



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher
J. E. DOWD, General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH, Executive Editor

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1955

A Wet Finger In A Hot Wind

WHICH way do the political winds blow in Dixie?

The ready answer is all ways. Dixie is a big place and the winds shift. But what is the prevailing course?

There are a lot of wet fingers in the southern winds today and there will be more. For the South in 1952 became a political question mark, a prize that to be had had to be sought.

The Republicans three years ago took four southern states under their banner—Tennessee, Texas, Florida and Virginia. They gained strength all across the region and also topped border states in their column. Locally, Mecklenburgers voted for their first Republican presidential candidate and sent their first GOP congressman to Washington since 1928.

Do the winds blow fitfully, Republican or have they veered back to a steadily Democratic course?

There is little doubt that in the South as well as across the nation the votes that fell for the Democrats were pulled by the Republican candidate, not the party. The GOP frankly admits that on a national level it cannot hope to win in '56 without the same candidate, Eisenhower. If that is true the basic question in the South then is how does Eisenhower stand today?

It seems obvious that his popularity has fluctuated—and we would guess downward—because like the president has stirred deep Dixie waters in which the candidate barely wet a toe.

During his administration, several major actions have basically affected the South as a region: principally, racial integration, TVA, farm price supports and tideland oil.

The racial question lies in deep water and many politicians and some statesmen have drowned in its undertow. It is

a question that affects every man, woman and child in the South. By his appointment of Chief Justice Warren, who is credited with uniting the Supreme Court against segregation, Ike has moved into the deep water. Earlier, he had ruled out by executive order separate facilities for the races in military and other government installations scattered through the region.

Racial feelings are not as strong in Tennessee as in other southern states. But there the TVA has all the appeal of mother, God and country. And Ike's characterization of it as "cropping socialism" and his subsequent insistence on the Dixie-Vaux contract are not calculated to boost his popularity.

On another regional issue, the administration took over the railroads when prices were falling and the Democrats will seek to tie the two together. If there is any reaction to the cut, it surely will come from the South whose senators and representatives fathered high supports and kept them high.

Ike's action on tideland oil was as much a throw for states rights as the segregation decision was against them. But the South was never united on oil as it was on segregation, and any benefits from giving oil titles to the states are likely to be small.

In sum, administration action on Dixie questions would seem to be negative weights in the Eisenhower popularity scales. Voters judge what they have by what they left. And the South may figure what it has today is not much different from what it had in 1952 except in measures that it doesn't like.

Wet fingers dry fast in political winds because they blow moisty hot air. But before our dried-out thoughts we feel the winds returning to their old course.

The Wheels And The Dice Roll Faster

AN ACCIDENT every 11 minutes.
A death every eight hours.

That's a summary of the current state of North Carolina highway safety. You have to get a simple summary of course to weed out the millions of dollars of property damage, the widows and the orphans, the twisted limbs and the scars.

The wheels of modern cars roll faster, and the dice of death roll faster and the odds against safety keep going up. You can hear the dice clicking if you keep your eyes and ears open.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Council is now making another plea for open eyes and ears. The only trouble with

pleas of which this is one, is that the people they're intended for won't listen to them. Should you listen?

Safe vehicles and safe driving are the only cure for the traffic safety problem. Law enforcement can't do the job alone. Last year, the State Highway Patrol made almost 200,000 arrests for violations. In spite of this, almost 1,000 persons died on the highways.

Summer's almost here and the wheels and the dice roll faster. Can't you hear them clicking? These are the odds to day.

An accident every 11 minutes.
A death every eight hours.

The Team Plowing In The Bottoms

DOWN to a Carolina bottomland today went a boy and a mule to plow long rows of pale green corn. The mule had been before and only at the edge of the creek did its feet skitter. But the boy was afraid of the mule and of the tender shoots of corn. He was scared the mule wouldn't obey even if he could remember which he doubted. So he was to say "huh" and when to say "gee." And he was scared of the new corn, afraid the plow would cut it, or the mule would trample it.

Saving the hit harshly to hide his fear, the boy guided the mule between two short rows at the edge of the woods, carefully set the scooter at just the right distance from the corn and then paused in the shade of the trees to wipe a sleeve across his dripping brow. Bored, he spoke to the mule and they went down the row and what the boy feared happened. The mule stepped on the corn, he mixed up his toes-haws and they both were skittish when they reached the end of the row leaving behind a twisting furrow that cut across two rows and left most of the middle intact. But the next furrow went a little straighter and the next was even better and finally the plow did smoothly through the heart of wild coffee and onion and the loose dirt lapped over the roots of the corn as it should.

