

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Perimeter Has A Right To Know

A POLITICIAN without promises is much in the position of a carter without a ferris wheel or a dogster in a hat without ostrich plumes. He lacks standard equipment.

If anything, Mayor James Saxon Smith has been too parsimonious with his promises to permittees. Those anxious denizens of suburbia who are about to become city dwellers whether they like it or not. Few oral assurances have been forthcoming about the swift, orderly extension of municipal services to areas scheduled for annexation. Many suburbanites began to wonder, understandably, whether any plans were in the works at all.

Last week, the sensitive antennae of Charlotte's Chamber of Commerce picked up the vibrations of perimeter unrest and transmitted them posthaste to City Hall. The effect was altogether satisfying to all concerned.

Mayor Smith answered demands for reassurance with a handsome statement of municipal intent and a full report on some progress that has already been made.

It was a mighty move to mend the

slightly frayed state of public relations that has existed between City Hall and the fringe area. One can only wonder why such a move had not been made earlier.

Although the report dealt largely with water and left a few questions still unanswered, it represented an honest and forthright attempt to outline to perimeter residents what they could expect in the way of city services. Actually, it was more than a packet of pledges. The promises were bolstered with actual evidence of activity on certain essential projects.

This activity, we sincerely hope, will be accelerated as the deadline for the actual extension of city limits approaches.

We hope, too, that the mayor is aware of the necessity to keep the citizenry fully informed on plans and progress in this omnibus project. This responsibility did not end with yesterday's report. Many more such painstaking and patient explanations will be required in the future as the pattern of progress develops. Perimeter dwellers have a right to know precisely what to expect. So does the public at large.

The Republicans: Blessings Didn't Count

AROUND midnight Tuesday, as Democrat Robert B. Meyner was routing the Republicans in New Jersey, a campaign band in Philadelphia struck up the 'H Franklin D. Roosevelt theme, HARRY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN. If that was an appropriate tune for Democrats—and it seemed such in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia as well—Republicans must have found their music in a mournful, dirge-like, perhaps Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen.

From the tracks of the Russian satellites to the U. S. polling places, the Republicans saw trouble everywhere. They slipped to gain ground against the Democrats in several key elections. They suffered severe setbacks in terms of real power, and even greater reversals in terms of prestige. In sum, the Republicans failed to win the offices they wanted, lost some they already had, and failed to get any good results out of the Eisenhower blessing. Only Vice President Nixon, who had scored a personal triumph not involving the presidency. California, could find any satisfaction in the outcome of a prime political week.

In New Jersey, Gov. Meyner enhanced his own presidential possibilities by defeating a Republican backed to the hilt by the Eisenhower campaign. Malcolm S. Forbes, blessed by Ike and supported on the stump by Nixon and other 'abinet members, was the biggest loser. 11 years of state politics Democrats lost broke up a Republican coalition in the state Assembly, winning the House and losing the GOP margin in the senate. No other items seem worthy of note: 1) Mr. Eisenhower won New Jersey by 50,000 votes last year. 2) Candidate Forbes had told Negro voters that, whatever their preference, it was their duty to vote the Republican ticket this year. Racial matters were the dominant issue in the Virginia campaign, of course. In the 1956 election, the GOP candidate Ted Dalton polled 45 per cent of the vote. This week, advocating limited

desegregation in Virginia in opposition to the total segregation policy of Democrat J. Lindsay Almond, he got only 37 per cent of the vote. The compromise must be (1) that Virginians are determined more than ever to defy the Supreme Court and (2) that the only meaningful endorsement in Virginia politics is that bestowed on Sen. Harry Byrd. Mr. Eisenhower's blessing of Republican Dalton was not helpful — may have been harmful.

In New York, Republican Robert K. Christenberry carried the Eisenhower colors against Democratic Mayor Robert F. Wagner. The Democrat's victory was the largest ever amassed by a mayor in New York's history. His margin in Harlem was 4 to 1, compared with Adlai Stevenson's 2 to 1 margin. Elsewhere in the state, the GOP suffered a net loss of five mayoralties.

It was the same story, a net loss of five, in Pennsylvania where the Democratic mayors of Pittsburgh and Scranton won unprecedented fourth terms and independents elected a Democratic mayor for the first time in 23 years.

