

Choose Your Own Word For It

MAYOR BAXTER has a plausible explanation for the pay increases recently granted by Council to some of its department heads. These worthy workers, the Mayor says, "have become more valuable to the City." Moreover, it seems that "private industry is competing for their services."

The Mayor also brings out the somewhat irrelevant circumstance that the increases were recommended by City Manager Flack, already a lame duck at the time and therefore presumably with no axe to grind. And he adds that "city employees are not the various adjustments including department heads and others down the line was not large."

"We certainly would not argue that the City can't stand the additional expense. We wouldn't even argue that those concerned aren't entitled to more money. But we are curious about a couple of things: (1) How on earth did The Council go around making the Mayor's pay and (2) why was it necessary to put it into effect at a closed meeting?"

The arbitrary figure of \$6,000 set for three department heads, for instance, gave the City Engineer and the City Engineer's assistants of slightly more than 24 per cent, a pretty healthy increase for non-union members. But the City Accountant, although also given \$5,000 per annum, received a 10 per cent increase. And the raises given the City Judge and the City Solicitor amounted to only 15 per cent. Are we to conclude that private competition for the services of treasurers and engineers is sharper than for lawyers and accountants?

We presume that part of this increase was intended to meet the rising cost of living. If so, the spiral has really been

turning in the past few months, for all these officials also received the 15 per cent across-the-board pay raise granted all City employees at the beginning of this fiscal year. Now it appears that any other question concerning the labor market. On July 1, when the new budget figures were made public, it was apparently Council's opinion that 15 per cent would be the "now" appropriate rate.

This was not, says the Mayor, a "sneak action." Well, you can choose your own word for it. The pay raises were approved at an executive session held in the Mayor's office, were placed into effect without any action being taken in a formal Council meeting, and quite likely would never have been brought to the public's attention had an enterprising News reporter not dug out the City payroll. To protect the Council's privacy and dignity until Mr. Woodcock's action in which members of a former Council were held personally responsible for expenditures authorized in an informal executive session it is probable that the Mayor will finally be made a matter of record on Tuesday.

The curious thing about all this is that the Council in all probability would have received no more than the usual, automatic increase in no governing body ever kept a secret for long. The executive session only arouses suspicion, and furnishes invaluable ammunition to Council's growing political opposition.

The Legion Keeps On Rolling

IT seems incredible, somehow, that the passage of 25 years, the winning of another World War, and the addition of several million new members could make so little difference to the American Legion. But the old Legion just keeps on rolling, grinding out a set of resolutions at its San Francisco convention last week that sound as though they were left over from 1921.

There is no real sign of a change of heart in the deceptive Legion vote against the inevitable demand for a new bonus. The resolution was hedged with the usual "not even the challenge flung at retiring Commander John Stead" so estimable a citizen as General Omar Bradley rocked the Legion out of its proclaudered course. After being roundly incensed by Steile, the VA head blasted the Legion and its members against the new calling on on-the-job-training payments. That cello, General Bradley said, represents "an effort to deny the rights of all veterans against the new bonus." The convention also renewed the clamor for immediate cash payment of terminal leave pay, which, after all, serves as an admirable substitute for the year 1946 bonus. Not even the challenge flung at retiring Commander John Stead" so estimable a citizen as General Omar Bradley rocked the Legion out of its proclaudered course.

The Passing of A Pioneer

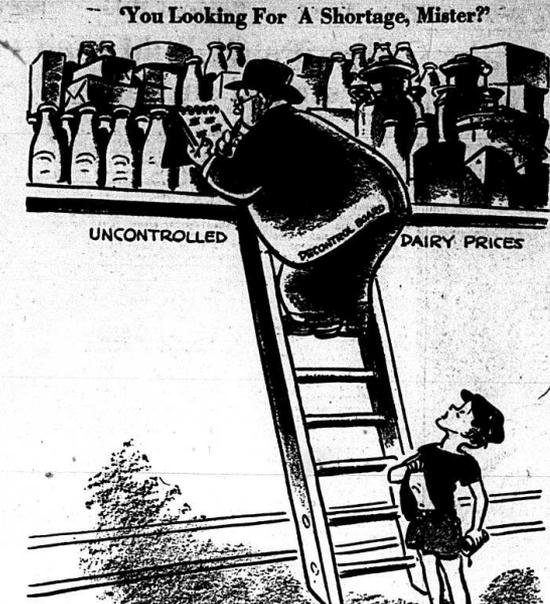
CHARLOTTE has been built by successive generations of pioneers who, despite the diversity of their contributions to the growing city, had a common characteristic—vision. John L. Dabbs was a member of the first pioneering business men who lifted the fledgling country town out of the comfortable rut and set the pattern for its growth as a distribution center. John Dabbs saw early that the mushrooming factories of the Piedmont would call for the creation of a whole new service industry to supply their needs for raw materials. And he also saw that Charlotte was the logical service center for the area. Through his years of service as Southern manager of National Amalgam and Chemical Company, and more than a quarter-century as Southern sales manager for the giant K. I. DuPont de Nemours Com-

