# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## Mecklenburg Is A Bumpkin No Longer

COUNTY government in Mecklenburg operates in quarters hardly fit for a 19th century horse-and-wagon community.

It needs room to stretch its elbows and its legs so that it can perform essential services to every taxpayer with maximum speed and efficiency.

That's the reason for the two additional bond proposals sharing Tuesday's ballot with the modest request for Charlotte's community colleges.

One is for $2 million to construct a new county office building. The other is for $500,000 to remodel the present courthouse.

Each should be approved if Mecklenburgers want governmental functions to be performed properly. It is simply a question of good housekeeping.

Important departments, agencies and bureaus are now being housed in inadequate — even makeshift — quarters with a resultant waste of time and money, and a handicap to administrative services. Overcrowding is so severe that even the courthouse corridors are being used as storage facilities. Offices are tiny and some can accurately be described as cubby holes. There is barely enough ventilation anywhere. There are few places for citizens with government business to transact to sit or stand. When the courts are in session the halls are often packed so tightly that movement from one office to another is somewhat like swimming against a strong current. Finding space for the normal number of official records a county government must keep on file is a major problem.

The 26th Judicial District Bar Association has been particularly vigorous in pointing out the need for adequate facilities, as have the Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters. Another official voice was added Thursday when the Mecklenburg County Grand Jury referred to current conditions at the court as "intolerable." Said the grand jury:

"The rapid growth of population of the city and county and the increased demands on the governmental facilities which must be provided by the county have resulted in an acute lack of space needed to provide the services properly.

"This has caused a long known and obvious overcrowded condition throughout the building, in all its various departments, which has brought about inconvenience, delay and inefficiency in the various operations."

The grand jury's report also said:

"It is hoped that the citizens will follow the earnest recommendations made by the commissioners and vote for the necessary funds to remedy this intolerable situation at the coming election . . ."

The fact is that Mecklenburg is a country lad no longer. The bumpkin grew up, acquired city ways and suddenly found itself with a lot of people and a lot of problems. The present courthouse might have been adequate once. It is adequate no longer. The new facilities are urgently needed.

The area across East Fourth Street from the courthouse is an excellent site for the proposed new building. It would represent an entering wedge for urban renewal in Charlotte and replace some undesirable housing now on the block. Furthermore, it would be the beginning of a government plaza long sought by public planners here.

For more efficient government on the county level, vote for the new county building and courthouse remodeling.

## JP Amendment Should Be Rejected

NORTH Carolina's justice of the peace system is a frail reed indeed on which to rest new powers of office.

If Tar Heel voters are wise next Tuesday they will reject a proposed constitutional amendment increasing the jurisdiction of magistrates in claim and delivery proceedings from $50 to $200.

We are convinced that a realistic adjustment is necessary in the value of property a small claims court should be permitted to handle. Merchants who say the present $50 ceiling is unreasonably low are correct. But the remedy they suggest is ill-timed and risky.

Justice of the peace courts, with some notable exceptions, have a miserable reputation in North Carolina. They have never been noted for dispensing equal and exact justice. In fact, the institution is rigged to accomplish opposite ends. Under the existing fee system, the income of the magistrate is directly related not only to the volume of his business but also to the character of his judicial decisions. This has resulted in innumerable abuses and an erosion of respect in judicial remedies at low levels.

Furthermore, a comprehensive court reform system will be presented to the General Assembly early next year by Sen. J. Spencer Bell's judicial study committee. Special attention has been given to justice of peace courts. In fact, it is here that the committee has found "the greatest need for change."

It is within the framework of a unified judicial system that appropriate changes in the jurisdiction of local courts should be made. An enormous amount of thought and effort has gone into the Bell Committee's plan. This group has had the benefit of leading authorities in the field. It would be far better to wait a few months and overhaul the entire system than to tinker on Tuesday with an already discredited portion of that system.

In indiscriminately placing increased power into the hands of more than 1,000 justices of the peace at once the people of North Carolina would merely be asking for new abuses. It is not worth the risk.

## The Scientific Stare Cures Our Ills

HYPNOTISM, it's wonderful.