Ironically, the best news for the GOP seemed to be that it had prevented itself from committing hari-kari in California. The Nixon-engineered withdrawal of GOP Gov. Wright from the gubernatorial primary contest with Sen. Knowland probably has headed off an open intra-party conflict. But it is by no means certain that Knowland's victory in the primary will assure his victory in the election contest with a strong Democratic candidate. The only assured benefits from the California settlement go to the personal account of Mr. Nixon who has more to fear from winning: Republicans in California that he does from winning Democrats insofar as his 1960 convention ambitions are involved. Considering the total impact of the Tuesday elections, the White House strategy of the GOP for a hard fight in the 1958 congressional elections seems to be something of an understatement.

a Belle France: Two Minutes, Please

WHILE touring Europe in 1926, Will Rogers cabled from Paris one day to the French government was not a government but an old-fashioned movie, here they flash on the screen: "Two minutes, please, while we change premises."

Movies have improved since 1926: French government has left. The most recent political crisis has not the republic more bothered and bewildered than ever. Before Felix Gaillard was finally approved as premier this week by the 400-member Assembly, France had drifted a month without a government. Its financial situation, its colonial policies and its status as a superpower in Western Europe suffered immensely. It is already abundantly clear that M. Gaillard on his post largely because France had to be represented by somebody at the coming NATO conference in Paris.

The 38-year-old Gaillard, youngest head of the French government since Napoleon Bonaparte became First Consul in 1799 at the age of 20, is nevertheless an able and honorable leader. He has already demonstrated a flair for economic innovations as finance minister in the government of Maurice Bourges-Maurery. His courage and brilliance in other political fields have also attracted wide attention.

The United States, which needs France desperately as a strong and good friend in the perilous days ahead, can only hope that the young newcomer can be plucked off luck pull the wobbly republic together again. As it now stands, France's weakness is the West's weakness. And the dubious luxury of the two-minute reel change cannot be afforded much longer.

A FINE, NEW WORD

IN THIS fleshy age — with all its reminders that Johnny can barely read, if at all — the Associated Press tries hard to keep ideas simple, sentences short and words easy to understand. So it was a real surprise to encounter on its sports wire this simple, easy-to-read, five-letter word which, however, seemed not to mean a blessed thing. The item on the wire began: "HS FB games tied out. 'Flued.' A typo for 'flood.' A Dizzy Deanism? Fine, if it referred to baseball, but 'HS FB' obviously means 'high school football,'" and here even the most wide-eyed style does not permit long ties to football.

are those cancelled because players have been stricken by the latest ill the flesh is heir to: Asian flu. What could be more clear? Congratulations to the AP.

This does the language good. No doubt when the Black Death forced the skull-kicking Danes to cancel a game, they announced that it had been "plagued" out. Though the Black Death no longer threatened plague, it was a bit of a change in its meaning — still serves us. And so for centuries may a word which comes so easily to tongue and eye as "flued." Wonder what it will mean once vaccination and medicine have sent the Asian flu the way of the Black Death?

Peace At Home

The President's Vain Hope

By WALTER LIPPMANN

TWICE during his press conference last week, the President was asked questions on the subject of integration and civil rights. The first question had to do with Little Rock and the second with his appointments, which have not yet been made, to the Civil Rights Commission. This is the commission that will authorize Congress in the bill passed at the end of August.

The President said that in Little Rock the situation "seems to improve daily" and "I most devoutly hope and pray that we soon can be confident enough of the situation that we can remove all federal forces" in his comments on the Civil Rights Commission there was no suggestion that in his mind there will be any close connection between the commission, which it is appointed, and the policy of the federal government in dealing with a situation like that in Little Rock.

NO POLICY

This indicates, I hope wrongly, that the President and the administration are not at work trying to form an orderly national policy but are improvising as one agent or another of the enormous problem forces itself upon their attention. How, for example, is he going to handle the situation that he can remove all federal forces from Arkansas? One would suppose that he would lead to the Civil Rights Commission, if it had been set up in operation, to advise him.

It can perhaps be argued that if a narrow construction of the law, the commission is not supposed to have the responsibility and duty of advising the President and the Department of Justice in specific situations like that at Little Rock. On the other hand, the President can, if I read the law correctly, take a broad view of it and especially of that part which says that the commission shall "appraise the laws and policies of the federal government with respect to equal protection

of the laws under the Constitution."

