

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Tackle Park Problem With New Tool

NEW vision, new funds and some bold water planning are needed to bring public recreation up to snuff in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Present programs must be expanded to keep pace with the metropolitan community's swift growth.

Thousands of new homes are being built in suburban Mecklenburg, most of them on small lots. For active, growing, restless children, far too little land is being left for play. Already, in some neighborhoods, opportunities to provide places to play are being lost.

Even within the city limits, serious recreation needs are going unmet.

A series of articles by Charles Kuralt has gathered up many of the scattered pieces of the problem for News readers this week.

The time has now come for solutions.

One strong new tool is available, if the community will only grasp it. It is the Metropolitan Recreation Commission as recommended in the Allen Report to develop a comprehensive coordinated recreation system for the whole of Mecklenburg County.

The problem is countywide in scope. Plans to solve it must logically be prepared on a countywide basis.

Once a Metropolitan Recreation Commission is established the financing of the program will be a matter for park officials with the assurance that some sort of over-all perspective has at last been achieved. Until that time—until the metropolitan community is willing to view its recreation problem as a whole rather than piecemeal—talk of a large bond issue is more than a little ill-advised.

Foreign Aid Is A Vital Investment

SEN. William F. Knowland has never been reticent in expressing his opinion of any phase of U. S. foreign policy, and his sharp indictment of the foreign aid program this week was delivered with characteristic bluntness.

While Congress is taking a hard look at the highly sensitive issue of U. S. financial assistance to Poland as well as the requests of nations which have previously been helped, the California Republican has stated that "we cannot buy international friendship any more than personal friendship can be purchased."

As a truism, Sen. Knowland's assertion stands unchallenged. But this criticism, which is being voiced increasingly of late, points up a fundamental misconception of the aid program.

It would be praiseworthy indeed if it were the U. S. could afford to be wholly altruistic in extending aid to other nations. The American taxpayer, however, is already shouldering a staggering defense burden plus the cost of normal government operations and he can hardly be expected to look cheerfully on foreign aid if he regards it as primarily a charity contribution.

States rather, in the cold, practical terms of the businessman, foreign aid is an investment. The dividends sought are not dollars, but assurance that the recipient will not, through financial or military weakness, fall into the Russian hands of the U. S. ally.

It is the aim of U. S. aid to Greece and Turkey under the Truman Doctrine and it remains the purpose of our aid today.

As is true with almost any investment, foreign aid involves an element of risk. If U. S. money should fail to achieve the purpose for which it is spent—if the recipient nevertheless falls under Soviet domination—then the taxpayers' dollars are lost. If Russian subjugation can be avoided by a grant of aid, the investment pays off handsomely.

This, then, is the yardstick which

must be applied to any nation's request for aid.

In the case of Poland, the risk involved in granting the \$300,000,000 that Wladyslaw Gomulka's government desperately seeks is big, but the returns which stand to be gained are bigger.

Poland has not renounced communism as an economic system, but it has rebelled against Russian domination. M. Gomulka has carefully nurtured the tiny seed of independence which was conceived in the Poznan riots last fall, but it seems clear that he cannot keep it alive and growing unless aid is forthcoming from the U. S.

We clearly cannot expect Poland to cut all ties with Russia and join a Western alliance. An attempt to do so would doubtless be met with the same type of Soviet reprisal suffered by Hungary in the short-lived revolution of last fall.

But the Poles have opened a niche, however small, in the Soviet empire's armor and if they can successfully make their own way within that niche, intervention of the U. S. stands to benefit in that we will have one less potential enemy to worry about, and other satellite nations may be encouraged to follow Poland's example.

It may be that the risk in Poland is too big for the U. S. to take. After hearing expert testimony on the situation, Congress may decide that we cannot afford to take a chance in this instance. But in deciding whether to help Poland—or any nation requesting U. S. aid—the criterion which should be employed by those who hold the purse strings should not be whether a grant would "buy the friendship" of the receiving nation.

