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Curbing A City's 'Metropolitan Sprawl'

AFTER three weeks of frustrating delay, passage of Charlotte's sweeping subdivision control ordinance took but three minutes of the City Council's time this week. The action went almost unnoticed in the lively hustle of lesser but spicier business. One newspaper interred the story on the comic page next to DONALD DUCK.

Perhaps the realization of a civil goal does have certain anticlimactic qualities. The noisier battles have been fought. The legal barriers have been scaled. The stubborn objections have been overcome.

But the final act still has enormous importance.

A vital step has been taken in the continuous, unrelenting struggle against decay. Certain creaks in the city's subdivision control machinery have been removed while protective requirements have been extended to a vast and highly vulnerable perimeter area. Instead of chaos, order will be the rule in future developments in the affected areas. The new regulations will go into effect March 30.

What makes the ordinance so necessary, and what makes its passage so important, is the fact that metropolitan Charlotte is today growing swiftly in every direction. The compact, closely knit community which once stopped at the end of the streetcar tracks has swollen into a "metropolitan sprawl." A kind of regional city may well be in the making. Laws such as the subdivision control ordinance passed this week will help provide tools needed to mold that regional city into a unified, healthy whole.

The Extremists Carry The Ball

REVISING the preface to his STORY OF THE CONFEDERACY in 1936 Robert Selph Henry pondered the gathering forces of a second world war, and this nation's effort to forestall them.

He concluded that the U. S., in blandly preaching its own peaceable virtue and wisdom to the world, was blind to the basic lesson of its own "brothers' war." He was convinced that arrogant regional assumptions of superiority kindled the Civil War and would agitate, if anything, the foreboding world situation in the '30s. He had a point that still applies.

But the point goes more directly today to the unhealed internal frictions from which it sprung. The lesson that is being increasingly applied in world affairs is being ignored at home by a disturbing number of leaders.

Thus there are demands for federal coercion—economic and military—to implement the desegregation decision in the deep South. These demands come from some northern politicians and labor leaders and from those whom Max Ascoli calls "synthetic John Browns who comfortably located in the North, contemplate no Harpers Ferry and are so willing to shed their (editorial) ink." In the South there is talk of the educational value of the blackjack and threats to murder a Negro woman who insists on exercising a right the Supreme Court says is hers. A Negro boy is murdered and a jury is urged to deliberate in the light of what "outsiders" will think.

The extremists who demand coercion and their counterparts who turn to violence must feel themselves bathed in virtue and clothed in morality. They are so sure they are right, although they are most certainly wrong.

Unfortunately the extremists do not cancel each other's ill work. They cancel the moderate views of the people and leaders caught between them.

The story of the Civil War, Henry wrote, "is not of men and women long dead, moving in a remote and unreal world. It is a story of our immediate past, vital with meaning for our present and future. It is . . . a story of controversy exasperated into bloody conflict by continued vaunting of superior virtue. . . The human forces which made that conflict inescapable are the same today as in the '60s."

The nation is not faced today with the task of preventing a second Civil War. But it is time for it to look with alarm at those who are trying to break the peace.

The Hoover Report And Hitchhikers

IT'S SOMETHING of a puzzle, the way Congress and the Executive Department have reacted to the second Hoover Report.

There has been much praise. Most of the report makes such good sense. With federal costs at $1,600 per family today, 42 times higher than the $38 in 1910, everything possible ought to be done to reduce the burden, particularly when we can do such sensible things as making the armed services count heads before serving meals, instead of cooking for total personnel, present or not.

That's what they say in Washington, and the President did tell the mess sergeants to start counting heads. But the savings there—an estimated $200 million—are chicken feed compared with what could be realized by a conscientious effort to implement the Hoover Report. In sum there has been far too little action mixed with the praise.

There is a frightful inertia in bureaucracy that brings men to resist change even while they admit the wisdom of change.

That inertia seems to be the key to the poor showing Congress and the Executive have made on the second Report. Taking stock, the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report says only 16 per cent of the recommendations of the Report have been adopted, and these are "mostly minor." The adoptions promise a saving of $300 million annually. Five billion might be saved if all recommendations were adopted.

Besides the mess hall head counts, the administration has ordered Military Air Transport Service to stop providing free rides to "hitchhikers" who collect six cents a mile in travel allowances. MATS had been carrying approximately 825,000 free riders an average of 1,000 miles each annually. There have been other relatively small actions, but the administration has put little real drive behind the Hoover proposals. Its record on this

score does not compare well with the Truman administration's.

Congress' apathy is illustrated by its rejection via an appropriations bill rider of a Defense Department move to close a number of business-type establishments it is operating in competition with free enterprise. The proposed repeal of that rider is commendable, but such will not signify any positive determination by Congress to get behind the Report's legislative proposals.

