

It's A Vote Of Confidence

THE sum of \$12,477,000 is staggering, even in these dizzy times, and the civic leaders who are bent on floating City and County bonds for that total have very wisely launched a campaign to sell the public on the urgency of the various projects they would thus underwrite.

The tendency to whittle down that monumental total will be pronounced, and we have an idea where the whittling will be done. The estimated \$8,000,000 for the schools, the \$2,324,434 for sewers, the \$1,800,000 for water, the \$200,000 for street improvement, the \$200,000 for expansion of health and fire services—these items are almost certain to survive.

The outlay for schools, streets, sewer and water, and health and fire service is, of course, essential. The total is high now because we avoided year-to-year expenditures in the past and our sins of omission have caught up with us all at once.

But the outlay for civic center, airport, library and parks is equally essential. Here

too are we faced with a large total, because in these 30 years, we have consistently failed to spend an appropriate amount of money for these things. The result is painfully apparent—Charlotte, the largest city of the Carolinas, is without a public auditorium, maintains a library inadequate for a city half its size, cannot support the parks and playgrounds that have materialized largely from private charity, and is entering the Air Age with airport facilities already outmoded.

To regard these projects as luxuries, it seems to us, to fly in the face of all the evidence. Thirty years ago, when a visiting engineer made a planning survey of Charlotte, he noted a list of obvious deficiencies; that list reads today as though the ink weren't dry on it. Yet those 30 years were the period of Charlotte's greatest growth, a period in which the population doubled while we continued to spend public money as though we were still a cross roads village.

The items listed in the bond election have been culled over by the Planning Board and the City Council. Neither of these bodies is made of wild-eyed free-spenders, and they have, in good conscience, offered what seems to them, after long study and considerable soul-searching, a minimum program.

The vote on April 23 is, in very real fashion, a vote of confidence in Charlotte's future; we have reached that point in our progress when we must decide whether we want to live in an overgrown small town, or a city.

On Charity And Efficiency

WHEN a charity drive attains its goal we are never certain whether its success stands as evidence of the efficiency and determination of the campaign workers or of the open-heartedness of the community. In the case of the Red Cross, now on its way to topping its \$102,500 goal by almost one-quarter, we suspect both considerations were involved.

Certainly Messrs. Harris and Van Ness, co-chairmen of the campaign, Fred Huffman of the Community Chest who directed it, and Alice Cooper, executive secretary of the Mecklenburg Red Cross chapter, have reason for pride in their achievement. But they received a mighty assist from abroad—where a hundred million starving persons serve as a reminder that this

is no time for charity to stop where it begins, at home.

The Red Cross is an international organization of course, but it is also a peculiarly American institution. Throughout its long, useful life, it has maintained a reputation for compassion that goes beyond the bounds of national interest, for humanity above considerations of race and creed. It is not and never has been, an instrument of American diplomacy, but the International Red Cross has done much to establish faith in American ideals among the stricken peoples of the world.

We hope some realization of the organization's international role lay behind Charlotte's generous contribution. There have been few moments in history when a concrete gesture of faith in the concept of One World was more in order.

Uncle Sam Is Out-of-State

THE University of North Carolina, reaching a decision in the matter of tuition fees for veterans, has declared Uncle Sam an outlander who must pay an extra tariff for the education of his wards.

In a way, it's logical enough, for the various institutions of the University system need every cent they can lay hands on, and Uncle Sam is, according to the management department—on an ability to pay. It is argued that if Uncle Sam can pay \$200 to educate a law student from Chicago he can also pay \$200 to educate a law student from Charlotte.

For non-veterans attending state colleges there is a difference in tuition fees determined by residence. A North Carolinian, whose family has presumably contributed through taxes to the University system, is entitled to a lower rate than an out-of-state student, whose family has

contributed nothing. This certainly seems reasonable enough, but the veteran, for whom Uncle Sam will pay tuition, is now charged the out-of-state rate regardless of whether he is a Tar Heel born and bred or a dandyman bred to Chapel Hill by the University's towering reputation.

Charges for veterans, then, are based— to borrow an apt phrase from the labor-management department—on an ability to pay. It is argued that if Uncle Sam can pay \$200 to educate a law student from Chicago he can also pay \$200 to educate a law student from Charlotte.

