

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The River: 'People Are Getting Drowned'

PEOPLE are still losing their lives in the Catawba River and the authorities are still talking about it.

Just yesterday County Police Chief Joe D. Whitley said signs should be posted along the river spelling out the law's requirement that boats carry a life preserver for each passenger.

"People are getting drowned in that river," the chief said, "because they don't know the law."

More to the point, they are getting drowned because there is no one on the river to enforce the law. Chief Whitley's remarks, nevertheless, are the most encouraging we've heard from the County House in a long time. They suggest an unwillingness to be saddled with the old excuse that nothing can be done about river safety because of three-county jurisdiction which clouds the power of arrest of any officer that might be assigned to the river.

What Chief Whitley is saying is that law enforcement doesn't depend abso-

Ambulance Service: Protection, Please

THE public's best interests must be fully protected in any change in the operation of emergency ambulance service in Charlotte.

There is understandable concern on the part of funeral homes about the advisability of continuing this expensive sideline. In 29 years it has actually become a burden to some firms. Their principal province lies elsewhere. It was only at the urging of local doctors that they undertook this additional chore in the first place.

Last week, the Mecklenburg County Grand Jury recommended that emergency ambulances be publicly owned and operated. Instead, representatives of five of Charlotte's white funeral homes will meet Friday to consider an offer by a private ambulance service to take over operations here.

The study of possibilities for a private emergency system is wise. Those possibilities deserve thoughtful investigation.

But whatever decision is made, the operation of ambulances is a service that is well within the realm of public interest.

'A Dangerous Plan To Suffocate Drivers'

WE DON'T THINK Mrs. R. I. C. Proust can get away with it, but she does have a wily scheme, and she is president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and that calls for some alarm.

Mrs. Proust's plan, stripped of all its surface logic, is to make women absolute arbiters of everything having to do with the operation of the family car. Backseat drivers? Don't be deluded. Mrs. Proust has promoted women to the rank of "co-pilot" and issued forthwith the orders of the day.

The co-pilot takes over before the car ever turns a wheel. "Lock doors," she says, and everybody locks the doors. Then these instructions to the children. "Don't talk to your father."

"Don't fiddle with the door handles."

"Keep your hands off those push buttons."

She repeats these commands at will for the first hundred miles. Then she tells father to "Stop the car. Stretch your legs. Go get a cup of coffee. Walk around." If pop appears reinvigorated from caffeine and exercise she lets him get back under the wheel. Otherwise,

THRIFT IS FOR THE RICH

SAVING money, like everything else in these days, has practically priced itself out of the market.

Time was when you could save a penny here and a penny there and it mounted up. Now the penny you save today has to be spent tomorrow in order for you to save a penny next week. It's a vicious circle, and I want no part of it.

Take food, for example. The home economists advise, "Save money. Use Sunday's leftover roast for hash, croquettes, stew, and last of all, boil the bone for soup." This sounds good, but if you're on a budget you know you can't afford to buy such a big roast in the first place. The problem today isn't how to make Sunday's roast last all week, but how to make it stretch through Sunday dinner.

Or take clothes. "Advance your clothes buying by six months," the budget specialists advise. "Cash in on out-of-season bargains and be better dressed on half the money."

Sound simpler? I tried it. In the spring, I bought clothes for fall and winter. In the fall, spring and summer things I saved money, all right, but I was miserable. I mean, people laughed when I came to the New Year's Eve party in a T-shirt and tennis shoes.

Shelter. "Buy a home," they say. "After all, what does a renter have at the end of a year but a stack of rent receipts?"

This is a booby trap that has lured millions to ruin. As a home owner, you'll have receipts for almost every-

Britain Today—III

Tottering Tories Fight A Rearguard Action In England

By JOHN HUNTINGTON
Special Correspondent

LONDON

THE Eden government is doomed.

Hardly a day passes without exposing some further folly or weakness of its administration. And this is the party that was swept into power in last year's general election, the first party government for 90 years to increase its majority after holding office throughout a Parliament.

Now they are fighting a rearguard action, constantly on the defensive, their policy lagging behind events instead of shaping them, while the differences within the Conservative Party itself and the man in the street turns his back in disgust on the government. How has this happened in so short a time?

During Churchill's last administration, the Tories governed a Britain increasing in prosperity. Her overseas markets were still expanding, there was little labor unrest, and production soared. The Great Commoner then retired. Eden, always a most popular figure, won even greater political strength and prestige by confidently going to the people for their endorsement of his government.

