



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Legislature: A Plague On Mecklenburg

RURAL legislators seeking to perpetuate their unconstitutional grip on state government brought no real arguments before the Commission on Legislative Representation this week.

There were two reasons, perhaps. One is that there are no valid arguments for the legislature's failure to give urban areas representation proportionate to population. The second reason is that the rural bloc, controlling Raleigh, doesn't need arguments. All it has to do, as it did in 1951, '53 and '55, is vote to avoid the constitutional requirement for redistricting by setting up a study commission.

We can't imagine why the grass roots boys bothered to appear before the commission unless, having created it, they considered it the sporting thing to do. Johnson County Rep. Blake Thomas conceding 1950 census figures justified greater urban representation, advised delay until 1961 because "if we wait that long the

population may shift again." Only an earthquake or plague could sufficiently thin the urban ranks of Mecklenburg and Guilford to assure survivors of fair representation. But Mr. Thomas, we suppose, is entitled to his hopes.

The legislature's persistent refusal to obey the state constitution on redistricting suggests the tenacity with which Georgia "wool hatters" have perpetuated that state's county unit system of conducting primary elections. That system gives to a man in rural Twiggs County 143 times the voting power of a resident of urban Fulton County and permits the nomination of gubernatorial candidates failing to win either a majority or plurality of popular votes. It also deprives urban residents of proportionate representation in the general assembly.

But there is one big difference in the two situations: Georgia's is legal.

Now For A Little More Harmony

ARTISTIC controversies are seldom placid. The one that bubbled up this week around the podium of James Christian Pfohl, conductor of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, was characteristically stormy. It was touched off when a majority of the orchestra voted its "dissatisfaction" with Mr. Pfohl's leadership.

By midweek, the dispute had spread through the city's musical community and had reached the agenda of the symphony's board of directors itself.

Regarding Mr. Pfohl, much was said on both sides of the argument. In the end, of course, it was the responsibility of the board to reach a decision on whether the orchestra would retain his services. It reached that decision Thursday. Mr. Pfohl was given a new one-year lease on his job.

In the interests of the community and its musical life, we hope that vote of con-

fidence will be accepted with good grace by all concerned.

More important than personalities is the successful continuation of the Charlotte Symphony. The cause of great music in Charlotte is worthy of our best efforts.

There is no denying it. Mr. Pfohl has been a tremendously vigorous force on the local musical scene. He has worked with great energy and imagination to bring good music to the masses. In a statement Thursday, he said:

I will do all that I can to give (the board, the players and the public) a better and stronger orchestra than we have ever had before.

The words, we believe, were sincerely spoken. We hope that we can now look forward to a new and brighter era of music in Charlotte.

Bad Air: Quick, Watson, The Needle

NICKNAMES can boomerang. It has happened in the case of "smog," a handy pseudonym for the noxious blanket of life-shortening contaminants shrouding populated areas from the Atlantic seaboard to California.

Because "smog" is a combination of "smoke" and "fog," some well-meaning citizens have the idea that it is invariably one or the other or a mixture of the two. When neither smoke nor fog is present, they reason, there can be no contamination of the air.

Not so.

There are other sources of contamination too.

Charles S. Frost, Charlotte's air pollution control engineer, made an important contribution to public appreciation of the problem when he pointed out to News readers that the end of furnace firing does not mean the end of contamination.

It is important that Charlotteans understand this rather elementary—but frequently elusive—fact as warm weather approaches.

Man dirties up the air with matter in every state—solid, liquid and gaseous.

There are indeed natural sources of pollution which cannot always be controlled—such as pollens and dust storms and, in some areas, sea spray and marsh gas.

Some liquids enter the air by a natural process of evaporation. Once there they condense and form mists. Other liquids are discharged directly into the air of modern cities. For example, some experts estimate that 8 per cent of the gasoline used by automobiles is not burned—no mechanical device being 100 percent effective.

