THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Goodby To Smogville-On-The-Catawba

WITH pluck and luck, Charlotte can have its worst sources of air pollution under control before the frost is on the pumpkin again.

That should be the goal of City Air Pollution Engineer Charles S. Frost.

The final hurdle to real progress was cleared at 11:30 a.m. yesterday when the City Council adopted Charlotte's newest anti-smog ordinance. Appropriately, a sizable delegation from the League of Women Voters was present to see the government body give its final approval to the measure. For them and other Charlotteans who have fought courageously for an effective air pollution control system it was a moment of significant triumph.

Council approval did not come without some 11th hour quibbling about the organizational structure described in the ordinance. The necessity of a citizens advisory committee was questioned. It was feared that the council might be dogging some of its authority.

This fear was, of course, without foundation. The advisory committee will merely advise. Furthermore, it may be able to serve as a useful buffer group, saving the council's time and energy. The advisory committee system has been quite useful and effective in other municipal fields—notably airport management.

In addition, the citizens advisory committee may be able to provide a greater public identification with the need for air pollution control.

A great public relations job still remains to be done. Not all citizens are suitably impressed with the urgency of the problem. Perhaps they want to wait until there is a real crisis—like Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and other cities have had to face. The lesson to be learned from these cities is that the problem of urban air pollution should really be tackled in its potential state rather than after it becomes an actual and serious threat.

The tools are now available to prevent Charlotte from ever being known again as Smogville-On-The-Catawba.

We want to see them used—effectively.

Let the job begin.

Candidate And Council: The Big Dust

The centipede was happy quite
Until a toad in fun
Said, "Pray which leg goes after
which?"
That worked her mind to such a pitch,
She lay distracted in a ditch,
Considering how to run.

—Mrs. Edward Crasier

MR. A. G. Brown, candidate for office, is no centipede and nobody has asked him any such silly questions.

So he is off and running for Raleigh and a seat in the House of Representatives. Mr. Brown knows the way to run is to raise a little dust. And he is a dandy dust raiser, considering that the little to-do at City Council yesterday was just a foretaste of the cloud that's going up over Raleigh when Mr. Brown begins tearing up the new perimeter zoning ordinance. That may resemble an atomic mushroom, we take it.

It will bear watching—the dust, as Mr. Brown so invited Council with a shake of the fist. "You just watch my dust."

We yield to no man in our admiration for dust. It is one of the dustiest weapons in the political bag of tricks. It clogs eyes, keeps housewives busy, and gives diplomats something to wait for to settle.

Dust is what smells good when it rains. Dust means the sun has been shining and breezes have been blowing. Let's face it: Dust is well nigh indispensable.

And we say without fear of contradiction, that Mr. A. G. Brown is a real dandy dust raiser.

Emotion: A Fact In The Farm Problem

THE funereal overtones in Reporter Julian Scheer's piece on Mecklenburg's vanishing croplands were scored to fact.

The concrete rims of a burgeoning city indeed are expanding over furrows and pastures. The real estate developer who wants land offers a bigger dollar than a market glutted with what the land produces. For these and multiple other reasons, agriculture shrinks in Mecklenburg and the U. S. A.

And if there is progress and reality in it, there also is sadness. Emotion is one of the facts of the story.

A dollar can pull a farmer away from land, and lack of a dollar can force him away, but nothing can make him forget it. He is not whole without the land.

He does not leave easily. He thinks about it, as did Arnold Thompson of Crab Orchard Township, and he says:

"I don't want to stop farming. I love it. I love this place. I've been here since the first day of 1924. . . ."

Some will not leave, not even those whose land is close enough to a city to command a good price.

So there is a farm problem, in Mecklenburg and the U. S. A., and there will be as long as men stand on open earth and feel a wholeness.

It is a tough problem for government planners and statisticians. They cannot in the fact of emotion into ordered plans for controlling production, and make the market balance between supply and demand. That would mean deciding how many farmers are needed and telling the rest to quit the land.

The farm problem is not all bushels and dollars and surplus.

Besides producing too much, farmers love the land too much.

And if that is a problem, it also is a strength.

Shortchanged Again By The Yankees

THE Yankee press has just provided the straw that has broken the dromedary's back.

