

# Were 1949 Bonds Spent Wisely & Well?

By JULIAN SCHEER  
Charlotte News Staff Writer  
In 1949 the people of Charlotte set up the park commission in his business.

They voted "yes" on a bond issue which gave the commission \$800,000 with which to build a park system.

### THIRD IN A SERIES

Today there is only \$88,000 left. During the intervening years, three chairmen employing two superintendents have doled out the money.

Chief architect of the master plan for the system was Arthur H. Jones, presently vice president of American Trust Co., and then park superintendent under Dr. W. L. Halberstadt, chairman.

He suggested uses and most of them have been carried out. At first progress was fast, but as the money began to dwindle, the movement to improve the system slowed.

surplus of \$178,531.27 the park commission now maintains it knew nothing about.

When an extensive campaign was being waged to muster a vote sufficient to pass the bond issue, a five-year plan was outlined to the voters. It included seven white and four Negro

playfields, two white swimming pools and one for Negroes, two community buildings in white sections and one in a Negro section.

The plan suggested a playground within a quarter mile of each home and a playfield, in addition to a playground, within a half mile of every home.

There are also 36 parks with a total acreage of 365 acres.

These figures include past and present building and planning. How was the \$899,000 in bond money spent?

Here is an item-by-item breakdown of the spending with the following figures:

- 1949 proposed figure in parentheses:
  - General equipment and maintenance, \$34,563.33 (\$40,000)
  - Truck equipment, \$3,618.48
  - Independence Park, \$10,168.84, \$9,800.
  - Armory Auditorium, \$45,202.27, (\$56,650)
  - Memorial Stadium, \$25,093.20, (\$23,500)
  - Latta Park, including community center, \$81,471.76, (\$80,700)
  - Bethune Park, \$7,065.50 (\$12,800)
  - Midwood Park, \$26,088.78 (\$18,200)
  - Seversville Park, \$107.62 (No expenditure proposed)
  - Colonial Park, \$10,488.12 (\$8,200)
  - Eastover Park, \$2,046.41 (\$5,000)
  - Bryant Park, \$3,736.05 (\$15,200)
  - Revolution Park, \$28,251.74, (\$30,400)
  - Freedom Park, \$3,836.60, (\$4,200)
  - Revolution Park golf course, \$43,298.54, (\$28,500)

- Revolution Park riding academy, \$27.07 (No expenditure proposed)
- Revolution Park swimming pool, \$17,111. (No expenditure proposed)
- Cordelia Park, \$5,134.59, (\$21,700)
- Cordelia Park swimming pool, \$17,922.79, (\$97,450)
- Morgan Park, \$2,880.15, (\$2,500)
- Alexander St. Park, \$9,907.91, (\$18,900)
- Pearl St. Park, \$4,428.83, (\$126,900, diverted to Double Oaks swimming pool)
- Abbott Park, \$11,274.86, (\$9,150)
- First Ward playground, \$1,328.58, (\$13,150)
- Greenview Park, \$1,174.66, (\$17,750)
- Fairview Park, \$2,783.23 (No expenditure proposed)
- Southside playground, \$11,329.72, (\$10,000)
- Freedom Park, \$3,836.60, (\$4,200)

See WFRP on page 8-A

## What You Got For Playground Funds

A frequently-voiced criticism of the Park and Recreation Commission has been that it has neglected neighborhood playgrounds in favor of larger recreation centers.

