THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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County Water Authority Would Create More Problems Than It Would Solve

ABOVE the arguments over proposed water authority legislation, some stubborn facts sounded loud and clear today.

They were:

1—The bill is a statewide measure.

2—It is an enabling act.

3—It does not *compel* any county—certainly not Mecklenburg—to establish a city-county water authority.

But what concerns some Charlotteans who oppose an independent water authority is the fact that it could apply to Mecklenburg—if local governing bodies want it.

On the other hand, some county commissioners are on record with the flat statement that some sort of countywide water commission is essential to Mecklenburg's progress.

Considering the county as a whole, water problems are indeed serious. At a time when demand is steadily increasing, supply is falling off.

It can be argued effectively that, eventually, the water supply for the entire county must come from the Catawba—due to the progressive lowering of the water table. So, in order to supply the county most economically from this single source, it is suggested that there should be centralized planning and engineering so as to avoid needless duplication. A single countywide organization—as opposed to a multiplicity of separate units—would formulate this centralized planning.

But we firmly believe that the only satisfactory way to accomplish this goal in Mecklenburg would be for a consolidated government itself to take over the operation of the water system of the entire county—just as Charlotte's municipal government now operates its own water system.

An independent water authority—a quasi-public body not directly connected with the government of either the city or the county—would be extremely unwise, however.

* * *

WE WOULD be opposed to such an authority for several reasons.

First of all, it would add an additional governmental structure in a field already crowded with interlocking, overlapping and occasionally conflicting units. We believe an authority would create more problems than it would solve.

There would, for instance, be a tremendous financial dilemma. What about the sizable investment of the citizens of Charlotte in their own water system? How would they be repaid? How about the investments of other Mecklenburg communities? They vary from town to town and all systems, we believe, have some outstanding indebtedness so that it wouldn't be simply a matter of tossing them in a common pot.

Furthermore, some Mecklenburg municipalities depend upon water systems to supplement their general funds. They would have to make up the difference from somewhere.

But more important perhaps is the matter of creating a special interest commission—a special pleader for a special activity—outside the framework of the regular government.

Charlotte's experience with such commissions has been particularly unpleasant in the recent past. It has found that such commissions often lose sight of the other essential, related problems of a community.

We queried Mrs. Davetta L. Steed, executive secretary of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, on this matter. She said, in part:

> The operation of a water and sewer system, in particular, is so closely related to the health and welfare of the citizens of a community that, in my opinion, to divorce it from the responsibility of the elected officials would be detrimental to the best interests of the citizens.

* * *

SHE WENT on to point out that the operation of water and sewer systems is closely allied with the over-all financial structure of the city, emphasizing the fact that city tax rates are influenced by the operation of municipal water-sewer systems. This, we believe, is particularly true in Charlotte.

In addition, of course, water and sewer extensions are very closely tied to a city's street construction and maintenance program. It would be an invitation to inefficiency for a city council, for instance, to have to clear with an independent water authority before undertaking any of its street projects where utility lines are a factor.

One comment Mrs. Steed made was particularly well taken:

> You have in Charlotte the city manager form of government which today is conceived to be the most efficient form of municipal government. The reason for this is that this form of government eliminates the unnecessary division of responsibility and authority and places all administrative operations under one administrator . . . In my opinion, efficiency in municipal government will never come through the division of municipal function, but rather, it will come through stronger and more co-ordinated efforts under the single guidance of a duly elected city council.

* * *

IF CHARLOTTE and Mecklenburg feel that they need special guidance in solving their water problems—outside of a consolidated government—then an advisory body could be established. This formula has worked particularly well with airport matters in Charlotte—the City Council is still the boss and makes all decisions but with the assistance and advice of a special committee headed by *John C. Erwin*.

There is good reason to believe that a water advisory committee could render great service in Mecklenburg.

As to the matter of the water authority bill now before the legislature, one safeguard should be added before final action. The measure should provide that the question of creating a water authority in individual counties should be decided by a vote of the people in the affected areas. This would prevent local governing bodies from ramroding the authority idea through without the consent of the governed.