It should be emphasized that man far outstrips nature when it comes to dirtying up the atmosphere. In Charlotte, it is man we must deal with. Effective results can and must come from studying what man contributes to making polluted air—and doing something about it.

Other cities, where the problem is

more serious, have taken sterner action than is needed in Charlotte. These include New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Louisville.

In New York, for instance, the municipal air pollution control department has ordered a crackdown on buses. Gasoline or diesel buses must emit no visible smoke after they have moved 100 yards or more and must emit none while stationary. Bus drivers must not idle motors for more than three minutes while a bus is standing at a route terminal. All gasoline buses were given nine months before they must be equipped with fume reducing devices.

Charlotte, too, is finally at work on solutions. Conditions are admittedly not as serious as in some of the larger industrial and metropolitan areas. But even in Charlotte, air pollution is a serious and growing problem. By starting now—with a vengeance—we may be able to head off the crisis other communities are faced with already.

Seemingly minor measures, such as controlling dust on Charlotte's unpaved parking lots, are not minor at all. They are vital links in a chain of action.

Charlotteans owe Mr. Frost's agency their wholehearted support in keeping that chain of action strong and effective.

Inflation Notes

NO NEED for any tears to be shed over the rising cost of soda pop. Look at it this way: Things are up all over.

Remember in the old days when scientists valued the chemical content of the human body at 98 cents? Now that atoms have entered the picture the price tag has been slightly revised. Recently an expert estimated that the atoms in the human body have an energy potential of 11,400,000 kilowatt hours per pound, valued at \$570 million. In other words, a 150-pound man could drag down some \$85½ billion.

Feel better now?

From The Florida Times-Union

OUTDATED ADAGE

IF ANY new refutation of the ancient adage "like father, like son" were necessary, it has been provided by the enlistment in the Air Force of the son of Sgt. Alvin C. York, the most famous infantryman of World War I.

Not only has young Thomas J. York chosen the Air Force over the Army infantry, in which his father served so courageously, but he has also been thinking about making the military profession his career. His father, on the other hand, was a conscientious objector when he entered the Army. It was only after intensive persuasion and painful soul-searching that he changed his views and went on to wipe out a whole German machinegun company.

Few fathers can today hope to have sons in their own image. Indeed a much better case could be made for the proposition that a son is almost certain to be very unlike his father. Not infrequently the son of an athletic, extroverted father will turn out to be introverted and uninterested in sports. The son of a meek

and mild scholar, on the other hand, will turn into a star football player and a campus hero.

But even if the father and son are not personality opposites, it is now more than the exception that the rule when a son follows in his father's vocational footsteps. As Sgt. York did not influence his son Thomas to join the infantry, so it is probably that he will not be able to make farming his ultimate choice as a career.

Whether Sgt. York wishes to influence his son on either matter is a moot point. Many fathers do want to influence their sons' career choices and apply both subtle and overt pressures to make them choose as the fathers chose before them. It is flattering to the paternal ego, even if it requires self-deception, to think that he has been a compelling model for his son.

Some fathers do indeed inspire such free emulation. But in our highly fluid society family occupational traditions are becoming increasingly meaningless.

'Don't Be Silly—It's Just A Few Little Words'



Playing It Cooney

A Bad Knock For Stevenson

By JOSEPH AND STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

ADLAI E. Stevenson took a bad knock in New Hampshire, without ever going there. Maybe Estes Kefauver will take a bad knock, in his turn, in Minnesota, where Stevenson's personal campaign seems to have gone over pretty well.

In any case, what has just happened sharply underscores the seriousness of the Democratic Party's present dilemma. In Kefauver, the party has a candidate with proved mass appeal, who enjoys the hearty detestation of the party organizations, both in the North and in the South. Even if he triumphs in other primaries as he has triumphed in New Hampshire, it is hard to see how Kefauver can win the Democratic presidential nomination in the teeth of so much organization opposition.