The paramount consideration must be whether U. S. aid will keep the recipient strong enough to prevent it from falling prey to the Soviet imperialists. If the taxpayer's dollars can achieve this goal, the dividends he receives in terms of security will make his money well spent.

No, Charlotte Will NOT Get Lost

WE HAVE caught them red-handed this time.

A frontier village answering to the name of Greensboro has been plotting dark deeds against Charlotte for ages. It is all a case of envy, of course. We are rich, populous and occupy the state's only elephant preserve.

There has always been some loose talk in Guilford County about annexing us, ceding us to South Carolina and turning us into a poke salad ranch. But we have never been able to get the goods on them and actually prove evil intent.

Now we have them cornered. The good, gray GREENSBORO DAILY News placed us editorially Friday in the "19th Congressional District."

Since North Carolina has only 12 congressional districts and since the "19th Congressional District" would probably be located somewhere west of the Chickamauga Reservation in Tennessee, if some overlapping were allowed, we think we have grounds to suspect conspiracy.

No, Greensboro. We will not move to the "19th Congressional District." But you can go straight to the 20th.

From The Richmond News Leader

IT AIN'T THE FISH, IT'S THE FISHING

EVERYONE has at one time or another heard a fisherman deliver himself of that old saw, "I don't care whether I catch anything or not. I just go fishing for relaxation." This is arrant nonsense, as every true fisherman knows deep down in his heart. Fishing without the intention of catching fish is a ridiculous business.

What the fisherman really means is, "I don't have to catch fish every time I go fishing in order to enjoy fishing." But there has to be the possibility. Otherwise fishermen could relax just as comfortably in a field or a meadow, and few of the fishermen who are to be found dangling worms in the middle of a meadow.

Take, for example, Chickahominy Lake. This past week end there were few fish indeed who became entangled with fishermen's hooks on Chickahominy Lake. Yet the lake, and the river above and below the dam, were filled with fishermen.

Make no mistake, the fishermen were enjoying themselves. They were out on the water in the sun, with a pleasant breeze blowing from the south and west. The water was cool, but not cold. The sky was mostly blue. The air was fresh and clean, and the boats rose and fell lightly as the wind stirred up the waves. It was, in short, "a perfect day for fishing."

Except that the fish were not in agree-

ment. Not a sign of bass or crappie or bream or pike, for most of the visiting fishermen. The fishermen were spinning and casting with fantastic assortment of artificial lures. They were trolling with spinners and spoons. They were fishing for crappie with tiny minnows, and for bass with big minnows. They were angling with worms and shrimps. Some were even using snail lures, though no snail were nearabout.

They were, as we say, catching practically nothing. But they were industriously trying to catch fish. And they were having a fine time, fish or no fish.

Did that mean that fish had nothing to do with fishing? Not at all. Had there been signs posted along Chickahominy Lake, reading "Lake Drained—No Fish Left," you would not have seen an angler that week end.

What mattered was that there was the chance to catch fish. No fisherman but who hoped idly that his next cast would be rewarded by a sudden rush of a large-mouth bass. No fisherman but who knew that if there were fish anywhere in Virginia, they would be in Chickahominy Lake.

And that is why hundreds of Virginians and out-of-staters enjoyed a pleasant day or two in the sun and fresh air last week end, and came home to report the lack of success as follows: "It was a nice day, though, and I don't care if I didn't catch anything anyway. It was just the fun of relaxing that I want."

Billy Mitchell Case Shadows Coming Court Martial

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
FORCES are being aligned on both sides for a contest that promises, in Hollywood's favorite expression, to be super-colossal. That is the general court martial in Huntsville, Ala., next month of Col. John C. Nickerson Jr.

Already 180 reporters for newspapers and press associations have indicated they will cover the trial of Col. Nickerson on 18 charges involving the release of documents containing secret information. The networks have asked for facilities to televise and broadcast from the courtroom.

