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Zoning: The Vacuum Must Be Removed

The legislative planning necessary for a healthy, orderly growth in Charlotte's 90-square-mile perimeter area has now been done by City Council. It has adopted a zoning ordinance prepared with professional guidance by the City Planning Commission. When the ordinance is finally validated by publication early next year a growth pattern will be established that cannot be disturbed without the consent of Council. And Council, by its own wise decision, is to receive the advice of the Planning Commission before it takes decisions on any future amendments.

All these are very basic and very vital accomplishments, and our enthusiasm for them is not dimmed by the thought that Council erred in approving some of the 29 pre-adoption amendments. A number of these changes properly represent bad zoning per se. Reasonable arguments supported their passage so that decisions properly could have gone either way. These 29 amendments, however, are now fact. The acreage they involve is insignificant in relation to the total area brought under zoning. Their present importance, if bad zoning was involved in some of the changes, is to suggest safeguards to prevent the same thing from happening in the future.

Council wrote the best insurance against this when it provided that all future petitions for amendments first must go to the planning commission, which did not see some of those approved Wednesday. But more establishment of the right channel is not enough. What matters is what flows through the chan-

nel. The flow could be formal recommendations from the planners that Council could disregard or more easily misunderstand. Or it can be—if Council desires—a flow of mutual and basic understanding about the basic necessities of effective planning and zoning. Council has made a good start but for the future it is essential that it go the whole route. This suggests that the planners' recommendations always should be accepted, not that Council is invariably wrong, but that since planners deal with ideal solutions and the Council with politically practical solutions there needs to be a meeting of minds between the two groups on a person-to-person basis. The primary need is for Council, the ultimate authority on planning and zoning, to instruct itself as thoroughly as possible with the facts and theories on which the provisions of this ordinance is based.

DOSESSED of such knowledge it would not be forced to take the too easy choice of deciding between what the petitioner wants and what the planners want. It could have its own fundamental knowledge of good zoning to reckon with. It could as easily understand why the planners say yes or no as it understands the reason a petitioner requests a change. The proper functioning of a zoning machinery now set in motion demands that Council have a more complete knowledge of the machine's design, and that collaboration replace the vacuum that has existed between the two groups. Otherwise, the City Council is liable to the jostling and throwing of nuts and bolts from the city's brand new zoning machinery.

Blind Drivers And Dead Children

Winter mornings work a bothersome set of circumstances on drivers of cars. Windshields are frosted with stubborn ice, a low sun points into drivers' eyes, streets are often slick.

And the man behind the wheel fumbles at his slow-starting car and fumbles with gloves and heaters, sun visors and windshield wipers. Add one other constant, winter mornings—children on their way to school—and you have the tragic brew that has killed two local youngsters in the past three weeks and caused painful injuries for at least two others. The first reaction caused by the resulting headlines is one we have heard often in recent days: "Why don't the police do something about it?" But city police have made their school safety program a model for the rest of the county. County police dispatch cars to trail school buses every morning and spend weeks every year on their "Live and Let Live" program in schools outside the city. The fault is not with the police, nor with the season, but with ourselves.

How To 'Be Different' For Christmas

AFTER a long, frantic and notably expensive survey of the Christmas shopping situation we have come reluctantly to the conclusion that Ogden Nash was right when he wrote:

Roses are things which Christmas is not a bed of. It is not that the season isn't as fraught with merriment as it ever was. It is just that preparations are more complicated and demand more of the shopper's blood, sweat and tears. For instance, you are told that you can't just go out and buy a tie for Uncle Ben and a nice handkerchief for Aunt Minnie and a doll for little Eva. Oh no, you've got to be different. You've got to show originality. You've got to exhibit a fertile imagination. These are all terms invented for the use of gift counselors, advertising copy writers and developers of new perfume and, translated, mean you're a no-goodnik unless you shun the traditional red and green for chartreuse and shocking pink. The be-different set is pushing a number of items this year and we will pass along a few of their prize offerings—to show you just how far things have gone. For Him: Morning-after tooth paste in

An icy window can be cleared with a few minutes of newspaper and a hairbrush at almost any filling station. And, since ride from the suburbs usually fog up the windshield again before the car's defroster warms up enough to take effect, it should be remembered that it only takes 60 seconds to clear the ice away a second time.

