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Why Increase Sewer Service Charges?

BUILDING a financial scaffolding on...
The Charlotte News can stand and look unflinchingly at a \$10 million budget...

Any proposal to keep the tax rate down is worthy of scrutiny...
The tax bill—city, county, state federal—is already greater than the average citizen's ability to pay.

But we are afraid that Councilman Herbert H. Baxter's plan to trim nine or ten cents from the proposed tax rate by doubling sewer service charges is not a just or proper solution.

The supplying of water and the disposal of sewage are perhaps the two functions of government which touch most intimately the lives of all the people...
They are necessities—closely linked to the health and welfare of the community.

Mr. Baxter's interest in spreading the tax burden is commendable. But the fairest method of taxation are based on ability to pay a sewer tax based on a percentage of the consumer's water bill hardly fits the formula equitably.

And taxes on real estate can at least be deducted from income taxes. Extra sewer charges cannot.

There is the matter too of public indignation. Charlotte just last year underwent a long, hard uproar when water rates were boosted. We are afraid that another uproar will merely trigger the long-expected movement to wrench control of water and sewer from the City Council.

Some civic leaders already have discussed the possibility of an independent city-county water and sewer authority. We would hate to see this come about. We believe the wiser course is to retain control of all important governmental functions where, if they are not handled properly, the voters can do something about it.

We urge the Council to continue to seek new sources of revenue and to continue to investigate ways to reduce the tax rate. But the Baxter idea of doubling sewer service charges just does not appear to be the right answer.

New Element In The Power Fight

THE city of Memphis, Tenn., has introduced a new element into the fight over the Dixon-Yates contract which at once may kill the contract and illuminate the issue involved.

The new element is local initiative. The issue is public utility power.

Memphis' decision to build its own power facilities rather than to buy from Dixon-Yates was a demonstration of local initiative operating against private power and thereby puncturing the myth that the two are blood brothers. The public evil attack by big government and public power as embodied in TVA. But at the same time it was local initiative that had to be forced into action, and so it can be said, too, that TVA was providing Memphis a service that it should have been providing itself.

Since Memphis apparently has destroyed any need for Dixon-Yates power to replace that being channeled by TVA to atomic installations, it will seem the wiser course for President Eisenhower to shelve that battered symbol. It has served its purpose and brought about what appears to be a fair, although forced, compromise.

planners" on the other "greedy capitalists." To be sure there have been some of each on both sides of the question.

But the proper place for public power should be determined by such practical considerations as need, ability and economy, not by philosophy.

If private power cannot or will not supply power to undeveloped areas, let it be done by the federal government. If an area can care for itself without the federal subsidy of cheap public power, let it do so, either by buying from private firms or building its own public power.

We submit that it would not have been a horrible occurrence had Memphis chosen either course. The important thing is that Memphis could and did act on its initiative, whatever the motivations be behind that action.

Another Dreary Year Of The Draft

ONCE again, Congress has extended the draft act. Once again, it has refused to face the cold war reality that military service has to be more than a temporary part of national life.

Year after dreary year, Congress extends the draft act, hoping that next year enforced military service can be forgotten. It is a hope shared by the whole country, but it is not a hope based on facts which indicate the nation for years to come must always have strong military forces in being and in ready reserves.

Besides being basically distasteful, the draft is full of inequities and uncertainties.

A sensible alternative and one tailored to the times would be a system of universal military training.

Under UMT, American youth would know where it stood. A boy would know when and how long he would serve and he could make his educational, business and personal plans accordingly. The plan also would insure a vast trained reserve. But adopting UMT would mean admission by Congress that military service has become a necessity for modern Americans. The Congress stubbornly and perhaps, blindly, refuses to make that admission.

Yoo-Hoo! Here We Are Down Here

THIS may come as a shock to the good, gray New York Times but Charlotte has not moved to Greensboro.

Times map-makers seem to have the rather disturbing notion that the Queen City of the South is located up beyond Guilford County way—not so very far from the Virginia line.

Admittedly, Charlotte has always toyed with the idea of annexing Greensboro.

But our gaudy neighbor—still a little wet behind the ears, if you ask us—is not yet ready to become part of a great metropolis.

