THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1959

Mecklenburg's A Country Boy At Heart

HENRY David Thoreau, when informed the Massachusetts legislature was about to convene, is reported to have told a neighbor, "I must go downtown to buy a lock to put on my back door."

But that's the way it was with Thoreau, a notably edgy individual. Charlotteans need not share any of his apprehensiveness when the North Carolina General Assembly comes calling March 4. We are reliably informed that Tar Heel lawmakers, as a rule, are very high-type gentlemen who fear God, despise the devil and hold motherhood, flag and tobacco farmers in appropriate awe. There's nothing to fear; nothing whatever.

In fact, Charlotte ought to do the exact opposite of Thoreau — take the locks from every door and welcome the honorables with open hearts and larders. There is something we must prove. It is that we are passably decent folk, too.

There has always been a suspicion east of the Haw that Charlotte is the abode of the damned (including scalawags, carpetbaggers, dead-end kids, modern Republicans, libertines and would-be cigarette-taxers). The customary legend is that we are city critters in a rural state and ought to be put down.

It's not true, of course. Charlotte is as much the prisoner of North Carolina's rural mystique as Rocky Point or Snow Hill. We are just the country boy that grew too big for its overalls and had to import a few Yankee tailors to produce new britches. The critter inside is still basically bucolic.

All of this sudden growth has produced a host of strange new problems—at least, they are strange to Tarheelia. Some of them we cannot solve alone—especially if we are isolated like lepers from the mainstream of North Carolina's political society. That is why the honorables will be so welcome. While here, they will have an opportunity to look around, examine our faces for respectability and our hearts for virtue. They will find, we devoutly believe, that Mecklenburgers aren't half bad, that if the occasion arose a few might even be able to plow a straight furrow.

They will find, too, that given half a chance metropolitan Mecklenburg can become the pride and joy of the Tar Heel family.

Y'all come.

A Full-Time Legal Staff For Charlotte?

PROPONENTS of a full-time legal department for Charlotte's municipal government have failed to make a case.

It has been suggested that the city is not receiving satisfactory service under the present system.

Perhaps.

But does the fault lie with the system or with the manner in which it is allowed to operate?

The present system can work if it is administered with maximum efficiency and prudence. It has worked in the past; it can again.

Charlotte has a city attorney. He is well paid. City Hall has a right to expect the lion's share of his time and talent. If full value is not being received the city is at liberty to hire a replacement who is willing and able to perform his considerable duties promptly and well. If one is not enough then a second can be employed under authority granted by the city charter. That should be sufficient for a city the size of Charlotte.

If there is going to be a full-time legal department, let it be established as part of a consolidated city-county arrangement. That would make good sense. But until Charlotte and Mecklenburg are ready for a joint legal team it would be well for the city to let the question of a full-time municipal legal department "dangle a while," as one City Council member suggested. There are plenty of adjustments City Hall can make in the present system before junking it for something costlier.

Nivens School—Need And Greater Need

THE County School Board is faced with a tough decision.

It is especially difficult because on either side of the question is a worthy cause.

The crux of the problem is the Nivens School building.

Currently, the three-unit plant is in the hands of the North Mecklenburg Men's Club. Through it, the abandoned school is a hub for a program of recreation and community betterment.

The other group seeking use of the building is the local organization for retarded children. Their primary plan is to organize a vocational program, a training system to expand the fledgling classes now in the city schools. There are many children also who are not able to attend school, but can learn simple skills, and others chronologically too old for school. These, as J. W. Wilson, county schools superintendent said, are the "forgotten children" of the state's educational system.

Nivens School is the only place the county system can offer the retarded children's group, in desperate need of facilities to place its special equipment.

Nivens is too small for both parties.

The men's club program is worthy, make no mistake. But their housing needs are similar. They need meeting rooms and an indoor recreation area.

Their needs must be weighed against those of an estimated 7,000 county children who need some type of special training, 600 or more of whom are now in school.

Perhaps the county can make room for the Derita-North Mecklenburg recreation program in another area school. It has proved a tenant worthy of property use.

But a society made aware can ill afford to ignore our "forgotten children" any longer.

A City Builds Boldly For Tomorrow

THE ambitious work program adopted by Charlotte's Chamber of Commerce offers fresh evidence of the community's fierce faith in the future.

The generous impulse that is the secret of Charlotte's growth is optimism. It has become, through the years, a dominant civic quality. It has sharpened our vision and strengthened our capacity for major achievement.

