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Follow Up Progress With Progress

THE pattern of progress in midtown is not yet perfect.

Charlotte will reap full benefits from the unbottling of 3rd St. and the addition of 600 new parking spaces only if it bolsters these civic bridgeheads with other improvements.

Southern Railway System's decision to turn the burned-out freight terminal site into a parking facility is cheering news. The possibility of parking 3rd St. farther eastward accompanied the jubilation. But the value of this week's developments can be measured best in impetus it will give even bolder plans for reducing traffic congestion and urban decay.

A tremendously important start has been made. Only if competent municipal planners are permitted to parlay that start into greater progress will the start be fully exploited.

The tools are available. Experts like Traffic Engineer Herman J. Hoese and City-Country Planning Engineer William E. McIntyre have them poised and ready.

They include plans for broader thoroughfares leading into midtown, peak-hour parking bans on Trade and Tryon Sts., improvement of vital arteries connecting with Independence Blvd. near the Morehead St. interchange, extension of other dead-ended streets, a farsighted setback program, long-range development of promising commercial property

in the vicinity of the old freight terminal.

Charlotte has made notable progress in mending midtown's heart in recent years but much remains to be done. Midtown's pattern was all right in the days of horse traction and handicraft but much of it remains today as a paralyzing setup.

What can be done to encourage further progress? Robert Moses, the man who helped remake New York for the automobile age, offered some startling talk on the subject this month in FREEDOM OF THE AMERICAN ROAD.

Remember that the average public official is afraid to proceed without some evidence of public approval. He is scared of minorities, of big owners, of demagogues who threaten his job at the next election. He is expected to be the courage of other peoples' convictions, to be the conscience of the community and to lift what is above its own level. Without strong public opinion right down to the sidewalks, grass roots, and ploved fields, neither this nor any other problem of equal scope can be solved. If you want action... pick out the nearest public officials with good ideas on traffic, with courage and enough modesty to imitate successful experience elsewhere. Build them up. They will make some mistakes and many enemies, but they will bring home the bacon.

The advice is sound. The opportunities are now within the public's grasp. Let's stop the waiting. Let's go.

Hoover Report And Okinawan Dogs

THE CHARLOTTE Lions Club recently heard a speaker say the Hoover Report, far from being a monument to the past, is a blueprint for a better tomorrow. That it is, but the blueprint is more than a little smudged by disuse, and dusty blueprints are just as useless as bespattered monuments.

The speaker, of course, wanted to use the blueprints for a better tomorrow, a Durham native now organizational director of the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report.

The simple purpose of this group is to familiarize the public and an extensively inattentive Congress and administration with the vast tax savings that could be had by putting the reports to work.

Fortunately, Mr. Highsmith has some disciples in Charlotte and they have a leader—attorney Carlton Fleming. These people are eager to shake the dust off the Hoover Report. They will arrange for speakers for civic and church clubs, parent-teacher associations and any other groups interested in introducing some simple economy and efficiency to the Goliah of government whose tribute comes due on April 15.

What they want to talk about is not

the complexities in the 3,300,000 words in the far-ranging report. They want Charlotteans to understand the avoided simplicities.

Such as these: Adoption of the Hoover Report could save a citizen earning \$4,000 a year as much as \$32 in income tax. It would keep 159 tax dollars in the pocket of the man earning \$10,000.

It would install systems to eliminate such bureaucratic silliness as air shipment of dog food to Okinawa, ping-pong balls to Berlin, and 25,000 pounds of cement to Bermuda.

The Hoover Report originated in a bipartisan group. Most of its recommendations are non-controversial. Some can be implemented by executive order; others require legislation. All are aimed at streamlining government so that it will cost less and work better.

Through lethargy, inaction and an ingrown tolerance of waste the dust has been allowed to settle. The local group offers congratulations for trying to unsettle it.

They will be successful if enough citizens lend an ear.

He Chopped Down What Cherry Tree?

THE headhunters of history, armed with their little debunking hatchets, have almost made it old hat to pay homage to an American hero these days. With Davy Crockett safely enshrouded, they have turned their attention to George Washington. Popular folklore about the Father Of Our Country has taken an awful cloaking. As a result, impressionable types, celebrating his birthday today almost apologetically.

So successful are the debunkers that the children freshly removed from the sandbox set are likely to believe that Gen. George was first in myth, too. One charming ingenuity of our present times has announced that the ranks Washington just ahead of John Henry and just behind Paul Bunyan in her book of childhood fancies.

We are prepared to admit that a certain amount of poetic license has been taken with the life and times of our first president.

Despite what Parson Weems wrote,

the cherry tree legend is sheer balderdash.