If it is not to be the commission which advises him in a situation like Little Rock, who is it to be? Is it to be the Department of Justice or it to be some anonymous assistant on the White House staff? The President must begin to look for this time that, while Gov. Faubus had put down a challenge which had to be met, the

eral government in the field of civil rights. Surely, it is within the terms of the law that the Civil Rights Commission should be given as a policy-forming organ of the federal government in the field of civil rights.

Two months have passed since the law was enacted, and during these two months we have had Little Rock and all its consequences and implications. But there is as yet no commission looking for it. He wants "people as finding it difficult to get acceptances from the men he has wanted to appoint."

Judging by what he said at his press conference last week, I wonder whether a good part of his difficulty in finding men does not come from his own contradictory ideas about what kind of men he is looking for. He wants "people of thoughtful mind and type whose reputation is that of being a judicial turn of mind, watching these things and deciding what to do." He wants also to "have represented on the commission all types of thinking." He wants "to get a spectrum of American opinion on this matter."

Is it any wonder that it has been hard for him to appoint a commission? On the one hand, he wants men of a judicial turn of mind. On the other hand he wants "all types of thinking." He wants a commission which on the subject of civil rights is as judicial as, let us say, Adlai Stevenson, and he wants also to have represented the thinking of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and of Sen. Byrd of Virginia and of Gov. Griffin of Georgia.

These contradictions come from a hope, which is quite vain, that he can set up a commission which pleases everybody. He should be looking for a commission which is capable of formulating a coherent national policy. What he needs is a clear-headed and resolute commission which will translate into orderly policies for the guidance of the administration what is now a chaos of law suits and court orders.

Satellite Age Befuddles Tom Sawyer Types

By ROBERT C. URQUHART

WELL, Tom Sawyer, I sure am glad you and Huck ain't around today. That goes for Jim and Injun Joe, as well. Things is just too complicated for us river-side boys. You got to be a con-sarned nuclear scientist to play, and none of us is smart enough.

There was a feller, passed on, name of Al Einstein, who maybe was a bit con-sarned but he sure toys the kids use these days, but he couldn't make it in our gang. He was more on the Sid Sawyer side.

But you and me and Huck, we'd be lost in Gumbels, with all them satellite launchers an' "sky sweepers" that is 'a'cher sarn-sweepers that projects target images, ten shots, "on down." And for only \$4.98 for a satellite launcher, when the government can't get one off a ground for more money than we dug up when we found the treasure. Seems to me we were so rich then that old Judge Thatcher was compounding interest at a dollar a day.

CHEAP BALL Now, I mind me well, when I was a boy, you could buy a kind of a baseball for a dime, and a really wonderful Hal C. model mitt for about a buck-fifty. The man who owned the football store, because only the rich kids went in for shoulder pads and cleats, skates were something you strapped to your oldest pair of shoes. In a good year, if you lived where there was something, you might have come down with a Flexible Flyer.

The highly esoteric toys were confined to a steam engine, a toy train, a Maytag cooler, a hand saw, for the double-dome kids, a chemistry set. Man, the sink you could raise with a do-it-yourself laboratory was something. It was able to produce an essence of rotten egg that was nonpareil in Wilmette.

BIGGER THINGS Big kids got bigger things for Christmas — punching bags, .22 rifles, and hunting knives and Scout axes. Iver Johnson put out a mighty fine bicycle for under \$50, and such apparel as mackinaws and hunting boots were not frowned on.

But Sarty never fetched any side rails, reactors, rockets, space ships or satellite launchers. The good Lord knows we were as bloodthirsty as the next bunch, but we assassinated sparrows with air guns, and were uncom-forned with ICBM. We worked upward from sparrows to robins, and let the planets alone.

RAG AND BONE The little girls played "house" in which Mama was right and Papa was wrong, just as the big girls play house today. They also played jack-roads and hop-scotch, and when they began to bond a bit, they played post office and spin-the-bottle. But they were really concerned with toys which produce an automatic atomic fall-out when shaken, nor did their doll babies have apertures for temperature-taking. A rag and a bone and a hank of hair was good enough to satisfy the bull-mother cravings.

Don't worry about us backward kids. We have no hydrogen bombs to keep us out of the post office. There's always the swimming hole, and even Aunt Folly being us, it's better than going around with a Geiger counter to see if the fish are biting.

Sunshine



HERBLOCK

People's Platform

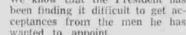
Will Football Stars Save Us?

