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School Consolidation: A Proper Prelude

THE decision Wednesday to build new schools "where the people are" regardless of city or county lines contained all of the sweet reasonableness that has been so elusive for so long in planning public education for Mecklenburg County's exploding population.

Obviously, necessity was the mother of invention. Both the city and county school boards face proposed shifts in district lines because of the expansion of Charlotte's city limits.

But the necessity to put schools "where the people are" is no sudden phenomenon. It has always existed. The invention should have come sooner.

The existence of two school systems operating with separate plans for capital improvements represents a luxury Mecklenburgers cannot afford. Wednesday's joint action will have real meaning if it is a prelude to the complete consolidation of the public education systems of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Henry W. Lewis, an assistant director of the University of North Carolina's Institute of Government, made this point abundantly clear in 1949 when he surveyed consolidation prospects here. Said he:

"In an essentially adolescent community, it is imperative that plans for future educational development be made in terms of geographical area, in terms of all the children and in terms of total resources."

Mr. Lewis recommended that "serious thought" be given to a merger.

That was eight years ago. The advantages of consolidation are even clearer today. The interdependence of metropolitan Charlotte and suburban and rural Mecklenburg is clearer than ever before.

With that interdependence comes the necessity for greater uniformity of educational facilities and the necessity to equalize educational opportunities for all children without lowering them for any children. In addition, there is the economic necessity to centralize planning for building programs and school operation. As Mr. Lewis shrewdly pointed out, "common business experience will make the citizens see chances for economy in one planning program, one building program, one maintenance program, as against two of each."

The day of consolidation is coming. It must come eventually. It should come soon.

The Welfare Board's Diligent Response

BENEATH shifting surface events lies a diligent response by the Mecklenburg Board of Public Welfare to alleged irregularities in administration of local welfare funds.

The board's instructions to the state auditor studying the county auditor's allegations are precise and thoughtful. Those instructions to County Auditor Bickel, the board's promise of a full public report of the results, offer timely assurance that a swift and thorough study will be followed by whatever corrective steps are needed.

The board should be commended for its judicious steps so far, and for its awareness of the necessity for full public confidence in operations of the Welfare Department. Its initial decision—to call in an auditor of the State Board of Public Welfare—was entirely proper. Without prejudice to County Auditor Bickel's report, the local board assured that his allegations will be examined thoroughly

and carefully by an auditor primarily experienced in the welfare field and its rules and regulations.

The board's instructions to the state auditor are worth repeating here in brief. In the matter of car allowances and other questioned compensation of Welfare Department employees, he is to determine if payments were made, and the propriety and legality of those payments. In the matter of Poor Fund payments made to a relative of a Welfare Department employee, the auditor is to find in addition whether the recipient of the Poor Fund payments was given preferred treatment. This question, involving the judgment of local administrators, required comparison with accepted procedures and practices in the welfare field.

In sum, the local board has moved for a thorough double-checked analysis which is the only basis on which consistent and substantial corrective action may be taken.

Baseball Conservatives Come To Grief

TO THE customary suspicion that always surrounds New York Yankee fans in the Mason-Dixon division will now be added a day of two derision.

It deserved. The rambunctious Braves bashed Mr. Stengel's lads Yankee style—with faultless fielding, booming bats, penitential swinging and, moreover, with cold nerve. The Braves, however the fact may clash with the sudsy celebrations of Milwaukee fandom, had class. No Series jitters showed up in dropped flies, third strikes or fumbled grounders, none except among the Yankees.

And so in Milwaukee there is acclaim for present victory and grudging forgiveness for the pennant the Braves frittered away last year—if this is not assuming too quick a melting point in the fierce hearts of Braves fans.

But if there is generosity, share it with the southern Yankee fan and cast no more disparagement on his regional loyalties.

He is, in a sense, the truest of conservatives. He found in the Yankees a solid rock in a frantic world, and no reason for day-to-day concern with the infinite details of RBIs, ERs, WPs, LPs and bonus babies. He was devoted to Marse Joe McCarthy, a sound

man who believed in quality and was chary with innovations in the line-up and rookies in the outfield.

He had come finally to affection for Casey Stengel, although his language was atrocious and those earlier years managing some of the rowdier towns such as Milwaukee weren't exactly easy to forget.

And, of course, it was true that the finest integrity of the Yankee front office was absolutely first class. All told, this catcher, this Yogi fellow, could forgive his comic reading habits and his Larsen by his propensity for letting the good times roll so long as they exhibited to innate class that made them winners.