ONE-TIME LOSER

In Stevenson, on the other hand, the Democrats have a universally respected candidate who has also ingratiated himself with the party organizations since the 1952 election. But Stevenson is not only a one-time loser; in addition, he seems to have lost some of his original appeal to the general mass of voters during the last three and a half difficult years.

Stevenson's problem, essentially, is how to attract the attention of the country; how to arouse the voters and impress them with his personality. The problem has been, and is complicated by the conviction of Stevenson and his political managers that he is a mile ahead in the race for nomination, which indeed he still is despite New Hampshire. Fear of jeopardizing this lead in the intra-Democratic race has caused Stevenson to play it cooney in all sorts of ways.

STRATEGY

Playing it cooney is perhaps the right pre-convention strategy for Stevenson, although it seems likely that the Democrats would prefer a candidate who has stirred and excited the country to a candidate who has been merely moderate, literate and inoffensive.

But this year, the real election campaign is to endure for only about seven weeks. It is almost impossible to see how Stevenson

Eisenhower's enormous present lead can be overcome in this short period by a Democratic cooney who has played it cooney right up until convention-time. For this reason the Stevenson camp is now rather sharply divided on the problem of strategy.

CARRY ON

One group of Stevenson's advisors, who probably constitute the majority, want him to carry on as before. Another group has been pleading for an altogether novel approach. They say that with the exception of the farm issue, every domestic issue has been smothered by the country's booming prosperity. Therefore the real issues, according to this second group, ought to be foreign and defense policy. They want Stevenson to stop nibbling at these issues, as he has been doing to date, and to make them principal themes of his campaign.

In time of apparent peace, with no immediately visible foreign threat, no American presidential candidate has ever tried to do quite what these Stevenson advisors are now urging. Yet their argument for this bold new departure is at least logical.

VULNERABLE

The world situation, they say, is now very obviously deteriorat-

ing at a frightening rate in every area of serious importance to the United States. The country has thus far accepted the soothing reassurances of the Eisenhower Administration, and the voters are therefore unaware of the growing danger abroad. But this very fact, it is argued, only makes the administration doubly vulnerable, first for failing to ward off the danger itself, and second for not telling the country the truth about it.

Approximately the same line of argument is applied to the defense problem. The absolute necessity of a determined, unremitting attack on both the foreign and defense issues is further urged, on the ground that the presidency will not be worth having if no such attack is made. The next President, after all, will have to deal with the world situation that is now taking shape. And if Candidate Stevenson does not make a clear and forceful record of warning against the world situation's growing dangers, then President Stevenson—in the somewhat unlikely event of his election—will be held personally responsible when our troubles begin to come to a head.

COMPROMISE

To date, the result of the debate in the Stevenson camp has been a rather uneasy compromise. When he appears before the American Society of Newspaper Editors in April, Stevenson is now slated to make a full-dress, searching speech on foreign and defense policy. One other such speech, again before a national audience, is also planned for a fairly early date. But this, of course, is altogether different from the much more difficult strategy of making the foreign and defense issues the really dominant theme of the whole Stevenson campaign.

All the same, Stevenson's likely to be driven to make foreign and defense policy his main theme before all is said and done. For it really is very hard to see any other themes which have the remotest chance of making a dent in President Eisenhower's personal popularity, or even awakening the interest of this prosperous and contented country.



ESTES KEFAUVER
Adlai Wasn't There

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THE OTHER day I went out to Topeka, Kan., to talk to two leaders of the Republican Party about the smouldering Farm Belt resentment and what GOP leaders in Washington should do about it.

Old Leader

One of the men I talked to, Alf Landon, had led his party as candidate for President exactly two decades ago. The other, Landon's protégé, Fred Hall, is the youngest Republican governor in the nation.

Landon I found in shirtsleeves, looking philosophically out over the Kansas prairies from his skyscraper office building. He has grown old gracefully, shows no bitterness over the way his party let him down in the 1936 Roosevelt landslide. He rides horseback in the mornings, catches up with his mail—especially long letters to his old partner, Bob Allen, drills a few oil wells and enjoys life. Alf will be 70 on his next birthday.

