# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1947

## The Coming School Tax Election

DARRING a political miracle, the battle waged on the state level for higher teachers pay is over. The settlement, a compromise between the 20 per cent across-the-board increase recommended by the Administration and the much higher South Piedmont graduated schedule, will afford an increase of about 30 per cent in base pay for all North Carolina teachers.

altore all filtratavith Carolina teachers.
Now, however, the battle begins on the local level, The Charlotte School Board is asking, in a special receivable to double the properties of the special control of the cont

certain teachers not provided for under the State system of allocating funds.

Whether the election falls or carries there will be some increase in pay for Charlotte teachers. But it will not be 30 per cent of their present income, for, while state base pay will be hard pressed to maintain the present supplement. When they so to the polis on April 15 the voters will be making a choice between two salary schedules—one based on a 30 per cent State increase plus the present City supplement, and a higher scale based on the 30 per cent State increase plus the present City supplement, and a higher scale based on the 30 per cent State increase plus an increased City supplement made possible by the additional levy. The following table outlines the two alternatives. (Under "Rating" the letter "A" a regular coilege degree, the letter "A" aregular coilege degree, the lollowing number years of teaching experience.)

of teaching experience.

Salary If Tax Salary If Tax InIncrease Is Re- crease Is Approvjected. (30% in-red. (30% increase
in State in State base plus present increased supplesupplement.)

ment.

TWE schedule proposed by the School
Board falls far short of the South
Fledmont plan, which some deucators have
argued is essential to the preservation of
our current educational level. The School
Board considers it a minimum program
and the figures listed above bear out that
contention. Certainly few employers in
Charlotte these days are able to hire college graduates with seven years of practical experience for \$50 a week. And certainly no other learned profession and preclous
few skilled trades offer an absolute maximum
annual income as low as \$3,060.

There are those who argue (as witness)

mum annual income as low as \$3,060.

There are those who argue (as witness the letter in today's People's Platform) that teachers salaries are a State obligation and that the \*State should pay the entire freight. There is some merit in this, for in theory North Carolina has assumed responsibility for the education of all her young. In practice, however, the State salary scale has always represented a minimum, and supplement it. The reasons are obvious enough—certainly the living expenses of a teacher in Charlotte are far higher than those of a teacher in a small, rural county.

Is much greater here; in effect the Charlotte schools have to bid for teachers against private employers who, in many cases, are willing to pay a competent filing clerk more than the State will pay an experienced English teacher.

It should be remembered that the crisis in education is not the product of the current inflation, although it has certain the control of the current to the current t

THE sober and conservative gentlemen of the City School Board are askins for an increase in the tax levy with extreme in the tax levy with extreme to it by the hard facts of their 1947-48 budget. Ten years ago the \$1,500,000 City School operation functioned efficiently and even managed to show a small annual surplus under the present levy. Those days are sone, apparently forever. This year the School Board allocated in advance every cent of its income, except for a ridiculously small contingent fund of about \$2,500 to cover all emergencies. No business man on earth would attempt to operate on such a narrow margin. THE sober and conservative gentlemen of

cover all emergencies No business man on earth would attempt to operate on such a narrow margin.

This means that the schools, as they are now functioning, are using every cent of current income. If costs continue to rise, the budget can be kept in balance only by reducing salaries, or by reducing the size of present teaching staffs Moreover, in the near future, some 40 additional classrooms will be added to the Charlotte schools. They simply cannot be staffed under the present budget.

City school funds are used not only to supplement State salaries, but to pay the entire salaries of 74 out of the 535 City teachers. The State's allocation is based upon one teacher for each 34 pupils; this makes, no allowance for staffing manual training, mustage public special control of the proper education of their children, and yet already many of these courses have been abandoned or drastitating untilled in Charlotte. Unless the tax supplement carriect, the School Board will have no afternative but to further reduce faculties next year.

year.

"THIE additional taxes proposed in the coming election will add only a few dollars a year to the average citizen's total tax burden. We recognize, however, total tax burden. We recognize, however, that even a few dollars looms large in this time of punishing taxation. We recognize and concur in the prevailing view that taxes somehow must be reduced, not increased. Yet the crists in the schools, and the very grave threat it posses for the future, cannot be ignored. Money is not the final answer to all our educational lils, but it. Is fundamental. Our choice now is not between progress and maintenance of present standards; the School Board warns solemnly that if the tax election fails to carry the result will be a further deterioration of a school system that does not now compare with the system of ten years ago.

