



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Take Top City Jobs Out Of Politics

Politics is the science of who gets what, when and why. —Sidney Hillman

SOME municipal problems get into the headlines and some, no less real, simply hang quietly and heavily in the air of E. Trade St.

One of the quiet sort is now building up. It concerns the free-wheeling political pressures involved in City Council appointments to top posts in Charlotte government.

The question was raised yesterday afternoon by new Councilwoman Martha Evans when she objected to the reappointment of City Tax Collector John H. Mills "You or your predecessors," she told her colleagues, "put politics in the revenue department."

As it happens, Mr. Mills has done a creditable job in an extremely difficult field. Whatever his political affiliations, he deserved the 61 vote of confidence council members gave him yesterday.

But the competency of Mr. Mills does not alter a fundamental question: Is it wise to leave the selection of top governmental jobs completely in the hands of a body which is so susceptible to political pressures of all kinds?

We are speaking particularly of department heads who perform specialized administrative duties under the direct supervision of the city manager.

We are also speaking of such sensitive posts as the city recorder's court judge-ship, handed yesterday to Basil M. Boyd, the only councilman who did not seek re-election in 1955.

We are speaking too of the job of city recorder (judge pro tem), to which the council named Wallace Osborne, a young lawyer who served as campaign manager for five council incumbents who ran as a ticket.

We would also include membership on the City Civil Service Board. A vacancy was filled by the council yesterday.

The present method of naming these public officials is an open invitation to politics—and all of the backstairs deals that go with politics.

Obviously there were certain political "understandings" that paved the way for several of yesterday's appointments. Such a system does not produce uniformly good results.

In the case of key department heads, appointive powers should rest in the hands of the city manager. Here is a man superbly equipped to select and direct top personnel for his governmental team. He is a man trained in such matters. He after all, is the top administrative officer of the city. He more than anyone else is responsible for the efficient operation of the municipal government.

But the city manager today can appoint only half of his department heads. The remainder, because of the peculiarities of the city charter, are named by the politically-sensitive council.

This presents an awkward, unreasonable situation. Under the present form of the city charter, Charlotte's City Council is the policy-making body for the city. It should not be directly involved in administrative details it is not qualified to handle.

As for the recorder's court and Civil Service Board appointments, the council is again a poor source of appointive authority. Some other agency—far freer from political motives and pressures—should do the honors. Perhaps the resident judge of Mecklenburg Superior Court would be the answer.

If Councilwoman Evans is sincerely interested in erasing the taint of politics from municipal appointments, she can perform a valuable service by convincing her colleagues that appropriate legislation should be proposed to Mecklenburg's citizens at the General Assembly. The cause is worthwhile. All it needs is a champion.

Hope Of Peace: Up To The Summit

IT HAS become a cold war custom in America to warn the people before every Big Four meeting not to hope too much for peace. It is a dull, tired custom of dull, tired men whose spirit has been blunted by the implacable ruthlessness of communism.

Happily, the people of this nation and most of the world have spurned the leadership of those whose faith has flickered. Americans in their high hopes have rejected the faithless theory of preventive war. They have given their hearts and taxes in great quantity to restore the economies of war-battered allies. They have supported the United Nations where men of all nations still meet and talk about and, occasionally, are able to act in the cause of peace.

Now the President is ready to meet at "the summit" with the leaders of Russia, France and Great Britain to see if any sort of a clearing can be made in the jungle of deceit, hate and bloodshed that is today's world. Only the expected assent of Russia is needed to assure that the meeting will be held.

The meeting, if it comes, may produce no peace. Even louder rumblings of war may follow it. Indeed, Thailand Prime Minister Phibunsongkorn thinks the rumblings surely will resolve into war, saying history shows that talks and conferences precede every great war. That may be a historical fact but it is not a guiding lesson of history. The world of today is subject to new forces that compress

the impact of history which shows no escape from war, no idea that could prevent it. But that idea must still be sought. And only in the hope of peace can it be found.

President Eisenhower will carry to the conference the hopes and trust of the American people, if not of all the politicians of his party. He has demonstrated that he is a man of peace, even though some of his advisers are reckless advocates of measures of war. We hope he will continue to turn away from the advice of the Kennedys, the Radfords and the McCarthys.