Maybe so, maybe so. But it seems rather foolhardy for North Carolina educators, most of whom are working for Federal aid to state education, to mark Uncle Sam as a sucker the first time they see the color of his money.

Another Voice

On How To Use The Money

RECENTLY North Carolina owners of textile plants have come into the possession of millions of dollars from North-erners who paid what a few years ago would have been called fabulous sums. The question is raised by The Charlotte News whether the purchasers are speculating in cotton mills when the demand for their products is great and profits are large.

What will North Carolinians their pockets bulging with the millions received for mills that cost them thousands do with the money? The Savannah News says that a survey shows that no less than 2,429 industries are needed in Georgia for the purpose of converting native products into manufactured goods. To some extent the same situation exists in North Carolina. The News makes this illustration:

The newspaper on which this is printed comes from wood grown in Northern Georgia. The typewriter on which this copy was typed was made in New York. The paper on which this page is printed is a product of one of the great industries of the Eastern United States. The metal that made up the plates from which this Michigan ink was transferred to the paper came from the mines of the West. The machine on which this type was set was made in Brooklyn.

idea and the money to buy the equipment and that's about all.

The men who sold their textile mills and have plenty of money should set the pace of providing plants for what the people of the State need.—Raleigh News & Observer.

"Oh, the injustice of it," moaned the old founder, upon hearing that all grain hereafter was to go into luxuries like bread.

Another cute pairing of cause and effect is when the Army drops half its generals, and a head-line reads, "Third Brass Plant Closes Down."

They say the arriving British Ambassador, Clark Kerr, understands Americans. One trusts he explains us to one another, thus destroying that mystery which is our chief charm.

Through inadvertently recognizing the voice of Jack Dempsey, a radio quiz contestant finds himself with \$13,500 worth of stuff on his hands. Our thoughts are with the winner, as he hunts a house.



People's Platform

Cart Before The Horse?

MR. DAVIS recently had an able series of articles on the liquor question. However, I wish he would carry his investigation further. Legalized liquor, while better than prohibition, still does not solve the basic human problem of alcoholism.

Alcoholism springs from conditions that have deep roots in our economic and social fabric. Economic and psychological insecurity are main causes. We will abolish alcoholism only in the proportion to which we offer all citizens a secure economic life based on a higher standard of living and educate their hearts and minds to brotherhood.

Why not have Mr. Davis do some research on courts, asylums and welfare agencies for purpose of reporting on the conditions which lead men into excessive drinking. People are going to drink as long as they have reason to. An exposure of what these agencies are doing to face the problems of liquor is the only kind of action that will ever promote temperance.

But there are also good people of both persuasions who are deeply concerned about the human angle and who deserve to have a better understanding of the problem. We will not abolish alcoholism if we go at it with a cart-before-the-horse belief that we must stop the drinking that leads to broken lives. Our first requirement is to prevent the broken or frustrated lives that drive men to drink.

If all the vast amount of time, money, energy and soul expended by the Drys in that prohibition process is diverted into efforts to abolish poverty, ignorance and inhumanity, the cause of temperance might get some of the attention it needs. There would be a real concern about human suffering and despair as we are about "sin".

Once read of a small country—I think it was New Zealand—where it was found that when drinking was almost unknown. In this country every single individual was assured—through democratic legislative process—a high standard of living and a good education. Each citizen thought and worked not merely for his own good but for the good of everyone. The spirit of their society inculcated in their beliefs and feelings of brotherhood which gave them the freedom, happiness, security and peace. Frustrated, crime, drinking, and crime were almost unknown. Is that not a goal for us to shoot at? —FRANCES COX

The Real Villain

IF Mr. J. A. Daly thinks he is qualified to write an editorial into a simple news story, he should know that "make a clean breast of it."

I refer to the story in The News of March 9th, headed, "Northern Capital Taking Over Mills." It was a news story and not particularly pleasant reading to a Southerner, but Mr. Daly has his cast of characters all out of proportion. The "villain" is not "Northern" capital and neither is "refugee" money as stated by Mr. Daly; and by his implication the only remedy seems to be either the restriction of the use of free capital or the continuation.