Now the upstarts have won. The rock of Yankee superiority is shattered. The Yankee fan is adrift. And although Mr. Stengel is less likely from now on to be looking out of the Big Eye with throat on his face and a razor at his throat, this is small comfort.

The times have changed—too soon. The Yankee organization may rebuild, but the fan who has never found it necessary to fret with RBIs, ERs, WPs and bonus babies must wonder if it's worth it.

A Simple Answer For 'Engine Charlie'

AT HIS first press conference following Russian claims of successful firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile, former Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson was asked by a reporter if the U. S. could have beat the Reds to the punch with an identical claim.

"Certainly," said Wilson, "we could have if we wanted to."

"Well, why don't we want to?" asked the reporter.

"What good does it do?" replied Wilson.

Involved as it could be, the answer has now been supplied. Mr. Wilson in simple form:

The answer is "beep, beep."

From The Washington Post & Times Herald

WIFE INSURANCE

ALTHOUGH the value of a wife can never be measured in dollars and cents, it will be of some satisfaction to homemakers to know that the business world is setting a price on at least part of their services. One large insurance company has instituted "wife" insurance, which provides widowers with funds to replace some of their wives' contributions to the home. This is based on costs of cooks, nurses, cleaning women, housekeepers. On the assumption that a housekeeper costs \$200 a month, "wife" insurance for a year would be at least \$2,400—for five years, \$12,000.

This is said to be a touchy subject with some wives. Yet for decades life insurance has been carried on husbands on the assumption that widows would need to replace the contributions of family wage earners. Now, many wives are also family wage earners. And those who

work full time as homemakers have an insurance status based on more than a merely household skills. They are deductible for federal and state income purposes. They make possible split income tax returns; and they increase social security allowances. Altogether, the value of wives seems to be rising to a point where some modern equivalent of "bride price" might seem logical.

A bit of planning makes it possible to enjoy two vacations—the boss' and yours.—BOSTON GLOBE.

Two chorus girls were having tea together. "Do you know," said one, "when the manager asked me my age I couldn't remember for the life of me whether I was 20 or 21." "So what did you say?" "Oh, I split the difference and said 19."—MONTREAL STAR.

Knowland Stakes Political Future On Union Reform Plan

By MARCUS CHILDS

BY defying almost every request of public opinion in electing James Hoffa as their president, the Teamsters have set in motion a chain reaction that is likely to alter the status of all union labor in this country.

Sen. William F. Knowland is the first national leader to run for the presidency—and that is just what he is doing in seeking the governorship—on a platform that has as its base a demand for state and national legislation curbing the power of trade unions. But one can be sure that he will not be the last candidate to run with this issue.

through some legalized initiative and referendum to override the action of their officers. 7. Union officers to be forbidden to perpetuate themselves in power over many years without a periodic vote of the membership. Some of these recommendations, such as the protection of union welfare funds, have long been put

Union leaders should not, however, deceive themselves if they are self-defeating because they go so far. The senator in his solid, earnest fashion makes an impressive case for sweeping reform and he does this with only a passing reference to the scandalous disclosures of the McClellan committee.

POINT OF APPLAUSE

He talks about how at the beginning of this century business had got so big and powerful, that congressional investigations showed it to be guilty of all sorts of abuses and the antitrust laws were the result. This leads him to suggest that perhaps the unions should now be brought under those laws.

He talks too, about the example of Scandinavia's voluntary trade unionism and about how union executives must demonstrate their integrity and ability so that they will win the support of the rank and file. His audiences almost always applaud at this point.

SHREWD PLAN

Conviction to one side Knowland is conducting an extremely shrewd campaign. He says that because of his stand, labor leaders have marked him down for "liquidation," but he will ignore their warnings. This is the same approach used by Knowland's mentor, the late Sen. Robert A. Taft, when he was re-elected in Ohio in 1950 by a thumping majority.

Asked whether he intends to make over the Republican Party as a conservative party, Knowland replies that it is not his intention and that the GOP will still have

Open Season On Niggers Would Be Fun

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain THIS piece is not aimed at any whites I know, in particular, but it is interesting to report that in England the other day an old Bailey jury had a man of a murder hook when he killed my wife. The charge was reduced from murder to manslaughter, and he was given only five years because she was a chronic nigger.

I keep telling Mama that it is not my natural inclination to stove in her little pointed head, because I love her dear and would really rather use a pistol, except for the fear of warring trousers in that well-known hot spot. But this business in England puts another face on the matter.