If a route into town is directly into the straight rays of the sun—and the sun figured in one death, several injuries, and untold other accidents this month—the only thing to do is to proceed with extra caution on a more direct route. If the streets are slippery, common sense should dictate a snail's pace, even at the cost of getting to work at 8:35 instead of 8:30.

Winter's ways work against the motorist. But they can be overcome by the motorist who can afford five extra minutes in the morning. He is the one who will not kill a youngster boarding a school bus or walking along the street.

Doctors And Decisions

The President's Answer

By WALTER LIPPMANN

THERE HAS BEEN a notion in the air that at some future date, say in February, the President's doctors will be able to tell him whether or not he should run for a second term. The White House press conference on Saturday, at which Dr. Snyder and Col. Mattingly submitted to rigorous cross-examination, made it plain that while the doctors might advise the President not to run, it is the President himself, not his doctors, who will have to make the final "determination" that he is able to run.

Dr. Snyder, who was pressed on the point, was scrupulously careful to insist that the President's "ability" to run again would, even if everything goes favorably, have to be left to the President's own decision. His decision would be merely advisory. If he wanted to run, whether he felt it his duty to run or whether he was "able" to run, this cannot be a medical decision because the doctors cannot foresee what demands will be made of the President during the next five years. "Is it possible," Dr. Snyder was asked, "to assess how much another term will take out of a man?" To this Dr. Snyder replied, "No, No, it is not. It is not."

The task of assessing how much another term would take out of him is—if the doctors are right in their assessment—only fair to require that the inner circle of the White House and of the Cabinet have been doing. Furthermore, the three branches of the Government, to be sure, has happily not been so much incapacitated as Wilson was. But he has been largely absent from the seat of government. Yet in his absence there has been an agreeable lack of the intrigue and of the throat-cutting which usually take place when teacher is away.

Yet it would be silly, not to say complimentary to the President, to act as if his illness and absence do not make a big difference. On the other hand, they discourage, indeed they tend to prevent, that reappraisal in our foreign policies which should have been, but never was, made at the time of the first Geneva meeting. We have been, instead, a remarkable display of bureaucratic inertia. There has been lacking that element, which the President alone is able to provide, the will to change course and not to be afraid or too proud to do so.

On the other side, the absence of the President has, as Mr. Roosevelt pointed out on Monday, led the administration without a responsible spokesman. For more than 18 months there has been no Presidential press conference. It seems unlikely that the President's doctors will soon let him hold a press conference. The way these affairs have developed, they must be—to use Dr. Snyder's words—"the most demanding" of the President's labors.

off his decision about a second term, the longer will his leadership remain undisputed inside his party. That is why Senators Knowland and Bridges, who are reluctant about his leadership, are asking for a prompt decision, and why Mr. Stevenson wants to put off the decision until about June.

NO SUCCESSOR. Presumably the inner Eisenhower circle, sometimes called the "regency," feel that were the President to resign, the President would at once be a struggle over the succession and that the struggle might go against them. Perhaps the greatest weakness of the Eisenhower administration is that there is no genuine, self-elected successor in the Eisenhower Republicans and the Eisenhower Independents can readily be rallied.

The crucial question is whether the Eisenhower men are using the postponement to prepare a successor. It is not clear whether they are wishing so hard to have the President run again that they are ready to resign for thinking about his not running. If it is the latter, that they are shrinking from an unpleasant subject, they are not playing for too high stakes at too poor odds.

Since there are no precedents for what to do when a President is partially incapacitated, it is only fair to require that the inner circle of the White House and of the Cabinet have been doing. Furthermore, the three branches of the Government, to be sure, has happily not been so much incapacitated as Wilson was. But he has been largely absent from the seat of government. Yet in his absence there has been an agreeable lack of the intrigue and of the throat-cutting which usually take place when teacher is away.

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"Whenever we sing the 'Wifepoop' song and get to that part about, 'we're poor little lambs who have lost our way, bah, bah, bah,' he takes it seriously..."

