THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Once More Unto The Breach, Charlotte

TWENTY thousand Mecklenburgers could be wrong if they think their names on petitions will guarantee passage of the city limits extension bill by the General Assembly.

The petition campaign, something of a setting up exercise for an apathetic city, was impressive and praiseworthy. But its success can be misleading if citizens interpret the signature totals, more than doubling those on opposing petitions, as proof of victory. It must be remembered that the foundered bill has had 3-1 support of the Mecklenburg's House delegation all along, and still there is no visible trend in the House's thinking on the bill.

It can be said only that the House still has its doubts. The Local Government Committee's call for a public hearing Thursday attests to that. And as long as doubts are present, further proofs are demanded from proponents of annexation.

Those doubts must be scotched once and for all at the public hearing. It will require the presence of a large number of flesh-and-blood voters to give life to the stacks of petitions now before the committee. Nothing is quite so impressive to a legislator as a voter on the hoof.

The commendable petition campaign could go for naught if annexation opponents make a bigger and better impression on the committee. And this would be a waste of more than ink-and-paper petitions. It would choke the growth of this city.

The opponents of annexation are resourceful and determined. The only way proponents can win is to be more resourceful and more determined. The deadline for a showing of that determination is 9:30 a.m. Thursday when the committee convenes for the public hearing.

The place is the Highway Commission building, just across from the capitol.

Be there if you can.

Charlotte needs you there.

Sex Crime: Candles For A Dark Terrain

IN its approach to certain sex offenses, North Carolina still lives in the dark dawn of social progress.

Seldom has so much ignorance, outrage and stubborn prejudice surrounded a single human condition.

Psychiatrists have pleaded in vain for understanding but the law has remained firm, unsusceptible to scientific fact, cruel. Imprisonment has become the only recognized solution.

It was this situation which caused Attorney General George B. Patton, while still on the Superior Court bench, to complain here in 1955 that the system "puts judges in a terrible position." The legislature, he said, "sort of winked at the situation."

The legislature is being called upon today to answer that challenge.

A bill introduced by Rep. Frank Snepp of Mecklenburg and others proposes the creation of a special commission to study North Carolina's laws dealing with sex offenses. There is urgent need, said Mr. Snepp, for a "sensible code of laws" on the subject, possibly taking treatment into account.

It is an admirable measure. Sex crime is a legal terrain full of vast, uncharted areas. The lighting of at least a candle would represent progress.

The makeup of the commission is extremely important. Rep. Snepp has wisely stipulated that medical men serve—two of whom would be required to have psychiatric training—along with a judge, a practicing lawyer, a solicitor, a law enforcement officer and two representatives from the public at large.

The commission should certainly have the assistance of a staff of research sociologists, psychologists and psychiatrists fully equipped to assemble and evaluate all known evidence and information on the subject. There has been a dangerous gap in the past between science and the law in this field of interest. It is a gap that has prevented one from making use of the contributions of the other. It is a gap that has actually created the misunderstandings and failures of the past.

That gap must be bridged.

No easy solutions will be forthcoming. The commission cannot simply call for the treatment of sex offenders without deciding where they should be treated and how. The state's mental institutions are already full. There are not even enough doctors to go around.

If the job is done properly a lot of study and a lot of planning will have to be done.

It will, however, be well worth the effort.

A Salute To Charlotte's New Mayor

CHARLOTTE has selected an able and honorable public servant as its new mayor.

James S. Smith has demonstrated over the years a keen sense of duty and quiet conscientiousness in dealing with municipal affairs. His record as a City Councilman has been good. It reflects a refreshing independence of any binding political ties and a desirable straightforwardness of approach to community problems.

In fact, Mr. Smith comes to his new post unusually well equipped in outlook and experience to do a creditable job.

His task will not be a particularly easy one. The mayor's office in City Hall is a high and windy place. It is sometimes easier to get there than to remain there in comfort and contentment. Public pressures are intense while the power to deal with those pressures is necessarily limited.

