

The Case Against Chapel Hill

Report of the National Committee for a Medical Survey is the beginning, not the end, of the argument over location of the proposed four-year University of North Carolina Medical College and hospital. The five Committee members who signed the majority report have made out the best possible case for the site at Chapel Hill, but they also admitted its several inadequacies. The two dissenting members, recommending that the state abandon its present attitude, expressed flat opposition to Chapel Hill. "A town so small and so located that it does not support even a small community hospital at present certainly is not the place for a medical center, with a large teaching hospital, particularly where a medical school in a medium-sized city is only twelve miles away..."

The Committee, made up of presumably disinterested physicians and surgeons, approached the problem from a rather narrow professional viewpoint. They were concerned almost exclusively with the teaching problems involved in the medical college and this, apparently, influenced them in favor of the state's leading instructional community. Certainly the benefits to be obtained from coupling the medical faculty with the faculties of the several graduate and undergraduate schools at Chapel Hill. These advantages, they held, outweigh such disadvantages as "a shortage of patients for teaching obstetrics, traumatic surgery and certain other fields," the lack of "part-time specialists so useful in certain aspects of training," and the absence of health and social agencies adapted to an urban pattern.

Yet the Committee acknowledges that the Medical School would be more effective, even from an educational standpoint, if it were located in a metropolitan center. The reason for placing the school at Chapel Hill rests upon the assumption that there is no such center in North Carolina. We can only conclude that the gentlemen did not read the brochures handed them by the Chamber of Commerce when they paid their brief visit to Charlotte. Although the Chamber of Commerce for the traditional booster spirit of the C. of C., these demonstrable facts should certainly have been taken into account:

- (1) Charlotte's present population is in excess of 100,000, making it the 13th city in the United States.
(2) Charlotte is the center of trading area that includes more than a million

people. More than 900,000 people live within 50 miles of The Square. So far as retail and wholesale trade, and, yes, health services, are concerned, Charlotte is their home town. This is a larger population than is served by Richmond.

(3) Within 100 miles of Charlotte, certainly within reach of its hospital facilities, there are 2,700,000 people. This is a larger population than is served by Atlanta.

It is difficult to see how the third largest trading area in the South can be written off on the ground that it is not metropolitan. The fact that Charlotte, with five large hospitals already established and another on the way, is already generally recognized as a medical center should furnish evidence of the amount and variety of clinical material, and the number of medical specialists, available here.

Beyond the services the community can render the medical college, there is the perhaps more important consideration of the services the college can render to North Carolina. We cannot understand how the Legislature could consider the new hospital and medical college the cornerstone of a state-wide system of health services if it is established within sight of a similar institution more than capable of meeting the needs of the East. It is irrelevant to argue, as the Committee has, that patients from all of North Carolina can be brought to the hospital at Chapel Hill. What about the out-patient clinical services that would be so important a part of such a public institution? Can the state properly expect patients to travel several hundred miles for the express purpose of receiving treatment? It seems to us a basic principle in providing adequate medical service for North Carolina to take that service to the people. The fact that more than one-third of the state's total population is in the Charlotte area should certainly be a major factor in any final decision.

The suspicion that the members of the Committee have been influenced by essentially political considerations is inescapable. Ours, of course, is a lay opinion, influenced perhaps by civic pride, but it is shared by many physicians who have no personal interest in the matter. They will have a chance to be heard before a final decision is reached by the Legislature, and we can only hope they will be as persuasive as the anything-for-somebody advocates of dear old Chapel Hill must have been.

The Realtors And The Chiselers

We have broken a lance here before in defense of landlords, arguing that they are certainly entitled to a reasonable increase in rentals now that the lid is off the cost of living. They too are the victims of a rising tide. The Real Estate Board advocates in the Charlotte Real Estate Board falls within our definition of "reasonable."

We have, however, had our doubts about the success of the effort to hold rentals in check by voluntary controls, worthy though that project undoubtedly is. It now develops that at least one real estate firm, unaffiliated with the Real Estate Board, and a number of private owners have notified their tenants of rent increases of from 30 to 83 per cent. Not only that, but these landlords have had the gall to inform their victims that they were following the lead of the Real Estate Board.

The Realtors are understandably upset about this misuse of their name, and have taken to the public prints to denounce the chiselers. They are to be congratulated, although we regret that they have not seen fit to accompany their denunciation with legal action. Any landlord who will take

advantage of the drastic shortage of housing to increase rents by 83 per cent isn't likely to be moved by mere public condemnation.