This is ample evidence that the Nickerson case is far more than an issue between the military services. It has, in fact, political, economic and international aspects that will make the town of Huntsville a stage of extraordinary importance. It already is being called a Billy Mitchell case in reverse, with Nickerson standing for the Army's right to develop guided missiles against the claim of the Air Force to take over the whole field.

ISSUE DRAWN

The issue was drawn when Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson last year moved to put an end to further work on the Army's 1-50-mile Jupiter missile at the Redstone Arsenal at Huntsville, with the Air Force ultimately to have full jurisdiction over missile development. Nickerson, in his real as coordinator of the project,

prepared a memorandum containing some information classified as secret which he made available to congressmen and—the essence of the charge against him—to a newspaper columnist.

Huntsville is the home town of Sen. John J. Sparkman, who is taking a direct and active interest in the case. Robert Bell, a partner in Sparkman's former law firm, is Nickerson's chief counsel. A fund has been raised to hire Ray Jenkins of Knoxville, Tenn., who gained prominence as one of the attorneys in the Army-McCarthy hearings, to serve with Bell and with the military counsel provided for Nickerson's defense.

Already, according to Spark-

man, \$142,000,000 has gone into the Army's Ballistic Missile Agency in buildings and in development of the Jupiter and other rockets and missiles. Another \$25,000,000 is being spent. It is claimed that the Jupiter has gone to a height of 640 miles on a flight of 3,400 miles, all of which was monitored by the extraordinary electronic devices that science has put at the command of the military.

Apart from the money spent on the project, which means a lot to a town of 50,000, there is a human factor. To the project have come most of the distinguished German rocket specialists who during the war worked on the island of Peenemuende in the Baltic developing the V-1 and the V-2

which caused such havoc in Britain and Belgium.

Working for civil service salaries, these space men, of whom Werner von Braun is the best known, settled down in Huntsville and became part of the community.

They believe passionately in the Jupiter. Moreover, they say they will not work for any other government agency. A specialist such as von Braun, who talks about space ships and trips to the moon as though reservations could be made tomorrow, would be worth a salary of at least \$100,000 a year to any of the big aviation or electronic companies.

This raises one of the submerged issues that may or may

not come to light when the trial begins on May 15. Redstone Arsenal is a government agency and it is, therefore, regarded with jealous suspicion by the big West Coast aviation companies doing much of the missile work under contract with the government. If the Army Ballistic Missile Agency could be liquidated or greatly curtailed, they would be likely to profit.

On the international side, at Bermuda, President Eisenhower promised to supply Great Britain with weapons developed by the United States, including the 1,000-mile missile. A report, subsequently denied, said it would be five years before this missile could be delivered to Britain.

At a trial, an effort will be made to show that if the Redstone project is continued at its present pace, the British will get the 1,000-mile missile in two and a half years. In terms of the balance of power with the Soviet Union, this is of vital importance.

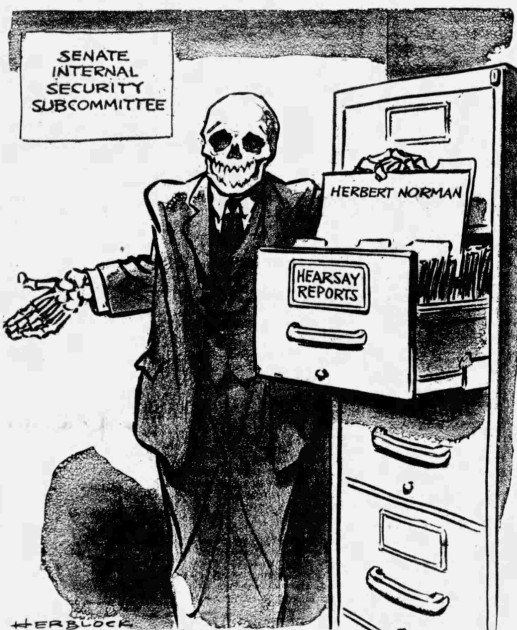
FANTASTIC VISTA

As if all this were not enough, it is expected that the trial will open up the vista, a foreseeable continuation of years ago, of a military airplane and its pilot are both obsolete. That will mean a fantastic adjustment in habits and thought.