A successful mayor must possess great staying power, unusual courage, well developed powers of persuasion, a knack for diplomacy, a great deal of vigor and imagination, the patience of Job, more than a little humility and a dedication to progress.

The City of Charlotte is today moving rapidly toward a finer future. How it gets there, and how fast, will depend in large measure upon the kind of leadership it will get from Mr. Smith. We wish him well.

The Senate's Silly Safari Against Sin

IN A MISGUIDED safari against sin the North Carolina Senate is in danger of being trampled by its own runaway logic.

Senate Judiciary I Committee took the official position yesterday that the mothers of two or more illegitimate children should be sterilized as "grossly morally delinquent." Thus by its own declaration it is attempting to legislate in the field of morals with a surgeon's scalpel. But if that is its real as well as its avowed purpose, it cannot in reason or logic exempt fathers of two or more illegitimate children. Nor can it logically exclude drug addicts, safe crackers, shoplifters, pickpockets, burglars, habitual reckless drivers, or anyone else who twice offends against the moral code. If the Senate really believes sin can be hacked out of humanity, let it make a comprehensive effort to do just that.

Judiciary I Committee is shamming, of course. Its real concern is not morals. It's money—that money spent on public support of illegitimate children. But rather than address itself forthrightly to the issue and simply deny welfare funds to those children, it undertakes to interfere with the creative process of one group of errant human beings while overlooking the sins of other groups.

If the Senate insists on believing—in the face of contrary evidence—that welfare support of illegitimate children promotes illegitimacy, its only honest course is to shut off those funds and vote the increase of taxes for public welfare that such action would entail following forfeiture of federal funds.

Judiciary I Committee's masquerade behind the face of public morality makes the Senate look silly.

From The Christian Science Monitor

FINGERPRINTING THE SOPPA

THE Abominable Snowman had better watch out. He may have made himself so scarce that Himalayan expeditions are giving him up in favor of lesser game. An American group now in Nepal for the express purpose of encountering the A. S. has apparently been turned aside from this aim after coming upon numerous footprints of another mysterious Himalayan creature—the Soppa.

The Soppa, like his elusive pal the Snowman, seems to exist mainly as a footprint. The hill people of Nepal describe him as a bearlike snow animal, which really gets us no further than we got with A. S. All we know is that neither of the creatures is the least bit Sopperific. In fact, they seem to be much more awake than the humans searching for them.

A zoologist has informed us that an expert can tell from an animal's footprint not only what species made it, but the weight, sex, age, and size of the beast. Imagine being able to tell from a big toeprint whether the one that got away was a Snowman or a Snowwoman!

If our zoologist is correct, we don't see why anyone bothers to look for Snowmen and Soppas any more when he can simply pack away a few footprints and reconstruct the animals in comfort at home.

Should this reconstruction system fail, the explorer can always mount the footprint in his trophy room, with a caption reading, "Soppa stepped here."

People's Platform

Schools & Judges

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WONDER if the score of businessmen and civic leaders who took a look at the $30 million investment in city and county schools really saw how they had been short-changed?

Did they note on schools less than a year in operation, how the paint was falling off, how the porcelain panels under windows were chipped and rusting, how the gymnasium floors were cupped and warped, and on rainy cold days the kids get wet walking under the fancy open passageways that separate the spread-out buildings; how presswood hollow-core doors were used for outside doors, and already had holes kicked in them, and if they did, did they inquire how far behind school maintenance was trying to keep up with this esthetic new architecture?

Did they inquire cost of these spread-out schools, against cost of twenty or regular construction? Would those same businessmen and civic leaders hold still for this same type of waste in their own construction? It was said they would be driven past many others, and I bet that was fast. You can sure bet it was a peek, fast one.

