

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1957

The High Price Of Charlotte's Victory

CHARLOTTE paid a high price for its annexation victory yesterday.

It had to be paid. Annexation is necessary. Artificial restraints on the city's growth must be removed for the mutual benefit of the city and the metropolis. What essentially was a local issue had to be removed for proper resolution to the affected locality.

Assuming House acceptance of its Local Government Committee's report—and we hope that is not too much to assume—accomplishment of all these legitimate and desirable objectives now seems probable. In the breathing space allowed it by the report, the city owes some thanks. First, to the good sense of the committee majority which spent the basic issue of local determination of local problems and voted on that issue. Secondly, to city and perimeter residents who gave generously of their time and efforts to press that issue before the Assembly. And thirdly, to the thousands of individuals who, through petitions and letters, expressed their faith in the future of Charlotte.

The Assembly Can & Must Save Lives

THE General Assembly can save the lives of hundreds of Tar Heels merely by looking the other way in consideration of a proposed compulsory auto inspection law for North Carolina.

The other way is the future. This was the direction of thought urged on the House Roads Committee this week by a parade of safety witnesses. Needless to say the committee seemed to care more for its collective political hide than for the future safety of Tar Heel motorists.

North Carolina's first attempt at riding the highways of dangerously defective vehicles was, in fact, a failure. Needless to say the administrative requirements created furious and justified public protests. It is understandable that legislators want to guard against any new assault on the public's strong anger. But the committee gave distressing indications that it was much more concerned with a badly administered inspection law tossed out ten years ago, with no intent of being harsh. It must be said the committee seemed to care more for its collective political hide than for the future safety of Tar Heel motorists.

Where Are The Homes Coming From?

CHARLOTTE'S George S. Goodyear, president of the National Association of Home Builders, minced no words when he addressed the Chamber of Commerce of the United States this week in Washington. He sized up the consequences of the Eisenhower administration's "tight money" policy bluntly and effectively.

"The GI program which helped spark the great postwar housing boom is dead and forgotten by all but those unlucky veterans who failed to realize in time that 'tight money' meant no homes for their families," he said. "Many of you manufacturers who provide the materials and equipment for the homes of America are cutting back production, laying off workers, trimming your staffs against a gathering storm. And with every day that passes our housing inventory is depleted by another 1,200 new homes that are needed now and for future but which are not being built."

In the same address, Mr. Goodyear put it bluntly to one of the peculiar ironies of the present credit situation:

"I must say bluntly that we in the home building industry question the wisdom of a monetary policy that restricts output but the housing needs of our American people that encourage Caribbean cruises on credit but denies a working man the opportunity to decent housing for his family on terms he can afford to meet. Even the morticians have their own layaway plan—pay now, go later."

The NAHB president's outcry cannot be dismissed as unadvised selfishness on the part of a special interest group. The housing needs of millions of Americans are involved. Because of severe credit restrictions those needs are not being adequately met.

There are more than 170 million people in the United States today, a level which the experts predicted just a decade ago could not be reached before 1965. Some 4,200,000 babies are joining the American family every year. In addition, about 1,600,000 couples are getting married every year, and we are producing fewer than 900,000 new homes to house them. By 1965, the nation's population should hit 192 million and the demand for housing will be staggering.

As Mr. Goodyear well knows, that demand is going to be met somehow. If private industry defaults in its social responsibility, the government will step in and do the job. But private industry hands are tied without favorable mortgage and credit conditions.

The dilemma of private enterprise, both in and out of the home building industry, should carry this lesson straight to the doors of Congress and the White House.

It is amazing how many things a woman can do without until she sees them on sale.—GREENVILLE (S. C.) PRESS-SCIMITAR.

A man has to have strong will power to question the sincerity of his imagination.—HAMILTON COUNTY (TENN.) HERALD.

It's just possible that the Duke of Windsor feels that while some wives talk too much others write too much.—MIAMI HERALD.

People's Platform

City Needs Ward Elections

Charlotte, N.C. (AP)—The city of Charlotte today is a well-organized political machine or unorganized machine. It is an organized machine that our method of selecting municipal officers is rapidly becoming a farce.

Under our present system any incumbent group—good or mediocre—can create out opposition. The incumbents control the organized machinery. Their combined money buys the workers. Unless their actions are extremely bad, or unless some other group wants control for bad reasons, the only opposition they will get is from individuals. Without plenty of money and without a laboriously built up city-wide organization of workers, the average individual candidate does not have a Chinaman's chance.