This general election was well-timed, as the Tory leaders knew full well the grave economic crisis ahead for Britain. A postponement then would have been fatal to them.

Winning this overwhelming support, paradoxically, weakened



MR. CHURCHILL
From Strength . . .

the Tory Party from within. Churchill enjoyed such a slim majority that loyalty to the party was a day to day Tory necessity. Now, under Eden, there is margin enough for independent thinking. These differing Tory views are indicated in the Eden government's vacillation over Cyprus. One minute unexpectedly hatching Archbishop Makarios, to appease the right-wing extremists, and now talking of offering wide measures of self-government to the Cypriots with self-determination to follow. Eden is losing by trying to please the boys, instead

of pursuing a strong, uncompromising policy. These splits in the Tory ranks may prove more disastrous to Eden than the more open breach of the Bevinites to Attlee.

ECONOMIC POLICY

As serious a sign of weakness as this is, it is over its ineffectual economic policy that the Eden government is foundering, and this is nowhere more evident than in its three wishy-washly budgets. The pre-election budget of 1955 was cynical and vote-catching. It is ironical now to recall Butler's words at the time when he said that the only increase would be in the price of bread.

Coal went up, announced by the Coal Board and not directly by the government, and of course this sent everything spiralling. Commodity prices first, then wages. Since then this has happened again and again, but while workers' wages go up with pressure from the unions, Eden has been unable, despite many promises, to do anything for the middle class, whose salaries are largely fixed. The temper of the middle class, the traditional supporters of the Conservative Party, was reflected in the recent Tonbridge by-election, a staunch Conservative stronghold, when the Tories barely managed to squeak in.

So patently unrealistic was this first budget, in fact that a more stringent autumn budget was necessary to try to check inflation. But this was too little and too late. Then the credit squeeze was introduced: A curtailment of in-

flation—rapidly and particularly since Australia has just announced that because of her own economic crisis she intends to cut back in power again. In 1957, some Conservatives think that a general election now, saddling the Socialists with the worst economic crisis in Britain's history, would be a stop-gap solution that might well see the Tories back in power again. In 1957, armed with the more drastic policies so much needed right now.

MR. EDEN

... To Weakness

Recently the Eden government announced sweeping cuts in its own expenditure, but a closer inspection of these reveals that by and large they are confined to regional expenditure rather than economies in actual operating expenses. In other words, for the most part they are non-recurring. A short-term policy.

As in the last budget, when the government fiddled about, with raising the price of greater postage rates (Christmas cards and business circulars) by half-penny, this recent program for cutting expenditure is again full of small bites at the cherry: A penny a bottle saved on school milk?

The Eden government, with its inability to stand up to the irresponsible demands of the unions, as seen in last year's prolonged rail strike, seems incapable of coming to grips with the basic economic problems. They are too worried about making enemies. The Conservatives will either have to choose a sterner leader soon or abandon the field to the Socialists.

'I Can Do It For You Wholesale'



People's Platform

'Soft-Hearted Johns' To Blame For Dogs

Route 2, Kannapolis

Editors: The News

YOUR recent comment concerning the wild dog posse in Southern Cabarrus County was timely but all too brief.

You failed to mention what causes so many stray dogs, namely, these soft-hearted Johns who can't get up the nerve to kill an unwanted dog. So, they throw it in the car and dump it out on some lonely country road to join some wild dog pack.

—I. L. GODFREY

Any Independence Left To Celebrate?

Charlotte

Editors: The News

WE HAVE just celebrated another Fourth of July and Independence Day. We ought to take stock and see just how much independence we Americans have left to celebrate.

Under our Constitution, every

'Soft-Hearted Johns' To Blame For Dogs

state in the union has a right to make and enforce its own laws. But our New Deal Supreme Court says we must forget the Constitution and send our children to mixed schools.

Under our Constitution, every man and woman has a right to work and make an honest living. But the labor union dictators say no man or woman has any right to work unless they have a union card.

Again, our New Deal dictators say we must have a social security card and a number before we can get a job. And a good portion of our pay checks must be surrendered to the tax collectors for our old age protection, even though we do not get any kind of assurance in the form of a policy that we will ever get back the money confiscated from our pay checks for social security.