—JACK WILLIAMS

JUSTICE REED
A Lot Of Laughs

President Johnson Knew His Potatoes

Pittsboro

Editors, The News:

THERE are two items that I wish to discuss briefly. First, that of the courage and fidelity to the Constitution of the United States of Andrew Johnson. The recent potato famine in Ireland reminds me of what occurred in one of his campaigns in Tennessee for the House of Representatives. He opposed government aid to the Irish peoples, saying that there was no authority in the U. S. Constitution for using American taxpayers' money for the relief of peoples of a foreign country.

His opponent, thinking he had Johnson on his hip, portrayed him as hard and callous and called attention to the hard lines in his face. Johnson remained motionless and preserved a poker-like face. When the tirade was over, he rose and drew from his pocket a cancelled check payable to the Irish Relief Fund of New York City for $1,000, and asked his opponent if that indicated that he was cold and callous, unmindful of the suffering of others. His opponent withdrew, leaving the race without opposition.

And second, your dissertation on Associate Justice Stanley Reed, of the U. S. Supreme Court. I worked under that man long before he was made solicitor general, as successor to Judge Crawford Biggs, who simply failed to function in that office.

The Frazier-Lemke Farm Mortgage Act was stricken down by the U. S. Supreme Court, I worked under that man long before he was made solicitor general, as successor to Judge Crawford Biggs, who simply failed to function in that office.

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Unlike the Suez Canal, the Panama Canal runs through territory the United States government bought and paid for many years ago. But this doesn't face the Russians. They are telling the Panamanians they have a right to revoke the sale, and could then get rich on canal tolls.

Chiang Protests

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has sent a frantic message to President Eisenhower, pleading that he not allow American reporters to visit Red China, of the Fifth Amendment. The assistant attorney general argued that the acts were in part matters and had to be reconciled if possible. When I got that for I returned it to Mr. Reed, with the remark that if the gentleman did not know any more about constitutional law he should be down on some creekbank studying the nature and habits of red ants rather than in Washington at great expense to the American taxpayers, as one was a grant of power and the other a limitation on that power, or the motor and brakes on a car. Mr. Reed merely laughed. However, he said that it was the usual thing for the attorneys to sustain the acts of the administration of which they were parts.

From then on Mr. Reed had much fun out of me, saying that Judge Chestnut of Baltimore and I were the only two lawyers of consequence that held the act invalid, that even that old rabid Republican judge Dawson of Louisville, Ky., had conceded it was a valid act. I argued that we should wait and see what the high court had to say, that I, of course, would acquiesce in its holding, but would be unconvinced still.

When Mr. Reed was stricken with a heart attack, Mr. Truman became convinced that he would, of course, retire. So he called Sen. McGrath out of the Senate and made him attorney general, as he wished to give him some of the veneer of an attorney. But Mr. Reed held on and on, and as you say, became the balance of power on the court.

Mr. Reed was mighty good to me, though he said I was unusually frank and candid in my expressions, sometimes even caustic. I wish him manly years of retired happiness.

—JOHN W. HESTER

March To Lincoln Memorial Planned

Monroe

Editors, The News:

MAY 17, 1957, is a day when the shame of America's bigotry shall be brought to the attention of all the world. The spirit indicative of Gandhi shall march en masse to petition the conscience of the world relative to America's inhumanity toward the Negro.

Thousands of oppressed Negroes and freedom-loving Americans of all races will terminate a freedom march with a freedom prayer at a memorial dedicated to a man who believed in the freedom and equality of all men. There could be no more fitting place for the oppressed and lovers of democracy to pray for God's deliverance of this nation from the immorality of chauvinism than the Abraham Lincoln Memorial.

Some disillusioned foreigners may be shocked to learn that the Negro is not yet accorded democracy in America. Such a march certainly is an indictment of American white supremacy, and a nation of adamant bigots should be willing to accept the stigma inherent in universal reaction to Stone Age traits.