The doctrine of progress of the perfectibility of a community was not imported. It is native to the soil and has attained the force of moral conviction. Thus, when business and professional men talk of clearing away the slums, consolidating governmental agencies, extending zoning far into the county, building civic centers, providing more hospital beds they aren't daydreaming. They mean it.

Above everything else, this has been a community unafraid of the future. A recession may rear its ugly head from time to time. Mecklenburg is even confronted occasionally with the perils and pains of social problems. But through it all the community has preserved its vigor, ingenuity and hope, gaining new strength from each new ordeal and showing a capacity for even greater achievement.

Such a community need not fear for the future. It only has to build imaginitively and boldly on the solid accomplishments of the past.

From The Tampa Tribune

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

IT'S been hard enough to find good men who'll serve in Congress, but it will be harder still when the word gets around about a regimen which Dr. George W. Calver, resident physician to Congress, urges upon his charges. Calver is conscious of the pressure upon congressmen and the need for them to stay fit. Among other things he proposes that they avoid cream, butter, eggs, bacon, ham, goose liver, sweetbreads, shortened pastry, fish roe, and oily fish. This list in itself requires spartan restraint, especially in the indicated denial of the succulent and proudly oily Florida mullet.

For exercise, Dr. Calver's healthy congressman is required to take an hour's walk every morning before breakfast. Such an act at such an hour, after the herculean effort of rising from bed, requires pure heroism. Dr. Calver's instructions come under the heading of Doctor's Orders, and we wouldn't dispute them for the world. Yet it is comforting to recall another piece of advice advanced by somebody (we think it was Robert Maynard Hutchins): Whenever you have the impulse to exercise, lie down and think it over until it passes.

When it comes to sending people aloft, instead of mice and monkeys, couldn't a start be made with some road hogs? — GASTONIA GAZETTE.

The easiest way to get a pair of tickets on the 50-yard line is to try at a college that has lost nine straight. — BARTOW COUNTY (GA.) HERALD.

We bet Ike longs for the good old Army days when he could give orders and they would be obeyed. — GREENSBORO (GA.) HERALD-JOURNAL.

People's 'New' Platform P. O. Plan Needs More Mobile Unit Help

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

IN REGARDS to several recent articles in the papers on change of mail services. I'd like to add a few things I haven't read but have found out. The so-called "new" plan to speed distribution and delivery is like the plan that was in effect in the postal department in 1834. Then in 1862 in St. Joseph, Mo., a far-sighted postmaster worked out a method of sorting the mail on a moving train. This was to avoid delay and keep down congestion in the stationary post offices. As I have read the stories in the newspapers it sounds like we're returning to horse and buggy days.

One article I read said this plan would eliminate duplicate operations, and after some checking I find it causes at least five more handlings. The more the mail is handled the more the cost. This system that was in effect until January was set to handle all the mail instead of just a portion as in the Post Office.

The mobile clerk is paid 11 cents per hour more than the stationary clerk, but he is required by the P. O. to have a greater knowledge of distribution and routing of mails. The advance time for working the mail in question is available at no cost since the R.P.O. car doesn't cost the Post Office any money until it starts moving, yet the additional space required in the stationary post office is at a premium. The post office official who said he'd try this plan as an experiment will use more man-hours than before. This plan may work during the slack season (at added cost) but what happens during the Christmas rush? It sounds to me that this 100-year-old "new" plan not only takes us back to the gaslight days but may also be false economy.

—K. V. STEM

'New' Plan For P. O. Really Time Loser

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

SEVERAL months ago the local postmaster gave out with a "new" crash program, stating outgoing letters could be delivered the next day in New York City and Atlanta. He said the postal department had placed railway mail clerks on trains who knew the Atlanta city delivery system inside and out. For over 35 years the mail has been handled this way by mobile unit clerks.

In Charlotte it has been stated that by rescheduling carriers to leave 30 minutes later, Charlotteans will get first-day delivery service on morning mail from Columbia, S. C., and Atlanta, Ga. That should be possible for main office boxes and maybe even for downtown delivery. But Charlotte is a big city with many branches. The train arrives at the Southern depot at 7 a.m. The mail goes to the second floor of the main Post Office and is handled for distribution.

Back to the platform possibly by 7:50 a.m., then it must be transported through peak traffic hours to branches. Then it must be handled again by going to the carriers and then distributed to their routes to leave by 8:30 a.m. How can large amounts of mail be handled in this amount of time? And if it isn't a large amount, why do it?

Could it be done cheaper by having the morning mail delivered to the main P.O. already distributed by the mobile unit according to boxes, stations and carriers? Has the Charlotte postmaster requested this service?