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I visited about half of the precincts on election day. It is my carefully considered opinion that at least 3,000 voters were hauled to the polls by paid machine workers and handed a marked sample ballot to guide their decisions. This is not criticism of the use of paid workers and the top seven would probably have been among the top 15 anyway, but the organized primary vote practically assures the election of the "slate" in the final election.

The old system of electing councilmen by wards in party elections has its faults, but we should now give it careful consideration.

It has its good points. It may cure "amphibians." A voter who need only compare the two or three candidates from his ward is more likely to vote and vote intelligently than the one who must make a choice from 15 to 30 city-wide candidates.

Each section of the city will have its own representative on the council to look after its own interests. An amusing feature of the election was the number of workers who handed out ballots for "Meyers Park" candidates and at the same time complained that "Meyers Park" never did anything for their section.

And last, an election on party lines will give the "outs" a chance.

Let's do something about it.—E. J. PRESSER

happy life is to never cure or drink or live in sin and get so ready you find you can't take it and want to end it all when all you need is a friend who sticks closer than a brother and is ready to help you bear your cross.

No bottle will drown your grief. It will always there when you will give. Life is only a few years on this earth, and if you live right and treat your fellow man right and be honest, you won't be turned away when you are called to go into eternity.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER

SEN. THEODORE GREEN
AEN IS An Incident

Are Political Hearts Swayed By Tummies?

CHARLOTTE. AFTER reading of the vote in Raleigh with reference to the extension of our city limits, I feel those who voted for the low number to go to Raleigh to represent the people of Charlotte, in part should feel that they have been short-changed.

The voters of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have four senators. It is their duty to know the future needs of Charlotte. We can very well understand why the vote ran as it did. For one reason, there are so many counties that have a grudge against Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, because we out-rate them in many ways.

We are very much surprised that so many counties elected House members to go to Raleigh with stomachs that were so near empty that a filling or so would control their votes. As we have heard, the way a man's heart is through his stomach.

We know that we had four men in Raleigh that have done their duty 100 per cent. And if we can get a fair and honest vote, the amendment bill will be passed by a large majority. A state vote on a city bill should never be permitted. Why should any other city or county in North Carolina have anything to say as to what the other wants or chooses to do?

—S. C. VAUGHN

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I think the key to a long...

Ike Ready To Get Out And Show?

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT Eisenhower is depicted by some of his associates here as returning from his Georgia vacation full of fight. He wants his program passed by Congress, they say, and he intends to cajole and charm it across and, if necessary, to put pressure on recalcitrant members of his party. If so, this represents not only a change of pace but a change in character for this administration, which since its inception has demonstrated little stomach for a fight.

Two weeks ago, when the practice of the Eisenhower administration to wait out its critics, it had little last year succeeded in getting across a school construction program. Instead the administration made an effort to pass the bill was lost. Its chances of passage in the current Congress have now diminished due to the growing demand for economy.

BIGGEST FIGHT. Whether the President will or can do anything effective to push his mild civil-rights program is mostly since the legislatively conservative southern majority has seen to it that the bill will be kept out of the President's hands.

It has not been enough in the past, and it will not be now, for the President to confine his efforts in behalf of his program to urgent statements at his press conferences. The course the President has chosen is not one that he will believe he has agreed, is a full-time job calling for detailed leadership foreign to Eisenhower's habits.

NO SUBSTITUTE. There is simply no one in the Eisenhower entourage who commands the respect on Capitol Hill and the out of the party who can do the job for him. Vice President Nixon, who reiterated his Modern Republicanism this week and endorsed the administration's record budget substantially in toto in a speech before the United States Chamber of Commerce, cannot do the job. He can get public attention, to be sure, by any effort by him simply to lead the Congress would be bitterly revested by both parties.

The fact that congressmen came back from their vacation during Easter week more determined than ever to press for reductions in appropriations clearly shows that the administration is regarded as the all-important public in its drive for the passage of its program.

PLANS UNKNOWN. The President's fight, if he does make one, in large part will have to be for public understanding of the budget and of the need for a continuation of the foreign aid program. If he does make a bid, Mr. Block doubts it is delighted to receive the recognition.

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Herblock is staff cartoonist of The Washington Post and Times-Herald, and his cartoons are distributed by the Hall Syndicate.