We are accustomed to northern charges that Tar Heels have no shoes, no book learnin', no manners and no patience. But to accuse us of having no state bird is carrying the cool war too far.

That is precisely what some New York papers said when the legislature at Albany refused to make the bluebird the Empire State bird. They noted with dark emphasis that New York was now lumped with North Carolina and Rhode Island as the only three remaining states without an official bird to their name.

Sheer propaganda!

We don't know about Rhode Island but the cardinal was selected as North Carolina's state bird as of March 4, 1943. You can look it up. (S. L. 1943 c. 595; G. S. 145-2).

We admit it isn't distinctively our own. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia also have picked the cardinal. Perhaps we should have selected something off-beat—like Oklahoma did (scissor-tailed flycatcher) or Louisiana (eastern brown pelican). But we firmly believe that the cardinal will represent us with honor and dignity. He is bigger than the wren (South Carolina), brighter than the hermit thrush (Vermont), prettier than the road runner (New Mexico), better behaved than the sea gull (Utah), smarter than the ruffed grouse (Pennsylvania) and decidedly quieter than the mockingbird (Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas).

Lacking enthusiasm for the bluebird, perhaps New York would like the albatross. That one isn't taken yet.

From The St. Petersburg Times

GOVERNMENT IS STILL GOVERNMENT

REP. CARL HINSHAW (R-Calif.) enlivened the Congressional Record recently with a series of definitions indicating that government still moves along in its slow and mysterious way. He noted, however, that some of the definitions that apply to government also apply in the type of big business so ably represented by Republicans now in Washington.

Here are some of his definitions of key words and phrases used in industry and government today:

Program: Any assignment that cannot be completed with one phone call.

Channels: The trail left by interoffice memos.

Coordinator: The guy who has a desk between two expediters.

Consultant or expert: Any ordinary guy more than 50 miles away.

Under consideration: Never heard of it.

Under active consideration: We are looking in the files for it.

Conference: Where conversation is substituted for the dreariness of labor and the loneliness of thought.

Committee: A means for evading responsibility.

Board: First, made of wood, second long and narrow; and third, sometimes warped.

Reliable source: The guy you just met.

Informed source: The guy who just told the guy you just met.

Unimpeachable source: The guy who started the rumor originally.

Make a survey: Need more time to think of an answer.

Note and initial: Spread the responsibility.

Clarification: Fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground.

Check the files: Ask the janitor to look through yesterday's sweepings.

Finalize: Scratch gravel to cover errors.

How Southern Judges View Schools And Segregation

Editors' Note: For insights into the thinking of federal district judges on implementing the Supreme Court's school desegregation ruling, U. S. News & World Report, independent weekly news magazine published at Washington, interviewed several judges and published their composite views in the following article. Copyright 1956, United States News Publishing Corporation.

Q What about southern complaints that the federal courts are prodding southern communities into the immediate integration of public schools?

A If you look at the rulings of the courts on this question since the Supreme Court ruling of 1954 that outlawed compulsory segregation in schools, you will find that the judges are not anxious to issue ultimatums with time limits.

Q In general, what is the approach of federal district judges in handing down decisions, when Negroes bring action to get admission into white schools in the South?

A That depends, to some extent, on local circumstances.

In Tennessee, for instance, here is what happened when Negroes sought court action to get admission to Memphis State College. The State Board of Education filed a plan calling for gradual integration of the state colleges. A federal court found this plan acceptable, and issued a decree requiring admission of Negroes in accordance with that plan.

Some Cases Lost

Q Do Negroes win all the court actions they bring to get their children into white schools?

A By no means — at least not in the lower courts. In Texas, as one example, a federal court dismissed an action by Negro children seeking admission to public schools. It held that the school board officials were making a "good-faith effort" to work integration and should have a "reasonable" length of time to solve this problem.

Q In both of those cases, however, didn't the school authorities express a willingness to co-operate? Does that always happen?

A No. In fact, in most cases coming before federal courts in the South, the local authorities indicate their opposition to desegregation of the schools.

Great Care

Q What happens then?

A Even there, federal judges in the lower courts handle the issue with much care.