Through the hot day, with summer

shimmering across the fields, the boy and the mule traveled the rows, the mule who had pulled many a plow, the boy who had learned the plow and the boy who learned many things he will remember and put to use in trying to avoid crooked furrows of other kinds.

One thing that the row always turns at the edge of the woods and leads back forever into the beating sun. And only when the boy's eyes and the mule's eyes the fire that blankets the bottoms in heat cast cool shadows from the trees upon the path of the plowman.

We don't know the boy who spent his first day plowing in the bottoms but we know he was there. Because these are days when boys are needed in the fields, when weeds grow faster than crops, when bottomlands are hot enough to test a boy and teach him some of the steely stubbornness of a mule.

And when all the corn is plowed we think the boy will remember, as we do on a day like these, the sound of a mule's feet going home over a hard clay road. . . . the clink of trace chains, the twilight songs of a bird. And remember the smells, of heat-swollen honeysuckles, of earth needing rain of wood smoke from a kitchen. And the tastes of cool buttermilk and hot cornbread, and of pork likker and "poke salad" in the turnip greens.

From The Asheville Citizen

TAKE A LAW, MISS

EVERY North Carolina schoolboy learns that May 20, 1775, was the date of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Every adult can spot that date on the Great Seal of North Carolina due North of Esau Quam Vaden and just above the head of the lady in the tricky hat.

To be sure, some of the historians demur. They politely doubt that the Mecklenburgers beat T. Jefferson to the drawing-up as described in documents of questionable authenticity.

But the Mecklenburg delegation in the General Assembly is going to change all that. It is sponsoring a legislative resolution creating a commission which is expected to "prove" that May 20, 1775 is not just an amiable myth. The commission, we must say, is somewhat loaded on the side of authenticity.

There is a much simpler way to handle this matter without combing the tattered files once again and putting bits of paper to the microscope.

Let the General Assembly adopt the following resolution, get it lawvowed by the State Supreme Court, and make it the law of the commonwealth:

"1. Be it Resolved, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775 exists.

"2. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this Act and all historical evidence, calendars, signatures, books and data to the contrary are hereby repealed."

That ought to do it.

The difference between prejudices and convictions is that you never lose your temper discussing your convictions. —CHATTANOOGA NEWS-PEE PRESS.

Cherry one—I believe that for every single thing you give away, two comes back to you. Peasantry—That's my experience. Last February I gave away my daughter, and she and her husband came back in August.—GREENVILLE (TENN.) SUN.

Toll Television On Trial

Video For Fee Or Free?

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON

MILLIONS of television viewers will be directly affected when the Federal Communications Commission decides whether to permit subscription or pay television along with free TV. And, judging from the FCC's mailbags, many of the viewers are making it a point to have their say.

The potential impact of the decision helps to account for the intensity of the argument. The public apparently is divided, at this point. Within the industry, set manufacturers and television stations pressing for toll TV are opposed by motion picture makers and exhibitors and some network interests and stations.

BIG SCALE DRIVES

FCC officials now are receiving opinions from industry and the public. Deadline for getting letters in is June 9 and both sides have conducted high-scale drives to stimulate letters to the commission.

Meantime, FCC has authorized experimental operations with three systems. One is Zenthia Corp.'s "Phonevision," a trademark which covers several methods of coding or "scrambling" telecasts so that they cannot be received on a set which does not have decoding equipment. The others are "Subscriber-Vision," backed by Skatlon Electronics & Television Corp. and the "Telemeter" system of International Telemeter Corp.

The systems have two main

features which interest the layman—methods of scrambling the telecast and of billing or charging the viewer for decoding or unscrambling it.

THE ARGUMENTS

Promoters of subscription TV argue, in general, that it would: Provide supplementary income to broadcasters and make television service available to areas and minorities which do not have it; permit more stations to operate; offer viewers more programs of high quality—Broadway openings, heavyweight title fights, ballet—by meeting costs which advertisers cannot bear; make more good films available to both living room and commercial theater audiences.

Opponents charge that viewers would be required to pay to watch sets which they purchased in anticipation of free TV, costs, increased by the toll TV system, would prevent broad expansion of TV to areas and groups not now served; and, emphasis would be on programs with box-office jingle, perhaps hired away from free TV, rather than on quality. Some say that toll TV would mean the end of free TV.

STEADY FLOW

The debate has fed in a steady flow of pamphlets, letters, telegrams, reprints of speeches, releases and fact sheets.