This freedom march should remind the world that America is not yet a land of democracy and justice, but a land of oppression and hypocrisy. It should remind the colored peoples of the world that America is not yet ready to stand at the helm of a many-colored world, and it should inspire America to examine her conscience.

On May 17, I pray that God will help us serve notice that the world is becoming too enlightened to tolerate ugly blisters of chauvinism, and that we have had enough of the evil inherent in racial Jim Crow.

— ROBERT F. WILLIAMS

City Should Beautify Its Present Territory

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

WHY so much fuss over extending Charlotte's city limits? Why don't our city officials try to have all vacant lots and land within the city limits developed? There are many buildings within the city that are nothing but fire hazards. They should be repaired or torn down, and slums should be eliminated. What does Charlotte need with any more territory until we use and beautify what we already have? I think Mr. Jack Love is right. There is a growing dictatorship in America that needs curbing.

—PARKS A. YANDLE

'Ah, Ha! Another Expendable Critter'

A Moment Of Climax

The King Becomes A Man

By JOSEPH ALSOP

I SERVED you as a child AMMAN, Jordan and now I serve you as a man.

The voice, astonishingly deep and rich for so young a man, gave the sonorous Arabic words an extra emphasis. It was by no means the most important passage of King Hussein's broadcast to his people. But to this reporter, the sentence somehow seemed the best clue to recent events in this tormented little kingdom.

Two dramas, one exterior and one interior, have been unfolding here in Jordan on the same stage and with the same players. In the judgment of the world, which is no doubt correct, the really important drama is the struggle between the King and his supporters and Jordan's powerful pro-Egyptian faction, with all its agent networks, purchased politicians and Communist allies.

This public drama reached its moment of climax with the King's declaration of martial law. In the breathing space thus gained, he must decisively break the power of his enemies. Or they will end by breaking him, but now, perhaps, not quite surely in the future.

It is a grim gamble he has taken, for there is no doubt about it, for many different tragic reasons, the King's enemies enjoy strong popular support.

But to this reporter, the interior drama of the King himself seems really more absorbing than the exterior drama, on which the Middle Eastern future quite probably depends.

And the best summary of the interior drama of King Hussein is certainly the sentence from his broadcast quoted above.

In truth he was a child, or at least hardly more than a child, when he came back from school in England to reign in Jordan at the age of eighteen. The British, who were then the real rulers of this country, treated him as a child. Glubb Pasha, Sir John Bagot Glubb, the founder and commander of the Arab Legion, dealt with Hussein as a self-assured elderly guardian might deal with an amiable, but sadly light-headed young ward.

TEMPORARY HERO

The British gravely underestimated both Hussein and the ugly ferments working beneath this country's surface. The result was first the fearful crisis of the Baghdad Pact riots, and second and inevitably, the King's sudden, angry dismissal of Glubb Pasha himself. As the boy King who had broken Britain's grip on Jordan, Hussein was for a while the hero of Egypt and Egypt's friends.

But an independent Jordan was no more wanted by the Egyptians than it had been wanted by the British. An Egyptian grip was to replace the British grip. That was the design.

The main instrument of this Egyptian design was not any of Jordan's pro-Egyptian or left-wing nationalist politicians, either. The main instrument was the 21-year-old King's closest friend, the youthful officer whom he had promoted over the heads of so many others to command the Arab Legion, Maj. Gen. Ali Abu Nuwar.

The Egyptian design moved forward to completion by rapid stages, with Gen. Nuwar always at the King's side, reassuring, promising, soothing, protesting his own undying loyalty while he sought to subvert the Arab Legion's loyalty to the King.

The denouncement was slow in coming. Repeatedly, those who were still loyal to him warned the King of Gen. Nuwar's true intentions. Until the final moment, Hussein would not believe the warnings. And then the terrible moment came when the King's eyes were opened and Gen. Nuwar stood revealed for what he was.

