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MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1959

Charlotte Has A Stake In Battle Over Urban Renewal

BY CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON
THE federal program for clearing away slums, which marks its 10th birthday this year, is having trouble with its legal guardians. The Eisenhower administration wants to give the program less federal help. The other Congress wants to give it more federal help.

Standing in the background like anxious relatives are the nation's mayors. They are pulling for more federal help. They say they cannot clean up the slums on their own.

QUEEN CITY'S INTEREST
Charlotte, like dozens of other U. S. cities with slum problems, has received notice of the outcome of the coming congressional battle. The size and shape of federal aid is at stake.

Gold figures show that something will be done. Out of \$1.35 billion that Congress has authorized since 1949, only \$24 million is left. The rest has been spent or promised.

Cities are clamoring for federal clearance money. As of Dec. 31, 1958, applications for federal money totaled \$387 million. Of that amount, \$179 million worth

was approved, mostly because of limited funds.
The Eisenhower administration concedes more federal money must be authorized. But it has made it clear that it wants to loosen up then cut the federal aid source of the slum clearance program.

A bill introduced by "Mr. Hoising" of the Senate, Chairman John F. Sparkman (D-Ala) of the House Subcommittee, calls for \$1 billion over six years for the slum clearance program. This compares with the \$1.35 billion of the year program the Eisenhower administration supported in 1958.

The city wants a 10-year program of slum clearance. It has introduced a bill to carry out their recommendations. He contends the cities cannot raise the necessary

money to do the job. Less federal money, he says, means less slum clearance.
There is no question that the slum clearance program will get more money. The only question is how much and whether President Eisenhower will veto a bill calling for more money than he wants.

The program has undergone few policy changes since 1949. Basically, this is how it works: The city bulldozes away a slum area and puts in such facilities as sewer and water lines. Then it sells the cleared site to a private developer so he can put up new houses and shops. The dif-

ference between what the city paid to clear the site and the money it got from the developer represents the net loss. The federal government pays two-thirds of the net loss on projects that meet its requirements.

Who Should Run Charlotte's Airport?

A PROPOSAL to turn Charlotte's Douglas Municipal Airport over to an independent commission to operate should be packed away in mothballs again.



Douglas Municipal Airport

The notion made its last public appearance in March 1955 and was wisely rejected by the City Council. The four years have produced no compelling reasons why its decision should be reversed.

Airport problems cannot and should not be considered separately from the general problem of Charlotte. The responsibility for the operation of this vital facility is now right where it belongs—in the hands of the City Council.

Charlotte, like dozens of other U. S. cities with slum problems, has received notice of the outcome of the coming congressional battle. The size and shape of federal aid is at stake.

You have in Charlotte the city manager form of government which today is considered to be the most efficient form of municipal government. The reason for this is that this form of government eliminates the unnecessary division of responsibility and authority and places all administrative operations under one administrator.

May Science Come Easier To The GOP

IT sounds as if Republican National Chairman Meade Ahearn is serious about a crash program for reviving the GOP.

no linking to the people that the GOP had really become a party of inclusive interests. In the grip of its antiscientific jinn, the GOP seemed unable to get the point.

Mr. Ahearn says Republicans must "mount a severe and prompt attack on the mistakes of the opposition." That, of course, is the function of the minority party; it must criticize. But in November, we saw Vice President Nixon, the big party magnate of the campaign, calling the Democrats with Truman-Acheson foreign policy. The people are not nimble; they know those tents left Washington in 1953.

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Let us examine Professor Ahearn's new blueprint. The "big business party" image is false and should be discarded. Perhaps it is false, perhaps with candor it could be discarded. But what did the electorate hear last November? That the Democrats are radicals, dedicated to the ruin of "free enterprise" shot through with "Bourgeoisism."

Then, Mr. Ahearn reportedly mentions "burying" party factionalism. It is perhaps here that the gravest challenge to Republican science lies for here is quoted Spoker Joe Martin, waiting in the cold aisle, save for a chauffeur and an old Cadillac. There are Senate Republicans liberals squirming on their hard seats under the muzzles of Senator Everett Dirksen. The fights of which these warriors are victims will be hard to bury.

With No Crack, It Would Just Be A Bell

FROM the milk tooth brushes and the hair filters, the voice of a true amateur historian arises. It is the voice of M. D. Anderson, superintendent of Independence Hall, Philadelphia. He has said so to an offer to have the crack in the Liberty Bell repaired.

It is the flag, the spark, the oddity, that counts. In the Mead-Younger tradition could be seen, interest would want to nothing overlight.

People's Platform

Why The Commotion About Cuban Rebels?

WHAT IS everybody so upset about because the Cuban rebels are harassing the Cuban rebels? For instance, on their own home town?

I have read about murder and brainiacs under Batista, and by his pal Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, and to the contrary that United States seem to think that pair enjoy good fellows.

Now one of those is getting the ax and everybody is screaming. It looks like our Washington politicians think Batista and Trujillo are really the good guys after all.

THE Cuban situation is going the way of all the rest. When will the American people ever learn any sense? Castro is not going to do like Batista and obey the wishes of the United States.

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'Go Ahead, Mister—You Ain't Bothering Us At All'



The Big Change In Ike

America's Captive President

By MARQUIS CHILDS

Balance of terror," as it has been aptly called, will tip men's minds against the security of the United States.

Under the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, adopted in 1951, a man may not be elected President for a second term. The President's second term in the White House is not so secure as the first.

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From Capper's Weekly

KNIFE CLEANER

IT was baking day and the new maid and her mistress were having a busy time.

'A Crying Shame'

IT was a plain day with a plain headline and a plain story.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
Drew Pearson, London correspondent, is back in the United States.

New Ideas

THE Senate's new bill on labor and anti-trust legislation has been introduced.

Great Chance

WE've got a great chance to show this man that the U. S. is a free country.

FREE PARKING SPACE