We fear nothing about rigid legal restrictions will hold rentals in line, and even if they are relaxed by the Federal government, or created by the state, there will still remain the problem of determining what constitutes a reasonable rent in a period of inflation. The 15 per cent recommended by the Realtors does not represent an increase in net income to property owners, but is only the increase in maintenance costs. These costs will continue to rise now that OPA is gone, and so will the paper value of the rented dwellings. We doubt if the persuasive powers of the Realtors will be sufficient to keep owners from demanding, and getting, a return on their properties based on market value rather than original investment. In that case 15 per cent is a small consolation.

Nevertheless, it is good to condemn the chiselers. Property owners, and we keep up the good work. In every gesture of good will

Another Voice

... Fireman On The Salt Lake

How many firemen were there on that well-nigh legendary Illinois Central train which crashed back in 1900 with "Casey" Jones at the throttle, an episode which has been embalmed for posterity in the memorable ballad which takes its name from the celebrated engineer who died in the collision?

We see by the public prints that a Negro named John Eubanks, aged 72, passed away at Madison, Wis., recently, and that he was 48 years ago, as a young boy, shoveled the coal for Casey Jones, and just missed dying with him in the famous wreck of Engine 69. The only thing strange about this is that when a monument to Casey Jones was erected in 1938 at Cayce, Ky., the site of the wreck from which the 6-foot 4-inch John Luther Jones took his nickname, a fireman named Jim Webb was on hand, and was billed as the party who jumped when the "Cannon Ball," with Jones at the throttle, drove through three freight cars at Vaughn, Miss., on April 30, 1900. According to all accounts we've seen up to now, Jim Webb is accepted as the fireman who took this historic leap, and lived to tell the tale.

What then of the John Eubanks whose death has just occurred in Wisconsin? The statement in one account of his passing that "the wreck involving himself and Jones occurred 48 years ago" could be a geographical error, but certainly there is no similarity between the names of Eubanks and Webb. Nor is there any likeli-

hood that there were two train wrecks in the crash of 1900, and the song, m and engines carried, and one fireman, anyway.

So the mystery remains. lachrymose ballad celebs exploits quotes Mrs. Jones: "Go to bed children and 'Cause you got another Lake Line."

but this is reliably declared a libel on all concerned.

Nobody ever claimed, as we are advised, that other fireman"—on the or anywhere else. The of Wisconsin is the first so much as raises a question. What's the answer? Ho know.—Richmond Times.

As usual, the school of the Summer course in the one-inch and the two-inch umbrella hand-

It is five years since a soap opera long enough remark, "there is no pla in the life that I have ours.



People's Platform Mr. Meek And Mr. Middleclass

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS: An open letter from Mr. Meek to Mr. Middleclass. My dear Middleclass: This letter is not written to agitate you or to cause you undue worry. I aspire to help you condition yourself for your future by making you aware of what is happening to you now. You are so prone to cling to a status quo longer after that status has ceased to exist.

It is this tenaciousness that causes political spellbinders to refer to you as "the backbone of the nation." Poor backbone you have been broken, and your two segments are being telescoped. Your upper part is crowding into the nation's expanding heart and neck, in the spaces reserved for the rich; while your lower portion, comprising most of the spinal column, is being pushed into that region of the body follicle, just below the scrum, which is the abiding place of the Meek.

We spiteless Meek welcome you poor Middleclass. For twelve years, and more, the great, lamented Franklin D. Roosevelt tried to lift us up to you. He partially succeeded. That is fortunate for you; otherwise you would be pushed down much farther.

I hope that we will be mutually helpful. Our hut and shack abodes and our pellagra inviting diets are too recent for the older generation of the Meek to feel secure. We know that there is no such thing as a static society. Although there may be a temporary halt while we make room for you, you must realize, poor Middleclass, that henceforth your fortunes are linked with ours. Ultimately, we shall descend or climb together.

You must not let yourself become embittered because, for a long time to come, there will be no meat for the Meek—that is, no choice meat; that you can afford to buy. You must take better care of that twenty dollar suit that now costs you sixty. And Mrs. Meek must go less often to town, lest she be tempted to buy a calico gown.

You must not let yourself feel frustrated because 2 1/2-cubby hole domiciles for your family is the only alternative to living with your in-laws. That is unless you are an importunate GI Meek who pays, with a Government loan, from 7 to 10 thousand dollars for 5 or 6 cubby holes. (Incidentally, most of these sappy, Jerry built "homes" are destined to revert to Uncle Sam, unless he elects to eventually give them to the war veterans. But before that happens many of the occupants will have developed claustrophobia and become nomads living in tents. From such things the custom of a people evolves.)

in Chicago" and note that this writer takes your readers to task for being stupid etc.

I have no data on the morals or crime conditions in Chicago, except that gathered back in the Capone days, but if the crime wave is at a low ebb there at present and racketeering is also on the wane, there's a reason. The reason, evidently is because most of the Chicago racketeers have come to Phoenix, Arizona, for "easy-picking." But, they won't last here very long. In fact, Al Capone and some of his mobsters came here quite a few years ago and was going to set up business. But, he had a visit from some of Arizona's most capable peace officers and was told to move on. It wasn't long after that until the "Old Man With the Whiskers", viz: Uncle Sam, caught up with him and transferred him to Alcatraz.

