authority granted them by the legislature and set up the necessary machinery.

This should be done without delay.

But The Problem Is Still With Us

THE chirruping of alarm from the banks of Sugar Creek was loud and insistent.

After listening for four days, Sen. F. J. Blythe indicated that he would let a bill to clean up Charlotte's smelliest waterway die in committee.

It was a wise decision.

The controversial measure would have enabled County Commissioners to construct a culvert and then saddle property owners adjacent to the stream with the full cost—at the rather steep rate of five cents a square foot.

The proposed legislation, however, overlooked an important fact:

The need is an immediate one.

Steps the commissioners must take are well defined. They must find space for the new court, set aside funds for its operation and appoint a judge and other court officials.

The court will handle civil claims of \$3,000 or less—thus reducing the congestion in Superior Court dockets. Consequently swifter trials will be possible at both judicial levels.

The proposal for a small claims court came from the Mecklenburg County Bar Association. President Warren Stack has announced that the association will advise County Commissioners to have the court in operation as soon as possible.

The advice to use against the administration in the \$300-or-less body tax cut. But this was too easily presented, and when Sen. Walter George, the key man in the Senate, refused to go along, the issue collapsed ignominiously.

For the rest, it has become apparent that the country stubbornly refuses to get much interested in such matters as the Dixon-Yates contract, or the inequities of the administration's security program, or even the public power controversies.

THE SECURITY DUD

The Democrats once counted heavily on "expanding" the security program, but they have since had second thoughts about appearing to be "against security."

The proper approach is one in which the entire community participates. The preparation of such a plan should be high on Charlotte's agenda. Merely to shut down an unsatisfactory solution is not enough.

Ike & Congress: The Longest Honeymoon In History?

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON
SO FAR, the most striking fact about the current session of Congress is that it has been so boring. It has unquestionably been the dullist session since the war. There has not been a single, loud, heated, or dramatic moment—the fact that it was hardly more than a tiff. But the tedium also has a real meaning, for it tells a good deal about the present political situation.

Essentially, it is the Democrats' fault that the session has been so dull. Partly this is because the Democratic leaders, like Lyndon Johnson in the Senate and Speaker Sam Rayburn in the House, are through-going professionals, masters of the political and parliamentary trade. They are the kind of bobbies and boobies and unnecessary collisions which have enlivened past sessions have been regrettably absent.

A much more important reason for all the tedium is simply that the Democrats have so far failed utterly to develop any really effective program. They have been busy "expanding" the security program, but they have since had second thoughts about appearing to be "against security."

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lent reasons. The first is that the Benson program has not really entered into operation yet, and it is no use attacking something that does not yet exist. The second and more cogent reason for holding off is simply that 1955 is not 1953, is an election year. Next year a great deal will certainly be heard about the failings of the Benson program.

POLITICAL EXERCISE

The Democrats are beginning to suspect that there may be the needed gut issue in the administration's Asia policy, and especially in the Quemoy-Matsu crisis. Adlai Stevenson's speech on

the crisis was a brilliant political exercise, especially since, as one Democratic strategist has pointed out, it "made it possible for both Walter George and Wayne Morse to say amen." But there is still a great sense of caution about making a major political issue out of a foreign crisis. And so far, the Democrats in Congress have gone along with the administration's foreign policy, with only occasional half-muffled wails.

The same is generally true of the administration's defense policy, although a few senators, like Stuart Symington, of Missouri, have cogently criticized the de-

fense of backs, and others have privately felt uneasy. But as one Democrat in the Senate asked, "How in the devil can a mere senator argue about military matters with Ike, the Eisenhower?"

NO ROOSEVELT

The question suggests another very important reason why the Democrats have been so dull. The Truman and Roosevelt days, excitement was provided not only by heroic battles between the parties on Capitol Hill, but also by even more heroic contests between Congress and the White House.

President Eisenhower has made it abundantly clear that he is not thirsting for any battles with Congress. The furthest he has ever gone was to call the House tax bill "unreasonable," and the resulting flurry died down quickly. As for the other side of the coin, as one Democratic senator remarked, "Hell, nobody wants to tangle with Ike. He's too popular."

LONG HONEYMOON

Some Democrats claim that the President's amazingly long honeymoon with Congress, probably the longest in American history, is about to come to an end. For the remainder of this session, they say, the intention is to "zero in" on the President, holding on him personal responsibility for whatever goes wrong, from farm prices to troubles in Asia, and no doubt judging the vagaries of the weather.

But despite the brave talk, there is in Capitol Hill a remarkably ill-tempered disposition to tangle with Ike. The honeymoon looks like continuing, with only minor bickering here and there. For the remainder of this session, they say, the intention is to "zero in" on the President, holding on him personal responsibility for whatever goes wrong, from farm prices to troubles in Asia, and no doubt judging the vagaries of the weather.

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Latest Report From Behind The Iron Collar



People's Platform

Scales 'Unjustly Convicted'

Charlotte

JUNIS SCALES

Enough so to compel successfully to all views freely expressed.

—ORA WILBERT EADS

Anti-Semitism: No Room For It Here

Paterson, N.J.

Editors, The News.

ON my extended visit through the wonderful South I have the extreme pleasure of visiting for the past two days in your great City of Charlotte.

The express purpose of this letter pertains to an article which appears in today's edition of your newspaper, in the editorial section, under the heading, "Score Card."

Being so enthused as a result of reading it, for inasmuch as it does appear on your editorial page it must be an expression of your paper's sentiments, I just could not wait until I return to my city to have this letter typed off to you, but rather send it here in my room at the Hotel Charlotte and send it off to you in longhand.

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