pany he proved his point. He lived to see hundreds of colleagues and competitors, all of whom he regarded as friends, flock into the city he had done so much to open. If John Dabbs was active in the growth of the business community, he had an equal interest in civic affairs. As a charter member and a deacon of St. John's Baptist Church, as a Rotarian and a Kiwanian and a Shriner, and anonymously as a private citizen, he gave generously of his time and money to a variety of good causes. Like so many of Charlotte's leading citizens, he was not a native. But he moved here from South Carolina in 1857, and his life, saw the community grow, and grew with it. Charlotte was certainly John Dabbs' town, and it will miss him.

Another Voice

WHEN Henry A. Wallace turned a Madison Square Garden political rally into an international incident, most of what was said that night by the other speakers was largely ignored. Among those who were not, however, was the address of Mrs. Mary G. March, actress and wife of the Hollywood film star, Fredric March. Mrs. March spoke as chairman of the Women's Division of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions. The other day, during a breathless intermission, we happened to read over the text of Mrs. March's speech. It seemed to us that the remarks deserved more attention. One paragraph in particular is worth calling to the notice of the ladies—although it by no means applies to ladies only. Pointing to women's opportunities as a citizen in a democracy, Mrs. March said:

It is not my intention to cast ungrounded shame at the peace officers of Charlotte, but as some of them have already admitted to me, there are those who will not enforce the law if it means they will have to go into court as a witness. "These men should be demanded that they give the full force of the law to the anti-polit tax bill, but he let other people get out in front and carry the ball." Mrs. March was paying tribute to Truman's policy regarding racial injustice is strongly partly because he has two conscientious Southerners at the head of his Justice Department. The Attorney General, Tom Clark, is from Texas, while the head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, is from Ohio. Both have been vigorous in attempting to prevent racial injustice. "The race riots broke in Columbia, for instance, Caudle, unable to get airplane transportation, drove all night in his car to reach the scene of the trouble. Another member of the Justice Department, the Honorable Clegg, was permanently blinded after an altercation with a South Carolina soldier while the War Department was investigating a criminal action against the policeman. Such a step by the Federal Government is almost unprecedented in the history of the United States. North Carolina, with the support of an Attorney General from Texas, is significant. Note—Governor Ellis Arnall of Georgia and other South-



People's Platform

Wake Up, Charlotte!

Editors, The News: ON several occasions I have read with interest the editorial on ABC News. I am a constant reader of The News and would like to express my ideas on this subject.

For the past seven weeks I have made a careful study and I find that this city is overrun with bootleggers and potent drunkards. What has happened to the vigilant and efficient police department that once protected the safety and property of Charlotte?

Last Saturday morning at approximately 1 o'clock a drunk stood at the rear of the bus terminal and began to sing. A drunken man in a maroon Ford coach almost ran into the Raleigh bus. A patrol car turned the corner just behind him; as the driver of the bus approached The Square he saw, leaning against the call box, another policeman. Mr. Smith reported this to him and he just laughed about it. Is this what the citizens of Charlotte want?

Similar cases happen every day and every night in Charlotte. Are the people so blind that they cannot see these things for what they are, or are they too narrow as not to care? Or could it be that we are too spineless to demand decency and protection that would save our lives and the lives of our children and fathers? What has happened to the brotherly Americans who so bravely gave up their homes and families to fight for decency? Wake up before it is too late. Once your wives and children have been admitted to me, there are those who will not enforce the law if it means they will have to go into court as a witness. "These men should be demanded that they give the full force of the law to the anti-polit tax bill, but he let other people get out in front and carry the ball."

It is not my intention to cast ungrounded shame at the peace officers of Charlotte, but as some of them have already admitted to me, there are those who will not enforce the law if it means they will have to go into court as a witness. "These men should be demanded that they give the full force of the law to the anti-polit tax bill, but he let other people get out in front and carry the ball."

When bootleggers are caught, make the punishment ten or twelve months, not take away their day after one or two days, which they make again the day after.

If the public-minded citizens of Charlotte would co-operate and demand that the legislation of some few police be stopped and give complete support to the officers who are trying with all their hearts and souls to stop this surge of drunken filth and danger, it could be wiped out. After a strong foothold is established, it will be difficult to remove. To the decent citizens of Charlotte let me say again, wake up before it is too late. Don't wait until your homes and families are in jeopardy.