Our George did not throw a dollar across the Rappahannock, either. The first American dollar was not even minted until after the allied feat.

He did not say: "Entangling alliances with no money." That was Jefferson.

Nor did he visit Betsy Fries when she was supposed to be making the first Stars and Stripes.

He did not even cross the Delaware in the manner of the famous printing. For one thing, the boat is the wrong type. For another, the flag didn't exist at the time.

Beyond that we draw the line. We agree with historian Moncure D. Conway who said that the folklore "rather draped than disguised." Behind the legends was flesh and blood, and true greatness. He was indeed a hero. The truth about the man—his exploits, his leadership, his eminence—outshine the fiction. We take note of the anniversary of his birth with unshamed respect.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

TOO DARN MUCH LITERATURE

IT WAS about time the Worker's Paradise quit paying authors by the page. The system has created a sort of Reader's Purgatory, and the publishers are not too happy about it, either. So in what is possibly the most notable scientific advance since the jetting of the Lysenko non-recombinant genes, the Soviet Union is saying goodby to all that. And we would imagine the reaction would be a good hearty whew! all around.

Writers like Edgar Wallace, or Theodore Dreiser, or particularly the authors of the various soap operas that litter up the airwaves and the cocktail tables, would do all right selling their product by the page, pound or cubic yard. But perfectionists, like say Sackville-West, or more particularly poets whose volumes are as shy and gossamer as a moonbeam peeping from behind a cloud, would simply suffer like blazes.

Somerset Maugham pointed out the dangers of the quantitative approach to literature quite a few years ago in a series of articles on the art of skipping. He observed that Cervantes's Don Quixote, for example, could be sustained without undue boredom only by judi-

cious skipping. This was so, he said, because Cervantes was paid at space rates and had frugally thrown into his manuscript all the stuff he had hidden away in trunks, attics, windmills, etc. It seems that the modern Muscovite rides as hot and hard after the local equivalent of the dollar as ever did the unquiescent Cervantes, and for fully as many pages. Maybe now, with the New Editorial Policy, the Soviet reader can get back to some reading intended to inform, illumine and entertain, and not merely to go on and on.

Herbert Hoover, government reorganizer, would empower the President to appoint an administrative vice president to carry part of the presidential load. With two vice president, the nation would have had more than a small town bank. —NEW ORLEANS STATES.

Prescription for a letter to the editor that is almost guaranteed to get an answer: "Where do these farmers get the idea they're better than anybody else, always whining for government help?" —FLORIDA TIMES-UNION.

People's Platform After Midnight — Are Caution Lights Enough?

Charlotte

Editors, The News: IN VIEW of the recent accidents that are taking place in the wee hours of morning, it appears that instead of the traffic lights operating on caution after midnight, that it would be most helpful and would possibly save many lives, if the lights would operate as they do in daylight. I have heard and read of many accidents that happen at this time of night and this possibly may curb some of this.

However, I realize many of these victims are probably under the influence of intoxicants and probably never see the future itself much less the color of the lights. —EARL G. RABORN

A Smudge Removed But Few Changes

Zirconia

Editors, The News: I WOULD like to reply to the People's Platform contributor who asks, "What is to be gained by integration?"

How can we be champions of liberty and crusaders for freedom if colonialism is going on inside our own country? Apart from removing this ugly smudge, few things would change with integration. Interbreeding would remain as rare as ever. Negroes and whites would not force themselves into one another's circles unless they feel they belong. Most Negroes and whites would naturally and voluntarily move in their own groups. And if you want equality to man not enough reason? If the Negro is good enough to handle the white man's food and to take care of white children, why would it be unthinkable that he share a classroom? —MRS. R. H. LINDSEY

Reject Politicians Who Advocate Force

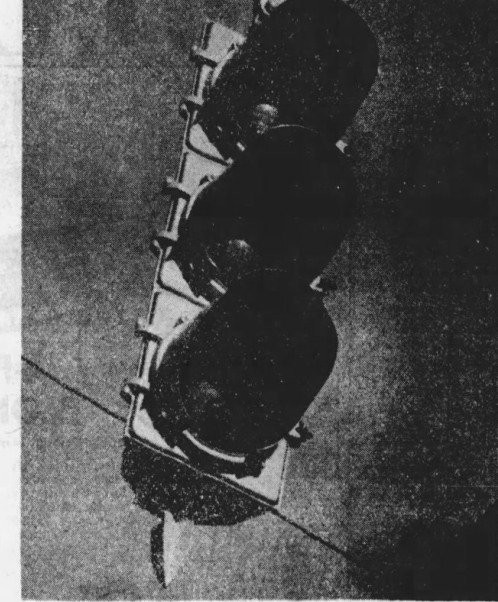
Cheraw, S. C.