People's Platform

People Due Freedom To Choose Associates

Editors, The News: CHARLOTTE. There were five letters published in your People's Platform of Dec. 10; three of these letters continued, to say the least, disparaging remarks about the Supreme Court decisions in connection with segregation laws. It seems necessary to remind some people that our government is divided into three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. Your brand of fuzzy-thinking and confusion-spreading is out of date and will not be listened to by even those who really do believe in segregation. REMINDER. Finally, let us all be reminded that neither the Supreme Court nor any other branch of our government has decreed that any man should love his fellow man. It is a matter of choice.

issue that arises—this would be impracticable and also very dangerous. It seems that our republican form of government with its executive, legislative and judicial branches is holding this nation together very well, the carefully built system of checks and balances guards our freedom. Your government changed to a fascist or Communist regime just because the recent Supreme Court decisions do not agree with or help bolster their prejudices? Mark this, Mr. J. R. Cherry: Might does not make right, and this is true regardless of the size of one's majority. You say that the fundamental principle upon which this republic was established was majority rule. That is not true, thank goodness. If this were true, our country would not still be the wonderful place that we know it essentially is. Mark this, Mr. Waldo H. Jones: Your brand of fuzzy-thinking and confusion-spreading is out of date and will not be listened to by even those who really do believe in segregation.

And perhaps some people should be reminded that our United States is a republic, not a democracy. For unless we do not have a national popular vote to decide each

that one should love his fellow man, but love can be legislated, and it is wrong to remove laws that force us, white and black, to be segregated? I think not. If it is natural, as some say, that black and white be segregated, then why must there be man-made, un-natural laws to force segregation upon us? There is but one species of man. Let us have the freedom to choose to associate with people in accordance with their individual merits. Let us have no law that prevents us from exercising this freedom of choice. Let us have no law that says one can not associate freely with this or that individual because of a difference in skin coloration. J. J. JUSTINE

Quote, Unquote

F. Scott Fitzgerald — "France was a land, England was a people, but America, having about it still the quality of the idea, was harder to utter — it was the graves of Shiloh, and the old-fashioned, nervous faces of its great men, and the country boys dying in the Argonne for a phrase that was empty before the war. It was a willfulness of the heart."

Primary Battles Shape Up Between Estes And Adlai

By DORIS FLEESON

TO NOBODY'S surprise, Sen. Estes Kefauver will formally announce today that he will be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. Kefauver headed toward brisk, even rough, primary fights against Adlai Stevenson of Illinois in Oregon and California, and possibly in Florida.

ESTES KEFAUVER will again enter the national primary in New Hampshire on March 13. He won it in 1952 against the then President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had not said he would run and who later announced his retirement from elective politics. Stevenson does not now expect to challenge Kefauver there despite the possibility of forging ahead at the take-off. Kefauver supporters are in charge of the state party machinery and they are clamping at the bit in their anxiety to start another light-light effort in his behalf. The Stevenson argument is that Kefauver has already shaken the hand of every voter in what, after all, is a small state with relatively few delegates. "Why risk that defeat," his strategists ask. The voters have already been filed for Stevenson in Oregon so



—Hesse in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Adlai, The Tail's Twitching!

the two are bound to clash head-on there. It is reported that Governor Harrison of New York, through his Union Pacific connections, will encourage him to western business and railroad law, may be entered in Oregon also.

FIRM ROOTS. Kefauver has just returned from California where he was assured that his grass roots strength was still firm and devoted. With one minor exception, the state's Democratic leaders have declared for Stevenson in an admitted effort to freeze out Kefauver and avoid the kind of family fight which might injure the election unity. Kefauver is confident he won't be frozen out and thinks that he's through if he permits himself to be "blinded." It's already apparent that the fight will be really rough as only California Democrats know how to make it. In fact, the name-calling has started. This gives national headquarters which had been hoping that Republicans Knight, Nixon, Knowland and Kuchel would stage the juicy California fights for a change. There is a distinct risk that Kefauver will break his pick with Stevenson in California, not by what he or Stevenson may do but by what the vol-

the Democratic do in their behalf. Unpopularity in political fights (stares out candidates even if they are not themselves to be elected).

UNDECIDED. Kefauver expects to enter the Wisconsin primary and his present information is that Stevenson would be the Stevenson people say it's undecided. Minnesota, which holds the nation's second primary March 12, has been earmarked for Stevenson since Governor Freeman and Senator Humphrey led the party in endorsing him last year. But Kefauver is hearing from his friends about a "grass roots" rebellion and they are asking him to challenge the leaders' decision. POTENTIAL REACTION. Kefauver has proved friends who wish he would pass this one up and devote himself to the Senate but those who urge the Senate have developed sources of campaign funds, a potent method of winning the argument. The "pro-1956" Kefauver group also suggests that as he is now 52, he hasn't too much time to make his pitch, especially another Democrat is elected next year who might be expected to serve two terms or until Kefauver is 60.

