

Tough-Minded Men Have Bossed Program

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

It was Sunday and Ernest Sifford went to church. He knew his friends at First Presbyterian would be talking about the park commission wrangle. But he went anyway. The chairman of the commission poked up the weekly Sunday school lesson. He read it and smiled. From Peter 1:20, the Scripture read: "For what glory is it if when ye be buffeted for your faults ye shall take it patiently? But if when ye do well and suffer for it ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." Ernest Sifford decided to re-

main quiet. His critics called for an answer to the surplus the commission had accumulated. He waited until Tuesday to give the answer. "I have not been dishonest," he said. "I did not know about the surplus. Anyone who says I did is wrong. Anyone who says I know about it is not telling the truth. "You can say what you want to about me, but there isn't a man, woman or child in this city that can stand up and say I am dishonest."

Their Red Faces

No one really said he was dishonest. But in any questions he was looked closely at Sifford and his commission — and, say

some members of the city council — the answers haven't been what was expected. Sifford and the commissioners are blushing. They did not, they maintain, know of the surplus which started a chain reaction resulting in a public hearing, a call for the abolition of the commission by Councilman Steve Dellinger, and some public indignation. While the public is gradually accepting the "explanation" at face value, it is still somewhat baffled by it. You simply do not, it's said, "lose" \$250,000. In a search for the truth and for answers to the \$250,000 question, citizens have looked closely at the makeup of the park board.

They will find that Chairman Sifford follows a tradition — the answers haven't been what was expected. Board members are appointed for staggered terms by the City Council. **None To Say Nay** Once appointed, this group has complete control over the workings of the park and recreation program. Supt. Marion Diehl must account to no one other than Sifford and the board. On monetary matters the council's only choice, if it thinks the budget is too high, is to cut the tax levy just as it did last week. Otherwise, the commission sets out to do a job and can do it without the fear of being thwarted except by a loud

public outcry. Even the commission members say, if the council did have more control, who would know it, say, a \$20,000 repair job on a swimming pool could be done for less—or really was needed—better than their own experts? When the time comes for the perennial poke at the commission, one of the most frequent punches is at its money-making ideas. Criticize has often been an unbalance here, that the commission should worry more about parks and playgrounds and tennis courts and swimming pools. Criticism has often been an unbalance here, that the commission should worry more about parks and playgrounds and tennis courts and swimming pools. Criticism has often been an unbalance here, that the commission should worry more about parks and playgrounds and tennis courts and swimming pools.

It needs revenue — and that some facilities should pay their own way. Members pointed to Memorial Stadium, maintain that college football is recreation and say they promote college athletes for the city stadium. They also point to the Coliseum — money for which was approved no less than three times by the citizens — as an example of the public's intense interest in spectator recreation. Critics still say there is an unbalance here, that the commission should worry more about parks and playgrounds and tennis courts and swimming pools. It's natural the park program should reflect the interests of park commissioners, what are the backgrounds of

board members? Sifford himself was a college athlete, excelling in track at the University of North Carolina. Supt. Diehl, not a commissioner, of course, was a UNC boxer. Joe Munnick, a paint manufacturer, has a keen interest in boxing and wrestling as a former UNC boxing coach. R. P. Steffy, an awning company executive, is a former long-time boxing commission chairman. Joe Grier, a lawyer, was a good tennis player in his day and a pet interest has been the Nature Museum. J. B. Clark, a radio man, has been associated with athletics for years. L. M. McWen Jr., an insurance executive, is a former

See TOUGH on page 2A

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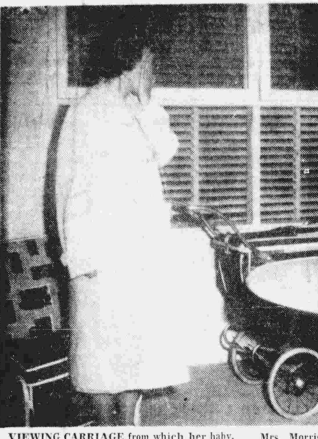


Peter Weinberger

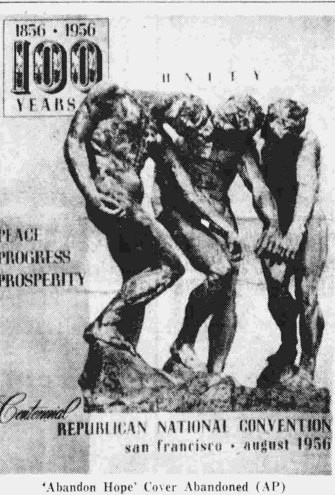
Caller Declares Kidnaper Bab Is 'Alive And Well'