We are regimented and dictated to until we have no choice left but to obey the dictator. Will the people of America ever wake up and show some interest in saving our nation from the Communist, the socialist, and world dic-

Let Elvis Shake, Rattle And Roll

Route 3, Lincoln

Editors: The News

WHAT if that makes older people not like Elvis Presley? Most of us teenagers are crazy about Elvis. He is handsome and one of the great singers I have ever known. Just because Elvis shakes doesn't mean those who don't like him have to watch him.

Where did they get their information anyway? They don't have to watch him. We like Elvis any way he is. But on the Steve Allen show Elvis wasn't good. He was afraid to death. Independence left but to obey the dictator. Will the people of America ever wake up and show some interest in saving our nation from the Communist, the socialist, and world dic-

—LINDA HARRILL

Editorial Roundup

What Others Said

Winston-Salem Journal

In the first place, the entire legislative plan is drawn on the premise that the people of North Carolina will not support mixed schools. Its intent clearly is to maintain segregation—and maintain it primarily by holding an ax over Negro heads. . . .

Obviously, proponents of the legislation are counting on this ax to hold the segregated line. But can they be sure? And therein lies another big question. For in creating this "safety valve," they are at the same time conceivably building what has been called an "atomic bomb" which could blow the state's school system to smithereens—or, certainly, make it legal for that to happen. They are making it possible (almost easy) for a community to close its schools. . . .

Nevertheless, that way still leaves the big questions unanswered. And the General Assembly's next week should look at them squarely—keeping in mind the local assignment law which is passed not only to appear to be constitutional but adequate as well.

Durham Morning Herald

Those who are afraid that through this program the schools might be destroyed might well consider how difficult it would prove to be in practice to close the schools under this program. . . .

The opponents thus far have been handicapped by their inability to create a program with any appeal to the people.

Greensboro Daily News

To the Daily News it represents an honest and painstaking effort to walk a narrow path between outright defiance of the Supreme Court mandate and outright defiance of southern folkways and customs. To fall in either camp would be the height of folly, for the end result would be destruction or substantial weakening of the public schools. . . .

Asheville Citizen-Times

What will be most needed before such an election will be full but calm and reasonable public discussion of the proposed new laws. Nothing less than the state's public school system is in the balance.

Raleigh Times

The bills, conceived in panic and executed in darkness and desperation, are aimed at specifics. . . . The trouble is, the problem is not so specific. The recommendations do not confront known facts or situations in the public school system but rather fears and shadows. . . .

Period Piece

If I may get personal, I have stepped on it a considerable pride in a triple pun I once perpetrated in telling the story of the Senator named Andersrag. Alex Andersrag. To this day you will hear people talk about the Alex Andersrag Time Band. —Sue Alica in "The Funny Men."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

In the files of the Federal Power Commission are significant facts about certain lobbyists now engaged in one of the biggest legislative battles in Washington.

A Little Notation

The big private utilities are required to publish the amounts they pay various people, and if you take the trouble to look at the 1955 annual report of the Idaho Power Co. on file at the FPC, page 56, you will find this notation: "VII.(A) Guy Gordon — Washington, D.C. (B) Edener (C) Basis of charges — time required and expenses incurred, (D) Account 796."

Ex-Senator In Pay Of Private Utilities

Guy Gordon, of course, is the amiable ex-senator from Oregon, Republican, defeated in 1954 by Sen. Richard Neuberger during a campaign in which Neuberger accused Gordon of being friendly to the big private utilities and against federal development of Hell's Canyon on the Snake River. Gordon denied these charges at the time.

In The Book

However, if you look at Account 796, page 81, of the Idaho Power Co. report you will find listed disbursements for legal services of \$21,999.95, of which \$18,348.75 went to Parry, Keenan, Robert

Another Angel

Further search through power commission files shows that Sen. Cordron also is being paid by Washington Water Power Co. another utility which is fighting against Hell's Canyon. Both Idaho Power and Washington Water Power were once part of the giant holding company, Electric Bond and Share, before FDR's Holding Company Act broke them up.

Big Fees

Cordron is paid a "retainer fee for 1955 of \$10,000 in equal monthly installments."

Fast Transition

Further search of the FPC records shows that Portland General Electric, which also has joined Idaho Power in financing the campaign against public development of Hell's Canyon, lists ex-Sen. Cordron as getting a retainer of \$10,000 per year, "commencing January, 1955 per oral agreement."

Fast Transition

January 1955 was immediately after Cordron stepped out of the Senate. In other words, he retired on Dec. 31, 1954, and immediately began picking up retainers from the private utilities to help them defeat public power at Hell's Canyon.