No doubt city-county water authorities are indeed needed in portions of North Carolina with emergency conditions. Mecklenburg's legislative delegation should certainly not block their efforts to obtain relief. But a local option provision would be a wise precautionary device.

Churchill & History: One On The Isle

IT WAS ONE of those standard questions that journalists always have cocked and ready for grizzled monoliths of 80 or so with a place secure in history.

"Tell me, sir. If you had it all to do over, would you change anything?"

Replied the statesman-historian-painter who, someone said, has mastered every wheel of fortune except roulette:

"Yes. I wish I had played the black instead of the red at Cannes and Monte Carlo."

As a mischievous phrasemaker, Winston Churchill could even beat a Groucho Marx to the verbal draw.

In his youth, he was known by his instructors as "the naughtiest little boy in the whole world." They attempted to keep him quiet by racing him around full tilt all through recesses.

Until yesterday he was, noisily, still running.

But yesterday he stopped.

His retirement, almost unbelievably, was official.

The race was ended, but the racer lived on to sit a spell in history's grandstand.

And suddenly the playing field was a lonely place.

Winston Churchill first came to the public's notice as a victim of ambush in the Boer War. It has been written that he never forgot the lesson.

He has spent almost all of his late years warning the free world of ambushes—and leading the rescue parties.

He pulled the human race, democratic division, tightly together during World War II. His words during those dark days are so fresh in the memory that it is needless to repeat any of them here. They are part of the personal history of all free men.

But here is a man of wit as well as wisdom. Here is the soldier who, as a World War I battalion commander, bought up a French town's entire seasonal production of peach and apricot brandy one thirsty day. Here is the canny politician who referred to opponent Clement Attlee as, "That sheep in sheep's clothing." Here is the playful wag who dared to match insults with Bernard Shaw. (Shaw once sent the Prime Minister two theater tickets with the message: "Come to my play and bring a friend, if you have a friend." To which Churchill replied: "I'm busy for the opening, but I'll come to the second night, if there is a second night.")

Churchill is one who shoulders responsibility with sober relish. He wrote long ago: "It is better to be making the news than taking it; to be an actor rather than a critic."

He has made more than news; he has made history.

We hope that he will be with us for many, many years as a grand and beloved critic.

There is room for greatness in the field of criticism too.

The trouble with James C. Petrillo's idea for a United Nations symphony orchestra to "speak a universal language known and appreciated by all" is who is going to beat the big bass drum. Uhuh. Molotov.—ASHEVILLE CITIZEN.

Little Johnny was having trouble with his arithmetic problem and the teacher in a desperate effort to illustrate the problem said, "If I lay two eggs here and three over there, how many will I have?" Johnny stared at her for a moment, then slowly shook his head and said, "I don't believe you can do it."—LAMAR (MO.) DEMOCRAT.

If you want to keep out of the spotlight, try getting up-stage with your friends.—TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT.

Pome In Which Further Urging Is Given Those Uncertain About Reducing Their Weight:

If you needs go on a diet,
Brother, you had better try it.

—ATLANTA JOURNAL.

Safety: Child Of Terror, Twin Brother Of Annihilation

By SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
To The House Of Commons

(Editors' Note: In one of his last major speeches in Commons, Sir Winston Churchill outlined the challenge of the age. Here are excerpts.)

* * *

WE LIVE in a period happily unique in human history, when the whole world is divided intellectually and to a large extent geographically between the creeds of Communist discipline and individual freedom, and when at the same time this mental and psychological division is accompanied by the possession by both sides of obliterating weapons of the nuclear age.

There is an immense gulf between the atomic and the hydrogen bomb. The atomic bomb, with all its terror, did not carry us outside the scope of human control or manageable events in thought or action, in peace or war. But when Mr. Sterling Cole, the chairman of the United States Congressional (Atomic) Committee, gave out a year ago—Feb. 17, 1954—the first comprehensive review of the hydrogen bomb, the entire foundation of human affairs was revolutionized and mankind placed in a situation both measureless and laden with doom.