Mr. Daly was right all along, of course, but he did not put his finger on the truth of the matter. The "villain of the piece" is not "Northern," "refugee," "refugee" or "refugee" money, which is systematically buying up the Southern textile mills; but that attitude on the part of our press, our business men and our politicians which has helped establish the fact that "when you are looking for bigger profits because of a lower wage standard you must turn your back on the Southern capitalists did not invent this. Every Chamber of Commerce deputy between the years 1910 and 1925 made pilgrimages to the North to plead with this Northern capital to "come South" with their factory.

Down there, they said, "you'll find plenty of cheap labor, no labor union interference and we'll also suspend your City and State taxes for the first ten years of your operation." In one year, two Governors of Southern States visited Massachusetts to bid against each other for the establishment of a mill in their respective districts.

There is no method under our free American way of life to stop "Northern" or "Polynesian" or even "Hotiennet" capital from buying up Southern textile mills, except by Southern action. It is up to it that the workers in the region came up to par with the highest wages offered anywhere else in the country. Then we can cut back and say "come on" and there would be no problem, and no J. A. Daly story. —B. H. EDDISON

It's The Principle

IT is quite evident that the University of North Carolina intends to "make hay while the sun shines." I'm speaking in regard to the late notice in the Charlotte News pertaining to the increase in tuition for veterans returning to school. I'm well aware that the Vets' tuition fees come from the Federal Government and that the money they aren't required to foot the bill of this "money making idea." It isn't so much the money angle as it is the principle involved.

If the fellows returning to the native Carolina like this incident as they have I assure you that they'll regard the "WELCOME HOME" sign as being painted with the paint of mercenary desire. —SIGNATURE WITHHELD.

Senatorial Concern

A GROUP of Senators gathered at a luncheon one day this week for an earnest discussion of a bill to control atomic energy. The bill, which would give the Atomic Energy Commission the right to appeal to the President if the Atomic Energy Commission were to propose some security measure which would have authority over atomic energy.

Among those at the lunch were Senators Charles McNary, Frank McNamara, and Senator Morse. McNamara is the chairman of the Senate Atomic Energy Committee and Senator Morse is a vocal opponent to the Vandenberg compromise.

McMahon suggested that a hard fight on the floor of the Senate might defeat the Vandenberg proposal. His Democratic colleagues agreed on the need to carry the issue to the floor. But at this point, McNamara objected to a vote on the floor.

"Let's be frank about this," he said, "I don't want to see a vote on the floor of the Senate unless the President throws his weight into the scale. I don't intend to vote on the compromise bill. And let's be even more frank. McNamara does not think we should be likely to get more than 30 votes. In other words, we're licked. But nevertheless we have to make the record."

Here is perhaps the most critical issue of the day. Yet it is presented in such a way that the public is left confused and uncertain. McNamara is being presented in an atmosphere of threats and counter-threats of war.

VANDBENBERG DISTURBED Senator Vandenberg insists that his committee does not give control to the military. He is disturbed by the original news stories on which McNamara said that the military liaison group would have

a right to "review" all steps taken by the civilian atomic commission. That implied the right of veto. According to McNamara, the President's decision on all matters would be final. The Senate Atomic Energy Committee has just approved the bill. McNamara has just announced that the bill would give the Atomic Energy Commission the right to appeal to the President if the Atomic Energy Commission were to propose some security measure which would have authority over atomic energy.

It does seem, however, that the Vandenberg proposal puts an impossible burden on any President. Such a proposal would require the protection for security with the Navy, War and State Department representatives. McNamara has just announced that the bill would give the Atomic Energy Commission the right to appeal to the President if the Atomic Energy Commission were to propose some security measure which would have authority over atomic energy.

Just this week, a physicist had prepared a paper on the effect of slow neutrons on the human body to be read at a scientific meeting in the city of Washington. McNamara had been connected with the Oak Ridge project, he was prevented by military censorship from reading the paper, although it was discovered later that a digest had already been printed and distributed to the press. "That is the kind of security" issue which would come up at an atomic energy hearing.

GROWING FALTER It was not alone military control over atomic energy that the Senators discussed at their strategy luncheon. The Senate Atomic Energy Committee is seen to be the growing pattern of military authority in civilian power.

