

THOMAS L. ROBINSON... President and Publisher
BROOKS S. GRIFITH... General Manager
ROBERT H. LAMPERT... Advertising Director
CECIL PRINCE... Editor
FRANCY MORGAN (on leave)... Associate Editor
R. L. YOUNG JR... Managing Editor
JAMES MCDOWELL... Circulation Manager

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1959

New Constitution: A Touch Of Timidity

THE "model" state constitution unveiled for Tar Heel legislators last night may not answer all of North Carolina's hopes and dreams but it is nevertheless the work of worthy men who are genuinely concerned about the problems of political progress.

Each has earned a hearty vote of thanks. The adoption of a new state constitution is without any doubt, the most urgent business before this General Assembly. The current 1868 model is tragically out of date. It must be replaced with something vastly better.

The new document offered for the Legislature's scrutiny last night was rigorously conservative. This can be said despite the absurdly shrill outcries of the rural elite about the reapportionment clause. Several opportunities for bold improvements in the executive department were generally ignored. In fact, one looks in vain for truly earth-shaking reforms anywhere but in the judicial section — and here the spade-work had been done by Sen. J. Spencer Bell's state bar association committee. Even in the judiciary, the planers would not go nearly as far as Sen. Bell to guarantee improvements in the quality and efficiency of justice in North Carolina. The additional authority granted the General Assembly here and elsewhere in the proposed new constitution is curious to say the least. We wonder if it is necessary.

Nevertheless, a great deal of weeding has been done and some relatively minor changes here and there will quite likely touch off major controversies. The quarreling has already broken out.



Hour Of Decision Arrives For North Carolina

But the issue before the state is too important to be treated as a handy punching bag for petty politicians. In fact, all of the ideals and statesmanship the members of the General Assembly can presently summon up will be required in the piece by piece examination of the proposed new constitution. It is not something that can be hastily appraised. It is deserving of long, thoughtful and utterly conscientious scrutiny.

We have already expressed some disappointment at its limitations. We do not intend, however, to allow those first impressions to prejudice our final editorial judgment of the package. We will study the proposals individually and collectively and we urge that our readers do the same. From the model may come the set of constitutional principles which will guide us through many a decade in the future. It is the duty of all of us to make doubly sure that they are the ones we want.

Naming A Chief Is Council's Business

FOR six months, personnel problems in Charlotte's police department have had the City Council twirling like a weathercock in a whirlwind.

First there was the move in August to hasten the departure of Chief Frank N. Littlejohn. Then there was the long wrangle over his successor, ending months later with the selection of Acting Chief E. C. Selvey. Finally there was the skirmish with Local 1492 of the AFL-CIO's police union, resulting in the union's complete rout.

But while Local 1492's diving gangs were still being reeled in by hearing Superior Court Judge Susie Sharp last week, News readers noted that a new ruckus affecting the police department was brewing. It was born of Councilman Herman A. Brown's plan to put the city's chief of police — and also its fire chief — under civil service. The union's appeal was dismissed. Councilman Brown's idea is still with us.

Civil service is an excellent institution. It has cleansed all levels of government and made "merit" a meaningful word in the nation's political vocabulary. But it is designed for the rank and file of government and not for the principal administrative and judicial officers.

In Charlotte, the chief of police is not a clerk. His worth cannot be measured by coldly statistical standards. Furthermore, he is an important administrative officer of the city government. He is therefore responsible to the people. Since the people cannot personally oper-

ate the government they elect a City Council to do their bidding. It is to this Council that the chief now reports. It is the Council's responsibility to see that the chief does his duty in behalf of the public, and it can fire him if he does not. If the Council discharges its own responsibility properly, too, can be removed from office. That is the protection the public has. It is worth preserving.

To "remove the appointment of a police chief from the realm of politics" is also to snatch such an appointment from the public's direct control. An acknowledged racial could not be named chief of police under the present system any more than under a civil service system. The public wouldn't stand for it.

Consequently, we would no more suggest that the hiring and firing of police chiefs be placed in the hands of an appointive municipal commission remote from public control, any more than we would suggest that Charlotte's city manager be named by the federal Cabinet in Washington.

The Council is entrusted with the reins of government in Charlotte. It ought to be free to name the people it, in turn, can trust to supervise day to day operations. That goes for the city manager, the chief of police, the fire chief and certain other key administrative officials. Any effort on the part of the Council to relieve itself of this important right and responsibility should be resisted rather firmly.

Dauntless, True Love Is Still With Us

TRUE love will not be thwarted. Even in this age of flashing missiles, supersonic jets and 300 horsepower automobiles, if a man can't get to his sweetheart one way, he'll find another.

In South Carolina, a 38-year-old worker at odd jobs met and wished to woo a 95-year-old. She, unfortunately, lived 20 miles distance, and her suitor had no automobile.

But, nothing daunted, he rode forth on his bicycle, 40 miles round trip. This legumeing experience had been going on for six or seven years, until in the bicyclist's words, "I finally got tired. I couldn't ride every day so I decided it would be best if we got married."