WHICH WAY TO TURN?

What ought we to do? Which way shall we turn to save our lives and the future of the world? It does not matter so much to old people. They are going soon anyway. But I find it poignant to look at youth in all its activities and ardor, and most all around. This is in all our hearts, but sentiment must not cloud our vision. It is often said that "facts are stubborn things. . ." We must not conceal from ourselves the gulf between the Soviet Government and the NATO powers, which has hitherto, for so long, prevented an agreement. The long history and tradition of Russia makes it repugnant to the Soviet Government to accept any practical system of international inspection.

U. S. SUPERIORITY

A second difficulty lies in the circumstances that, just as the United States, on the one hand, has, we believe, the overwhelming mastery in nuclear weapons, so the Soviets and their Communist satellites have immense superiority in what are called "conventional" forces—the sort of arms and forces with which we fought the last war, but much improved.

The problem is therefore to devise a balanced and phrased system of disarmament which at no period enables any one of the participants to enjoy an advantage which might endanger the security of the others.

TRUTH—AND FICTION

Unless a trustworthy and universal agreement upon disarmament, conventional and nuclear alike, can be reached and an effective system of inspection is established and is actually working, there is only one sane policy for the free world in the next few years. That is what we call defense through deterrents. This we have already adopted and proclaimed. These deterrents may at any time become the parents of disarmament, provided that they deter. To make our contribution to the deterrent we must ourselves possess the most up-to-date nuclear weapons and the means of delivering them.

A vast quantity of information, some true, some exaggerated, much out of proportion, has been published about the hydrogen bomb. The truth has inevitably been mingled with fiction . . . I still content myself with saying about the power of this weapon, the hydrogen bomb, that, apart from all the statements about blast and heat effects over increasingly wide areas, there are now to be considered the consequences of "fallout" as it is called of wind-borne radioactive particles. There is both an immediate direct effect on human beings who are in the path of such a cloud and an indirect effect through animals, grass and vegetables, which pass on these contagions to human beings through food.

APPALLED

This would confront many who escaped the direct effects of the explosion with poisoning or starvation or both. Imagination stands appalled. There are, of course, the palliatives and precautions of a courageous civil defense . . . but our best protection lies . . . successful deterrents operating from a foundation of sober, calm and tireless vigilance.

However, a curious paradox has emerged. Let me put it simply. After a certain point has been passed, it may be said, the worst things get the better. The broad effect of the latest developments is to spread almost indefinitely and at least to a vast extent the area of mortal danger. This should certainly increase the deterrent upon Soviet Russia by putting her enormous spaces and scattered population on an equality, or near equality, of vulnerability with our small, densely-populated islands and with Western Europe.

DETERRENTS

I cannot regard this development as adding to our dangers. We have reached the maximum already. On the contrary, to this form of attack continents are vulnerable as well as islands. . . .

Here again we see the value of deterrents, immune against surprise and well understood by all persons on both sides—repeat, on both sides—who have the power to control events. That is why I have hoped for a long time for a top-level conference where these matters could be put plainly and bluntly from one friendly visitor to the conference to another.

Then it may well be that we shall, by a process of sublime irony, have reached a stage in this story where safety will be the sturdy child of terror, and survival the twin brother of annihilation. . . .

All . . . considerations lead me to believe that, on a broad view, the Soviets would be ill-advised to embark on major aggression within the next three or four years. . . . If, at the end of that time, there should be a supreme conflict, the weapons which I have described this afternoon would be available to both sides, and I would be foley to suppose that they would not be used. Our precautionary dispositions and preparations must therefore be based on the assumption that, if war should come, those weapons would be used.

'SATURATION'

In three or four years' time—it may be even less—the scene will be changed. The Soviets will probably stand possessed of hydrogen bombs and the means of delivering them not only on the United Kingdom but also on North American targets. They may then have reached a stage not indeed of parity with the United States and Britain but of what is called "saturation."

Major war of the future will differ therefore from anything we have known in the past, in this one significant respect that each side at the outset will suffer what it dreads the most—the loss of everything that it has ever known.