In Cincinnati, an absent-minded grocery chain official, forgetting where he'd put a certificate of purchase worth $100,000, hired Dr. Franz Polgar, the celebrated mesmerist. Dr. Polgar promptly put him in a deep trance and the absent-minded one revealed that he had put the missing stock certificate in a safety deposit box.

At Chicago, Dr. Bernard B. Raginsky of Montreal, Canada, revealed that he had hypnotized an errant airlines pilot and drawn from him a confession that he was to blame for an airliner crash some time ago.

One has only to behold hypnosis to see what strides scientific civilization is making over the barbaric techniques of yore. We have always squirmed with curiosity to know what is going on in the other man's head. In olden and less advanced times, the techniques were more forceful: There were the rack, the iron maiden, lighted tapers under the fingernails, feather foot-ticklers, dripping water, bright lights, truncheons, lashes.

But now there is the friendly man in the white coat, bending over his subject, fixing his eye with that scientific stare, and saying soothingly: "Just tell us your troubles."

So painless, so sanitary, so humane.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

## BRITAIN'S LATEST 'HOWLERS'

ONE of the traditional events in English public school life—one which for some reason does not appear to have been brought to our shores — is the General Knowledge Paper. It comes usually a few weeks before the beginning of the summer holiday. Normal work is dispensed with and the paper with 50 questions bearing on this and that is handed to every boy in school. Sometimes a lower form boy will get the best of the upper form prefects and there is great glee when the final marks come in.

Inevitably a prize collection of howlers emerge from the correction of the papers and these very often find their way into print. This year's boners make the welkin ring with laughter. For instance—

A volt is a place where people are buried.

Van Gogh had such lust for life that he cut off his right ear and painted a portrait of himself with his head swathed in bandages.

The first state to be founded by the English colonists was named after the virgin queen, Elizabeth I, but the historical evidence to support this belief seems extremely slight; rather it points the other way.

Screen stars who earn their income from their figures often insure the most valuable part.

Gabolling is not immoral if done in moderation.

Alexandria is the name of a great city of Egypt which once contained one of the ancient wonders of the world, the Phallos.

Sam Weller was such an outstanding character that certain situations are described as being "Micawber."

The 1911 bill was an insurance against sickness and maternity.

To help others in distress is a matter of conception.

Malaria comes from the French mal (loud) and aria (a song), hence the noise a mosquito makes.

The Russians sent up a dog as a guinea pig.

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The White House has announced that Eisenhower will take a major part in the congressional campaigns. So also, though the White House didn't announce it, will Sherman Adams. — RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER.

# People's Platform

## The Snap, Crackle And Pop Of Partisanship

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

AFTER several weekend visits into the county seats of Avery, Catawba, Burke, Lincoln, Mitchell and of course Mecklenburg, my prediction is that Mr. Jonas will carry and by a safe margin Avery, Mitchell and Catawba counties, with Burke being at this time a toss-up. With Mr. Jonas gaining every day in Burke, I predict that Mr. Jonas will carry Burke County.

According to my personal poll in the city of Lincolnton, Mr. Jonas will carry Lincoln County by a small majority. Here in good old Mecklenburg the colored precincts are in the Clark column, with the large white precincts in the Jonas column. Most all other precincts are running two out of three for Jonas.

Mr. Jonas will lead off in next Tuesday's election with an 8,000 majority to start with. By the end of the day's voting the total majority for Mr. Jonas will be 15,000 and another two years in Washington.

—D. H. ROBINSON

### Thomas Jefferson Was A Republican

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

A FEW days ago a man of more than average intelligence and education was heard to say: "I like Congressman Jonas. He has made a good congressman; but I can't vote for him. I am a Jeffersonian Democrat."

A member of the Charlotte bar, some weeks ago, rhapsodized on the party "organized by Thomas Jefferson and fostered by Andrew Jackson."