You will find instances in Virginia and South Carolina, for example, where the courts ordered the admission of Negro children but gave the school authorities time to make "necessary arrangements." In Louisiana, the federal district court gave Negro plaintiffs an injunction order against segregation in the Orleans Parish, but the court set no time limit, pointing out that the Supreme Court decision in 1954 "decreed that the varied local school problems be considered in each case."

Q But wasn't the Supreme Court pretty explicit in saying that segregation in public schools is against the law?

A Well, the problem is this. It is one thing to say, "This is the law of the land." It is another to apply that law to human beings with deep-rooted attitudes that may run counter to that law. It has happened before in history where you find a section of society that decides to resist a law that has been passed upon by society as a whole. Then the prevailing authority has to decide what to do about it — whether to use persuasion or force.

Change The Law?

Q Sometimes laws are changed, aren't they? Didn't the 1954 ruling reverse a finding of about 60 years ago?

A Yes. In theory, of course, it is possible that the Supreme Court will reverse itself once more and hold that the compulsory segregation of races in public schools is not against the law of the land. In actual fact, however, that is extremely unlikely in the light of prevailing social concepts on the subject of racial discrimination—concepts that determine the interpretation of the law.

Q If persuasion doesn't work, the federal government will have to use force?

A That is something no one of either race should even think about. Not unless they are willing to plunge the South into conflict and hatred that would be tragic for all Americans.

Q Then you are depending on persuasion?

A Persuasion, yes. And time and patience.

Q Doesn't that create a pretty difficult problem for federal courts in the South?

A Yes—a considerable problem. In fact, you might say an unusual one in the history of our judicial institutions.

Q How do judges see their duty in carrying out the law?

A You have to look at that in two ways.

Firstly, judges are bound to follow the ruling of the higher courts as to what is the law in this case. The Supreme Court has ruled that segregation in public schools is against the law of the land.

Thus, if we decide that a state or local government is taking an action in violation of the law as set forth in the higher court, we have no choice before us. Our duty is to uphold the law. If a Negro brings action in court to apply that law on his behalf — to secure his admission to a public school —then we must decide whether his claim is valid. If we do, then we must uphold the law.

Public Opinion

Q Then federal courts are not concerned with public opinion, among southern whites, against integration?

A They are very much concerned. They have to take into account the fact that the law applies to people. How a law is applied can be as important as the law itself, especially when it deals with controversial issues, as in the present situation. If a law is applied in a far-reaching and rigid way, it can stir human feelings against the law. Then it is the law that suffers.

That is the second way in which you must look at the judicial aspect of this problem. Any judge who was born and raised in the South is fully aware of the potential tragedy in this situation. His problem is to uphold the law yet apply it in a way that is most effective, and, at the same time, least disruptive to society. He must be careful to avoid needless provocation that might encourage extremism.

Obey The Ruling

Q How does that policy show up in federal-court decisions handed down so far on school desegregation?

A Well, if you look at those decisions, you will note several things about them.

First of all, of course, they follow the ruling of the higher court —that the law opens public schools to persons of all races.

In the second place, the courts are exercising much care to decide on the cases actually before them. They are not taking on other aspects or trying to set forth broad precedents. They are not attempting to deal with the whole question of racial relations.

Thirdly, you do not find the courts in the South setting absolute time limits on state and local authorities for the carrying out of the court's decision.

Q The courts, then, try to give state and local authorities a chance to co-operate?

A That is a very important thing. You will find that the courts, in every instance, encourage state and local authorities themselves to carry out the letter and spirit of the law "with all deliberate speed" as set forth by the Supreme Court. That leaves an element of persuasion. And we must always leave that element in there, at least in the earlier stages of a court test.

Q But doesn't that mean that it will take a long time to end compulsory segregation in the southern schools?

A If you are thinking of the whole South, every county and every city — yes. It will be a very long time, much longer, perhaps, than your lifetime—

Q. Before there is full integration of schools?

A. Before the removal of compulsory segregation is completed in a way that is acceptable to the large majority of southern whites. As far as that goes, the past history of the human race indicates that, even when segregation laws are lifted, most Negroes will continue to live in their own neighborhoods and tend to go to their own schools. Unless neighborhoods are integrated, you will probably continue to find that integration in the elementary and secondary schools is a limited proposition. In some places, it may even remain a theoretical proposition.