There will be those who ask in all sincerity if the people of Charlotte can afford to a dispose that the people of Charlotte can afford not to.

# Could We Guarantee Ivan Satisfaction?

WHILE drinking coffee at the Coast Guard air base near Elizabeth City, that city's Deliy Admone reports, Representative Herbert Bonner delivered himself of a few timely reflections on propaganda. The State Department's broadcasts to Russia, conducted as they are on a high cultural plane, are probably missing the mark, Mr. Bonner believes. A more practical solution, be has decided, would be to translate and see that a copy of it reaches every household between Berlin and the Ural Mountains.

Mountains.

Certainly, no product of our culture better bespeaks our high living standard than the mail order catalogue Even in this season of shortages and rising prices it is a thing of beauty—presenting a vast array of ball peen hammers, automatic pumps, work pants, shotguns, watches, underwear, barbed wire fence, automobile horns, automatic toilets, etc., etc., etc. The stuff of which dreams are made lies between those index makes a pleasant evening's reading before a pot-bellied store.

We are not sure, however, that the Sear catalogue is a proper instrument with which to propagandize the Russians. The bright pictures and the limple descriptions of goods shown therein are supposed to—and in fact do—arouse within the reader's breast an uncontrollable urge to rush down to the post office for a money order. In America, as Sears' monumental success for the control of the post of the control of

frustration.

The frustrated Russian, as we understand it, is already the root of our international difficulties. To further coad him with the Sears-Reebuck version of the American Way would be an act of utter foily. The wonders displayed therein, and so unhappily unobtainable in his own Utopia, might possibly increase his respect for free institutions But it seems more likely that he would only be prompted to burst from his cell with the customary yell and head this way seeking personal delivery.

### Another Voice

## The Language Of Love

WE have an idea that Miss Joan Natale of Philadelphia, nursing her bruises and full of wonder at the strange language of love, has her doubts about Southern chivalry.

Miss Natale told Raleigh police that her distribution of the rinner and took part of her money only 48 hours before they were to wed.

The ironic touch to Miss Natale's distillation in the indication of the successfully pleaded for her flance's release from prison a day before his term expired 56, she related to police, all the term expired 56, she related to police, and the successfully pleaded to the language of love—will be the successfully pleaded to the successfully pl

### 'I Do Believe,' Said Alice At Last, 'That They Live In The Same House!"



### Medical Care

# Stop The Russians

Editors. THE NEWS:

[PHERE seems to be quite a commotion about bypassing the United Nations Organization in add
around with the U.N. while Russis is gaining world
power and control. Russia has blocked for another
year atomic energy control when all other nations
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Editors, The News:

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### Marquis Childs

## **Pillory For Patriots**

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# Samuel Grafton

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OBSTACLES OVERCOME

# Choosing Catastrophe

# Drew Pearson's: Real Estate Lobbyists Score Over Vets Merry-Go-Round: Real Estate Lobbyists Score Over Vets

and on the veterans.

The deal involves a resolution, adopted behind closed doors by the House-Banking & Currency Committee and by an appropriations subcommittee, whereby surplus war housing can be sold only for cash.

Innocent on its face, this means a big advantage for the big real estate operatory, who can afford to put up spot cash for the multiple surplus housing projects. It also means cash for the multiple surplus housing projects. It also means the state of the multiple surplus housing projects where "multual owner-ship" credit plans.

a swift kick-in-the-pants for war veterans who have been bidding for the same housing projects under 'mutual owner-ship' credit plans.

The same housing projects are big ones, ranging from 100 up to 3,000 units in size, veteran purchase; groups cannot compete on a cash basis with the big real estate syndicates. The latter would be in a position not only to put up the money, but, because of the limited cash bidding on such larger transactions, could force down sales prices. Thousing project which would normally sell for about \$8,000,000 (at the rate of \$3,000 average per unit) would bring only \$4,000,000, or a 50 per cent loss to the Government, in a straight-out cash sales.

### Greek Pro-Nazis Need Purging