Jefferson was chosen President as a Republican, re-elected as a Republican. In neither of his two inaugural addresses, not in either of his eight annual addresses did he use the word Democrat, Democracy, or Democratic. He did say in his first inaugural address, "We are all Republicans; we are all Federalists." Jefferson's secretary of state, James Madison, succeeded him and was re-elected; Madison's secretary of state, James Monroe, succeeded him, was re-elected; John Quincy Adams, Monroe's secretary of state, succeeded him and served one term. In neither of the 25 addresses of these three as President have I been able to find either of the three words, Democrat, Democracy or Democratic.

When Andrew Jackson was first mentioned for the presidency, Thomas Jefferson wrote Daniel Webster a letter in which he said, "I feel much alarmed at the prospect of seeing Gen. Jackson President. He is one of the most unfit men I know of for such a place." Andrew Jackson, as President, wrecked Jefferson's Republican Party, and set up the Democratic Party . . .

Finally, I call attention to the fact that the majority of the membership of the Supreme Court of the United States which brought in the decision for integration of whites and Negroes in the public schools was made up of appointees of those two Democratic Presidents, Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman; and this majority could have made the contrary decision, but they voted unanimously for integration.

— JAMES M. NORTHINGTON

### Vote Him 'Far Under' Like Rip Van Winkle

Charlotte

Editors, the News:

THE FIRST time I had a chance to vote was in 1896 and Dan Russell ran for governor and was elected and Butler was elected to the U. S. Senate from the western part of North Carolina. The two were so rotten in their work it put an end to Republican rule in this state up to the present time.

Now, we have a fine man running against Mr. Jonas. Mr. Jonas may be a fine man but when he gets to Washington he is just another Republican and it amounts to the same as if he came from Maine or North Dakota. They are all the same. I call on each of the 80,000 Democrats in this county to go out on Nov. 4 and vote him so far under he will, like Rip Van Winkle, not get out for 20 years.

— J. KIRK ALEXANDER

### Congressman Helped Get Invalid Admitted

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WANT to tell the public what Congressman Charles Raper Jonas did for my husband and me. My husband was an invalid for 25 months, suffering several strokes. I applied for VA hospitalization, waited several weeks with no results except a promise of the first vacant bed. Finally, in desperation, I sent Mr. Jonas a special delivery letter with the necessary information as to his condition. About four hours after he received my letter, he wired me to say he had an investigation under way. In less than a day, the hospital had notified me to have my husband there immediately, but he only lived 12 days after being admitted.

Now, Mr. Jonas had never heard of either of us. He didn't know if we were Democrats or Republicans, white or black. But he did know he represented us in Congress and that he had the power to help us immediately and he certainly proved himself capable. He is worthy of every right-thinking voter's support.

—MRS. P. B. SWEET

### Tar Heel Democrats Voted Jonas' Way

Lincolnton

Editors, The News:

THERE have been several letters to your paper by people who are either ignorant of the true facts or else have by design attempted to distort and deceive.

One issue was Congressman Jonas' vote against the Kennedy-Ives so-called bill to control labor unions. In the first place, this bill was a complete farce. A bill professing to do something it did not do. Mr. Jonas voted against it and rightly so. What hasn't been told is that every one of the other 11 Democratic congressmen from North Carolina voted against this bill, too.

Another is the billion dollar give-back of tideland resources to the states. Mr. Jonas voted for this bill as did 10 Democratic North Carolina congressmen and both North Carolina senators.

— CHARLES EUREY

### No Unusual Service Rendered By Jonas

Maiden

Editors, The News:

IT IS with some misgiving that I find myself writing a letter to People's Platform; however, I feel that it is only fair that an attempt be made to correct the erroneous impressions Congressman Charles Raper Jonas has been successful in giving many voters in the Tenth Congressional District for some time.

I spent 14 years in Washington as a congressional secretary, 12 with the late Congressman Alfred L. Bulwinkle, and two with the late Congressman Hamilton C. Jones. It was, indeed, my good fortune to have been closely associated with two honest men who considered their constituents to be the finest people anywhere in the world. Both Major Bulwinkle and Congressman Jones were men of integrity who would have considered it indeed "cheap politics" to campaign at the expense of the taxpayers. Most people, of course, are aware that they pay for the clerical expenses involved in preparing the large volume of letters of congratulations, sympathy, cover letters for baby books and other publications, as well as legislative mail received from a member of Congress. The practice of sending out large volumes of campaign materials, via letters of congratulations, sympathy expressions, and other personal matters is a means of campaigning that has been done for years by mainly members representing so-called "backward" districts. Previously the Tenth Congressional District had not been considered in this category, and I, for one, resent being classed as a backward citizen of an underprivileged district.