Morse pointed to the implications of sending a general as Ambassador to the Soviet Union. Because he had been connected with the Oak Ridge project, he was prevented by military censorship from reading the paper, although it was discovered later that a digest had already been printed and distributed to the press. "That is the kind of security" issue which would come up at an atomic energy hearing.

His large audience broke into spontaneous applause. It was a sign of the concern—and the sense of futility—that so many people feel in the face of a shift-over that seems to be taking place.

R. M. Boeckel

The Coalitionists

AN informal House committee of five Republicans and five Democrats met last week to frame a substitute bill for the Price Control Act to extend the Price Control Act for one more year with no change in the Administration's Price Administration. This marks a turn by the Republican-Southern Democrats coalition from obstructing Administration policies to actually writing its own legislation.

The coalition is a Republican-Southern Democratic coalition which has functioned in Congress during recent years. It is a coalition of like-minded legislators is now to be organized on a more formal basis. If it succeeds in its coming effort to limit powers of the Office of Price Administration—as was probably—it may go on from there to function as a new majority in the lower house.

The coalition party which in the House is 239 Democrats, 191 Republicans, 1 Progressive, 1 American Labor Party and 1 Independent (there are three other independents). The Democrats have a paper majority of 46. But whenever the Republicans vote in the House, they are in the majority (as they do more frequently than the Democrats), and can attract 26 votes from the other side of the aisle, they are in position to control the action of the House.

On controversial issues taken up in the 1946 session to date, the Republican-Southern Democrats have voted more than 26 Democrats. There have been a relatively few Republican-Southern Democratic votes with the Administration, but their votes have been more than counterbalanced by those of dissident Democrats.

Because of continuous shifts in the make-up of the House, the coalition has been unable to identify its Democratic members for one or two weeks. The coalition has been unable to identify its Democratic members for one or two weeks. The coalition has been unable to identify its Democratic members for one or two weeks.

Dr w Pearson's • Atom Scientists Hint Merry-Go-Round • Atom Scientists Hint about On Army

WASHINGTON A GROUP of atomic scientists were being quizzed by Senator Joe O'Mahoney of Wyoming and Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas of California last week. Leading scientist present was Dr. Leo Szilard, who discovered one method of creating the atom bomb.

The Senate Atomic Committee had just voted to set up a military board with broad powers over the scientists, and Senator O'Mahoney was anxious to get Dr. Szilard's ideas on Army control.

Szilard told several stories of how the Army, because it lacked scientific knowledge, hampered the scientists during the war. At one time, Dr. Szilard said, he came into his office and found that the bookcases had been turned around to face the wall. He asked the Army officer in charge why they had been moved and got this reply: "There was a vital of uranium in your bookcase and orders are that nothing shall be revealed or exposed. So we turned the bookcases to the wall."

Dr. Szilard explained that many scientists were so apprehensive of the new Army control and the possibility of talking to another scientist, of accidentally revealing some of the things they wanted to get out of atomic science altogether.

bill just adopted by the Senate committee, all this will be under an Army board. And, from my previous experience, I'm sure that such experiments will be very difficult in the future."

Michigan was now fighting mad. If accused Dirksen of insulting him and insisted that Dirksen liked to duck issues. Several other members tried to calm them. Finally Dirksen's voice was heard. "I don't want to be heard so far from the House floor, said: "All right, Earl, there's no sense in fighting in here. You come on outside with me to settle this, and I'll give you the thrashing you're asking for."

Dirksen, a man of heavyweight proportions, started up on his feet and filled him down. He held Michener down. This was all over in a few minutes, but finally decided that discretion was the better part of valor.

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Dirksen found himself seated next to General Electric President Charles Wilson at a dinner and heard Wilson talk about the strike. He was so impressed that he finally agreed. Next morning Pressman called Wilson and talked with Wilson for four hours, and together they cleaned out the underbrush that had been blocking a settlement.

You AWAY Kaiser brought it all about. It was his first effort at mediating someone else's strike. To clinch the agreement, Kaiser and Pressman arranged for Wilson to make a trip to the United States, sign the deal with Murray. That's how 100,000 more men went back to the production line.