The foot-dragging is hard to figure, about as indecipherable as the reason why the U. S. employs one worker for every 28 Indians on the reservations or—

Why the Defense Department has bought every year since the war 15,000 WAC uniforms when there aren't that many WACs, resulting in a 10-year supply of clothing.

Sure, the styles will change, in clothing.

The needed change is in the slothful attitude of Congress and the administration toward a recipe for efficiency and economy in government.

HARRY TRUMAN
In A Fix

Estes, Adlai Both Bother Mr. Truman

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

AS THE first presidential primaries approach—New Hampshire's on March 13, Minnesota's on March 20—Sen. Estes Kefauver and Adlai Stevenson still find that all they have to fear in the nomination fight is each other.

NO FOCUS

The Democratic center for which Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson speaks has failed to unearth an attractive focus for such discontent as exists with Kefauver and Stevenson.

Former President Truman is in the same fix. He dislikes Kefauver and thinks Stevenson is not sufficiently aggressive. But he has found no one to whom he can rally his friends.

BAD CARDS

The Johnson - Truman groups are not at all compatible, but they cheerfully would cooperate to achieve an open convention giving them more to say about the nominee and platform. So far, the cards are running against them.

What can happen is that Kefauver and Stevenson may do their work for them.

TENSION

Developments in New Hampshire have brought this home to the senator and he has shown his resulting tension in two ways. He has sharply assailed Stevenson for "backhanded" tactics in that state and has persuaded his delightful wife, Nancy, to break her self-imposed ban on campaigning and accompany him in his final drive there.

Kefauver aides charge that a great deal of money is being spent in New Hampshire by the Stevenson backers who entered a full slate of delegates, all prominent, favorable to the former governor of Illinois. Stevenson replies only that he personally will not compete there but appreciates the work of his friends.

PLAGUE

Money is, as always, a Kefauver problem. If he trounces the Stevenson slate in this first go-round and dents him in Minnesota, it may be less of one. He will still be plagued by the insistence of professionals that the party managers will not let him be nominated, even if he obligingly knocks out Stevenson for some of them.

Kefauver will make a strong bid for Stevenson-style support this week in a debate with Harold E. Stassen at Dartmouth College on whether the Republican party deserves re-election.

MYSTERY

Stassen's appetite for debates is something of a mystery since his famous challenge to debate with Thomas E. Dewey put him on the presidential toboggan in 1948. However, he naturally seeks any limelight now, just in case Republicans find themselves with a vacancy.

Stevenson soon will head for Minnesota where he understands Kefauver did very well last week before farm audiences. Since Stevenson has, in theory, been handed the state on a silver platter by Gov. Orville L. Freeman and Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey with the consent of nearly all the party leaders, an upset there would be a stunning blow. It would also end Humphrey's aspirations for second place on the ticket.

It is a problem for the senator, as the farm bill is now before the Senate. Curiously, despite all the talk about farm unrest, the bill is attracting little attention.

This supports the contention of some politicians that people generally are bored with politics, old arguments and old faces.

People's Platform

The Superior Court Seat

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

IN YOUR paper of Feb. 24, you had a letter from S. C. Vaughn, in which he said "Judge Hugh B. Campbell stands on and for the principles that America was founded on and stands on today." I do not know Judge Campbell, but I am acquainted with his opponent, Arthur Goodman, who in my opinion is without equal in Mecklenburg County.

Mr. Goodman served three terms in the Legislature and the last time was elected with more votes than any man in the entire delegation. During his tenure in the legislation, his work was in the interest of all the people in North Carolina and not for any special group or class. His work on insurance matters in the legislation was outstanding.

I know Mr. Goodman is a disabled veteran, and at one time was the N. C. State Commander of Disabled American Veterans, and certainly no one can say that he is not the kind of American who would do honor to the position of judge of the Superior Court "for greater love hath no man than he who is willing to lay down his life for his country."

Mr. Goodman has been a contributing factor to the welfare of Mecklenburg since his residence in this county and state, and I have worked with him off and on for the last 10 years and know what he has done to aid the handicapped children of this county and saw what fine unselfish work he performed in helping to build the Spastic Hospital in Charlotte.

In my estimation, Arthur Goodman is a very fine gentleman and a friend of all the people, no matter what their station in life is, and to me he is a humanitarian. He is my choice for judge of the Superior Court, and I expect to support him in the primary.

—MRS. H. P. McALLISTER

HUGH CAMPBELL
The Incumbent

ARTHUR GOODMAN
The Candidate

Hee-Haw Of Donkey Is Heard Once Again

Charlotte

Editors The News:

THERE are likes and dislikes being passed around as of now. Here is the point. The 10th District has for the past four years been in the lone wolf district, so the idea is to restore the 10th to the Democratic side of the street.

