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Now's The Time To Plan School Merger

THE hour of decision is here for consolidation of the school systems of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The hands of the clock point at last to progress.

If the opportunity of the moment is seized firmly the entire metropolitan community can enjoy in the immediate future all of the benefits of more economical and efficient operation of a single system of public education.

The meeting of the Chamber of Commerce has called tonight of citizens and county school administrators, parent-teacher association leaders and interested citizens should supply the necessary inspiration.

This is a job that must be done. There is no reasonable alternative.

We have too much faith in the people of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to believe that the opportunity will be lost.

We have too much faith in the community's civic leadership, its education boards and government officials to think that they will permit the hour to come and go without making the most of it.

Of course, there are problems to be solved and major complications to be unraveled. But there are always problems and complications in the path of progress. Resourceful leadership can dispense with them, one by one.

Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have the leadership.

Furthermore, there is a new awakening in the community to the promise of progress and to the added responsibilities of greater growth. The people who live in metropolitan Mecklenburg have given every indication that they are ready to follow enlightened leadership

Read Any Good Platforms Lately?

"WE pledge ourselves . . . to tax relief for all small and independent businesses by fair and equitable adjustments in federal taxation which will encourage business expansion, and to apply the principle of graduated taxation realistically to such corporate income."

These were brave words in 1956. They gave the Democratic Party's platform the essential trademark of reform and virtue. They fairly rang with high purpose. Not a dissenting voice was raised.

That was in 1956 when Democrats were charging that the Republican Party had been "made captive to big businessmen of small mind."

The nation has now been treated to the thoroughly distasteful manner in which a party can make a mockery of its promises and serve up its virtue on a single to the same "big businessmen" it damns on the hustings.

In the only opportunity the Senate is likely to have this session to bring some tax relief to smaller businesses, the Democratic leadership unashamedly sided with the larger corporations.

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark), the only Democrat to voice the Democratic platform meaningful, flits himself today roaming lonesomely out in the party's left field.

The Fulbright amendment would have reduced the tax rate for corporations earning less than \$225,000 a year from 30 per cent to 22 per cent. All earnings above \$225,000 would have been taxed at 22 per cent plus a surtax of 31 per cent which would represent a 1 per cent increase for the larger corporations. As it happens, 98 per cent of all corporations would have benefited. The total tax reduction would have amounted to about \$400 million.

The amount would not have been lost to the Treasury. Under the Fulbright proposal, it would have been made up by the increase on the larger corporations comprising 2 per cent of the total. The government actually would have gained an additional \$20 million in revenue.

In the roll call vote on the amendment, Sen. Fulbright was deserted by 15 Democrats and aided by five Republicans.

Washington newsmen reported that the Democratic leadership would openly in cooperation with White House lobbyists to defeat the amendment.

The 1956 Democratic platform turned a deaf ear to a surtax of 31 per cent. The brave words were forgotten. It is doubtful that they will be remembered again, until 1960.

That's Uncle Sam's Trouble, Too

GOBBLEDYGOOK not only flourishes in the halls of Congress but also grows wild and lush in the various federal agencies around Washington. Witness this typically tortuous attempt to offer what the bureaucrats solemnly describe as "a further explanation." It is justified in the morning mail.

"The U. S. Department of Commerce today announced approval of proposed amendments to the marketing agreement and order regulating the handling of almonds grown in California . . . An important amendment liberalizes the security provisions relating to a demand of surplus withholding requirements by allowing the use of almonds as well as

commercial surety bonds and cash to be used as security in lieu of meeting withholding requirements during the first part of the season."

It reminds us of Sen. Sam Ervin's yarn about the husband who notified his lawyer he wanted to divorce his wife.

"But you say she's beautiful, a fine cook and a model mother," said the lawyer.

"That's right," said the husband.

"Then why do you want to divorce her?"

"Because she talks all the time," replied the husband.

"What does she talk about?"

"That's the trouble, she never says!"

From The Southern Pines Pilot

A BIG TREE FALLS

THE foolish ways of man, in relation to the wonders of nature, will never cease.

From the time when he began to realize that possession of more effective brains than some of the other animals gave him some power for the destruction and degradation of nature's other products, just as he has so occasionally used it, say, in building a Gothic cathedral—in behalf of the glory of the human spirit.