Until that time when an expeditionary force is mounted, Greensboro will remain a nice place for Charlotte to visit. But please, dear New York Times, we wouldn't want to live there.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JAZZ FOR COMRADE DUNAYEVSKY

IT is a pleasure to welcome into the ranks of her cats Comrade Isaak Dunayevsky. This popular Russian composer, one of whose tunes is the theme song of the Soviet radio network, writes ardently of jazz in SOVIETSKAYA MUZYKA, organ of the Union of Soviet Composers and the Soviet Ministry of Culture. When it comes to liking jazz, Comrade Dunayevsky is really on the beat in the groove and riding it out.

As for the lingo, the best that can be said for Comrade Dunayevsky is that he does not dig it. He speaks of the long-time Soviet ban on jazz as the result of "dogmatism," "narrow-mindedness" and "orthodoxy." Jazz itself, presumably, therefore, represents in Comrade Dunayevsky's mind the opposites of those qualities.

True, there is a praiseworthy broad-mindedness about a trumpet solo by Louis Armstrong, he of the satchel mouth. Nothing could be less dogmatic than a piano performance by Fats Waller. "The only dog" is as late as 1942, when in behalf of a blue wail from Billie Smith. But jazz is so positively much

more than these rather staid qualities that it hardly seems worthwhile to start a description of it with them.

Jazz is illegitimate, profane and anarchic—and don't think it hasn't had a hard time staying that way all these years. If the law descends upon it, the best advice to Comrade Dunayevsky or anyone else remains that of the aforementioned Maceo Waller in his vocal contribution to one of his piano diversions: "Don't give your right name—no, no, no."

The time is past, apparently, when you could look at the color on a store counter and distinguish between women's lingerie and men's sports shirts—GASTONIA GAZETTE.

And now, just about the time we're worried half sick over the depressing state of the world's affairs, what with a hydrogen bomb hanging over our poor heads, here comes Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and warns the nation against over-optimism. — LEXINGTON HERALD.

Red Doctrine Unchanged Despite Softened Party Line

By STEWART ALSP

MOSCOW
DIMITRI T. Shepilov, editor and publisher of Pravda, is regarded in Washington and London as the most probable successor to Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov. Interviewed by this reporter, Mr. Shepilov rather angrily branded this view of his future as "senseless" and "irresponsible speculation."

Whether or not Mr. Shepilov is over-modest about his future, the interview seems worth describing. Everything Mr. Shepilov said was, of course, straight down the party line. This is hardly surprising, since Mr. Shepilov, as chief of the Russian Communist Party's newspaper, is in an excellent position to know the party line.

At any rate, future foreign minister or not, Mr. Shepilov is regarded in knowledgeable circles as a coming man in the younger generation of Soviet leaders. And the interview, straight down the line as it is, gives some insight into the state of mind of this generation of new Soviet men.

Mr. Shepilov looks and talks like a comer. He is a big, handsome man with a tired middle-aged face, copious grey hair and an authoritative manner of speaking. He brushed off most questions about the forthcoming Four Powers Conference, saying these matters were covered by Mr. Molotov's press conference in San Francisco. The interview thus became a sort of long, doctrinal debate. In which neither side could wholly understand the other. What follows does not pretend to cover all that was said, but to give a fair sample of what it is like



Here Is The St. Louis Globe-Democrat New Kremlin Official?

recr... Anyway, it is "impossible to believe that any people could tolerate any system against their will."

Again, or so it seemed to this reporter, Mr. Shepilov spoke as though genuinely convinced that the Eastern European countries adopted communism of their own free will. Throughout the interview, there was a faintly haunted

feeling of trying unsuccessfully to shout across an unbridgeable gulf.

POLITE SUGGESTION
The talk turned to the Soviet Union's disarmament proposal. Mr. Shepilov suggested, politely, that the United States did not "really want to disarm." The Soviet Union, he insisted, was by contrast absolutely sincere. "We

to talk things over with a Soviet Communist leader.

Why was the Soviet Union always attacking the United States for a policy of "poison of strength," when it was obvious that the Soviet Union itself favored a strong military posture?

Mr. Shepilov: "From the very first day the main line of our policy has been peaceful co-existence with all countries in spite of differences between social systems."

How about Lenin's prediction of a "series of fearful clashes" between the capitalist and Communist systems? Were not the powerful Soviet forces in preparation for just such clashes?