Q Yet, don't many people in the North feel that the 1954 decision ought to end compulsory segregation right away, that "the law is the law"?

A You have to take a long-range viewpoint on that idea.

If you apply the law ruthlessly, in a way that encourages people to hate and disobey it, then the law, in fact, is not the law in the most important respect — in the hearts and minds of people.

If, on the other hand, the southern white community can be persuaded to take the avenue that the United States Surpeme Court has opened up, it will reach the point where the law is the law in that community.

Q Then desegregating public schools in the South is a difficult problem—even with federal-court backing?

A Very difficult. One of the federal judges had this to say when he made a ruling in favor of Negro plaintiffs recently:

"The problems attendant upon desegregation in the deep South are considerably more serious than generally appreciated in some sections of our country. The problem of changing people's mores, particularly those with an emotional overlay, is not to be taken lightly. It is a problem which will require the utmost patience, understanding, generosity and forbearance from all of us, of whatever race."

No Change Overnight

Q Are most southern whites basically opposed to racial integration of public schools?

A Most of them are opposed. However "basically" is another question. It is a good idea to remind you, again, of the progress that was being made before the present situation arose. Without doubt, racial segregation is a deep-rooted tradition in the South. Yet it is a mistake to think that the majority of white persons in the South are not open to reason or persuasion. And it is just as big a mistake to assume that the southern white man can be ordered to change his ideas overnight.

Q What was the racial situation in the South before people began to be stirred up?

A The South was making many gains in the field of race relations, far more than most people realize. Negroes, in increasing numbers, were getting the vote, and thus a voice in community affairs. In some cities — Atlanta, for instance—they have been given the right to participate in civic enterprises, serving on boards and committees alongside white men. States have spent increasing amounts of money on Negro schools to bring them fully up to the standards of white schools.

In addition to all that, Negroes have been gaining admission to a number of leading universities and colleges hitherto closed to them—in Louisiana, Texas and elsewhere.

All this went on quietly, not on a large scale but in a way that constituted a definite trend in the South that promised eventually to give the Negro his rights as a first class citizen. And people, more and more, were beginning to accept that trend.

Q How has the situation changed?

A Today there is organized opposition to the trend, and it is growing among whites. Even people who, in their hearts, would like to see the trend develop and expand are going along with the extremists, or saying nothing. There are very few white men in the South, for instance, who today would speak up for the admission of Negroes to the universities, as many of them were willing to a few years ago.

Q What's the solution — from the long-range view?

A Perhaps the best thing that the leaders on both sides could do, right now, is to look at the short range — an attempt to settle the whole problem all at once —take the easier steps first, the harder ones later.

Q What steps, for instance?

A Well, in the first place, responsible persons in the South—public officials, editors and others —could help a good deal by refraining from "playing up" the racial issue, or making sweeping promises or threats on the basis of a local incident. It makes a good deal of difference on the state of public opinion whether you talk or write about an incident in a way that discredits the other race—or whether you deal factually with the particular problem of that incident.

Q What else?

A Another thing that responsible persons here can do is to avoid actions and statements that incite defiance of the law. It is one thing to deplore the Supreme Court's ruling. It is another thing to attack that ruling as illegal, and encourage people to hold it in contempt. That only encourages disrespect for law and order and opens the way to unbridled passions that persons in responsible positions cannot foresee.

Trouble From North

Q Do these recommendations apply just to white people? What about Negroes?

A Much, if not most, of the trouble there comes from the North — not only from Negroes themselves but from white liberals. That is particularly unfortunate, because the southerner considers it to be uninformed, often ill-mannered, criticism and interference.

Q Would you say it tends to make the southern white less open to persuasion?

A Yes, definitely. After all anyone resents an outsider who tells him how to solve his problems — or suggests that he is incapable of solving them. The southern white is likely to feel that people in the North have race problems in their own cities that deserve their attention.

Q What about the Negroes who press court claims for desegregation of schools here in the South?

A You can hardly expect them to sit back and do nothing about the opportunity afforded them by the 1954 decision. But it makes a considerable difference in the way they go about using their opportunity.

Q In what way?