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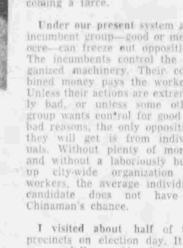
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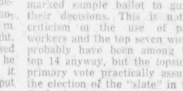
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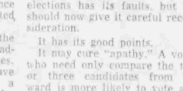
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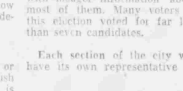
In City Elections, The 'Outs' Are Helpless



Bottle Will Never Banish Your Cares



See Any Other Of Us 'Modern Republicans' Around?



Save The Eisenhower Budget!



Economy Budget Coalition



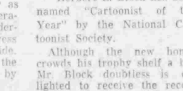
Herblock Wins New National Honor



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round



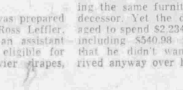
Uncle Sam Glamorizes New Offices



Protesters



Higher Status



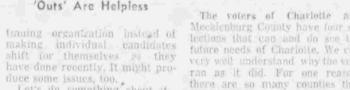
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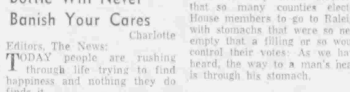
Carolina Must Yield To Old Yankee Solon



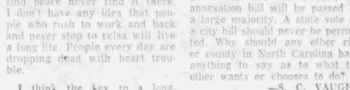
Washington



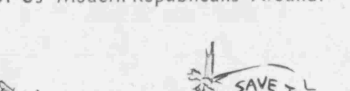
Ballot Stopped



Another Objective



Century's The Limit



Herblock Wins New National Honor



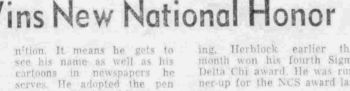
Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round



Uncle Sam Glamorizes New Offices



Protesters



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SEN. THEODORE GREEN
AEN IS An Incident

WASHINGTON. SEN. Theodore Francis Green, Democrat, 29-year-old Rhode Island Democrat, May 26 can stake out a claim to being the oldest man ever to serve in Congress.

On that date he will surpass by one day the age record set by another Democrat—Rep. Charles Manly Steedman of North Carolina, Steedman was born Jan. 29, 1841, and died Sept. 22, 1906, while still serving in the House. He was 69 years and 238 days old.

But there is still a chance that Green will come up with another congressman who was even older. It already has happened.

Last Aug. 14 the Library of Congress noted that "as far as we have been able to determine," Green on Nov. 29, 1856, would have been the oldest person ever to serve in Congress.

On that date he equaled the age of Rev. Robert Lee Doughton (D-N.C.) who was 69 years and 565 days old when he retired from the House in 1883.

So after last November's balloting by the press and by Congress itself over Green's record age, a private researcher pointed out to Sen. Green the age and warned that still another older might loom between Green and an age record.

Green became the oldest senator in history June 15, 1956, when he became 82 years, 4 months and 13 days old. That was just one day older than Sen. Justin Smith Miller (D-Vt.), the previous record holder who died in office Dec. 25, 1908.

Another objective.

Informed of the latest challenge presented by Steedman, Green told Congressmen yesterday, "This gives me another objective to shoot for, though not a very attainable one." Green deprecates age alone as something to be proud of.

"It's just an interesting incident," he said.

Green never heard of his new age rival, yet he has a lot in common. Both Steedman and Green were soldiers, teachers, lawyers, Democratic convention delegates, gubernatorial candidates, made money in real estate and were elected to Congress at the age of 69.

Century's the limit.

Steedman served in the House from March 4, 1911, until his death while Green was elected to the Senate Nov. 3, 1956. Green says he does not want to serve in the Senate after he reaches 90.

Only recently has he given up his wrestling workouts in the Senate gym, and Green still walks the two miles from his University Club residence to Capitol Hill most every morning.

These walks, he fears, may curdle his muscles and lead to an early death. Green explains that some day he may be unable to step out of the way of a speeding vehicle, if he is struck down by an automobile, he says, "I want to be carried into court on a stretcher, taken with my last gasps I want to make a dramatic appeal for traffic safety."

And what does the man appear to become the oldest congressman of all time consider as the key to the country's future? "Frugality," Green said that frugality has to be built into domestic and foreign policies.

Blackmail charged.

Brown, a deeply religious public official, contends that the scandal sheet has caused divorce and broken homes and leads to blackmail. He has cases in which blackmailers have shaken down prominent men on the threat of "telling Confidential."

Already Brown has had overtures from reformers and protesters who claim they are ready to call it quits and stay out of California.

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