Weinbergers Prepared To Pay Ransom Demand

WESTBURY, N. Y. (AP) — A person—believed to be the kidnaper of month-old Peter Weinberger—telephoned the parents' home today, saying the baby was alive and well. Morris Weinberger, the child's father, told the caller he was prepared to meet a ransom demand. Weinberger said the call came at 9:40 a.m. and that he "Am ready to meet your demand, awaiting your call." It was not made clear just why the response was worded in such fashion and Weinberger revealed little else about the conversation or whether he would seek to make a private effort to get the baby back. **CAN'T PELL OUT** Police have said they could not legally pull out of the case, but that their prime concern is the safety of the baby and they would do anything possible in this connection. Weinberger's son was taken from a carriage at the back of their fashionable home here Wednesday afternoon while the mother had stepped into the house a moment. A note was left, demanding \$2,000 ransom. Police baited a trap for the kidnaper yesterday with packages supposedly containing ransom money but mostly containing smaller bills. However, no one showed up to try to take either of two packages placed at spots in the vicinity of the Weinberger home. **WONT SAY** Police refused to say after this morning's phone call to Weinberger's home whether they would step out of the case long enough. See CALLER on page 2A



VIEWING CARRIAGE from which her baby, Peter, was stolen Sunday at Westbury, N. Y. Mrs. Morris Weinberger holds her hand to her face and cries. (AP Wirephoto).



GOP Nixes Nudes For Program Cover

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Three rugged but dispirited bronze male nudes have been kicked off the cover of the official program for the Republican National Convention. In their place a portrait of President Eisenhower will be seen by convention-goers against a background photograph of the Cow Palace auditorium and stage where the convention opens Aug. 7. **THE FINDINGS** This was announced last night by Mayor George Christopher and Edmund O'Brien, executive director of the GOP Arrangements Committee, after a day in which Christopher's criticism of the photograph of sculptor Auguste Rodin's statue of the three males brought out: 1. That Rodin created the statue, now at the Palace of the Nation in Paris, for a Paris Exposition in 1889. 2. That he called it "Les Tres Humaines," part of a group entitled "Abandon Hope, All Ye Who Enter Here." 3. That the three unclad male figures, rugged in the Rodin manner, with heads bowed, were meant to represent "Three Shades at the Gate of Hell." The tentative program cover had over the three figures the word "Unity" and beside them "Peace, Progress, Prosperity." "I don't think it's a very healthful picture for the Republican party," said Republican Mayor Christopher as he brought the subject to public attention. "I wouldn't have chosen it myself." He added that he had received a number of complaints from people who had seen the cover, which already is in print at the local publishing house of Bruce Wright Co. Christopher talked with Edward W. Mills, chairman of the San Francisco citizens' committee for the convention, after which Mills issued a statement saying the cover was "only tentative" and that several others were being considered for final selection by July 15. **—What's Inside—**

For N. C. Schools Attendance Law Changes Advised

RALEIGH (AP) — North Carolina's compulsory school attendance laws of the Advisory Committee on Education, Gov. Hodges said today. "Let me give you a little bombshell," he told reporters in the first news conference in his new capacity as education commissioner. He said the state itself has "never spent a dollar" for its enforcement. The Governor declared the public school problem is the most momentous question we have had in many decades." He said state leaders have been working for almost a year on a planned program to meet the issue. The state would not countenance mixing of the races in the public schools, (2) consideration of state tuition grants so a child could attend a private non-integrated school if he did not want to attend an integrated public school, and (3) local option which would give individual communities the right to close their public schools by majority vote if conditions become "intolerable." The Governor declared the compulsory school attendance law would stay on the books. However, he said, a local board "might be relieved of compulsory attendance" if local option would be exercised to close the public schools. The Governor reviewed his program of meeting the U. S. Supreme Court's public school segregation decision and stated preparations for the special legislative session July 23 are in the "semi-final" stage. He told newsmen a series of meetings will be held throughout the state next week with all the state's legislators to discuss the proposed bills which will be introduced at the session and which would amend the state's constitution. He said that after the bills are reviewed they will be released to the public.