Editors, The News: WE WILL hear from time to time the opinions of our candidates who are seeking the highest office in our country. The office of the president of the United States, who advocates the use of federal troops to try and force the high court or the use of federal troops to try and force this on any people. Those are the tactics of the Nazi and the Communist, using police and troops to force a people against their will. You would have an Army camp at about all of our places of learning, and all public places, especially where the people are opposed to it.

What do some want, a divided nation? Remember a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and a nation that is divided cannot stand long that way. We will ask you to take a look at Germany and Korea today and the Army camp also in China. Do you want that over here? Remember we of the South have men and women in our armed forces. We believe it would cause trouble when it came to having our youths in the armed services use bullets and bayonets on their home people.

I say the court caused this trouble. Let the court now right a wrong to our Southland and reverse its decision before any more trouble between our people.

Therefore, let's not support anyone for president who advocates using troops to enforce their will, the politicians who base on a people for their benefits to stay in office. And let's get rid of the ones now in office before some more would be placed around our necks, such as mixing the races



A Blinking Light Offers Little Protection

to change their way of life.

I wish to state that a matter such as this should be left to the people whom it concerns to solve, not the high court or the use of federal troops to try and force this on any people. Those are the tactics of the Nazi and the Communist, using police and troops to force a people against their will. You would have an Army camp at about all of our places of learning, and all public places, especially where the people are opposed to it.

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Teen-Age Rebels—III

'Gang Yen' Reflects Growing Need For Independence

By JOSEPH WHITNEY

Third In A Series

THE term "gang" is often associated with bad influence, but the bonding together of teen-age groups is usually an emotionally healthy experience.

Whole family life is the greatest directional force in the development of personality, its influence begins to spend itself when the child passes from puberty to adolescence. By the time young people reach high school age they are ready to move together in groups or gangs. As teen-age groups become cohesive, codes of behavior take form. Young boys and girls start learning how to get along without adults to guide them. Intoxicants outside the family begin to test the strengths and weaknesses of youthful personalities.

THE gang or group period is vastly important in emotional growth because it provides young people with an opportunity to learn what it means to be accepted by others, how to adjust to various types of individuals, how to win attention and approval, how to attract the opposite sex. They may swear and smoke and go to extremes in dress and music, but this is all part of the business of becoming an adult.

The period of seeking freedom from family ties is a distracting age for young people. In striving to become emancipated from family influence, they tend to withdraw affection from their loved ones. This becomes a lonely experience, and belonging to a gang eases the burden. Teen-age strength and confidence in numbers; comfort in sharing their personal contributions; sea why knowledge is the same conflict. Here is a refuge from anxiety and loneliness.

Such affiliations provide a healthy outlet for developing social consciousness. The young person, while still clinging to home relationships, yearns to be liked and well-thought-of by those who have no reason to like him except for himself alone. He wants praise and approval, even though he is often embarrassed in his efforts to accept it gratefully.

While there is always danger of undesirable behavior in teen-age gangs, the advantages far outweigh the risk. The behavior of young boys and girls almost always reflects the behavioral attitudes of their parents. In spite of adolescent resistance to home



'They Find Strength And Confidence In Numbers'

ties, the average young person winds up with the same code of conduct and morals that guided his parents for basic ideas of right and wrong. Ignored through years of association, are not easily cast aside.

The possibility of undesirable companions is always a matter of worry to parents when their youngsters begin to run around in groups. This is a legitimate concern, for undesirable gang behavior is sometimes set off by some aggressive, anti-social member with delinquent tendencies and strong qualities of leadership.

In fact, delinquent gang behavior rarely develops unless it is spearheaded by such a leader. Not long after World War II a group of young high school boys came under the influence of a socially-hostile boy named BILL. At his instigation they broke into a warehouse and were caught making off with several hundred dollars worth of athletic equipment.

HOSTILITY DISSOLVES This case was referred to a trained social investigator. On his recommendation the boys were paroled. Instead of requiring weekly reports from his charges,

he called their parents together. Soon one of the parents turned over a large basement room, with an outside entrance, for the gang's "hangout." Other hangouts were helped with furnishings, including a record player with some late bebop recordings.

BILL was still much in evidence at the hangout, but gradually his hostile influence was dissipated. In the new interest and enthusiasm which revolved around the clubhouse, in time he lost most of his hostility toward the world, but retained enough aggressiveness to make the track team. In his senior year, BILL was president of his class.

While this turned out with a happy ending, there was nothing difficult or unusual in bringing it about. Intelligent, understanding cooperation of a number of adults helped BILL adjust to the gang. Under different circumstances, he might have pulled the gang in his direction.