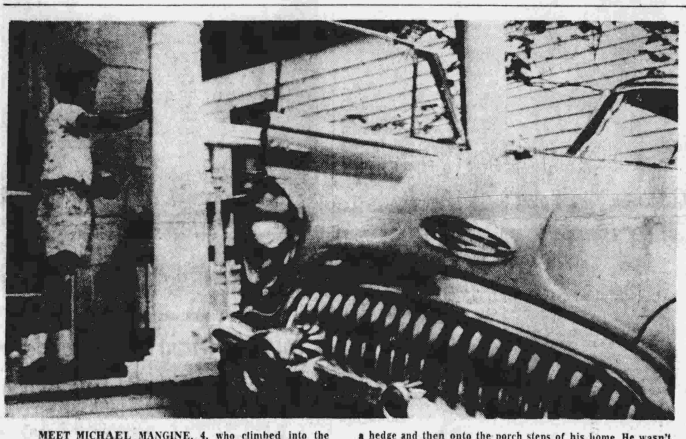
The present board, however, has said it will invest all of the remaining bond funds—approximately \$89,000—for such playgrounds.

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# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final

# N. Y. Police Had Trouble As Kidnapers Hunt Goes On



MEET MICHAEL MAGINE, 4, who climbed into the family automobile, backed it from the curb, hit a parked car, and a tree, shifted gears and drove over three lawns, through a hedge and then onto the porch steps of his home. He wasn't hurt. The Schenectady, N. Y., boy, has his arm in a cast from a June injury. (AP Wirephoto)

## Call Advances Ransom Price Tag To \$5,000

WESTBURY, N. Y. (AP)—Two men were held in police custody today as detectives pushed their search for 5-week-old Peter Weinberger who was kidnaped from his carriage on the Fourth of July.

Police were closed-mouthed about the two men except to admit two were picked up last night, questioned during the night and were kept in custody.

A police department spokesman quoted chief of detectives Stuyvesant Pinnell as saying the two "had no direct connection with the kidnaping."

It was reported, however, that one of the men telephoned the parents of the missing child and presumably the call was traced. The second man was reported to have been loitering near the Weinberger home.

As the search for the child went into its third day, police said definitely no ransom money had exchanged hands. Meanwhile Peter's distraught parents awaited another call from their baby's kidnapper.

A man phoned yesterday from a New York City pay station to assure the father whose drug salesman Morris Weinberger, that the baby was alive and well and to up the ransom price from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

"I am ready to meet your demands... am waiting your call," Weinberger told the kidnaper in a rearranged message carried by newspapers and a night television news show.

HE'S THE MAN? Weinberger said he was convinced that the anonymous caller was the kidnaper who watched the boy from his carriage on the path of his home in this fashionable suburb July 4.

But police cautioned against overoptimism and said it was "probable" that the baby was still alive.

The kidnaper called at 9:40 a.m. directing Weinberger to notify afternoon newspapers and TV commentator John K. M. McCarry of NBC's New York City outlet.



Mrs. Weinberger leaves home in car. (AP)

## Will He Run? Ike's Condition Steadily Better

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP)—If President Eisenhower still means to seek a second term — and betting hereabouts is strongly that he does — he has fresh encouragement from his doctors that he's in steadily better physical shape.

His convalescent progress has been steady and uneventful," the medical men reported late yesterday. One of them, Dr. Isidor Ravdin, the University of Pennsylvania professor called in as a consulting surgeon, described himself as "very pleased with the marked improvement the President has had this week."

This medical report was the first since the President came to his farm to continue recovery from his June 9 operation. It was issued a few hours after the announcement that Eisenhower had taken politics at last with two of his key aides.

POLITICS TALKED White House press secretary James C. Hagerty said Eisenhower discussed "both personal politics and general politics" yesterday with his chief assistant, Sherman Adams, and with Hagerty himself.

There was no word on whether Eisenhower indicated he would stand by his Feb. 29 decision to seek a second term, or even that he had reached a decision on his plans.

From the broad smile which Hagerty volunteered his information, many newsmen gained the impression the second term decision was still yes. But Hagerty said later he could not say when the "suspense" as to whether he put it over the President's plans will end.

## Cash Wanted For Foreign Aid Studies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats sought \$300,000 today for an exhaustive study of the use of American funds abroad as Congress approached final votes on the administration's battered foreign aid program for this fiscal year.