Mr. Shepilov: "From our point of view, it is as inevitable as night follows day that the capitalist system will be replaced by the socialist system."

"FEARFUL CLASHES"
But how about those "fearful clashes"? Mr. Shepilov replied firmly that there would be "no export of revolution at all."

"This was only one point where both sides seemed to be talking about different things."

Mr. Shepilov went on to say that it was "necessary to be strong to defend our country," but added with obvious conviction that this was "not a policy of strength." The distinction remained a trifle fuzzy to this reporter.

Mr. Shepilov continuing: "We have no need to use our economic strength to impose our system on anybody."

Then how about the satellite countries? This question of the so-called satellites is a cracked old

'Thanks For Your Cooperation'



People's Platform

A Girl Scout Camp For Mecklenburg?

Editors: The News, Charlotte

AS A parent interested in all AS children I want to discuss with you the dire need we have in Mecklenburg County for a Girl Scout camp.

My own daughter is a devoted Scout. She received the Curved Bar Rank in May of this year—being only a seventh grader we as parents and all her friends were very proud. This is her third summer in camp. Our own Mecklenburg County Scout organization has failed to obtain Camp York in 1953. Since that time they have been unable to find a camp for our use and have urged our girls to apply to other camps. The truly sad part of this is that other counties fill their camps with their own Scouts and have no room for us.

Last year and again this year our daughter was fortunate in finding a camp. Camp Hardee is a lovely place but it is over 30 miles from Charlotte. She is one of 20 to find a place. What are the more than 2,000 others going to do? I think I can give a fairly accurate picture. They will lose interest and drop out of scouting. They are missing the healthful and wholesome experience gained at camp. It takes living with other girls in the out-of-doors to complete and complement the work done in the winter. They need to live together, worship together, work together and put into practice the fun of camping. Can we help them?

—MRS. W. C. BAXTER

Scurry? It's A Thing Of The Distant Past

Editors: The News, Charlotte

THE People's Platform carried a letter signed "Dr. Waldo H. Jones, Myrtle Beach, S. C."

In current medical directories this man's name does not appear, and I would be very much interested to know just what the prefix "Dr." stands for in his case.

Among other things, he mentions, "I often see people with interest and dread out of scouting."

Everybody knows that scurry is a vitamin deficiency due to dietetic error, and with citrus fruits, not to mention fresh vegetables, being as cheap and available to even the "most common man," I question his statement that scurry is prevalent in the modern age. In 17 years of working for qualified medical doctors in various parts of the United States, I have yet to come in contact with a case of scurry.

Who wonder who he has been associating with "so rich and affluent" that they have failed to keep their teeth with the common man and woman? This too I have yet to see. He says, "But who is to pay the bill for the poor man's children?"

Who is to pay the bill for the poor man's children? In turn, Napoleon contemptuously called them a "nation of shopkeepers." Hitler lauded them as "discontented," and Lenin considered them too immature and too illigial to be capable of absorbing the teach-

ings of Marx. Fortunately, these were men who did not let frustration and exasperation dictate to their judgment. The late Sir Hines Page, U. S. ambassador in London during the First World War, wrote to President Wilson in 1918: "Just when we thought God had given them very good answers, and Europe would be a bloody slave-pen to pay for them." And Sean O'Faolain gave it as his opinion that "between England and Revolution there will always stand an army of bowler hats."

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could stand 100,000,000 rubles a year more effectively for peaceful competition with the capitalist countries than for arms."

SHOT IN THE DARK
Finally after hours of inconclusive fencing, vodka, wine and delicious caviar were served. But between cups, the fencing continued. The Iron Curtain, Mr. Shepilov and his subordinates contended, was really of American manufacture. The McCarran-McLeod session, he must be admitted, gave Mr. Shepilov some talking points. Then there was a last shot in the dark. Might not Mr. Malenkov have been right about a hydrogen war destroying world civilization? This seemed to touch a sensitive nerve.

"We consider," said Mr. Shepilov with great weight, "that civilization will not die. Instead, the more basic the Americans establish, the more quickly will capitalism die because the people will rise against American imperialism."

CONTRADICTION
The interview ended shortly thereafter, with many expressions of hope for better relations.

For this reporter the interview served to underline at least one fact—that whatever change there may have been in Soviet policy, it is in no sense whatever a basic or doctrinal change.

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