Zenthia, particularly active, argues in one pamphlet: "Television needs a better financial base than advertising sponsorship if it

is going to reach all the people who want to see it, and bring them all the programs they want to see."

Zenthia officials charge that national TV networks and motion picture theater owners are fighting to maintain the status quo under which they monopolize what the public shall see on TV, and they deny the right to choose for themselves.

THEATERS OPPOSED

While the networks and theater owners deny this they make no secret of their last-ditch opposition to pay TV. The major television campaign against the new system is being mounted by Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, which represents large stations. The theater operators have organized a Joint Committee on Toll TV with one goal: To block adoption of subscription TV.

Spokesmen for these groups claim that pay TV would be merely the "entering wedge" for a complete pay-as-you-go industry. Says Alfred Starr, theater chain operator of Nashville, Tenn., and a spokesman for Theater Owners of America, a member of the Joint Committee:

"In the end, it must be obvious, all the desirable programs will be on this basis if it is adopted. Free television and commercial television cannot coexist. One must drive out the other in order to survive."



These interests also deny that subscription TV would, over the long run, make certain programs available which now are not. "We believe the reverse to be the fact," says Dr. Frank Stanton, head of CBS. "People who make such an investment will have to get it back by putting on the type of show which will attract the largest audiences. If a million families were willing to pay \$1 each to see a movie and 100,000 people would pay \$2 each to see a subscription TV, it would be a

bailed, there would be no ballet."

SAMPLE COMMENTS

While the battle of words rages, John Q. Public is getting in his

two cents' worth. In recent weeks, FCC has received a flood of letters, pro and con. Some sample comments:

"You and your hot idea for pay-as-you-see TV! . . . Just give me one reason why the American people should not have that? . . . I would gladly welcome subscription television! . . . Re pay-as-you-see TV, I am heartily against it."

Officials say that at the moment, a majority of the letters favor subscription TV. In any event, the Commission intends to take its time on a decision which directly affects so many homes.

Dixie Needs Federal Money To Carry Out Desegregation

By WALTER LIPPMANN

NEW YORK

A BASIC assumption of the Supreme Court's order is that in the 21 states and the District of Columbia, where segregation is required or permitted, there is now a growing public opinion against racial discrimination in the public schools. This does not mean that there is not a strong opposition in the South to mixing white and colored children in the schools. But there is also in the South a rising tide of opinion which recognizes that a dual school system is incompatible with American principles and that the real question is not whether to desegregate or not, but how this dual system is to be abolished.

Were it not for this southern opinion, the Supreme Court decision would have been little more than a pious platitude. For the court could not, the federal government would not, force the southern states. The whole action of the court rests on the belief, for which there is ample justification in fact, that the will to solve this problem is already present in the South. Where there is will, a way will be found, and we may add that as the way is found, there will be a steady flow of federal money.

"GOOD FAITH"

The lower courts, sitting in the South and composed of judges living in southern communities, will have to decide "whether the action of school authorities constitutes good faith implementation of the states in the order of the principles" against racial discrimination. We shall do well to make the efforts now to foresee what "good faith" is likely to mean.

In doing this we must not be hypnotized by the defiant voices from the states in the deep South where the problem is most difficult. We must try to understand the position of those southern leaders who, while willing to comply, are beset by the practical difficulties.

SCHOOL SYSTEMS

The Supreme Court has told the lower courts to consider problems arising out of the physical condition of the school plant, the school transportation system, personnel, and the like. The underlying fact of the matter is that under segregation there are two school systems, and the school system for the colored children is in varying degrees but almost everywhere substantially inferior to the white school system. If, therefore, there is to be only one system, the schooling for the colored children will have to be raised to the standard of the white children.

This cannot be done quickly, and for this reason alone the Supreme Court was fully justified in refusing to set a deadline for compliance with the decision. Moreover, the lower courts, to whom the implementation of the decision has been remanded, will not, at least in many cases, be able to solve the practical problems which state legislatures have not solved. It may one day, elucidate the practical problems which state legislatures have not solved. It may have to deal with

FEDERAL AID NEEDED

We are facing the task of raising the level of schooling for colored children to the level of that of the white children, and of raising the level of both of them to the level of the best of what is needed if we are to educate the nation properly. We shall not escape the necessity of very substantial federal aid in carrying out this task. The overall problem of American education is, I am sorry and reluctant to say, insoluble without large contributions which can only be raised by federal taxation.

This would be the case even if the court had not ruled against segregation in schools. But in ruling as it has, the need for federal aid will become more obvious and ever more insistent.

"We're going to watch a 2 hour 'spectacular' tonight, and he's practicing being over-awed . . ."