Of all teen-age groups that flourish around neighborhoods and school yards, the most interesting are those that have to do with religion as among the most interesting. Here teenagers are at their best, for they have few religious inhibitions and are not averse to challenging sacred truths. They are rarely orthodox in their beliefs, yet have a strong feeling for spiritual values. Very few will accept a packaged religious formula without blunt questioning. They want to seek out their own discovery of religious and spiritual realities.

Almost every adolescent thinks he knows what is wrong with the world and how to set it right. He has an exaggerated regard for his opinions, his ideas, his abilities and his friends. Through group and gang associations he learns to test these ideas in a new world of reality. In spite of parental doubts and worries, he is usually guided safely through this experience by his family's code of conduct and morals.

TOMORROW — Teen-Agers In Love.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Oil Money Calls Tune In California

WASHINGTON It's easy to understand why Sen. Knowland, the GOP Senate leader, is deftly maneuvering to neutralize the gas-lolby brother of the forthright, young Sen. Gore of Tennessee.

Fear In High Places Knowland comes from California, plus the fact that all sorts of gas money was never recorded as campaign contributions, so why Knowland wants to shift the investigation to a more docile bipartisan committee.

Such an investigation is bound to hit a lot of people in very high places in both parties, so leaders of both parties want an investigating committee that will be "reasonable."

Take one small but very significant fact. The Keck family of Superior Oil did not record one single campaign contribution in the 1952 or 1954 election. Perhaps they followed the same pattern they did when they gave \$25 100 bills to Sen. Case—cash. Certainly Keck money has been dropped into both parties' national elections, with some \$300,000 raised by the Kecks and kindred interests to defeat Gov. Earl Warren in 1950 and later to block his presidential ambitions in 1952.

Keck publicly as the man who was raising the money to defeat him.

Harold Ickes, the late secretary of the interior and war petroleum administrator who knew his oilmen, had this to say about Bill Keck in a letter, May 31, 1955: "I have long considered Mr. Keck to be one of the most ruthless individuals in the oil industry."

Grand Jury Probe Significantly, the man who is conducting the grand jury probe for Sen. Case, John Neff and the \$2,500 Case contribution, knows the Keck situation in California intimately. He is Warren Olney, close friend of Chief Justice Warren, appointed by Warren as counsel of the California Crime Commission, in which job he had

a chance to know something about the techniques used by oil-lobbies to dominate the California Legislature.

Olney will push an exhaustive Justice Department probe, while his fellow Californian, Sen. Knowland, is trying to avoid the exhaustive Senate probe planned by Sen. Gore.

Keck Family Setup Chairman of the board Superior Oil is William Keck, President of the company is his son, Howard B. Keck, who last year was named for Sen. Case. The Keck family owns 51 per cent of Superior Oil, wealthiest independent oil company in the nation, with stock valued at over \$100 million. It shot up \$120 a share on the day the Senate passed the gas legislation.

and lowering the tariffs for the Japs and changing the immigrant act by law and executive order. — J. A. GRAHAM

All Those Bucks, And Not One Doe

Lumberton

Editors, The News: I WANT to thank you for trying to help me solve my rabbit problem. No one has offered a solution yet. I don't believe the boys know what they have been catching. I didn't until this winter.

To date I have caught 16 rabbits in my half-acre garden and not a doe among them.

Considering the doe does not know that these boxes are dead traps but won't let the bucks so they can get rid of the pesky rascals.

Or could it be that the bucks go in there to hide from the does? You see, this is a thought-provoking question. —M. R. HERRING SR.

Supplied Arms, Israel Can Deter Aggression

Rock Hill, S. C.

Editors, The News: YOUR thought-provoking editorial "Teters On A Middle Eastern Brink" in the Feb. 18 News clearly points up the State Department blunder involving a shipment of tanks to Saudi Arabia. The disclosure that our government is shipping tanks to Saudi Arabia is disheartening and further evidence of the unfairness and inconsistency of our current policy in this dangerous region.

The State Department was correct in condemning Russian shipment of deadly MIG fighters and IL bombers to Egypt. How can it now explain a shipment of American arms to Egypt's major ally in the region, Saudi Arabia? Saudi Arabia has been in the middle of intrigue against the United States and Great Britain, stirring up Jordan and other Arab states to bribe and threaten to oppose Western efforts to strengthen the region against Communist incursions.

The State Department cannot now justify withholding arms from Israel on the issue that we are opposed to an arms race. We are isolating the one dependable democratic ally in this vital area.

Israel can deter aggression from the threatening ring of Arab states if she is given the right to strengthen her defense. Failure to do this is a serious action exposing democracy in the Middle East to defeat. —A. R. SURITZ