Sen. Mansfield (D-Mont.) said he would ask the Senate Rules Committee for endorsement of that amount to finance an inquiry by independent investigators under direction of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The committee session was called after Senate and House conferees reached final agreement on a new \$4,014,575,000 foreign aid authorization bill including \$3,500,000,000 for military assistance to free world allies.

That was nearly 900 million less than the \$4,900,000,000 program of military and economic aid originally proposed by President Eisenhower.

Even more drastic was the cut to \$3,885,200,000 in foreign aid appropriations recommended to the House yesterday by a committee which reported out a money bill to finance the spending on which the authorizations simply set the ceilings.

Both the House and the Senate still must act on the money bill. The House is scheduled to take up the foreign aid appropriations bill on Tuesday.

## Priest 'Put My Trust In God' Cell Called Place Of No Hope

By DAVID J. ROADS  
HONG KONG (AP)—"My Communist cell can only be described as a place of no hope, but I put my trust in God," said an American priest today after his return from three years in a Red Chinese prison.

The Rev. John W. Clifford, 39, told newsmen he was forbidden to say the rosary or pray during his imprisonment. His guards told him there was "no freedom of religion in prison. Your church is bad and so are all priests."

Father Clifford arrived here today with the Rev. Thomas Phillips, 52, who also was imprisoned three years in Red China. The two Roman Catholic priests, both of San Francisco, are the first Americans freed by Peiping since 1949.

The two priests came here from Shanghai aboard a German freighter. Father Clifford said when he was first jailed in June, 1953, the prison cells were occupied by 19 Chinese and foreign priests.

He said the Reds questioned him repeatedly in an effort to get him to confess to charges of slandering the state and "disrupting the activities of the state."

"I never confessed to anything," said Father Clifford. "The churchmen said he was taken on a 25-day tour over some 3,000 miles of China with three other imprisoned Americans. He said the group visited construction projects, dams and buildings in Hachow, Peiping and other cities."

## Bitter Protests Greet German Draft Approval

BONN, Germany (AP)—West Germany's lower house approved description for the country's new army today over bitter protests by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's Social opponents.

The controversial draft law now goes to the upper house where a solid government majority assures final approval.

The draft law will make 12 million German men between the ages of 18 and 45 subject to compulsory military service. The Bundestag, the lower house, passed it by a vote of 270-196 on third and final reading. The vote was 270-196.

Sixteen hours of stormy debate followed. The Bundestag is scheduled for final Friday.

Opponents of the draft argued large armies are unnecessary in an age of streamlining. Adenauer, usually heard in respectful silence by the lawmakers, was interrupted by jeers and laughter when he urged draft as the only means of building the 300,000-man army he has pledged to North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

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He said Hugh Redmond, an American businessman from Yorkkers, N. Y., who is serving a life sentence, appeared in fair health, but was suffering from high blood pressure.

The names and home towns of imprisoned Americans. He said the group visited construction projects, dams and buildings in Hachow, Peiping and other cities.

## Evening Prayer

Almighty God, make us strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Forgive our useless fretting and anxiety. Pardon our weakness, and bring us into Thy companionship that our spirits may be cleansed and our whole being empowered through communion with Thee. In Christ's name. Amen.

## Women Like To Choose Their Own'

LONDON (AP)—Dame Irene Ward served notice in the House of Commons today she is going to uphold vigorously efforts of British army girls to escape wearing government issue panties.

"Panties is the government word—the girls call them 'baggy bloomers,'" said Dame Irene. "When it comes to undies," said Dame Irene, a Conservative member of Parliament, "women like to choose their own."

She said she would bring up the matter formally in the House of Commons next Wednesday by asking Defense Minister Sir Walter Monckton to give the army lassies a pantie allowance.

LONG WAY FROM HOME RALEIGH (AP)—W. P. Smith came from prosperity to financial embarrassment here yesterday.

Ordered in city court to make good a \$20 worthless check he passed in a Raleigh hotel, Smith gave his home town as — Prosperity, S.C.