My understanding is that he hasn't requested it. This seems like more chance for errors (with extra handling) and no improvement in service.

—C. J. MITTON

Ike Called All Names Except Honest Man

Salisbury

Editors, The News:

IN THE last two years the Democrats have called President Eisenhower everything except an honest man. Yet when the public opinion polls show Ike as popular as ever, they begin to draw in their criticism.

Some of them actually praise him for some things he has done. It has always seemed to me that any man in politics should have some plans of his own. A politician who can do nothing but find fault with the other fellow will never get very far with the people.

I am a Democrat myself, but I am sure that we must make taxes pay our way from now on. It is not right to spend the income of unborn generations except for some permanent improvements that will do them good.

—J. W. JEWELL

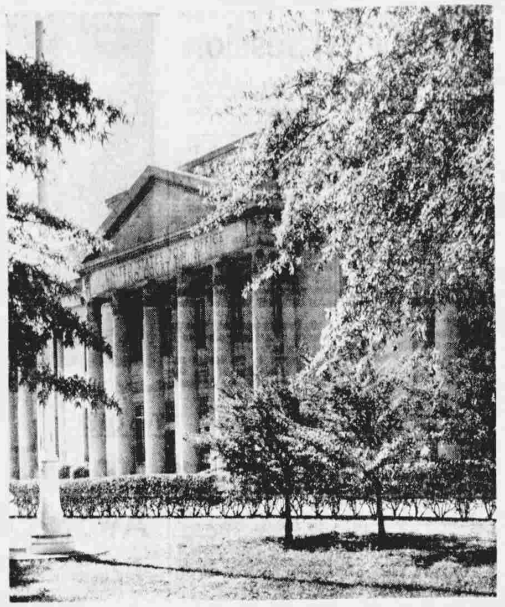
Radicalism Inspired Founders Of Country

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

CLOSE observation of people and ideas imparts the rather distinct impression that I'm somewhat of an "odd" individual among my friends and associates — not so much concerning the general nature of my thoughts as the fervor with which I think them. Let's say then that I'm radical. But this isn't to say necessarily that radicalism is bad. If it's bad, then so was the radicalism which inspired the founders of the American republic; likewise bad was the system of government which they framed for themselves and posterity.

What am I getting at? A "radical" thought which crossed my mind a short while ago when thinking on the sorry, deteriorating, moral and intellectual state of my country, settled in part many, many years ago by my sturdy forebears, as well as the sturdy forebears of many who may pause to read this letter. My pointed thought was: What must a person be, do and think generally today to be acceptable, and receive the acclaim and adoration of the Establishment? By "Establishment", I mean primarily the social, political, economic, academic, and cultural bodies whose influence is currently predominate, and has been generally predominate for the past two or three decades.



Is Time Lost At Charlotte's Main Post Office?

The considered answer to my thought ran thusly: Be a "liberal" . . . put emphasis on equality rather than liberty and delude yourself that they are one and the same . . . let "more democracy" be the watchword of the day . . . be "democratic" to the disgusting degree that you believe that ANY people groveling in illiteracy and still in the cradle of civilization (like Ghana) can succeed in the civilized and noble task of self-government . . . talk up mum's "individuality" out of one side of your mouth, and talk up integration out of the other side . . . ignore the logic of Calhoun and hold that the profound beliefs of a sectional majority is "undemocratic" and incompatible with liberals . . . advocate blind acceptance to legislation by the Supreme Court rather than viewing the legislating process as an exclusive constitutional prerogative of the Congress . . . pretend the Tenth Amendment was never written . . . contend subtly that the Constitution in general is antiquated and is not to be taken too seriously in this age of moon shots.

Compromise honor and desert wise and time-tested principles; justify doing so by saying "black is white" and vice versa . . . favor aid to our sworn Communist enemies (like Yugoslavia and Poland) who would cut us to ribbons were it within their power to do so . . . view "neutralism" as respectable, logical, understandable, and conducive to freedom — despite the fact that neutralist countries (like India) are VOLUNTEER members of the United Nations, and have pledged their opposition to all forms of human tyranny . . . soft-pedal communism . . . look upon the militant anti-communist (like McCarthy) as a bigot, a hatemonger, a perverter of everything wonderplug for more government authority over the lives of our people . . . more giveaways in the sweet name of "brotherhood" and "world humanity" . . . call for more debt . . . subordinate your personal and constitutional liberties to those which a growing bureaucratic state deems fitting restrictive substitutes . . .