Hall Restless

His young friend, Gov. Hall, whom Alf helped elect, is restless, dynamic, bursting with energy in his fight against Old Guard Republicanism. With the GOP primary still months away, the governor came direct from his campaign headquarters to lunch in the governor's mansion. He was already charting his battle against the Old Guard faction, which

Alf Landon Ponders The Farm Issue

has ruled Kansas for years.

That faction includes some of Eisenhower's good friends. Yet Hall, himself strong for Eisenhower, has defeated them three different times in races for lieutenant governor and governor. He predicts he will do so again this year.

The Ike friends are:

Frank Carlson, U. S. Senator from Kansas, close to the White House and a personal friend of the President.

Harry Darby, of Kansas City, Kans. Republican national committeeman, and one of the original drafters of Eisenhower for President.

An Upstart

To them Young Gov. Fred Hall is an upstart who challenges their right to dominate Kansas. And though it's traditional for a Republican governor of Kansas to be unopposed by his own party for a second term, nevertheless the Old Guard this time is not sticking with tradition. It is out to defeat Hall. Furthermore, the Old Guard indirectly tried to enlist White House support to do it.

Last fall when the young governor of Kansas came to Washington for the Governor's Conference, assistant president Sherman Adams sent for him.

No Trouble

"We hope," he admonished, "there won't be any trouble in Kansas. President Eisenhower doesn't want anything

to happen to his friends. So we hope you won't let anyone run against Sen. Carlson for re-election and will not challenge Harry Darby for the national committee."

Gov. Hall told Adams he was just as anxious as anyone to keep peace in the party, but, shortly after he got back to Kansas, he found that Ike's friends Carlson and Darby weren't. And though he carried out his pledge to Adams not to oppose either, the governor found he was being opposed by them. They have entered a Republican candidate against him in the primary.

So, you're going to see a knock-down, drag-out battle inside the Republican Party in Kansas.

Close Race

Later I talked to elder statesman Landon about this fight. Specifically I asked him: "Is the farm revolt such that a miracle might happen and Kansas go Democratic?"

Landon was careful.

"You have all the ingredients here that you had in 1930," he said. "Then you had drought. You had sliding farm prices. You had bitter dissension inside the Republican Party. And George Magill, a young Democrat whom nobody had ever heard of, was elected to the Senate."

"Now it's almost the same," diagnosed Landon. "You have drought. You have a widening gap between farm prices and what the farmer buys. And you have

People's Platform GOP's 3rd Party

Cheraw, S. C.
Editors, The News:

AMERICAN voters, you will note in the last few days talk of a third party has been voiced by those would-be Democrats—but supporters of the present administration in Washington.

Let's not be fooled by these wolves in sheep's clothing who preach one thing and practice another.



JAMES F. BYRNES
An Arm Around

The people whom I have had the pleasure of contacting concerning this third party question express the opinion that this movement is planned for the purpose of splitting the Democratic Party wide open to have an excuse to support the Republican Party as they did before.

The Byrnes-Thurmond clique and a few more would-be Democrats have proved in the last few years their colors and plans for their benefit—not for the Democratic Party as a whole and the democratic South as it is today.

I deny no one his right to vote and support the party candidate of his conviction and his choice. But I feel that fair-play should be observed by those who choose the party they wish to support, and that they should come out in the open and be a Republican or a Democrat—not say one thing and try to lead others their way to form a third party for the purpose of electing a Republican president and administration as they did before.

We know there are those in the South who owe the present administration their support for their advancement in public office. I have learned the hard way not to trust those who smile often in your face, and deep down inside they are only using you to better their own position. It's that way in all walks of life.

Let's all be careful whom we trust to lead the nation and our states and counties and local governments for there's bound to be a rotten apple at the bottom of the barrel or somewhere around nowadays.