People's Platform

Toward The Eventual Elimination Of Crime

Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Editors, The News:

I' CONCENTR for human values to parallel the material development of civilization, we must examine our laws with a view to the elimination of those that restrict freedom without protecting it. Regulations which proclaim certain acts to be illegal, although they are considered legal in other localities, cause confusion in the minds of citizens, who have a right to inquire why they should be forbidden to proceed in any manner they choose, so long as they do not violate the rights of others.

"Corrections" has no place in a democratic society, which is founded upon the principle that each individual is innocent until proven guilty. Representatives of the majority should not be permitted to force minorities to conform to their standards of morality.

If we wish to prevent crime, we must make it clear that the violation of individual rights will be penalized, irrespective of the social and economic status of violators, their excuses for wrongdoing, or the

place where the violation occurs. The world will never agree as to what is "right." But if the various nations clearly define "wrong," and establish universal criteria which characterize certain acts—and only those acts—as illegal, we may achieve a balance between freedom and restriction which will lead to the eventual elimination of crime.

—PAUL C. WOLFE

Charlotte

Many Helped Make Crusade Successful

Editors, The News:

I' MIGHT thank you and your staff for your very close and fine cooperation during the recent 1955 Cancer Crusade.

We feel that the efforts expended on our behalf have been successful and we wish to announce again to the people of Mecklenburg that the Mecklenburg unit of the American Cancer Society will continue to do a job as sponsored by the very fine, enthusiastic and selfless efforts of the many volunteers who have contributed to make the 1955 Cancer Crusade a success. To them we wish to say a special tribute too, and to thank them for a job well done.

—THOMAS G. LANE JR., Campaign Chairman.

Congratulations—And A Note On Politics

Lincolnton

Editors, The News:

I' HAVE taken your paper for a year, and sure like it, especially your editorials. But I want to congratulate you people in re-electing your mayor, Brother Van Every. I call him brother because I know he is a Mason.

I have lost track of my neighbor, J. R. Dean, who anticipates against him but I am sure that I and I have an old friend that I will put up against Mr. Dean and he will be the next governor of North Carolina. His name is Dave Stafford and he became a citizen of North Carolina in June, 1950. You can't beat him. J. R. He lives in Cross Creek.

—J. P. LONG

Convention Coverage Praised By Lions

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

YOUR COVERAGE of the Lions Club Convention was wonderful. I want to thank you for your cooperation.

—M. W. PETERSON, Chairman, Publicity Committee.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Nehru of India has given the State Dept. some unwelcome news regarding the proposed cease-fire around Formosa. As a result of Krishna Menon's visit in Peiping, Nehru has told the State Dept. that Red China will insist on the end of the economic blockade of China as its price for a cease-fire.

The blockade was imposed toward the beginning of the Korean war and has been maintained ever since. Though violated to some extent by Western nations, nevertheless it has been effective enough to hamper the entire economy of China seriously, and Premier Chou En-lai demands that it be lifted.

In fact, Nehru made it clear that the was one of the strongest conditions Chou had laid down in his latest secret talk with Krishna Menon.

Chinese Demand End Of Blockade

Chou bitterly denounced the Western ban on strategic shipments and said Red China would never agree to any treaty unless the West formally pledged that every country would resume its trade.

Senate Sallies

Illinois' Democratic Sen. Paul Douglas, backed by the Senate, remarked cheerfully to a tour of North Dakota, jumped up to greet Republican vice. We're going forward while looking back.

Indiana's puffed Sen. Homer Capehart, the joke-box king, was talking on the Senate floor against instant buying. His GOP colleague, Sen. "Wild Bill" Langer of North Dakota, jumped up to agree. "I think," suggested Langer, "we ought to start with the Capehart music boxes."

Security-Go-Round

Hubert Humphrey, the pithy senator from Minnesota, has some penetrating things to say about the topsy-turvy handling of security rules in the State Dept. Investigators, he says, deliver adverse security judgments 14.5 times

more often than the Atomic Energy Commission, though the AEC is conceded to have one of the most effective security systems in the world. Foreign Operations Administration, says Humphrey, has a third fewer employees than the U. S. Information Agency, yet State fired 174 workers for security reasons in the same period that USA fired only two. This proves that a man's chances of getting a job depend on the basis of a wild, unproved accusation derived more on the security officer where he has than on his actual loyalty, says Humphrey.

Setting up specific standards for judgment on cases, today's decisions depend on the fallible human judgment of each agency head. Under Truman, first decision went to the top loyalty board headed by a Republican, ex-Sen. Hiram Bingham of Connecticut.