The Democratic voters have strayed for two rounds, so now is your time to return to that which you claim.

To be a Democrat, there is no middle of the road in the party claim. You are bound to be one or the other, so if you are what you were for the many years, you have been an elephant for four years, so come over and be a "hee-haw" for once again.

When you look at one of those animals in the dark, you sometimes wonder which end is in front or in other words, is the animal going or coming, so let's get straight on this, so the Democrat can tell which way you are moving, backwards or forwards. So friend, get your name off that Republican side and be a good old Tar Heel once again.

—S. C. VAUGHN

Charlotte Needs Anti-Vice Drive

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

FOLLOWING is a letter I have sent to the City Council:

—BERNARD T. WALKER
(Enclosure)

As an humble citizen of 35 years' peaceable record, I desire to bring a grievous matter to your notice.

Stories of vandalism appearing in the papers brings to our attention a deplorable condition of many years' standing which is increasing in intensity and destructiveness. It has become so serious that public welfare demands that some effort be made to relieve this monstrous condition.

Whenever an epidemic of disease threatens the health and lives of our people, immediate steps are taken to find the source of infection, to remove the cause and to fight the disease. We promote campaigns for traffic safety, fire prevention, polio, cancer, heart conditions and many others.

Should we not institute a vice campaign to fight the evils that threaten the peace and happiness of our people and that are destroying our young people and even the older generation. With numberless boys roaming our streets seeking places for depredation of lives and property; uncounted girls going astray and getting into vice and crime; and those of all ages who fall into the hands of the law, it seems to me that it is high time to make some concerted effort to check this overwhelming crime wave.

I would suggest that your honorable body appoint a committee to study the situation intelligently and to appeal to the local Ministerial Association for cooperation in finding ways and means to cope with this appalling menace.

Bernard T. Walker

Social Security A One-Way Street?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WORKED under Social Security from the age of 47 to past 50. Social Security was withheld from my pay.

Under the present system I will never be eligible to draw. Yet what was withheld from my pay wasn't refunded.

I'm glad for all who have benefitted by improvements in it, such as wives of husbands who now receive benefits, and such wives who also are now receiving benefits, too, even though countless numbers of such wives never worked a day under it.

Compare that with the countless widows who did work under it and had as many as 10 quarters or more and will never draw at any age, penniless and not fortified by a husband's income. Is that fair?

—IVA WILLIAMS

'Yahoooo!'

SEN. ANDERSON
A Guarantee

Ike's Atom Offer Helps U. S. Firms

By CQ

WASHINGTON

CHEAP ATOMIC power is still a dream, but international competition for the business is now on in earnest.

U. S. interests got a big boost from President Eisenhower's announcement last week that $1 billion worth of nuclear fuel "will be made available" for use in atomic power reactors, or furnaces, at home and abroad.

NO GUARANTEE

As Sen. Clinton Anderson (D-NM), chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, commented, "American companies have been at a disadvantage in trying to sell reactors at home and abroad because they could not guarantee that fuel would be available."

To what extent this "disadvantage" influenced the administration's decision is not known. It is an interesting fact, however, that the U. S. fuel offer, whatever else it brings, may cut the ground out from under the British in the reactor sales business.

IMPACT

Why this may be so is explained by certain economic and technical factors highlighted recently by the report of the Panel on the Impact of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, which was set up by the Joint Atomic Energy Committee. Hearings on the Panel's report began before the committee this week.

The British, whose present coal-fired power costs are high, are well advanced on an ambitious atomic power program at home. But in the U. S. where power is cheaper, the Panel says "the growth of an atomic power program will probably not become significant before 1965." So for the U. S. power equipment industry, "the foreign market for power reactors with its high near-term growth potential may offer a solution to bridging this gap. The potential demand may represent a $30 billion market."

CHOICE OF FUEL

Meanwhile, potential foreign customers for power reactors are faced with a number of difficult questions, one of which is: What kind of reactor to buy? One type runs on natural uranium, in which the fissionable isotope U-235 occurs in the ratio of 1 to 140. The other type runs on enriched uranium, or uranium to which U-235 has been added in varying proportions.

According to one of the background papers prepared for the Panel, the U. S. industry is ready to sell enriched - type reactors (such as the pressurized water reactor now being built at Shippingport, Pa.), while the British have for sale a natural uranium reactor called the Calder Hall.

APPEAL

The British type appeals to potential buyers because, "first, natural uranium will presumably for some time be easier to come by in the world market than will enriched uranium. Second, if a nation wants to become self-sufficient, natural uranium fuel will be easier for that nation to produce than will enriched material. . .