Even today, no one is quite certain just how bitter that revelation was. It is certain that the King was at least to be reduced to an impotent puppet in a Jordan wholly controlled from Cairo. But it is now reported that there were some among the conspirators who planned to remove Hussein altogether from the scene, by the simple Oriental method of assassination. At any rate, the mere discovery that the man he most trusted and most favored had been wholly undeserving of either trust or favor, must in itself have been bitter enough.

The most curious feature of the last full amazing days has been the failure of the Egyptians and their allies in Jordan to realize the inevitable effect of such a discovery as King Hussein made. They had always disregarded him, thinking him a light-minded young man, just as the British did. And now they could not believe that the iron had entered into his soul and character and will. Only recently, the Baathist (Arab Resurrection Party) politicians with whom I talked after the morning demonstration were light-heartedly ridiculing the suggestion that King Hussein was capable of forceful, independent action to control his country.

The mere sight of Hussein that afternoon was enough to prove how wrong the Baathist leaders were. In his paper-white face, the dark eyes seemed preternaturally large. The slight frame, normally springy and erect, was slumped under the heaviness of fatigue. But he talked confidently, in the manner of a man who has learned not only bitter truths about the world he lives in, but has learned also reassuring truths about his own capacities.

QUICK TURN

Without this transformation of King Hussein from boy into man, without this interior drama that the King has lived through, the great public drama in Jordan could never have reached its present stage. What the outcome may be, none can foretell, for the King has ventured everything on a quick turn of fortune's wheel. But at any rate, one can now be sure that he will not falter or fall into indecision, or seek to shirk the necessities of the gamble he has made.

KING HUSSEIN
An Angry Ward . . .

GLUBB PASHA
. . . Discharged His Master

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

IT'S being hushed up, but CIA director Allen Dulles has warned that the Russians have launched a big propaganda campaign to convince Panama to follow Egypt's Suez lead and seize the Panama Canal. Allen, able younger brother of the secretary of state, believes this may produce a big crisis right in our own side-yard.

Russians Promote Canal Zone Plot

The cable followed on the heels of Dulles' revelation that he is ready to lift the travel ban which has been keeping newsmen away.

Chiang warned that visits by reporters would be disastrous to his prestige in the Far East.

Chances are the White House will ignore his protests.

Nasser Plot Reversed

It will never be admitted, but a British plot to kill Dictator Nasser has been quietly reversed. British operatives in Egypt are now under orders, ironically, to keep Nasser alive at all costs.

Reason is that the British now believe Nasser's likely successor would be more dangerous that the wily dictator himself. Nasser has surrounded himself with so many Communist sympathizers that the Reds would probably take over Egypt completely in case of his demise.

U.S. agents were aware of the original British assassination plot — which may seem like a drastic solution to the Egyptian problem, but it's the way politics are played in the intrigue-ridden Middle East. U.S. agents also report that the British changed signals after concluding the assassination strategy would boomerang.

They figured the Reds would make a martyr of Nasser, using his death to stir up Arab emotions and take over the government. Nasser's probable successor would be Lt. Col. Zakaria Mohi El-Din, now minister of interior, who controls the secret police. Absolutely ruthless, he is considered a Moscow stooge.

Hate Demanded

Next most powerful person in the Egyptian government is minister of education Kamel Ad-Din Hussein, another follower of the Moscow line, who also commands the so-called "National Liberation Army." As an example of his brand of "education," he recently called on Egyptian students to hate the Western "enemy."

"Smash him, kill him, exterminate him!" cried Husein. "Every compatriot, every youth, every old man must remember that the first factor for destroying our enemy is to hate him, to hold him in contempt, and to fill our hearts with rage and hatred against him."

It is significant that the Communist technique for infiltrating a country is to gain control first of the secret police, then the educational system.

Ike's Ex-Aide

The backstage story that has been intriguing Washington society for weeks now seems on the way to settlement. It's the alimony dispute between Ike's former naval aide, Capt. Harry Butcher, and his former wife, which was scheduled to involve Mrs. Eisenhower as a witness.