INFILTRATION

Though world war may be prevented by the deterrent power of nuclear weapons, the Communists may well resort to military action in furtherance of their policy of infiltration and encroachment in many parts of the world. There may well be limited wars on the Korean model, with limited obectives. We must be able to play our part in these, if called upon by the United Nations Organization.

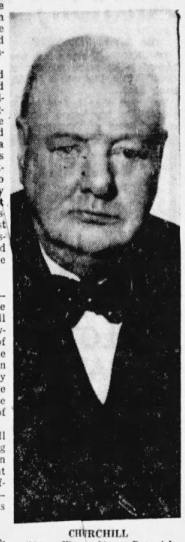
There are those who believe, or at any rate say: If we have the protection of the overwhelmingly powerful United States, we need not make the hydrogen bomb for ourselves or build a fleet of bombers for its delivery. We can leave that to our friends across the ocean. Our contribution should be criticism of any unwise policy into which they may drift or plunge. We should throw our hearts and consciences into that.

FIRST DUTY

Personally, I cannot feel that we should have much influence over their policy or actions, wise or unwise, while we are largely dependents, as we are today, upon their protection. We too must possess substantial deterrent power of our own. We must also never allow, above all, I hold, the growing sense of unity and brotherhood between the United Kingdom and the United States and throughout the English-speaking world to be injured or retarded. Its maintenance, its stimulation and its fortifying is one of the first duties of every person who wishes to see peace in the world and wishes to see the survival of this country.

HIDEOUS EPOCH

To conclude . . . there is time and hope if we combine patience and courage. All deterrents will improve and gain authority during the next 10 years. By that time the deterrent may well reach its acme and reap its final reward. The day may dawn when fair play, love of one's fellow men, respect for justice and freedom, will enable tormented generations to march forth serene and triumphant from the hideous epoch in which we have to dwell. Meanwhile never flinch, never weary, never despair!



CHURCHILL
'Never Weary, Never Despair'

"... So, what's wrong with being assistant manager in a drug store?"

London Is A Man's Town And No Nonsense About It

By ROBERT C. RUARK

LONDON

EVERY time I pick up a newspaper—which is difficult with the strike on here — and see the doomful stories of the world, I walk out into the streets here and look in the shop windows, and pretty soon the nerves are calm again.

It was 20 years ago when I first came to London, a wet-eared kid off a merchant ship. I fell in love with the town then, and that love hasn't lessened a mite in all the passage of time.

ROAST-BEEF TOWN

London is essentially a man's town, as Paris is a woman's town. It is a roast-beef town, with no nonsense about it. It has withstood every effort to destroy it, and it seems unruffled by its past agonies. Its weathered stone gives it a solidity that the Luftwaffe couldn't dent, and the people still match the architecture.

The shops of London sell things that women buy, but the prime effort is mostly for men. There is no high-pressure selling; the clerk is delighted to have you browse, and he takes great pride in your interest.

THEY SMELL SO GOOD

I never go shopping anywhere else in the world but London, but I am a sucker for this city's wares. You go out in the morning for a pound of tobacco, and by the time you get home you're bankrupt.

I cannot force myself past a gunshop, like Churchill's or Ridby's or Westley-Richards. I buy walking sticks which I do not dare to carry. I stagger into bookshops and reel out laden with books I probably never will read, but they smell so good.

NO RESISTANCE

It is difficult not to buy knives and razors and anything else the boys in Sheffield make of steel. I can't resist the pipes and hats and boots — London leather smells different from other leather. I certainly do not need any clothes, but there is a glove shop and there's a tailor with some interesting tweed.

I don't know anything about old silver, but I can't stay out of the silver shops, and usually wind up with an Edwardian snuffbox or something equally unessential to my happiness. I'm afraid to carry it, for fear people will laugh, but guess who got himself one of those furled bumbershoots the other day. It hasn't rained since, either.