From The New York Times SIMPLICITY OF WINTER

WINTER has its purposes, no doubt of that. If there weren't such a season someone would have to invent it. Or decrease it, though no season ever will be amenable to decrease. We need winter's whimsicalities and extremes, and even its simplicities. When except in winter can one watch the sun rise at a decent hour? Seeing the sun rise may not be a basic necessity, but everyone should have the experience a few times. And when, except in winter, can one learn about ice? Ice is comforting in a glass, but most should know more about ice than can be learned from an ice cube. Ice is a primal element. Or snow. Some of a snowflake's beauty can be transmitted in a photograph, but until one has seen a snowflake in the air, felt it crowding down one's neck or heard it stop a four-foot drift, what does one know about snow? Very little. Take less evanescent matters, such as

soup. Nobody can really appreciate soup until it becomes more than a minor item on a long menu. Soup comes into its own only as a soup, not as a side-dish or a main winter. Or a hearty fire, which is a cheery companion on a fall evening but becomes a deep and abiding comfort when winter's icy knuckles are at the door. Or a house, which never reveals its true character until you've spent a winter in it. But the enduring factor, the really indispensable one, is simplicity. Of all seasons, winter is the only simple one. And man, who has not solved his problems, is ably in problems of his own making, for once in the year faces two simple problems, warmth and food. Winter gets down to essentials, and it does its best to get man there, too. We all struggle against it, but for a few months we get a glimpse of stark and even painful simplicity.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE doctor's "slow down" report to the contrary, the GOP congressional leaders who met with President Eisenhower last week agreed that he never looked better or acted fitter.

Ike Feels Fine But Gadgets Give Orders

ters the President showed no visible signs of fatigue, though he did follow Gen. Snyder's advice by taking a nap during the lunch interval. As the congressional chiefs filed into the Cabinet room, Congressman Leslie Arends of Illinois remarked: "You look pretty good to me, Mr. President." "Well, I feel good," beamed Eisenhower. "Just fine. But those gadgets my doctor has been putting on me recently—they say I've got to take it easy, to slow down, in order to prevent fatigue." "I've never had the right, not sometimes I don't believe them. Actually, I've never felt better in my life."

Nixons Present

The State Department, however, remained unmoved. Secretary Dulles did not come to the Pan American reception. Vice President and Mrs. Nixon stood in line, however, graciously shaking hands. On top of this, Mrs. Katherine Laird of the State Department's protocol office phoned to say that Secretary Dulles would not stay for lunch given in honor of the President of Uruguay by the Organization of American States. "Secretary Dulles will come for 20 minutes and deliver his speech and then leave. Mrs. Dulles will stay for lunch," Mrs. Laird reported. This was what happened. The secretary of state who had emphasized before election that Latin-American nations would "not be taken for granted," read his speech and departed.

Confusion

The GOP chiefs, most of whom had not seen the President face to face since before his heart attack in Denver, came to Washington with their fingers crossed. How were confused by the rowdy statements of Republican national chairman Len Hall on the President's health and the equally not-so-rosy report by Howard Snyder, his physician, that he would have to slow down some figured the delayed medical report was an effort to stall for time in order to box out conservative GOP candidates from the race, and those who saw Ike this week still think so.

Phone Call

The Pan American Union got a phone call from the State Department's office of protocol during the visit of Uruguayan President Batlle Berres to say that Secretary of State Dulles would not be able

With Pleasure

"Why are you having the reception at night instead of in the afternoon?" Mrs. Williams asked. "The secretary of state would come with pleasure." Murphy explained that this made the schedule much too crowded. "We held the reception for the President of Guatemala between five and seven in the afternoon," he explained, "but the President had to leave in the middle of the reception to dress for the state dinner. And when Justice Felix Frankfurter and Justice and Mrs.

Burton Arrives

Burton arrived at 6:30, they asked where is the receiving line? Only to find that the President's Guatemala had retired to dress for dinner."