Last but not least, be not a conservative crusader, a political fundamentalist, a two - bit John The Baptist (like Bob Cherry), frequently flailing the Establishment in this column — and calling for a return to a way of life and grand philosophy of government which has proven will maintain the maximum, practical freedom and contentment for all within the framework of our heterogeneous society and a system of government which is the greatest ever devised by men.

— J. R. CHERRY JR.

Sunday For Scouts Wrong For Church?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

ON last Sunday the Boy Scouts were given recognition in many churches. One paper reports that Rev. Dr. Carl Marney said, "It is a rare occasion indeed when the church turns its attention away from the altar of God on a Sunday morning," as he welcomed the khaki-clad boys.

Was he displeased with such a service in the sanctuary? There are some who doubt the appropriateness of such around the altar of God. Church and state should be separate. The church should use all of its time, talents and life for holy living, witness, and study of God's word. I am glad the church has never adopted a flag, and I feel that flags have no place in the church. It is a terrible thing to let a youth feel that he is all right if he is a good Scout, and not get it home to him that he must be born again. A rootin', tootin', shootin' cowboy at 3; a Boy Scout at 8; a raw recruit from age 18. Where is time for quiet thinking if and practice of the things Jesus valued most?

"My Kingdom is not of this world," said He whom the church calls Master.

—SNEED OGBURN

What We've Given Important In Life

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WAS going uptown one day this week and saw people lined up to get their license tags. As I watched the line I thought of how it would be with people if they got a notice that in a few days Christ would call them into eternity.

People are going out every day either lost or saved, only they and God know. When we leave this world all we take with us is what we have given and done to help others along the way.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER

Delivery Of Letter Recalls An Incident

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

APROPOS of your interesting item about the letter that was delivered to someone in Lincolnton; one that was not definitely addressed.

This reminded me of an instance of 40 years ago, and might interest some of your readers.

A letter was addressed to:
Wood
John
Mass

It was received in the Boston Postoffice and was promptly delivered to the person for whom it was intended, John Underwood, Andover, Mass.

— C. H. BROWARD

Quote, Unquote

"In all old books the stucco has long since crumbled away, and we read what was sculptured in the granite."—Thoreau.

'How About A Push, Pal?'

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Four Names Rank High For Dulles' Job

WASHINGTON

WITH John Foster Dulles in the hospital for his second major operation, President Eisenhower necessarily has given consideration to his successor. Discussing this with a close friend recently, Ike said he was considering the following and asked advice as to which was best qualified to be Secretary of State.

John J. McCloy — Chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, former high commissioner to Germany, ambassador to Germany and head of the World Bank. McCloy came into government under Roosevelt, which he served as assistant secretary of war. Eisenhower got to know him in Germany.

Henry Cabot Lodge — U. S. ambassador to the United Nations. Lodge, then a senator from Massachusetts, was one of the first Republican leaders to urge Eisenhower for president. He attends cabinet meetings, and has done a good job at the United Nations. Ike is fond of him personally.

Lost To Politics

Gen. Al Gruenther — Now head of the American Red Cross, former chief of staff to Eisenhower at SHAPE in Paris. As a military planner Gruenther is a genius, having mapped the strategy for retaking Italy. As successor to Eisenhower at SHAPE, Gruenther was so popular with civilian heads of governments that he was asked to remain on, even though there was some original prejudice against him as a military man.

Douglas Dillon — Deputy undersecretary of state. Dillon was removed from his post as ambassador to France in 1956 largely because the administration wanted to reward Amory Houghton, head of Corning Glass, who had contributed heavily to the Eisenhower campaign.

Dillon was doing a good job in France, didn't want to come home. The Dillon family had contributed $36,000. To keep him happy he was given a job in charge of State Dept. economic affairs. Irony is that Dillon did so well he rates No. 1 next to Dulles in Ike's favor.

Herter Once Shone

Chris Herter, former congressman and governor of Massachusetts, was brought into the State Dept. as undersecretary with the idea that eventually he might succeed Dulles. However, Eisenhower did not mention Herter among the group he was considering as secretary of state.

He remarked that in many ways he would like to appoint Gruenther, except he was fearful of public reaction to a military man as secretary of state.

Note — Dillon is the grandson of a Polish immigrant. His father, Clarence Dillon, helped found the investment banking firm of Dillon, Read, the company which sent the late James V. Forrestal, Tommy Corcoran, John Cahill and other famous figures to Washington as members of the Roosevelt administration.

Douglas Dillon was head of the firm before Ike appointed him as ambassador to France in 1953.