A Well, where they press their claim is important. In one locality, they can achieve a victory in court — then find it impossible to have that decision carried out peacefully under present conditions. In another situation, they can win their case, and integration can be carried out peacefully, because passions are not inflamed.

It also makes a difference as to how they press their claim. Inflammatory statements, in court or out, against southern whites and white institutions can only hurt them — even stir up public opposition that might not have existed seriously before then.

In general, you might say that the Negro will gain more if he tries to gain his rights with the least disruption of community feeling — and that takes a long time, even the white race his purpose.

Sociology

Q Many southern whites complain that the 1954 ruling of the Supreme Court, and subsequent decisions made in lower courts, are based more on sociology than on a strict interpretation of the Constitution. What about that complaint?

A It's a good idea to remember that the whole concept of law has something to do with sociology. Laws are, or should be, based on society and the way it functions — how people act and how they react.

Q Is that true of all laws, though?

A Oh, it is true that some laws, more than others, deal with tangible aspects such as money or physical injuries. Some laws deal with things that can be defined precisely and with relative simplicity.

What you have, in the present situation, are many intangibles that involve the feelings of Negroes, the feelings of whites, and the whole problem of how those feelings are affected by the question of what constitutes "rights" in racial relations.

These things cannot be defined precisely and rigidly. But you have to deal with them in determining what is the law of the land, and how best to apply that law to the citizens — of both races — who live under its protection.

"Whose Idea Was It To Have 'A Short Campaign?'"

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Historic Meeting On The Elbe River

WASHINGTON

IT was just 11 years ago this week—noon, April 25, 1945—that a patrol of American riflemen pushed through the no-man's land between the forward American and Russian lines and linked up with a Russian patrol on the east bank of the River Elbe.

Tragedy

On that blood-soaked river bank with the artillery shattered bodies of German women and children around them, the Americans and a Russian patrol, embraced, offered a toast to friendship, and vowed that the futile tragedy of war which took the lives of the noncombatant women and children strewn around them would never happen again.

That day was one to be remembered. For not only did American-Russian forces join together on that occasion, but the United Nations organization held its first meeting in San Francisco that day—to consummate the pledge of those Russian and American patrols.

A lot has happened in the 11 years since then.

A general named Eisenhower and a Russian marshal named Zhukov later met in Berlin and tried to carry out the spirit of that River Elbe pledge. They worked out a fair degree of co-operation between American and Russian troops.

Ike In Moscow

The general named Eisenhower went to Moscow and told in his book, "Crusade In Europe," how for five hours he had stood on the tomb of Lenin watching a sports parade in Red Square.

"None of us had ever witnessed anything remotely similar," he reported. "Every kind of folk dance, mass exercise, acrobatic feat, athletic exhibition was executed with flawless precision, and apparently with greatest enthusiasm. The band, said to number a thousand pieces, played continuously during the five-hour show . . . The generalissimo (Stalin) appeared to enjoy every minute of the show. He invited me to his side, and we conversed intermittently during the entire period."

"Overshadowing all goals for us Americans," the general named Eisenhower wrote, "was the contribution we locally might make toward establishing a working partnership between the United States and Russia".

Unquestionably he meant what he said. That was the spirit of the times.

The years passed. Times changed. The pictures of Eisenhower and Zhukov sitting together were published by his political enemies to show he was pro-Communist. Nothing, of course, could have been further from the truth.

Times changed again. The pendulum of fate swung back, influenced by the death of a dictator, by public opinion, by diplomatic frustration.

A President named Eisenhower once again met his co-commander named Zhukov, this time in Geneva. Not much was scored in tangible diplomatic achievement, but much was scored in creating a better atmosphere.

The President named Eisenhower did a fine job personally. His magnetism, his warmth, the fact that he went all the way to Geneva, melted the myth that the United States was a nation of warmongers. But the diplomats, the generals, and the admirals got into the act and helped in the success.

Also, it takes time to heal the wounds of war, the poison of propaganda—and the man named Eisenhower wanted to remain only four days abroad.

A lot has happened in the nine months since Geneva.

Probably more has happened in these short nine months—that might change the shape of the world—than at any other single period since the first nine months following April 25, 1945, the day when a patrol of American riflemen crossed the River Elbe at noon and mingled with their Russian comrades amid the blood-soaked bodies of German women and children.