This seems as good a time as any for the free world's leaders to sit down with the new bosses of Russia. The U. S. recently found at Bandung an array of Far Eastern nations who were ready to offer China's Charter. The industrial giant of West Germany has been freed as a nation and taken the side of freedom. NATO nations are putting more bite into the belt of steel around the European mandatories of Russia and its satellites. These factors add up to new strength for the West and a new awareness in the world of the dangers of communism. They enable the President to talk about peace in the words of peace from a position of strength.

That is the kind of words we trust he will use. Maybe in the rarefied air "at the summit" the Big Four will find a way to keep their blackjacks in their pockets.

Faithful Servant — A Job Well Done

THE news of the passing of William Wall Whiddit, retired organist for St. Peter's Episcopal Church here, is received with much sadness by many Charlotteans. Although Mr. Whiddit had gone over the octogenarian mark and had lived a full and fruitful life, his death at his St. Petersburg, Fla., home is nonetheless deeply regretted.

The loss of Mr. Whiddit, who served the Charlotte church for over 18 years, is manifold. As a devoted husband and

father, as a true Christian servant, as a leader of young boys in his noted boys' choir, none could exceed him. In addition, he was prominently identified with Rotarian activities as official musician for the local Rotary.

Beloved by all who knew him, Mr. Whiddit left a beautiful and permanent mark in the hearts and minds of all of his many friends.

Truly, it can be said of him, "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

From The Shelby Daily Star

HOUSE-HUSBAND

A SHREWD housewife of our acquaintance has come up with a novel, perhaps nagging idea.

Emancipated women these days have just cause for objection to the term "housewife." It makes just as much sense, she says, to refer to the husband as a house-husband.

She has that the virus of a splendid notion that may become malignant and spread.

There are two main classes of adults, wives and husbands. Besides career women there are housewives, so called because of the mistaken belief that their chief habitat is the home. That is not so in this push-button era of literary societies, bridge clubs, circles, and leagues of women voters. But let it stand—housewife is an accepted description of a species.

Husbands today are learning how to "do-it-yourself." They putter and grind, nail and bore, hitch this and that, put together useful things with the aid of do-it-yourself diagrams obtainable on a nationally-syndicated basis. Once a wife

can convince a husband he should join the ranks of those who do it themselves, it is a simple step from that home-body procedure to invite a husband into all sorts of domestic tasks—chores with which the push-buttons have not yet established a connection.

The do-it-yourself and stay-at-home craze is rapidly bringing closer the day when men can be called house-husbands.

Fruit dealers report that women are still in there pinching.—WALL STREET JOURNAL.

An efficiency expert is a fellow who is smart enough to tell others how to run their business but too smart to start one of his own.—HAMILTON COUNTY (TENN.) HERALD.

The female is the sex that believes that if you charge it, it's not spending, and if you add a cherry to it, it's not intoxicating.—CARLSBAD CURRENT-ARGUS.

Salk Drama Contrary To The Spirit Of Good Science

By WALTER LIPPMANN

THERE are those who have had great misgivings ever since April 12 about the dramatic build-up, the theatrical suspense and the spectacular publicity with which the effectiveness of the Salk vaccine was proclaimed. It was more like announcing the results of an election than the results of a scientific inquiry. The whole performance was contrary to the spirit and morale of good science, which is to be very scrupulous about not claiming, or appearing to claim, more than has been proved.

BLAZING PUBLICITY

This rule was violated on April 12 not by what Dr. Thomas Francis Jr. actually said in his report but by the way the big story was staged. For while his actual report contained reservations in the fine print, the blazing publicity was bound to convey, as it did convey, the misleading impression that a full solution had been found of the problem of making effective vaccine for the mass immunization of the children of this country. For the public the proof that polio had been conquered was not in what was actually said in the report. It was in the elaboration of the show, the emittance of the actors, the high-powered publicity itself. The public concluded fairly enough that the scientific experimentation had in fact been completed and concluded.

UNSETTLED PROBLEMS

We know now that the responsible authorities, both private and public, had not made sure that they could fulfill the promise which the people believed had been made. The authorities could not know how large would be the available supply of the vaccine at the critical dates. For obviously they had not yet settled definitely, as the President made known in his press conference, the question of whether a shorter or a longer test of the manufactured vaccine was necessary. Not having settled that, they had not settled the critical problem of passing from the laboratory to mass production in factories. The trouble they have now run into, compelling them to re-check the factory production, proves that they allowed hopes to be raised

before they had concluded the period of experimentation.