N. C. Revenue Record Broken

RALEIGH (AP) — North Carolina's general fund revenue collections during the past fiscal year showed a record-breaking increase of \$53,364,310 over the previous fiscal year and exceeded by more than 19 million dollars the 1955 legislative estimates. This was reported today by State Revenue Commissioner Livene Shaw in a fiscal year-end report to Gov. Hodges. Shaw said general fund collections for the fiscal year which ended June 30 reached a record high of \$221,765,954. The amount was nearly 100 million above collections of the beginning of the present economic era in 1930. Shaw stated. He attributed the big gain to three important factors: (1) the continued upward trend in general economic conditions; (2) additional tax levies imposed in 1955 and the better enforcement and compliance program implemented last year. The collections plus non-tax revenues of \$2,822,150, not collected by Shaw's department, brought to \$224,618,104 the total collections for the general fund, exceeding by \$19,115,173 the 1955 legislative estimate of \$205,502,931. The revenue intake during June amounted to \$14,568,721, an increase of \$2,184,239 over the same month a year ago. Sales tax collections for the fiscal year, Shaw said, showed an increase of \$13,089,805, totaling \$71,464,728. This was an all-time high. Shaw explained, both in collections and merchants' registrations. It exceeded by \$4,814,738 the legislative estimate. Income tax collections for the year — individuals and corporations totaled \$1,941,441, an increase of \$184,519. The biggest gain, \$7,736,748, was in the receipts from individual returns. Corporate returns showed an increase of \$3,919,902 and from domestic corporations the gain was \$5,828,836. Highway fund collections for the fiscal year showed an increase of \$8,856,676, totaling \$117,303,251. For June, the amount taken in was \$19,150,416, a gain of \$735,680. The beverage tax receipts for the year amounted to \$13,727,720, a gain of \$2,493,495. Inheritance tax collections for the year showed a decrease of \$2,700,000. The franchise tax bracket showed an increase of \$1,682,997 for the fiscal year, totaling \$21,228,041. Go fast to FIELDS — Expect Watch Repairs (A.S.)

Peagrowers Given Fits About Misfitting Peashooter Peas

LONDON — Pea-growers are giving him trouble today. This touched off a row over British peagrowers and British peashooter makers. The question: Are British peashooters getting too small to shoot British peas, or are British peas getting too large to be shot in British peashooters? To John, aged 3, this is an important matter. The boy recently reported to his father, Maj. John W. Rayner, of the British War Office, that only about one dried pea in 20 would pass through his pea shooter. The major issued an indignant statement to the press, saying in part: "In my youth peas fitted peashooters perfectly. Have peas grown larger or peashooters smaller nowadays? "Whatever it is, it shows a shocking lack of industrial coordination. We are fighting for our export markets and it is a scandal if peashooters are offered for sale which are too small to shoot peas. If such a thing happened in the army it would cause a terrible fuss." Col. Maurice Batehall, head of one of Britain's biggest pea-producing firms, said it was nonsense to suggest that peas are getting bigger. "We go for quality, not size," Batehall told a reporter. "There are two main types of British peas, the little 'blues' and the larger 'marrowfat' variety. The latter 'blues' in his shooter. "But at the risk of being accused of starting an armaments

Reports Say Forney Quitting

By ANN SAWYER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

There were widespread reports today that Lt. Neal Forney, director of the City Police Department's Youth Bureau since its 1953 origin, is leaving his position. Interested sources said the 28-year-old Charlotte native will join the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill. Lt. Forney would not comment on the reports today. **HALL NEXT** News command of the 11-man bureau is Detective Sgt. J. R. Hill, veteran police officer and a June graduate of the National Police Academy conducted by the FBI. Lt. Forney, also a NPA Associate, is expected to work in the training of law enforcement officers if he joins the Institute of Government staff. Organized in 1951, the Youth Bureau has grown from a one-man staff to its present staff of 10 detectives and one civilian secretary. His detectives also investigate crimes other than those committed by young people, including drug arrests and various abnormal sex practices. Lt. Forney, a graduate of Central High School and a World War II Navy veteran, took undergraduate work at the University of North Carolina. Close friends recall he probably will complete his undergraduate studies and then enter the University Law School.

Our Weather

Partly cloudy, hot and humid through Saturday. Widely scattered afternoon and evening thunderstorms.

Low this morning	71
Low tomorrow morning	70
High today	84
High tomorrow	81
High tomorrow	85
Sunrise today 5:14 a.m.; sunset 7:41 p.m.	

More Weather Data on Page 9B

Along Blue Ridge Way

MORE PARK than it is "way." That's the latest summation of the Blue Ridge Parkway, an experiment in recreation, explained today in "Weekend on Wheels" on Page 2B.

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