Editors, The News-Charlotte: Some of my friends seem disturbed over the magnificent feat of the Soviet scientists in the field of rocket propulsion. In fact I am afraid some of us are developing an inferiority complex. There is certainly no reason to feel inferior; even Jim Tatum's boss can beat any Russian football team in existence. The apparent purpose of our odyssey is to turn out all-American athletes. Any



GOV. MARVIN GRIFFIN A New Forum?

administration's role in the whole affair was not wisely conceived and well planned. For example, only confusion was produced by his meeting with Gov. Faubus at Newport, and never since then has the President succeeded in making the country understand precisely what was the issue—namely, the Arkansas National Guard—which required federal intervention. These cat-and-mouse methods will not do in handling so grave and so explosive a problem. The President needs a continuing body of advisers, whose main business in life it is to plan the role to be played by the fed-



MARION B. FOLSOM A Sober Warning

Reds Pushing For New Gain In Education

By MARQUIS CHILDS

AS IMPRESSIVE AS WASHINGTON achievements Soviet Russia is unveiling on the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, insatiable observers are much more concerned over what U. S. Soviets will be able to show in the 40th and the 50th anniversary. Shortly there will be released by the Office of Education being a careful factual and statistical report showing the extraordinary advances of Russian education at every level. It is these advances in the field of basic sciences from the first grade on up through university that seem more significant for the long pull than the Soviet lead at the moment in the conquest of outer space.

In preparation for more than two years the report includes scores with objective evidence the warnings that have come from followers. One of the first to speak out was former Sen. William Benton of Connecticut, who, on a visit to the Soviet Union two years ago, took a look at the intensity and the purposefulness of their educational system and returned to advise Americans from their complacency.

ADVANCE VIEW

While the office of Education report is not yet ready for release, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Marion B. Folsom gave an advance view of what it shows in a recent speech. In Russia, he said, in the past 15 years the average number of pupils per teacher in elementary and secondary education has been reduced from 27 to 17. In contrast, he pointed out, the average in American schools is above 27 and there is a shortage of 125,000 qualified teachers this year.

The study reports that Russian children get more hours of instruction in their 10-year elementary and secondary system than American children receive in 12 years. All Soviet students, under compulsory law, are required to learn, are introduced to books in Grade 4, foreign languages in Grade 5, physics, algebra and geometry in Grade 6, chemistry in Grade 7 and astronomy and calculus in Grade 10.

SHARP CONTRAST

All Russian students graduating from the 10th Grade in 1953, according to Folsom, had completed five years of physics, four years of chemistry, six years of foreign languages and five years of mathematics above the arithmetic level.

This has occurred while the teaching of science and mathematics in American public schools has steadily declined, with science and math teachers being hired at a much higher pay by industry. Stressing that the purpose of American education is the freedom of the mind, Folsom noted that the school system there thus included this warning: "We would be foolish to ignore any threat to our freedom posed by the omnes fact that Russians seem to be putting more emphasis on their education for their masses than Americans are putting on education for our purposes."

BITTER TRUTH

Folsom, more than almost anyone else in or out of government, has reason to know the bitter truth. He has seen the money put up a valiant fight for the school construction bill at the last session of Congress, and in congressional committee and carrying the case to the White House. The bill was finally hurried for a minority report, but aid to relieve the overcrowding in American schools. The President gave the school system the warm support and, in the show-down it was killed by a combination of conservative Republicans and southern Democrats.

CAROL B. MULLIS

from The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

LOS ANGELES HARRY Truman bounced all over Los Angeles just at the time the Republicans pulled what the Democrats called a grandstanding stunt of "Zukov act" — in other words, their purge of Gov. Goodwin Knight. He went out to Disneyland to get a little practice in being a grandstander, even though he was many months before his Dennis gets out of diapers. And he spent some time advising fellow Democrats how to win the next election.

Truman Recalls Firing Of MacArthur

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Lesson In Politics

Pat Brown, California attorney-general who is running for governor against Sen. Bill Knowland, Republican, asked Truman whether he knew Gov. Orval Faubus of Arkansas. "I know him, and I've thought highly

'Got To Win'

When Brown asked Truman for advice about his campaign for governor, Truman delivered a lecture on politics which would have been a lesson for any candidate, whether for city commissioner or vice president. "You've got to conduct this campaign," he said, referring to the race for governor of California, "as if it was a presidential campaign. No state today is more vital than California. We've got to win."