



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1955

## Crisis In Education: The Laity Speaks

IF an education proved anything it demonstrated the depth of feeling and interest laymen have about public school problems. The exchange of ideas between professionals and non-professionals was not only spirited; it was laced with a high degree of mutual respect and understanding.

Professional educationists have often been accused in the past of closed circuit thinking, of resisting criticism from the laity. Such was most assuredly not the case Tuesday. The "sisterly superintendents" had their say and the professionals were all ears.

It was well that they were. For the ideas presented from citizens outside looking in were right to the point.

Nothing illustrated the quality of lay perception quite so well as the results of a survey taken by Fred W. Greene, vice president of Union National Bank. He mailed questionnaires to 200 business and professional leaders—no school teachers—asking:

"What can we do to get enough good teachers and keep them?"

The responses, from 100 persons, listed these thoughtful suggestions:

- 1—Pay adequate salaries.
- 2—Treat teachers as experts in their field. Give them their due.
- 3—Fringe benefits needed. A substantial retirement plan is needed.
- 4—Use promotional sales campaigns

and programs to attract teachers.

5—Modify the certification program, taking out some of the frills in it but with no lessening of the standards.

6—More generous insurance coverage.

7—Survey the field and find out why teachers leave jobs.

8—Reduce classroom load, cut out red tape, give paid vacations, were among other suggestions.

Laymen recognize that the formula is fundamentally simple. It amounts to making teaching so attractive as a career that it can compete successfully against other occupations open to college graduates.

Educationalists would agree wholeheartedly.

In fact, it is no longer a question of what to do. The knowledge is available. It is a matter of putting the knowledge to use.

We must, as News columnist Walter Lippmann, once said, measure our effort in education as we do our military effort. That is to say, we must measure it not by what it would be easy or convenient to do, but by what it is necessary to do in order that the nation may survive and flourish. We are a nation rich enough to defend ourselves. We must also make up our minds that we are rich enough to provide the manpower and material necessary to educate ourselves.

The action, however, is regrettable.

Just last March, commissioners assured the public that they would stick by their original intention of limiting the cost of the project to what insurance money was available.

This new method of financing the cost of necessary fixtures hardly fits the original intent of the building's equipment indefinitely.

Mayor Phil Van Every's objections to the proposition are properly raised. "This is not good business," said he. "It should not be done in a suburb of the debt limit of our city. If this policy is to be followed in city government . . . we could mortgage ourselves forever and there would be no need for constitutional limits on our indebtedness."

The world obviously has been much better for construction costs to have remained completely within the bounds of the insurance settlement—particularly since the need for another public auditorium in Charlotte has not yet been clearly demonstrated.

Plutarch untie the Gordian knot, the ends of which were secretly twisted round and folded up within it, cut it asunder with his sword.

THE Park and Recreation Commission took its cue from Alexander. It was faced with a fiscal dilemma when bids on the new Park Center soared above insurance funds from Charlotte's fire-ravaged Army - Auditorium. Where would it get the extra money? It wouldn't—immediately. A decision was made to lease—rather than purchase—heating and air conditioning equipment for the structure.

This arrangement, said commissioners, would permit completion of the building with a relatively small extra supplement to the Army insurance fund. Anyway, commissioners would not have to ante up the full purchase price for heating and air conditioning facilities if it could rent those facilities on an annual basis.

in his administration he broadened the responsibilities and the opportunities for service of the vice presidency. He has delegated large authority to other top officials in the government. All these actions indicate an awareness of the need for leadership in depth, and a knowledge of the governmental machinery that has followed death or disability of past presidents. It is almost inconceivable that Mr. Eisenhower would seek another term unless he was convinced he could complete that term with full use of his abilities.

In other words his patriotism would lead him away and not toward the presidency in the event of poor health.

GOP unwillingness to consider an alternative to Mr. Eisenhower is very understandable. For in a large sense it is a new vision and freshness of ideas embodied by the President. But now that he has put the party on its feet, it is the party's responsibility to walk and gather strength.

Whether he runs again or not, the President can make a further contribution to the nation and his party by insisting that the Republicans keep their "new look." For only by adhering to Eisenhower policies can the party be acceptable to the mass of Americans.

From The Gastonia Gazette

**HOW TO LIVE TO 102**

MOST of us no doubt have, at one time or another, been subjected to doses of vitamin pills.

Some people believe in them. Some people discredit them. Some people laugh at them.

But there may be something to them. We never had thought of vitamin pills in this light until we came across this recent story.