Yet it is commonplace in the field of applied science that new technical problems are posed when a process is carried from the laboratory into the factory. In his statement on Sunday, Surgeon-General Leonard A. Scheele said that "a great deal of new information has been developed during the past ten days as the result of continuing consultation between the Public Health Service and its consultants, and between these groups and the senior technicians of industry." Is there any good and plausible reason why these consultations did not take place before the American people were invited to believe that the problems of the vaccine had been solved?

HALF-COCKED

The fact of the matter is that on April 12 the responsible authorities went off half-cocked. The problem of mass production had not been reliably solved, and there was, therefore, no justification for the publicity which created a mass expectation of mass immunization for this polio season.

The real situation called for at least one more season devoted to an enlarged and fully controlled experiment. It was a case where the way to make genuine progress — and to avoid lacerating the feelings of the parents of small children throughout the land — was to adhere to the strictest standards of scientific procedure. The tests made last year did indeed show very promising results. But the only practical conclusion to be drawn from the tests made last year was that tests on a bigger scale were warranted for this year. This would have meant keeping laboratory standards before passing to the lower standards of mass production.

PUBLIC POLICY

It is established public policy that medical advertising shall not be misleading. It was the duty of the federal government, and specifically of Mrs. Hobby's department, to have frowned upon and to have prevented the theatrical exploitation of Dr. Salk's work. The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which sponsored the experimentations and the development of the vaccine,



SCHEELE EXPLAINS WHILE SALK WAITS Responsible Authorities Went Off Half-Cocked

sponsored also the publicity attending the announcement. The foundation has done great and necessary things in its field. But it is dependent upon voluntary popular subscription. This requires promotion and publicity which should have been kept carefully distinct from the publication of medical news.

Quite apart from the question of whether the federal government should have asked specific legislation in regard to polio vaccine — and in view of the short supply of the vaccine — it should have — the federal government had a general public duty to protect the people against being misled on a burning question of public health. The consultations it has been holding in the past 12 days should have been going on for months — ever since the decision was taken to manu-

facture the vaccine on a large scale.

I do not know why the federal government did not assume the direction of this great public health operation. I do not know as enough was known about last year's tests to start the pharmaceutical firms making the vaccine. But it would seem as if the inaction of the federal government was due in some considerable degree to the theoretical misconceptions — to unexamined and false notions of the general principles of free enterprise, voluntary cooperation and decentralization — and to the strange prejudice that the only way the federal government can assume direction and control of anything is to build up a vast bureaucracy.

BORDERLINE CASES

The principles of free enterprise and voluntary cooperation are beneficial and widely applicable. They are the rule in our society and a departure from them should be regarded as an exception from

the rule. But not all public principles in this workaday world can be applicable at all times and under all circumstances. They are beneficial and are workable only if we apply them with good sense — only if we apply them when conditions make them applicable, and do not apply them when conditions do not make them applicable. As politics is a crude art, and not a mathematical science, there are many borderline cases where it is a close question whether to rely upon free competition and voluntary cooperation or to assume central government direction and control.

But the case of the Salk vaccine was not a borderline question. The vaccine was bound to be in short supply at least for this season; its proper use touched the vital interests of the family of the nation. There should, therefore, have been no more doubt here than there has been in Canada that the public authorities were in control.

Intelligence Can't Be Bought For Fish, Pheasant Or Ally

By ROBERT C. RUARK

I CAN track a moral to its lair with the deadly intensity of that French fly cop who was always chasing Jean Valjean (and whose name I can never remember and refuse to look up) and I just nailed a moral. Talk about being able to swim without a trout and pheasants.

There was a piece a while back about normally migratory waterfowl being pampered whereabout so well they refused to migrate, but just sat there on their big fat commissures. Now I see where the New York State Conservation chief, Louis Wehle, has got to start a program to make the fish able to swim without complaining — and dying — and he's going to have to reach his artificially raised pheasants how to recognize a hawk.

EASY LIVING

Friend Wehle says the eight million trout he raises for release have got so soft from the easy living in hatchery waters that you could only call them decadent. They flop around in the hatchery in abnormally pampered circumstances, so that when they are released into natural waters there isn't enough oxygen for them. And they have been dependent on the welfare state long enough they really don't know about bugs and frogs and larvae. So they die. The conservation man says that 60 per cent survival is exceptional. The others just belly-up and quit.