It seems this fellow that done in his ever-loving was a mild sort, so mild that his love-bug kept after him for a divorce. She kept asking him one night after night, to ask him when he was going to file, and one night, more in nightmare than in anger, he just sort of kind of threatened her. It's a lovely quote from the widower: "She kept asking me up and asking me what I might do to do. I had no sleep at all that night. Sometime — it was daylight — I found she had her hand on my throat. The next thing I remember, I was sitting on the side of the bed holding her neck in my hands."

Said counsel for the defense: "This man had no sleep and this happened at a time when some people say life is at its blindest edge." "I submit that this is a case of provocation which has driven this man beyond the limits of endurance."

LONG HISTORY

Well, now, me and Mama got a long history of nag, nag, nag, with her always at it for more money and why she didn't do this and how I forgot to mail the letters, and why don't I get out of here and make her some money like the other men do. One time I try to correct Mama's lack of social presence with a short left, after taking off my glasses because I am a gentleman and glasses are expensive, and she countered with the rolling pin when I was trying to reform her. But now I am not so sure that a little trip to England, to see some shows and . . .

I'm telling you, that England is the only place where a man stands a chance these days. All you got to do to get away with nearly anything is say you were provoked or that you really didn't know it was arsenic you shoved into the tea, and they'll graciously decorate you for what they used to hang you for.

But they got a fair point on this nagging bit. There are times in a well-trusted marital arrangement, when either side of the loving pair wishes he justified in bashing the other. I do not really approve of murder as a solution to disagreement in the love bower, but a poke in the snout sometimes could be better than a million words. More people have talked themselves into divorce courts than those who delivered the hasty kick eye which ended the argument.

Built in I think in most people is a secret desire to fust. A pair of pants, unsewn to the cleaners, constructs a four-alarm argument when the pants are hung. But it never ends so simple. At 2 a.m. Ma accuses Pa of having invented the atom-bomb, although Pa figures, aloud, that Ma not only invented Asia but that is a typical carrier at war. And the lawyers get richer all the time.

Byrd Blasts Almond Back Into Traces

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON Because of the Rock, the Eisenhower administration is prevented from helping state senator Ted Dalton, Republican candidate for governor of Virginia, but it is beginning to appear that Dalton is performing a valuable service for the administration.

Gov. Oral E. Fubus of Arkansas is among but hardly in the President's class as a political heavyweight. Observers here realize that Mr. Eisenhower's big speech with inauguration will come across the river in Virginia where U. S. Sen. Harry F. Byrd is formulating massive resistance. Byrd's standing with the conservative press and his Senate committee on the financial and military policies of the administration.

Dalton's persistent attacks on what he calls "the massive fraud" of massive resistance has made the seemingly-solid Byrd foundations at home. The more trouble Dalton can make at the rear, of course, the better. Byrd or the President when he has to confront Virginia's defiance.

TAR HEEL TACK

Dalton's thesis is that while integration is bad, it is worse to receive Virginia into thinking the state can nullify the Supreme Court's decree. He has called, instead, for a post-assignment plan based on considerations other than such as race, and that Carolina is now going with apparatus of the same.

His campaigning wrong from his Byrd-picked rival for an governor, J. Lindsay Almond Jr., an acknowledged supporter of the "some enforced integration" in Virginia. This apparent heresy promptly brought a table-pounding roar from the state's solidly for massive resistance.

HARD SWALLOW

Almond has swallowed hard and said his remarks had been "littered out of context." In the well-known Roosevelt - Truman style, he blames editors, and the reporter. Then he pounded the table, too, and cried that he would fight as long as he possibly could within the framework of the law.

The party platform is expected to survive election day. There is hardly time for the Supreme Court to rule before then on several Virginia cases and so confront the voters with the alternative of closing its schools.

But the exchange bolsters Dalton's view that Almond actually has little taste for the Byrd doctrine of utter defiance of the Supreme Court. Dalton now is pounding hard on the theme that Almond is "mired in contradiction."

RESPECT DIMMED

Until Little Rock it was felt that Dalton's campaign would give Republican moderation a chance to show whether the confederation usually in the South. But the emotions churned up between the rioters and the bayed hounds of the Army paratrooper dimmed the prospect.

Four years ago, with the "time for a change theme," Dalton got 45 per cent of the vote for governor. Now President Eisenhower, though he never carried Virginia himself, is a handsome, and Republican headquarters dare not even slip some change into state GOP coffers.