To smoke out some squirrels, hunters in Chatham County set fire to a poplar tree some 200 feet tall and 21 feet in girth, bringing this landmark crashing to the ground, after it burned all night.

Amidst the reminiscences about its demise was the fact that another ambitious Chatham man, some 40 years ago, chopped off the tree's lowest limb, which was three feet in diameter and 60 feet above the ground, attempting to get a beehive that was in the limb.

Often and often, we have thought about the men who cut vast acreages of virgin timber, all over the United States, and how, in many locations, they did not leave a single original tree standing, not one, in miles and miles. You would have thought they would have left one,

just one, if only for a memento to or a curiosity or something majestic at which to gaze, or as an educational exhibit for posterity—but their minds didn't work that way. A tree was to be cut, it seems, and the bigger the tree, the more savagely and more greedily it was to be attacked.

The Chatham poplar was one tree that for some reason (we are told that it was hollow and that 18 children once got inside it, so maybe it was deformed and was worthless for lumber during centuries) was spared but at last fell as the price of smoking out squirrels.

A man, who lives a mile from the tree, missed it, and we are grateful to see, and it was gone. "When I looked out . . . and saw that it was gone, it gave me a funny feeling. I've been seeing it all my life."

We need more people who get that "funny feeling" before, not after, they set about to wantonly and needlessly destroy the little natural beauty that is left in the world.

Scientific schools are run to teach students how to understand the gadgets invented by back yard tinkers.—MONTZ REGISTER.

Anti-Stalinist Polish Government Is A House Of Cards

By JOSEPH ALSOP

RELIABLE reports from Warsaw suggest that American policy makers will be most unwise to take the new anti-Stalinist Polish government too much for granted as a permanent feature of the Central Europe scene.

From the very beginning of the Polish uprising against Soviet colonial rule, the task of the Polish "National Communists" leader, Wladyslaw Gomulka, has been very like that of Eliza crossing the ice.

For example, it can now be revealed that when Nikita Khrushchev and his party made their famous surprise visit to Warsaw last November, their minds were nine tenths made up to "crush the

poles like flies" — as Marshal Zhukov subsequently said in a moment of evident regret. The price that had to be paid to avert a Hungarian tragedy was Gomulka's promise of continuing Polish adherence to the Warsaw Pact, which meant continued stationing of Red Army troops in Poland.

LINGERING PERIL

Gomulka's situation today is less immediately critical, but it is almost equally precarious for the long run. He would probably be in very deep trouble at this moment if he had not done so well in Poland's recent, curious, semi-free election. The so-called National Group, the far from unimportant Stalinist faction in the Polish Communist Party, actually hoped the election would show a strongly anti-Communist result.

The Polish Stalinists correctly thought that such a result would eventually lead to the forcible re-establishment of full Soviet colonial rule in Poland. But Poland's wise and far-sighted Cardinal Wyszyński understood the danger. He quietly threw the immense power of the Polish Catholic Church into the balance on Gomulka's side. And thus the Polish Nationalist leader won a triumph at the polls.

All the same, Gomulka's present problem looks very grim indeed. To the right of him, he has the restive Polish anti-Communists, which means the vast majority of the Polish people, who admire Gomulka but hate his party. To the left of him, he has the Stalinist faction in the Polish Communist Party, whose designs are strongly supported by the masters of the Kremlin.

Finally, squarely in front of him, Gomulka has the desperate economic situation to which Poland has been reduced by long years of Soviet colonial rule. Here lies his great chance and his great peril. According to one highly authoritative estimate, Gomulka has no more than a year to

give his people a sense of greatly increased well being.

If he fails, he will go down to defeat in a conflict between the Stalinists and the anti-Communists. But this will mean, in fact, that Soviet colonial rule will be re-established in Poland. For the Kremlin will surely seize the opportunity of a Polish time of trouble to help its Warsaw friends "take the naked force of the Red Army."

On the other hand, if Gomulka succeeds on the economic front, his leadership will cease to be challenged, either from right or left. He will at last gain the elbow room to deal with the Polish Stalinists. And the evolution of Poland can then proceed peacefully, not toward our kind of democracy, but at least in a direction that will be bearable for the Polish people and highly distasteful to the Kremlin.