A country weekly editor in a remote North Carolina town called at the home of Uncle John Reynolds, the coun-

## One Dilemma's Regrettable Solution

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ty's oldest resident, to interview him on the occasion of his 102nd birthday. He asked the usual question:

"To what do you attribute your great age?"

"It's very simple," said Uncle John. "I've been taking vitamin pills since I was 99."

More cigarette lighters would work better if they took their feet off their desks. —CHATTANOOGA NEWS-PRESS

## People's Platform Many Drivers Need A Good Dose Of Manners

Charlotte

Editors, The News: I WOULD like to say a few things about the drivers who use our streets and highways of Charlotte. I drive all day, all week long and see a lot of it. I am not so sure that we can stop all the wrecks, injuries and financial losses but at least 90 per cent of it can be eliminated.

First I wish to compliment the big truck drivers of our highways. They are the most courteous, intelligent and respectful of any people on the road as a group. I wish to compliment the bus drivers down York Rd. now who pull off the road to pick up and let off passengers even though they lose time and are in the line of traffic. In general our cab drivers are respectful and are good drivers.

THE DISRESPECTFUL And now about those drivers who can't or won't drive respectfully. I sincerely believe some people just can't drive. I believe they are either such new drivers or just plain weak upstairs. Take the driver who can't make a right hand turn without blocking both lanes. Then there is the driver who tries to make a left turn from a right hand lane or a right turn from a left lane. If they are driving a \$3,000 or \$5,000 car you wonder if they don't inherit it. It could be that they were not thinking (not oriented as to place) or were a slacker to start with. I believe that experience being a person be a better driver than anything else. But what is wrong with an older person who breaks the laws going the same street for many years? Can it be a bank person who drives other high executives, can have a high I. Q. in all other lines and be a moron behind the wheel?

LOSERS POISE Now about those drivers who don't drive like a lady or gentleman. There are a few whom I never do and I believe most drivers drive without respect of others some of the time. I can give you many words of cursing and I can give you many words of control my temper. I can lose anything, make a costly blunder, and a lot of other things and never say a word. But when a driver in our 5 o'clock traffic stops for a red light in front of me and signals a word, it is a subterfuge to lose all my poise and would love to give him a piece of my mind but I CAN'T.

NECESSITY The part of it that hurls is that he is driving like no one is on the road but himself (or herself). He has no respect or decency. He (she) would apologize in a half way or door for holding me up by accident or necessity, but here I am sitting in traffic, waiting in the face. I feel like pushing him (or her) on down the road another block and then blocking him (or her) in. I feel my horn to remind him he has forgotten the string of people he does not respect and I feel my horn to remind him he is a danger to himself and others.

RUDE AND DULL I believe these rude, dull and careless people are adults who once stood in the halls at school and made others go around or wait, who cut in line atchow (or) got by with it. "they now have a car to block a full block of traffic. He (or she) could have signalled in time for traffic to go around and not be so close and jammed up they can't back up. There ought to be a law with cops who would enforce it that made a driver signal a full block for any turn. He should never be allowed to change his mind after he has blocked a single car.

WAIT FOR HOLE Other things that make me boil is a person who in making a left turn will turn enough to stick the wheel in front of me and block my lane meeting him (plus his lane) and wait for a hole in the second lane. Or the person who lays his arm out over the door like a dish rack and stops blocking everyone behind and there he sits. If you look he motions you on around and you can't get around the law states that you must not drive "slow enough" to impede traffic. Stopping is still worse. I have never heard of that law being enforced.

GET ON NERVES Slow drivers who will not cooperate to let you by or if you pass them they will speed up and drive within a yard of your car just to get on your nerves do just that. Then there is the driver who pulls in the lane so slow you have to skid to keep from crashing and goes one block and turns without any sign of a signal. To these drivers I must be a stranger—and all strangers are bad or not worth respecting—but they are all that matters.

—EDWARD C. DAVIS



## Perils Of The Highway

### Queens Bus Stop A Real Hazard

Editors, The News: I WOULD like to say a few things about the drivers who use our streets and highways of Charlotte. I drive all day, all week long and see a lot of it. I am not so sure that we can stop all the wrecks, injuries and financial losses but at least 90 per cent of it can be eliminated.

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## Charlotte Fire Department as Dependable, Honorable, Influential, Trustworthy, and Has the Highest Respect of Not Only the Men of His Station, But of the Entire City Government.