Dalton has continued to campaign. By northern standards, he is not a liberal or even moderate, but he is talking sense and he remains undaunted by the Byrd legend.

Brain Lost

His inventive brain is now lost to the government. While this is a loss, a much greater loss was the effect on other less-known scientists. An untold number have either got out of government projects or shied away from working for the government.

It happens that scientists tend to be inquisitive free thinkers. They have challenging minds. If they hadn't they wouldn't be the best of the best. So this revolutionary projects has the A-

The PROGRAM

But also in his stern, determined fashion, Knowland in every speech he makes is advocating a seven-point code of rights for the union rank and file to be enacted into federal law. The Knowland program, for which he will work actively in the next session of Congress, is as follows:

- 1. The right of union members to elect their officers by secret ballot, insuring the counting of ballots against fraud.
2. Union officers subject to recall by the members through secret ballot.
3. No strikes to be called except through secret ballot.
4. The use of union welfare funds to be protected.
5. The use of union funds from dues and initiation fees to be expended only by vote of a majority of the union.
6. Members to have the power



SEN. IRVING IVES An Idea Grows

forward by friends of organized labor such as Sen. Paul Douglas (D-Ill) and Sen. Irving Ives (R-NY). But others would give such broad supervisory power, presumably to a federal agency, as to mean virtually the end of the system of free trade unions as it has developed in this country.

'Easy, There! Watch It! Hey —!'



People's Platform

Traffic Congestion Is Critical Problem

What's the answer? More money. And where is it to come from? The city is bonded to the limit. Shall we stand still or seek other means to procure the money? Some course must be made. Therefore, it would seem that the next move is to go to the opera-

tion of autos and trucks. We may just as well get ready to raise the money for the necessary relief.

This plan will require the consideration and attention of you all; therefore you may just as well do your part now to get this clearance. — S. C. VAUGHN

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

ONE of the least talked about but most real reasons why the United States is lagging behind Russia in scientific research is the attitude of the U. S. government agencies. Scientists have been investigated, hounded, and discouraged from working for the government.

Most notable case was that of Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, in charge of the government atomic project at Los Alamos, N. M., who did such a notable job of speeding production of the atomic bomb. He was publicly investigated on the defense of his country during the war, and after the war he was considered a security risk.

Dr. Urey Hounded

The public has little conception of the lengths to which witch-hunting has been carried. When Dr. Harold Urey of the University of Chicago, one of the original builders of the A-bomb, was traveling through Europe last year, he found himself trailed by State Department officials who wanted to know why they were hounding him. They apologized.

Witch-Hunters Hamper Science

bomb, H-bomb, and earth satellites. And they don't relax the prospect of having their ideas scrutinized by Adm. Strauss, Sen. McCarthy, or Vice President Nixon when the latter was master-minding the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Activities Committee, and lost his government clearance and was admitted he made mistakes in his political associations. A brilliant scientist, he is now unable to get a scientific job and is working on a small cattle ranch in Colorado.

A Teacher Bernard Peters, a refugee from Hitler and a naturalized citizen, worked on the atomic project during the war, was investigated for his political associations, lost his government clearance and is now teaching at a scientific institution in Bombay, India.

David Bohm of the University of California is a brilliant scientist, worked on the atomic project during the war, was investigated for his political associations, lost his government clearance and is now teaching at a scientific institution in Bombay, India.

Prof. Imitis Pauling of California Tech is a Nobel Prize winner and one of the

Witch-Hunters Hamper Science

most brilliant chemists in the world. But because he signed a petition to stop nuclear tests, Secretary of Defense McNamara, and Welfare Overta Hobbs, for whom he was doing some research, were suspicious of his research. He then tried to maneuver with Cal Tech, but the work continued without Dr. Pauling being connected with it—all because he exercised his freedom as a citizen in opposing A-bomb tests.

The National Science Foundation, however, made sure that the work was continued, and the new Secretary of HFW, Marion Folsom, has now reinstated Dr. Pauling's research.

Possible Risks Some of these scientists were indirect. Some unwise. Some were possible risks. But whether they were right or wrong, the government policy of witch-hunting has discouraged innumerable other scientists from working for the government.

"It isn't necessarily the world-famous scientists who count," Dr. Urey told me. "It's the young scientists. You never can tell when some young scientist might tell the world has never heard of will come up with a substantial contribution. These are the men who are being cut out of working for the government."