Mr. Jonas has not hesitated to call upon his constituents for repayment for the small favors he, or his staff, have performed which are a routine part of his obligation under the office he holds. In so doing, Mr. Jonas implies that he has provided many new services to the people of the district. Surely most people know this is NOT true. I can, personally, testify to having spent many hours contacting various government departments on behalf of residents of the district, often assisting veterans in securing disability benefits, or hospitalization, postal affairs, and many others as well as locating various requested publications for colleges and libraries . . .

Like Mr. Jonas, I can recall many highly complimentary letters received by Congressman Jones. It was disappointing, therefore, when I noted letters on several occasions in the Platform singing the praises of Mr. Jonas from people for whom I recall we went further than a duty status to assist with their problems. With the exception of the costly year-around personalized campaign program, Mr. Jonas has rendered no new, or unusual services, to the people of the district. It has been available, and provided, for years, however, they have not been reminded of them at election time.

Of course, I am for David Clark. I felt it was my duty as a citizen to know something of the ability and integrity of both candidates, and I am convinced that Mr. Clark merits my active support . . .

— IRENE C. WHISENANT

## 'Amen, Brother! But—Uh—Firsh Gimme A Li'l S-Snort T'Build Up My S-S-Strength'

Hold Your Nose

## The 'Beatniks' Are A Bust

By ROBERT C. RUARK

SAN FRANCISCO

I SHALL not attempt to define the "beat" generation, except that here in San Francisco they seem to be making a good thing of it, ever since writer Jack Kerouac got rich and set an example for his compatriots who are loosely described as "beatniks."

I hit a couple of the "beat" joints as a public service to myself, and confirmed an earlier suspicion. The beat bit, except for a few misguided, talentless neophytes, who don't care for washing anyhow, is a fairly clever piece of merchandising — a panhandle reduced to a profitable profession.

It took a murder or so and suspicion of marijuana to draw attention to the many caves of San Francisco which have in the past couple of years been trying to combine the old Left Bank of Paris with the old Greenwich Village of New York. The net result of the effort is successful. Dirty clothes and unwashed bodies, sweaters instead of shirts, short-haired girls and long-haired boys. And, as far as I have been able to observe, an almost complete absence of talent.

PLAY IT COOL

The beat generation's Messiah is this Jack Kerouac fellow, who wrote a couple of books which have been successful but which would not have complied with fifth-grade requirements for a thematic knowledge of basic English, punctuation or development of plot or thought. The thesis of the whole school is that you've got to be a bum, but play it cool, whatever that means.

I manfully tackled his latest effusion, something called "The Subterraneans" — I think, and could be wrong, because I threw it away after six pages and the title was not permanently imprinted on my memory. Perhaps it attempts to combine some James Joyce with Gertrude Stein with all the Existentialists, but it combines little of anything more coherent than the scrawls of the late Greenwich Village moocher-philosopher, Joe Gould, known by its old Villagers as Professor Seagull.

I have never quite understood it, but there seems to be some idea in the Bohemian world that filth of body and habit, overindulgence in booze and dope, wild music and un-connable poetry, sloppy sweatshirts and moral eccentricity form a blanket excuse for lack of talent or slovenliness of the commission thereof.

My Lord, but they are a sorry lot, to confuse sloppiness with talent, nonconformity with ability, mental disease with genius. A certain amount of moral and physical disarray is perhaps allowable in established ability, in proven performance, but these beatniks got the cart before the horse. They are as sad a lot as their British equivalents, the "Angry Young Men," with one exception. There seems to be some talent lurking under the dingy gray turtlenecks, and dingier-gray morals, of the British outsiders.