Under the able preaching of Rev. W. B. Davis he renewed his vows and led from the Baptist Church to the Belmont Park Methodist Church. The record of his activities in the Belmont Park Methodist Church shows what can be done when a layman is on fire to serve the Lord and loves the church of his choice. He served as president of a large men's Bible class for 13 years. He has been on the board of trustees for more than 20 years. He has been charge lay leader and district steward for a long period of years. He has missed only one annual Conference in thirty years. Berry says that he has never missed a steward's meeting since he went on the board in 1922. (How many stewards can equal that?)

Some of the things that Belmont Park Methodist Church has done since the 35 years that he was chairman of the board are the following:

1. 1933 - At old church location on Pegasus St., bought a seven-room, brick veneered house adjoining the old church property, for the parsonage.

2. Converted the old parsonage, a two-story frame building into an educational building. Used up until 1951.

3. 1951, Bought 3 1/2 acres of land for the purpose of relocating the church on Hawthorne Lane Extension. Built a modern eight-room, brick veneered parsonage.

4. 1952 - Following year, built a 250 people Educational building, 800 capacity. Church property, including land, church building and educational building, parsonage and furnishings valued at \$25,000. Old church property was sold to Northside Nazarene Church at \$31,500. This amount is applied to the total cost of the new church. Upon completion of the new church a loan of \$10,000 was obtained. Original cost of \$275,000 has been reduced to approximately \$70,000.

During the summer months of 1954, air conditioning was installed in the church auditorium and recreational room, at cost of \$8,500. They have raised approximately one-half of that cost amount in the last half of this conference year (1954-55).

**FAST GROWING** Belmont Park for the last two years since it entered its new building has been one of the fastest growing of the 26 Methodist churches in Charlotte. It now has more than 1,000 members. Berry Gibson never talks about himself or brags about his church activities, but he lives and breathes the Methodist Church and particularly Belmont Park Methodist Church. He claims that he has only had a small part in the progress of this church, and that the progress should be credited to the lay support of its membership and of fine friends outside of the church, as well as to the capable leadership of the fine ministers who have served Belmont Park. However, Berry has led the way, and knowing his sterling character, that he was always leading them in the right direction, his fellow members at Belmont Park have accomplished great things.

**RELOCATION** Approximately ten years ago under the able leadership of the Rev. F. W. Kiler, ably seconded by Berry Gibson, the movement was started to relocate the church and by the end of his term of ministry he had raised a large sum for this purpose. The Rev. F. W. Kiler was returned for the specific purpose of leading the movement of building a new church. This came to a happy fruition and the new church, on a wonderful location on Hawthorne Lane, was built, completed, and occupied. He was followed by the present pastor, Rev. W. A. Rollins, and under his ministry Belmont Park Church has continued to grow and to make improvements such as air conditioning of the auditorium and assembly hall, paving of the off-street parking, reducing the building debt, etc. Rev. W. A. Rollins will report approximately 100 new members for this year and approximately \$45,000 raised.

**WIDE INTEREST** Berry Gibson's interest in Methodist churches has extended beyond the limits of his own church. He has served well and faithfully on the Board of Managers of the City Mission Society of Charlotte since it was established in 1942.

He is now serving on the Executive Committee of the Charlotte District Mission Society. He has always aided in every community-wide financial drive, serving two years as PTA president of the Charlotte Tech High School, as chairman of the athletic committee and other community-wide enterprises.

Unassuming, faithful, giving, intelligent, and unswerving love for his church and to his Lord, Berry Gibson stands as the ideal Methodist layman. Belmont Park Methodist Church is a reflection of his character and life. I count it an honor to have Berry as a personal friend, and I know there are numerous other churchmen scattered through Charlotte who have the same high sentiments toward Berry Gibson.

—EDWIN L. JONES

**RAISED ON FARM** Berry Gibson was born Dec. 8, 1896, at Mint Hill, N. C., Mecklenburg County. His parents were Ben and Mattie Burr Gibson, and he was raised on a farm. He moved to Charlotte when 19 years old, and married Stella Morrison. Their two fine children have shown their same interest in the Methodist Church. One, Rev. Earl K. Gibson, is pastor of the Pinnacle Church, Winston-Salem district, and the other Mrs. Mary Ashford, lives in Charlotte. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson have two grandchildren.

**BECAME FIREMAN** Berry Gibson joined the Charlotte Fire Department in June 1925. Ten years later he was made captain of the North Charlotte Station of the Charlotte Fire Department when it was opened in 1935. He is known throughout the

devotion of Berry C. Gibson and others like him in the congregation, the Belmont Park Methodist Church has become one of the great churches of our Conference. Located in a mill section only a stone's throw from two cotton mills, for many years it served the working people of that area of Charlotte. At no time has it had any members of wealth on its membership roll. What it has done is to have had to do the hard way and through the loyal devotion of its leaders and members. Berry Gibson above all others has helped to bring Belmont Park Methodist Church to its present position of influence and leadership.