"Thus, if they develop a competence in enriched reactors and come to rely on them, some of them fear they will always be tied to the U-235 producing nations for their fuel supply. They don't like this because they feel conditions may be imposed they cannot accept, because they feel they would be at the mercy price-wise of the seller, and because they feel their supply might be cut off at any time."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Firm Pays No Taxes On $23 Million

WASHINGTON

THE more you look into the Superior Oil Co. and the Keck family which tried to give that $2,500 to Sen. Case, the more amazing the picture becomes.

No Taxes

Senate investigators have just discovered that Superior Oil Co. not only paid zero income taxes in 1953 and 1954, but actually made money in the form of tax credits under the special tax laws written for the benefit of the oil industry.

This may explain why Superior's free-spending president, Bill Keck, was able to throw political contributions around.

Loop Holes

All other corporations have been paying 52 per cent of their net incomes as taxes since 1952. Yet the rich oil companies have been paying next to nothing because of depletion allowances and other tax loopholes.

Keck's company earned $10,260,388 net income in 1954. But believe it or not, after all the tax deductions were added, the government ended up owing the company $100,000 in tax credits. The company has returns for 1953 were even more incredible. Its net income before taxes was $12,500,302. The net income after taxes was $13,000,382—or $500,000 more than the original income. Again, the government paid off this half-million in the form of tax credits.

In other words, oil companies are the only corporations that can end a year with a huge income and collect taxes from the government instead of the other way around.

Bad Times

In 1952, when Truman was in office, Superior didn't do as well. Out of a $12,100,165 income, the company actually paid the government $200,000. However, this was only 1.6 per cent of its income while companies in other industries were paying 52 per cent.

The highest tax Superior has paid in the past 10 years was $3,000,000 in 1948, also under Truman. This was only 16.7 per cent, however, of $17,911,474 income. In 1946, Superior again paid absolutely no income tax. Most often, the payment has amounted to a paltry $200,000, which happened to be the figure for 1949, 1950 and 1952.

Who Pays?

By paying only token taxes, the oil companies have been able to raise more money to lobby for more tax loopholes. These, in turn, have freed money to lobby for still more loopholes—a merry, profitable merry-go-round for the oil boys. But it's the small taxpayers who are really financing the oil lobby, since they have to make up the taxes the oil companies don't pay.

Note 1—Thanks to these astonishing tax benefits, millionaires have sprung up in the oil industry as nowhere else. Texas oil millionaires have been contributing vast sums to their political pets, like Sen. Joe McCarthy, and pouring money into political magazines, broadcasts, and other propaganda to influence opinion.

Note 2—For years Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas has carefully scrutinized the House Ways & Means Committee which writes the tax laws to make sure nobody was put on that committee who might vote against the 27½ per cent oil depletion allowance and the right of oil-gas companies to write off the total cost of drilling wells. This is one reason the special tax benefits have never been changed.

Oil Vs. Wildlife

What the oil-gas companies have been getting out of the Ike administration continues to unfold with exciting drama. I owe an apology for underestimating this generosity in the past.

On Jan. 11, 1956, I revealed for the first time how "Generous Doug" McKay had bowed to Maj. Gen. Frank Schwengel, president of Seagram's whisky, and granted drilling rights in the Lacassine Waterfowl Refuge of Louisiana to Seagram's Frankfort Oil Co.

I also reported that, prior to this, McKay had placed a stop order against oil permits in game preserves. This was wrong. And I apologize for underestimating McKay's generosity.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

PATENT NO. 2,729,124

THE corkscrew is but an imperfect instrument to anyone yet, it is still more so to Denis Farandatos, president of the Greek Orthodox Community of St. Gerasimos. Mr. Farandatos, who is also a New York City restaurateur, has invented a corkscrew that expels the cork with gas. After his corkscrew has been screwed through the cork, a carbon dioxide cartridge in the hollow handle is exploded by a trigger to release the gas through the hollow screw.

The inventor was driven to the invention of his gas corkscrew by the painful sight of people struggling with corks in bottles. He watched them rip the corkscrew out through the cork and then try to pry out the rest in bits with a knife, finally having to push what was left of the cork down into the bottle. He watched them splash themselves with the contents of the bottle. He also watched them bang the bottle against the wall to help dislodge the cork. (Some people can pop out a cork by hitting the bottom of the bottle with a Manhattan telephone directory.) It was the bottle-banging that gave Mr. Farandatos his idea of the gas corkscrew.

He is now working to perfect a safety valve which will prevent the bottle, on application of the gas through the hollow screw, from exploding. For perfection, alas, is ever the hidden middle road between two extremes, in this case the golden mean betwixt the stuck cork and the popped bottle. May Mr. Farandatos, with the good of humankind so plainly in mind, find that road as plainly marked as U. S. 40.