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Dollars To Donuts

Editors, The News: BETWIXT dollars to donuts the Britishers had their own in the sequel of the three "innocent" Nazis.

Betcha the American (and Russian) judges were agreed: turning them loose, betcha the French were too, but the British somehow ayawed, or pulled the wool over the French, thereby splitting the four and turning the raciala loose.

Betcha these "innocent" Nazis had some stuff on some big shot Britishers which just wouldn't be cracked to have told them. Betcha the whole damned crew of Nazis would have been sentenced to hang if the Britishers would not have been beaten and run.

Betcha the ghosts of millions of Nazi victims are making strenuous objections to the verdicts some made on the basis of the Britishers' word.

Betcha the British seem as skunky as the Russians. Betcha! Wanna bet? Just put up your donuts.

—E. E. CRESLORD

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to submit it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Logic and objectivity will be desired. No matter what, anything goes. Each letter will be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, the writer's name will be withheld. Editor, The News.

Quote, Unquote

There is no more disgrace about being mentally sick than being physically sick. It is unfortunate that we have archaic methods of commitment, which make commitment a legal process and which put the poor patient in the status of an individual accused of a crime.—Dr. Paul M. Bowman, U. of California psychiatrist.

Our Air Force as a fighting power no longer exists. We find our position at the peace table jeopardized and our standing as the most powerful nation in the world being undermined. In other words, we who have the good judgment and common sense to maintain a strong army and air force.—Gov. Lester C. Hunt of Wyoming.

When the Army puts on its next enlistment drive it is going to have a hard time with certain GIs who recall the promises made the last time they enlisted. One of those GIs is a fellow named Acheson, who served for 30 days extra furlough in addition to their regular 30-day furlough. It was on that basis that they enlisted for one year and one month.

Now, however, they find that the extra furlough is not going to be forthcoming. It's out the window. War Department Circular 281 cancels the re-enlistment furlough promised to GIs, and there is nothing the men can do about it.

The War Department explains that it was forced to cancel this furlough under the Armed Forces Leave Act passed by Congress last summer. In other words, it says, that after it promised the extra 30 days leave, Congress took away the money to pay for it. The men who enlisted men on the same proportionate basis as officers regarding terminal leave, at which time it also voted that the Army at its word can do about it.

How much the Army did to guide Congress on this legislation is not known. Usually the Army can be quite potent in the House of Representatives. In other words, the enlisted men who signed up for a year are now sore as blazes and will think twice before signing up again.

FINGERNAILS SACRIFICED

One of the advantages of this generation is its seemingly boundless capacity for sacrifice. The woman, for instance, has sacrificed her fingernails for the sake of the State. The average Swedish woman, for instance, has sacrificed her fingernails for the sake of the State.

One important fact about this generation is that, for the most part, they have grown up outside of the United States. Their lives, first, in nursery schools and later in clubs, at many of the private schools, have been in the hands of foreigners. The entire emphasis has been on identification with the West.

The West has given them an outlook entirely different from that of the generation that preceded it. For example, overconfidence in homes and the lack of comfort have far less to them than that of the generation that preceded it. They are not in the West. They are not in the West.

It is baffling. In the highest degree it is baffling. It is baffling. In the highest degree it is baffling. It is baffling. In the highest degree it is baffling.

Most fantastic is the glacial immobility with which the pundits are greeting the coming dip. They sit like so many of the Indians, frozen into a false Spartan calm, commenting on the coming slump as unseasonably as the weather.

Blocks are down. New financing is down. There is a feeling of gloom and foreboding in the air. The market is down. New financing is down. There is a feeling of gloom and foreboding in the air.

STOIC WATCHERS

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DELICATE OPERATION

The masters of the Kremlin are that the surgeons performed a delicate operation on the Soviet Union. The surgeons performed a delicate operation on the Soviet Union.

It is in this, it seems to me, that the immediate future of five to ten years, but for longer, the Soviet Union is in a delicate operation. The surgeons performed a delicate operation on the Soviet Union.

Magazine wonders daintily what our great country's own "sneak" will be. The magazine wonders daintily what our great country's own "sneak" will be.

SUICIDAL IMPULSE

The only thing which has hurt our positive attitude is a price rise; nothing else could have done it. The only thing which has hurt our positive attitude is a price rise; nothing else could have done it.

Now business, with prices higher, finds profit strangely lower. The only thing which has hurt our positive attitude is a price rise; nothing else could have done it.

WAITING FOR KICK

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