There are occasions when in a single human drama all the conflicts of an era are concentrated. The Nickerson trial seems likely to be one of those.

'In A Single Drama The Conflicts Of An Era Are Concentrated'

'His Name Just Happened To Come Up'



People's Platform

Let Williams Take A Slow Boat

Editors, The News: Charlotte

YOUR two recent articles concerning the vituperations of one Ted Williams are enough to turn one's stomach. Mr. Williams is apparently raising the dickens because U. S. Senator Taft didn't get him out of duty in Korea. (2) This is a lousy government, and (3) Joe Louis' income tax debt should be erased from the books. The "Sluggo" seems to have stopped a pop fly with other than his glove.

Just why did he expect to be relieved from duty in Korea? Most others served in both World War II and the Korean War. Did he expect to get off the hook because he's supposedly a hotshot baseball player? So far as I know, his biggest claim to fame is

asked this special privilege to begin with.

What makes Joe Louis more exempt from taxes than Joe Doakes? Does Mr. Williams think the rest of the country should make special allowances for sports personalities just because they're in the public eye? Granted Joe Louis has an unbelievable debt for back taxes but that's because he made more money than the average taxpayer and he never paid any taxes on his money.

On Williams' dislike of our "lousy government," I suggest it would be mutually advantageous if he'd take a slow boat to China. It would at least keep him out of hearing of the many youngsters who believe baseball players are examples to follow.

—DOROTHY A. PRESSER

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

AT 4:30 the other morning I was faithfully following Secretary Wilson's advice "to do what's right and you'll sleep well with yourself," when jubilant Texas began calling me to announce the sweeping victory of Ralph Yarborough for the U. S. Senate.

Dog Story

"It's like the sales meeting of the dog food company," explained Bill Kirtrell of Dallas.

"The sales manager said: 'We've got the best publicity in the world. All the newspapers are for us. We've got the best advertising in the world. And we've got the best sales force in the world. Yet we're not selling dogfood. What's the matter?'"

"That," concluded Kirtrell, "was the

trouble with the Republicans and the Shivers Democrats. They had all the newspapers in Texas, all the money, all the publicity, and all the advertising, but the people didn't like em."

Conflict Of Interest

While Congress is investigating conflicts of interest, some of its own members have been caught in shocking conflicts that would have caused an administrative official to be fired. Latest example is Arkansas' affable congressman Oren Harris, who bought a quarter interest in a television station at the same time he passes on television legislation.

Big Bargain

What's more, he paid only \$5,000 for 25 per cent of KRBB-TV at El Dorado, Ark., which is probably the year's biggest television bargain. He couldn't have done better on one of TV's top jobs shows.

Of course, Harris happens to be chairman of the powerful House Commerce Committee which not only handles all

television legislation, but also has power over the Federal Communications Commission. In fact, he personally presides over the communications subcommittee which deals directly with TV matters.

Under The Thumb

This means the FCC, which regulates TV stations, must come to Harris for legislative favors. To put the agency even more under his thumb, he recently formed a special subcommittee to investigate the FCC.

Obviously, Harris would be a terrific asset for any television station. The FCC would think twice about turning down a request from a station partly owned by him.

Total Cost

This may explain how he was able to buy one-fourth of KRBB-TV at such a remarkably low price. FCC records show the station's "net capitalization" is \$150,000. One-fourth of \$150,000 is considerably more than Harris' \$5,000 purchase price.

Negro Press Given Special Attention On Nixon's Junket

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

THE STORY of how the State Department achieved full coverage for Vice President Richard M. Nixon's long African journey, with special attention to the American Negro press, has begun to appear. Like so much else, it all boils down to the economic factor.