SO POLITE

Maybe I am just an Old World boy, but I had a simple dinner in a very old pub outside of town, in Buckinghamshire the other night, and could scarcely restrain myself from throwing the chop bones over my shoulder, like Henry VIII. And I liked it in a nightclub, the other eve, when Princess Margaret came in calmly with a small party, and there was no sudden hush, no fevered whispers. It wouldn't have been polite, and would have spoiled the Princess's night out.

This is still the least hysterical race of people I know, and I was here at the height of the blitz. Perhaps they make up for the serenity with their abnormal — to us — excitement over cricket and lawn tennis and boat races, but we go pretty daffy over baseball and McCarthy airings, too.

FIRST AFFAIR

Maybe you never fall out of love with your first real girl, and London was my first foreign affair, so to speak. I loved her then and I love her now, and I am happy when I see Paris, because it means I can be in London in two hours, if I hurry.

And now I must quit, or it will be too late to buy an elephant gun, a carving set, a complete Dickens, a tea service, a Jaguar, a Comet airplane, and a snuffbox, as well as a few other trinkets on which I've set my heart. It'll be a credit purchase, of course, because London shops never dun their gentlemen.

People's Platform

Policy On Report Cards 'Inefficient'

Charlotte

Editor, The News:

IN MY opinion, Charlotte's method of reporting to a parent on what his child is doing in school is very unsatisfactory. I am a mother of three small children enrolled in city schools. Time and again they have been at a disadvantage—and so have I—because of the very inefficient policy on report cards.

This is no attempt to discredit the conference that each teacher has with the parent. That is good. But it does not take the place of a written report for the child, as well as the parent, to see what he is doing.

Many children, I believe, would do much better work if they had reports more often—no less than every six weeks. It is most regrettable that the first written report these children get is during the latter part of January.

Please let us go back to A-B-C reports—and let us have them at least every six weeks.

I know the teachers are burdened with large classes, and my sympathy goes out to them. But any teacher who is too busy to grade her students every six weeks on the main and fundamental things they are supposed to learn is too busy with things that are secondary. Let us omit some of the unnecessary meetings, records and nonessentials that burden a teacher and give her more time to get down to bed-rock teaching and grading of the fundamentals.

—MRS. J. P. RICHARDSON

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Ike Bans Pamphlet On Dishwashing

WASHINGTON

HOUSEWIVES haven't been told about it, but the Agriculture Department has quietly stopped its research in homemaking. This means an end to bulletins and pamphlets on consumer buying, home management, interior decorating, kitchen helps, home economics and related subjects.

Characteristically, this service to housewives will be transferred to do research for business firms. Both the funds and the personnel of the Agriculture Department will be assigned to food and nutrition research useful for marketing and processing for the meat packers, the canners and the food companies.

This move to eliminate household helps is an outgrowth of President Eisenhower's 1952 campaign speech against the government pamphlet, "tools for food preparation and dishwashing." Speaking all over the U.S.A., he held up this pamphlet as "a symbol of shameful wasting of tax funds."

Actually, Ike hadn't read the pamphlet, didn't know it was loaded with helpful hints to housewives and was one of the most popular pamphlets the government issued. After he moved into the White House, the Agriculture Department obliviously continued to publish the pamphlet. In fact, 15,000 new copies were printed and more than 22,000 copies mailed to inquiring housewives during the last two years. It had a bigger sale than ever before.

This column finally pointed out that Ike's famous symbol of waste was still being printed in greater quantities than ever, and when this news got to the White House it so infuriated the President, who still hadn't read the pamphlet, that he ordered it stopped.

Whereupon the Agriculture Department went to even greater lengths to please the President. It began cutting down on all public research aimed at helping housewives. Now the whole home-economics program has been cut out altogether.

Ducky Congressman

Ohio's Democratic Congressman Ashley of Toledo took Senator Bricker to task for being too harsh on Ohio's duck population, which caused Mike Di Salle, ex-mayor of Toledo, to comment that Ashley's criticism had probably won the freshman congressman the vote of every duck in Ohio.

"Trouble is," added Di Salle, "that on election day all of Ohio's ducks are in Canada!"