There are few signs on the curves approaching the stop. The one "STOP" sign is hidden by the bus, when the bus stops. Time past, before buses crossed the bridge, a man, hiding in the woods beside the creek, several times frightened mules walking over bridge.

The woods are still there. Parents, whose children rode the bus to school, no longer allow their children to ride the bus because of the hazard.

Three questions, gentlemen: The attention of the Traffic Department has been called to the situation. No result. Though much in papers about pedestrian safety. Why does the Traffic Department not allow a meter to pedestrians to be created?

Why is any petition necessary, when the danger of the situation is evident to any one who can see what one looks at? Must we wait for death, before something is done?

—M. M. GREY

**Berry Gibson Is Ideal Churchman** Charlotte

Editors, The News: THE STORY of the success of any worthwhile effort or institution is always the story of one or more outstanding individuals who through the dedication of their life and talents have accomplished the seemingly impossible. Here and there throughout our great Methodist Church are to be found laymen and laywomen whose lives and works may be known and admired by the community or even their own particular church. However, their lives and works have made it possible for their own church to reach a place of influence and power in the lives of its members and of its community. Some of these great Christians pass almost unnoticed from the scene, which is most unfortunate.

**A MAN'S DEVOTION** The writer wishes that every member of our Conference, and that all Methodists beyond the confines of our Conference, could know the life and works of Berry C. Gibson of Belmont Park Methodist Church in Charlotte. By ordinary standards this church is not a rich church, or hardly what would be called a strong church, and yet because of the

importance of peace, are certain to tangle with Dulles and Nixon. This may prove quite a battle.

2. There will be little chance of tax cuts this year. Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, though anxious for tax cuts, is determined to balance the budget. His word will be law.

**Humphrey's Way** 3. More defense cuts. Again George Humphrey is likely to have his way about cutting the defense budget further. Despite the fact that Pentagon generals are up in arms and Senate Democrats are shouting, the money anyway, the Treasury secretary will probably win out in his demand for less spending.

In general, there will not be too much upheaval in the Cabinet or around the White House during Eisenhower's absence. He had been away more than any other recent president, and had used the general staff system of delegating authority.

**General System** He once told his Joint Chiefs of Staff that he didn't want any problem brought to him until there was a unanimous opinion, and he has followed the same general system with his agencies—namely, letting them make the decisions. This was one reason why he never really understood the implications of the Dixie-Vote deal.

**Nix On Nixon** Ordinarily, the man who would emerge as the heir apparent to Eisenhower during his weeks of convalescence would be the young vice president scheduled to fill his shoes in case of death. But political prognosticators who have already picked Nixon as the Republican nominee for 1956 forget one thing: Nixon won't be able to carry his own state of California at the GOP convention in San Francisco. For the boy wonder who shot to fame on the issue of the pumpkin patches and Communists-in-government made some powerful enemies during his quick climb to the top.

**His Foes** Three of these happen to be the governor of his state, Goodwin Knight, who will control the California delegation in '56; the Republican leader of the Senate, Bill Knowland, who will help him control it; and the Chief Justice of the United States, Earl Warren, who, while out of politics, has a way of making his views known back in his home state. These three have no reason to love Nixon.

INTERLUDE

"Of course every man should have ambition—where would the world be without ambition?—in caves, bashing women's heads with clubs, that's where . . ."

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

HERE are some of the things likely to happen inside the Cabinet while President Eisenhower is convalescing:

1. There are bound to be some important differences over Russia. Secretary Dulles has made sure faces privately over Ike's attempt to get along with the Russians. Vice President Nixon has sided with Dulles, and even made a speech which attacked some of the "summit" goodwill. Nixon made his political reputation as a Russian-baiter and will continue that way inside the Cabinet.

**A Battle** But close to Ike in the White House, such as Harold Stassen, Sherman Adams, and Nelson Rockefeller, who know how the President feels about the

## Cabinet To Debate Foreign Policy

importance of peace, are certain to tangle with Dulles and Nixon. This may prove quite a battle.

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importance of peace, are certain to tangle with Dulles and Nixon. This may prove quite a battle.

2. There will be little chance of tax cuts this year. Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, though anxious for tax cuts, is determined to balance the budget. His word will be law.

**Humphrey's Way** 3. More defense cuts. Again George Humphrey is likely to have his way about cutting the defense budget further. Despite