LEADING STRINGS

At present, Gomulka is both being kept on leading strings and actually threatened by the Kremlin. With the economic problem overriding all other, the Soviet economy did promise to Poland is being given in trickles, on a day to day basis. For instance wheat deliveries, according to the same authority quoted above, "have to be rushed to the flour mills, and the flour has to be rushed to the bakeries, to prevent a bread shortage."

By pulling on the leading strings in this manner, the Kremlin has encouraged Gomulka's recent concessions to the Polish Stalinists, which alarmed the West. Washington of course has the opportunity to cut the Kremlin's leading strings. But judging from this distance, Washington seems to be disinclined to grant Gomulka the generous American economic aid he so badly needs.

Yet surely a government that has stood up for Cardinal Wyszyński ought to be good enough

Tut, Tut, Boys—No Views Is Good Views, Y'Know'



Low Pressure Diplomacy

MR. DULLES, having returned to Washington from Bermuda, was at pains to dispel any notion that there exists a British-American agreement on the line we shall take in the Middle East. As a matter of fact nobody had any reason to suppose that there had been such an agreement. But the very fact that the President and the Prime Minister chose to meet at all in such a conspicuous way was bound to cause speculation, and in Egypt at least to arouse the suspicion that the two great powers, separated since last November, were now going to act together.

If, as we know from Mr. Dulles, there were no firm agreements, were there real disagreements? There were not, so it would seem, though there are undoubtedly wide differences of opinion as to what Nasser intends to do and how he should be dealt with. Almost certainly what happened in Bermuda was that the British accepted American leadership in the making and in the conduct of policy in the Middle East. There was no agreement as to what the policy would be, though no doubt various possibilities must have been canvassed. But there was an assent by the British, never formalized in any agreement, that the President, and more specifically that Mr. Dulles, should manage the Middle Eastern business. It was that role that Mr. Dulles spoke with such personal authority at his press conference on Tuesday.

Can We Muddle Through?

It can be argued that this is the best that can be made of a bad job. It can be said that the revolutionary movement among the Afro-Asian peoples, which Nasser led, cannot be stopped by force or bought off by economic concessions. It can be said that the local conflict in Palestine is insoluble in this generation.

But it can be argued also that the best way to deal with the situation is not to muddle through, not to carry water on both shoulders, not to finagle and to finesse, with the object of provoking no one and of placating everyone. For if, as is now contemplated, we in fact appease Nasser both on the canal and on his claim to legitimate rights against Israel, we shall find ourselves much weaker when we come to the next big showdown. We might guess that Nasser will have his

say about the canal but that, except as to Israel, he will not actually molest or discriminate against other ships. We might guess that he will not build up serious military forces in the Sinai Peninsula which could threaten Israel, and that the raiding from the Gaza Strip will not be organized on a big scale. And there would seem to be a fair chance that neither Nasser nor King Saud will in fact interfere with the passage through the Gulf of Aqaba.

Secretary Dulles "Cautious Optimism"

It is not a religious fanatic, but I was raised by a God-fearing mother whose education mostly came from the Bible and the dictionary. I am a true daughter of the South. Both my grandfathers fought the four years in the War between the States. I am one of a clerk at headquarters company. The other served as an orderly in a hospital for the wounded. They say he was a little quiet on the trigger, but he made a good orderly and he was also a great man to have as a grandfather.

But, with understanding, I or rather we, my family was allways had some Yankee friends. For this understanding I am proud. I honestly believe that misunderstanding is three-fourths of the trouble in the world.

As far as Mr. Ruark is concerned, all I have to say about him is that if he doesn't like his Uncle Sammy and if he doesn't like the White and the Red, he can shake a leg—because he

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

ONE GOP campaign pledge pounded on a prior in Nov. 6 was aid for small business. President Eisenhower promised at Lexington, Ky., on Oct. 1: "I shall call for further help to small business with some down specific recommendations for action, including special tax measures." He also said on Oct. 22 that he planned to ask Congress to provide small businessmen about \$600 million in tax relief.

Amendment Defeated

Last week, however, Republicans lined up almost solid against an amendment to the bill by Sen. William Fulbright of Arkansas giving 8 per cent tax relief to small businesses netting up to \$25,000. The final vote was 52 to 33 against the amendment.

After the vote, GOP Sen. Alex Smith

White House Phone Call Killed Tax Cut

(N.J.) rushed over to Fulbright to apologize for his vote.