Up to now I have not figured out what they're all mad at, or why they should accept a surly young delinquent such as the late James Dean as an idol, or why the rather unusual Marlon Brando should set the pace for living legends. They live in a time of plenty and opportunity for all. Most have not been involved in serious wars, and none have known the bitter brand of a real depression. I wondered, the other day, when I saw a smooth-faced young bum stone-drunk in a rubbish bin on a sunny afternoon in a decent street of a lovely city, what he had to be drunk about, sleeping among the bottles and old crumpled pasteboard cartons.

Perhaps this young man was practicing for a Nobel prize, and this was homework. But more likely he would be the same scrimy fellow who shows up in some dive later on and is put outside as a prop to impress the clean-shirted passers-by with what a cool Bohemian joint awaits downstairs. In one of such traps the young lush who was sleeping into his beer abruptly sobered as the untalented trio quit its set and the curiosity-seekers filed out.

They're A Sad Lot

A LOW FORM

I must admit, in the light of history, that a certain amount of understanding of humanity can be derived from living with bums. Nobody ever got hurt from associating with the seamier side, and poverty is a great teacher.

But knowing bums is one thing, and being a bum is quite another. And to know bums, and to be a bum, and then to write a play like a bum, is quite another kettle of contused conditions.

And to masquerade as a bum to touch the tourists for curiosity money, under the guise of misunderstood artistry, is about as low a form of harlotry as can be practiced by male or female. Soap, sobriety and toil were never, in the history of talent, active deterrents to art.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

## Millions Spent In New York Campaign

NEW YORK

IT'S hard to beat a million-dollar smile plus a billion-dollar family fortune and the people of New York are proving that they're a pushover for both.

It's even hard to beat that combination when you have $75 million of your own, a very winning smile, and an excellent record as incumbent governor of New York.

### Money Flows Freely

It's fairly easy to figure out the Rockefeller money spent on television, and in the last week of the campaign it ran around $60,000 a day. The full-page ads are also fairly easy to calculate. Rockefeller took full-page ads merely to announce the 12 phone numbers where people [illegible] to get Nelson's transcribed answers to certain questions.

How much it cost to transcribe these questions and arrange an automatic telephone answering service is more difficult to calculate. But it wasn't hay.

Fifty-four department stores in New York featured Rockefeller headquarters where literature is passed out to lady shoppers. There are six stores in Harlem alone. The foreign-language press blazed with Rockefeller advertising.

### Fifty Cents A Vote

Experts who have watched other campaigns estimate the Rockefeller family spent $2 million — about 50 cents for every vote in New York State—an all-time record.

There are also a lot of expenditures that don't readily meet the [illegible]. Dick Amper of the New York Times was reluctant to leave the New York [illegible] to advise on Rockefeller's press relations; he was given a five-year contract at $25,000 a year and "loaned" to Nelson. This is one reason Harriman forces claim the Times has been slanting the news in Rockefeller's favor.

### Many Have Benefited

It's not merely political money that has helped Rockefeller. It has been money spent wisely and for the public welfare over a long period of time. There's the United Nations Building, paid for by the Rockefellers. And Lincoln Square project for the new Metropolitan Opera House, the Philharmonic Orchestra, Fordham University, and the Ballet Theatre to which the Rockefellers are contributing generously.

And there was the $1.5 million contributed recently to Catholic [illegible] in Tarrytown, where the Rockefellers live, plus the honor given to David Rockefeller by the Jewish Theological Seminary in token of other generosity. And the work Nelson did with David Dubinsky of the International Ladies Garment Workers and Jake Potofsky of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers for a new housing program for the garment workers. There is also Nelson's offer to build a stadium to keep the Brooklyn Dodgers in Brooklyn.

### Negroes Helped

When Congressman Adam Clayton Powell of Harlem challenged Rockefeller on the race question, Nelson only had to refer to the $51 million given to Negro education over 20 years, including heavy donations to the NAACP.

On top of all this money, Nelson Rockefeller is a good man. He is honest, sincere, genuinely devoted to his fellow man. Harriman has more courage, is equally devoted, has a terrific record, would make a better governor. But either way New York state will be in good hands.