He says he has the same trouble with the artificially reared pheasant, which he is supposed to release to a life in the raw. It is not the eager hunter who wallops and coach intelligence, whether they really work with a pheasant or a man, a fish or an ally. Intelligence, and the instinct for preservation, can't be bought. It is painfully acquired and exercised only after bitter experience.

They're so dumb they don't even know bash was made to hide in.

TROUT TOUGHENING

Friend Wehle has got himself an appropriation of \$9 to toughen up the trout and steel the pheasant to the exigencies of modern living. He's going to take them to the training school for trout, and a life-or-survival-is-real school for pheasant. He wants to hire some college professors to speak from the wild birds, to teach the new-hatched birds the difference between a hawk and a bee, before they are let loose on their own.

I don't believe he is going to be successful. We have tried the same dodge about 90 times with the French, and they don't seem to want to learn about hawks and cover. Maybe difficult experience is the only school from which a trout or a pheasant can learn how to live.

Most of the time, when on his own and reared the hard way, learns the value of protective coloration, and protective coloration, and of adaptation to the environment and conditions around him. We have been trying to teach our allies this knack, and are spending millions of money, and have gotten large numbers.

EASY MEAT

There is a great deal to be said against the subsidization of any form of human or animal life, because of the fact and laziness. Ducks, for instance, are supposed to migrate, and if they won't fly they lose a certain duck-duck money. It is this fact that makes them easy meat for a smart mink.

You cannot really supervise and coach intelligence, whether you're working with a pheasant or a man, a fish or an ally. Intelligence, and the instinct for preservation, can't be bought. It is painfully acquired and exercised only after bitter experience.



"If they raise the minimum wage law to \$1.25 an hour, it'd almost be worth it to go to work... I say, almost..."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THEY kept it to themselves, but Democratic governors made an important political decision at their secret session last week. They agreed to pin the blame on President Eisenhower personally for the mistakes of his administration.

This should mean an end to Ike's long political immunity, though Democrats on Capitol Hill are still nervous about criticizing him. Democratic governors, however, will start taking pot shots at the man in the White House. They agreed to let him hide behind his subordinates no longer when unpopular decisions are made.

Weakest Link

The agreement was reached while an Eisenhower supporter, Texas Gov. Allan Shivers, sat in the room. No punches were pulled because of Shivers, who took it all without batting an eye. He opened his mouth only once during the entire secret meeting, then to suggest where he thought the Eisenhower administration was most vulnerable.

"The farm issue," he remarked, "is unquestionably the weakest link in the Eisenhower administration."

President's Political Immunity To End

WASHINGTON

Dr. Scheele in the past was reported as favoring federal control, but, loyal to his chief, Mrs. Hobby, he told congressmen, "Doctors don't need policemen standing by their sides."

Yet in almost the same breath he highlighted one of the important reasons for federal control—the limited production of the Salk vaccine. Another is the nervousness of the drug and the need for strict supervision of its manufacture.

Vaccine Control

If and when the Salk vaccine inoculations are resumed, as the public health service expects them to be, need for federal supervision and control will be all the more urgent.

This developed during congressional cross-examination the other day when Dr. Leonard Scheele, head of public health, and Dr. Chester A. Keefer, assistant to Secretary Oveta Culp Hobby, were sent by Mrs. Hobby to testify before the House Banking and Currency Committee.

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Standstill

"And there will be 69,000,000 c.c. of vaccine produced by Aug. 17," the Congressman asked.

"The situation has changed," said Scheele. "There has been a slowdown

—really a standstill—until we can evaluate the standards and the safety tests for producing the vaccine."

Then Reuss asked if the light of the figures, is the committee right in assuming there will be pressures and problems in seeing to it that the vaccine gets to the children in the priority groups, and not to adults?

Without waiting for an answer, Reuss asked the surgeon general to hand the committee "today a breakdown of what the 48 states have done to prevent the diversion of the vaccine away from the high priority categories of children."

Changing Picture

"We can't give you such a breakdown until next week, because the picture changes every day," Dr. Scheele replied, "but I don't believe many states have taken such action."

Dr. Scheele's answer to the Congressman, "Mrs. Hobby can't assure herself that the problem will be adequately handled in the 48 states without finding out what's being done in the 48 states."