"Billy boy," Smith said, "you know I'm all with you, but I couldn't help it. I just had a call from the White House asking me to vote against the amendment as a personal favor. I couldn't refuse."

Another Republican friend of small business, Sen. Thye (Minn.) stated that he also had been called by the White House and asked to vote against the small business tax relief amendment. Thye's call was reported to have come from Secretary of State George H. Humphrey. Smith's call from Sherman Adams.

Case Stands Firm

Republican Sen. Francis Case (S.D.), the man who courageously exposed the scandalous lobbying practices of the oil com-

panies on the natural gas bill, was one of the few Republicans who stuck by their principles and convictions. When he voted in favor of the small business, however, he was quickly surrounded by Republican colleagues who demanded that he change his vote. Humphrey was in the room long enough for many to hear.

"I don't write letters one way and vote the other."

McCarthy Supported It

Another of the few Republican senators voting for small business tax relief was Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin. McCarthy's amendment would have given small business a total of \$600 million tax relief, exactly the amount proposed by Eisenhower on Oct. 22. Fulbright's proposal was the lesser of the two proposals, those by Sen. Sparkman of Alabama going much further. They never had a chance.

Marked Sen. McNamara of Michigan when the voting was all over. "A modern Republican is one who talks like Frank Roosevelt and votes like Herbert Hoover."

Probe Of Humphrey?

Investigation of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad and the Cleveland investment firm, Otis & Co., had a recent private huddle with top Democratic leaders re-elected Humphrey was in the Treasury, Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey.

Eaton urged a full Senate investigation of Humphrey, pointed out that the Treasury has not sold its stock in his far-flung M. A. Hanna Co. said the stock had appreciated some \$800 million while Humphrey was in the Treasury, and that almost everything the Treasury handled affected Humphrey's private interests in some way or other.



MR. MARSHAL ZHUKOV "Crush Them Like Flies"

for Sen. Knowland. And surely, after all the grandiose talk about "liberation," it is a bit odd to throw away the remaining chance offered by the deep unrest in Central Europe. For if Gomulka really succeeds in Poland, the possibility of the Stalinist regime in Czechoslovakia must finally become untenable. And even in the other Central European countries where Red Army troops are stationed, Gomulka's success will create a permanently and explosively unstable situation.

The question, really, is whether Sen. Knowland and the administration should be intimidated by the anti-Communist gestures against Gomulka or whether they should stand in the world struggle against the Kremlin's power.

People's Platform

Some Young Readers' Express Appreciation

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

We want to thank you for sending us your photographs of our class to appear in your circles. We appreciate what you wrote about our circles. Many people wrote us a little letter and sent the picture to us from your paper. Our parents liked the pictures, too. Mr. Martin was a very nice photographer. Please thank him, too.

We are learning to read your paper.

MRS. EBERSOLE'S THIRD GRADE Plaza Road School

Columnist Ruark Can Just 'Shake A Leg'

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

This is not supposed to be an argument on the Ruark-McCarthy picture. It is a picture of Ruark at the News for taking space for such stinging remarks to the American people.

I am a long-time widow. But I raised three sons, or rather three staff sergeants and a nurse, a very good one. And for them I can say I am not ashamed of any of them. They lived hard and worked hard and so did their mother.

I'm not a religious fanatic, but I was raised by a God-fearing mother whose education mostly came from the Bible and the dictionary. I am a true daughter of the South. Both my grandfathers fought the four years in the War between the States. I am one of a clerk at headquarters company. The other served as an orderly in a hospital for the wounded. They say he was a little quiet on the trigger, but he made a good orderly and he was also a great man to have as a grandfather.

Incumbents Backed For School Board

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

WE HAVE a very important job to do on April 29, so don't overlook it. We have the school board. Those who have know the past and let's use them until we get in the clear. We have too much at stake.

You are the one I am talking about. Do your part on April 29. When you have a good team keep it, for you cannot tell what a new one may do. The traces are in full power, so let's get them tight. There is no room for question.

The three men that I am talking about are Mr. Brown, Mr. Horack and Mr. Hovson. I am trying to talk to you as well as those who have children in school or will have one or more in school later on.

Remember this: Our schools are preparing our future, so do your part. You may be here or not, but do the job the best you can while here. When someone hands you a card be sure to take a look and see who is on it for the School Board.

—S. C. VAUGHN