As you will remember, when President Eisenhower visited our state during his tour of the South in his bid for the presidency, he (Mr. Eisenhower) stood on the steps of our State House in Columbia, with his arm around the shoulder of former Gov. Byrnes, and stated to those in hearing that he believed in states rights, for the state to have the authority to regulate their own state's rights without federal government interference in the affairs of the state laws and ways of life.

But we all know what has happened since that time concerning the states rights in the South.

So those of you who want this type government, vote for the present administration and you will have more of the federal government telling you what you must do.

I state that anyone who fancies this type of federal interference in state affairs does not stand for what our forefathers did, to live our lives as we choose and for the real ideals of the present population of our Southland today.

I would like to state in closing that I, for one, will never be a part of a third party. I may be poor and unlearned but I don't intend to fall for that undercover move of the Republican Party and their friends.

—J. A. GRAHAM

Tax Census Would Stop Race Wrangle

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WANT to give you my idea or a part of it on the colored race problem of our great country, state and the South.

I think the great majority of our colored people are satisfied here in the South; and, under the circumstances, they should be. Look where they have come from since the War Between the States. Then there was not one who knew A from B.

I would venture to say there is not more than half of the colored population who pay their part of the taxes today. Still they are reaping the pleasures of this great country of ours.

Under the circumstances today if I were on the Board of the County Commissioners I would recommend we take a tax census of this county and see that those who do not pay taxes, and who have never paid, catch up with this business of tax-listing and paying. You would get more back taxes collected than what this tax census would cost and it would help so much in the future.

If you will do this, you will stop so much of this wrangling over the problem which we face. You will also find more whites not helping pay all our burdens than you think. A man who does not want to help bear this burden does not love his country as he should. It is getting high time we looked into some of this.

I went to school 65 years ago. The building was a long, log structure with a large fireplace in each end. Only went four months in the year. We spent eight hours a day. We learned more during those four months than children do now in nine. When we went there, we went there to work.

Hope our commissioners will think about what little I have said above and that we will get a board who will look after taking in that which is right instead of floating bonds and spending all the time.

—L. T. VINESETT

A Note Of Thanks
From Sen. Kennedy

Washington

Editors, The News:

YOUR very thoughtful and kind remarks about my book, "Profiles in Courage," have just been brought to my attention, and I want to express my sincere appreciation to you.

I am delighted that you enjoyed the book, and I was very pleased to have it so favorably mentioned in your newspaper.

—SEN. JOHN F. KENNEDY

Quote, Unquote

Politeness is one-half good nature and the other half good lying.—M. W. Little

Unfortunately I have an open mind. I let down a window in my brain about 6 or 7 inches from the top even in the bitterest weather.—Heywood Brown

Our foreign dealings are an open book—generally a check-book.—Will Rogers

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to happen to his friends. So we hope you won't let anyone run against Sen. Carlson for re-election and will not challenge Harry Darby for the national committee."

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"Now it's almost the same," diagnosed Landon. "You have drought. You have a widening gap between farm prices and what the farmer buys. And you have

dissension within the Republican Party—opposition to a second term for the governor.

"With Ike running, he'll probably carry the state," concluded the Republican who once ran for President himself, "but it won't be easy."

Visiting with Gov. Hall at his executive mansion, an old Tudor-type building that looked like my grandfather's home in Parsons, Kans., I asked him why the rip-roaring, Ball-Moose state of William Allen White and Henry Allen had now gone conservative.

"I suppose it's because during the depression so many young people moved away," he said. "They couldn't find jobs here, so they left for the East or California. The old people stayed behind and old people are sometimes conservative."

"But, basically," he added, "Kansas is still progressive. There's a tremendous core of good government people in our towns. They want honest government, and that's the core of my support."

Gov. Hall was an enthusiastic supporter of President Eisenhower when he vetoed the gas bill. Senators Carlson and Schoepfel of Kansas were not.

"We had the lobbyists doing the same thing in our legislature," Hall said, referring to the gas lobbyists. "On the last day the cigarette lobbyists were passing out cartons of free cigarettes right on the Senate floor, brazenly walking up and down the aisle passing out free cartons."