Evidently your Chicago visitor has become "peevish" at the people in the Deep South because his presence there failed to make any impression on the Southerners. We have the same kind of visitors out here in the West, who come here and flash arrogance in our face and endeavor to impress us with their importance, and when someone smashes them in the nose or tells them where to get off, they break out in a cold sweat and try to appease their cowardly and egotistical nature, but it impresses us very little.

This visitor, who signs himself: "A former Chicago Citizen, at present Unavoidably a Citizen of Your City" did not sign his name. Out here in the West, we always sign our name to any article we write in the papers, and address, and hope that somebody will look us up and argue with us. Send that irate, former citizen of Chicago, to Phoenix, and we will sell him some inflated property, and buy it back in six months for half of the amount he paid. That's the way we treat smart guys from Chicago. —W. B. WILLIAMSON, SR.

Presidential Duty

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS: As President Truman is the head of and leader of our country it is his duty and obligation to the American people to see that they have the protection of their constitution and to see that the value of our dollar is protected.

President Truman promised the people he intended to carry out President Roosevelt's program for

Wheeler's Maady

WASHINGTON He was once a fierce crusader for the right. He visited the Soviet Union in the early '20s and was denounced as a dangerous radical because he had the audacity actually to look at the Soviet system. He ran for Vice President in 1924, with Fighting Bob La Follette in the No. 1 place on the Progressives' national ticket.

Today Sen. Burton K. Wheeler of Montana is a defeated candidate who talks nobly, commiserates sympathetically about "principles." He talked a great deal during his campaign about the "senator" that was being snafled at him.

HE OUGHT TO KNOW Maybe it was a deliberate and artistic "concealment." But if it is, Sen. Wheeler should have recognized it, or in the past he has shown himself a master of the sneer technique. In the critical months before the war, Wheeler first used the shocker about "plunging" under every fourth American boy.

It was this kind of demagoguery that Wheeler showed in his attacks on Roosevelt's foreign policy. Recent investigation by the Department of Justice shows that many phrases such as "plunging under every fourth American boy" originated in Germany with Nazi phrase-makers who studied ways and means of needling them into the American consciousness. While Wheeler has intimated that he is not buttressing from any foreign source, the fact that he used these phrases encourage the Nazis to believe their divide-and-rule tactics would succeed.

One factor in Wheeler's downfall has been overlooked by those who are writing the post-mortems. That is the fact that he suffered from a malady which President Truman, in private conversation, calls "Potomac fever."

Potomac fever is a complicated disease with many symptoms. But perhaps its chief characteristic is an insidious loss of power and statesmanship fostered by a comfortable, padded existence in Washington. The longer most men stay in Washington, the more likely they are to succumb to what might be called the marble-hall illusion.

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On the level of Presidential policy, and even Presidential politics, this sort of loyalty is likely to lead to trouble. Loyalty to Edwin W. Pauley harmed the successful Democratic candidate, Lee Erickson, to win. And however the contest comes out this Fall, Erickson is not likely to thank the President.

Samuel Grafton And Never The Twain...

LOS ANGELES The Russian press has begun to speak as with one voice for a new central German government, of Germany. It is obvious that one phase of Soviet policy toward Germany has ended and a new one has begun. The Soviet Union is preparing to take the long jump of setting up a new German government and teaching it how to correspond, but on the spot, to adopt a policy of friendliness toward Russia.

The Russians are clearly preparing to put the German people through a hard course in a tough school, for while the Russians speak of setting up a central German administration immediately as a forerunner to a central German government, they flatly oppose the immediate writing of a peace treaty for Germany. They speak of "a number of years" of occupation. They propose to judge and test the German government during those years, apparently on the theory that the only German government they will trust will be one which can endure years of occupation and reparations without becoming cross.

That is why the West is anxious to get some sort of German on its feet and quickly; that is why the West seeks an immediate peace treaty for Germany to define the ultimate shape of the country and to act as a hinge against the treaty, for which the Russians are waiting; that is why the West seeks to set Germany up in the exporting business at once and thus get her economically free of Russia, and that too, is why the West is against reparations for only the Russians with their state-owned economy, can afford to take them; and that also is why the West speaks for its own kind of German unification and why Russia resists. For Rus-

Advertisement for 'Dear Father's' and 'Barkley's Merry-Go-Round' featuring a large illustration of a man in a suit and a woman in a dress. The text includes 'Dear Father's' and 'Barkley's Merry-Go-Round' and 'Resign to the Best'.