What the department did was to order the journey, press included, stamped an intergovernmental agency project. It could then offer it, via the tax-supported Military Air Transport Service, at fire-sale prices which were less than one-half the estimates furnished the State Department by the commercial airlines.

State helped out in other ways. It cut the per-person cost by assigning six members of the State Information Agency and a department press officer to the press plane. This officer was in addition to Nixon's personal press spokesman, Bill Henry, who took leave from his Los Angeles Times column and radio work to make the trip. State allowed two Negro publishers to include their wives at the bargain rate.

FLAT CONTRADICTION

In its own announcement that the trip would be by MATS, State asserted that no commercial airline could enter part of the area Nixon proposed to cover. This is flatly contradicted by Trans World Airlines, which wanted to charter the press plane and gave State estimates on it.

In the end, 32 passengers, and at times 34, occupied the press plane. For their 18,000-mile, 22-day trip they will be billed not more than \$1,000 each.

The party included, besides government employees, nine Negroes accredited to Negro publications and 17 reporters and photographers from the press associations, major broadcasting and news chains, and news magazines.

TYPICAL GROUP

This 17 was a typical national news story group and most of them, if not all, would have made the trip without regard to cost. Indeed, Nixon was a special news responsibility at the time because the President was ailing with his cough and cold.

In discussions of how the party was put together, the State Department officials, who did the actual work, differ. One says they had trouble up to the last minute getting people to go even at the cut rate. Another says the plane filled rapidly and had to be limited on a first-come, first-served basis.

State denies it solicited the Negro press, insisting that the large

proportion resulted from the fact that the vice president would visit the newly created free Negro state of Ghana. Most of this group came from out of town, and State officials admit they did some long distance a telephoning to reach them.

At the same time, no general order reached the press corps here or its prominent members that State had arranged such an attractive travel bargain. For so long a journey, the cost is an important factor for many correspondents who otherwise would be tempted.

RULES REVERSED

The Defense Department's ready cooperation in the Nixon enterprise represents a reversal of the rule laid down by Secretary Charles E. Wilson when he first took office. Neither MATS nor the services, he ordered, could take reporters overseas on routes covered by commercial airlines.

The intergovernmental agency since last got general attention a few years ago when late Harold Talbot, then secretary of first look office. Neither MATS nor the services, he ordered, could take reporters overseas on routes covered by commercial airlines.

The political dividends to the vice president from the full coverage of his African trip, especially by the Negro press, are obvious. Nixon expects to be the GOP candidate in 1960, and for some time he has been shooting for the crucial minorities in the pivotal states where elections are won and lost.

Quote, Unquote

In the old days, if you wanted to appear cultivated, you read Pope. Today you buy a Lincoln and travel MATS at the Stork Club. —Randall Arell.

There is a man a man who, has he invented a phrase, thinks he has solved a problem.—Sir Herbert Williams.

"Who comes uninvited sits on the floor."—Turkish proverb.

"Nobody can be as agreeable as an uninvited guest." —Kin Hubbard.

Notice in Scottish church: "Would members in the habit of putting buttons in the collection plates instead of coins, please use their own and not those from the new seats." —Montreal Star.

Yarborough Beat Press And Politics

WASHINGTON

The records also show that the station cost an estimated \$110,000 to build.

More Power

Significantly, Congressman Harris is now pushing an application to increase KRBB's power from 24,000 to 315,000 watts, which will make the station worth over \$350,000.

KRBB-TV is the only television station in such Arkansas and has its choice of network programs. It can be picked up by 325,000 sets, which gives it an estimated viewing audience of 800,000.

Other work Harris is buying in a valuable piece of property for his trifling \$5,000.

Still In Debt

Dr. Joe Rushton, KRBB-TV president, explained to the column that the station is still in debt, so Harris' bargain is not as big as it appears. He offered Harris a quarter interest because they are boyhood friends, he said, and because Harris helped get the station started.