Last Sunday our hero pumped his way to his girlfriend's home with the question,

And happy day, she accepted his proposal.

The couple mounted his bicycle and 20 miles they went back to the bridegroom's home. No mean feat for either one, what with the suitor pulling a double load and his girl hardly as spry as she once was. In fact, she nearly changed her mind before the trip was over. As the man explained, "She had to ride on the handle bars all the way and it was sorta bouancy."

He has had contact with those interested in this tale of persevering love. But we can't.

Last report some of the bride-elect's children had appeared on the scene and had spirited her away. We hope after all that effort, the couple will be allowed to pedal to the preacher.

From The Washington Post

PEAR OR GRAPEFRUIT?

'WELL,' said the 10-year-old boy at the breakfast table "the next thing you know they'll be trying to tell us it's hot." He was viewing, skeptically, the latest scientific intelligence that the earth resembles a pear rather than a grapefruit.

We are fully prepared to accept the pear-shaped findings of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists who have been interpreting the data sent back to earth by the Vanguard satellite. It is reassuring to learn that the scientists are convinced a pear-shaped earth is stronger on the inside than a grapefruit-shaped spheroid, although we cheerfully confess that we don't understand exactly why that should be. The

earth certainly can stand reinforcement in these atomic times. Nevertheless, we can't refrain from observing that the earth may simply be taking on by osmosis or some other mysterious process the pear-shaped tendencies of its increasingly well-fed and dietician-conscious inhabitants.

Flying automobiles are freely predicted, but about all we can see that they offer is three-dimensional traffic jams — ASHEVILLE, Critics.

Scientists are practicing a way of washing dishes without water — an improvement over the present TV method of a lick and a promise — MIAMI HERALD.

Lincoln: 'As Hard As Rock, As Soft As Drifting Fog'

By CARL SANDBURG

Full Editor's Note: This is the full text of a Kentucky friend's moving tribute to Abraham Lincoln last week before a joint session of Congress.

NOT often in the story of mankind does a man arrive on earth who is both steel and velvet, who is as hard as rock and soft as drifting fog, who holds in his heart and mind the paradox of terrible storm and peace un-speakable and perfect. There are these across centuries come reports of men alleged to have these contrasts. And the incomparable Abraham Lincoln, born 150 years ago, is an approach if not a perfect realization of this character.

In the time of the April lilies in the year 1863 on his death, the caulk with his body was carried north and west a thousand miles, and the American people wept as never before; bells sobbed cities were empty, people stood in tears and with hats off as the railroad burial car passed in the leading cities of seven states, ending its journey at Springfield, Ill., the home town.

DICTIONARIAL POWERS

During the four years he was President he at times, especially in the last three months, took to himself the powers of a dictator; he commanded the most powerful armies till then assembled in the piece by piece examination of the proposed new constitution. It is not something that can be hastily appraised. It is deserving of long, thoughtful and utterly conscientious scrutiny.

We have already expressed some disappointment at its limitations. We do not intend, however, to allow those first impressions to prejudice our final editorial judgment of the package. We will study the proposals individually and collectively and we urge that our readers do the same. From the model may come the set of constitutional principles which will guide us through many a decade in the future. It is the duty of all of us to make doubly sure that they are the ones we want.

Three years later in a letter to a Kentucky friend made public, he confessed plainly, "I have been controlled by events." His words at Gettysburg were sacred, yet strange with a color of the familiar: "We cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far beyond our poor power to add or detract."

He could have said "the brave Union men." Did he have a purpose in omitting the word "Union"? Was he keeping himself and his utterance clear of the passion that would not be good to look when the time came for peace and reconciliation?

Did he mean to leave an implication that there were brave Union men and brave Confederate men, living and dead, who had struggled there? We do not know, of a certainty.

SHAME AND BLAME

In the mixed shame and blame of the immense wrongs of two crashing civilizations, often with nothing to say, he said nothing, slept not at all, and on occasions he was seen to weep in a way that made weeping appropriate, decent, majestic.

As he rode alone on horseback near soldiers home on the edge of Washington one night his hat was shot off, a son he loved died as he watched at the bed, his wife was accused of betraying information to the enemy, until death came from him were necessary.

HOW COULD IT BE?

An Indiana man at the White House heard him say, "Vow, vow, don't it seem strange to you that I, who could never so much as cut off the head of a chicken, should be elected, or selected, into the midst of all this blood?"

He tried to guide Gen. Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, a Democrat, three times, governor of Massachusetts, in the governing of some 17 of the 48 parishes of Louisiana controlled by the Union armies, an area holding a fourth of the slaves of Louisiana. He would like to see the state recognize the Emancipation Proclamation, "and while she is at it, I think it would be objectionable for her to adopt some practical system by which the two races could gradually live themselves out of their old relation to each other, and both come out better prepared for the next November election."

Lincoln's changing policies from time to time aimed at saving the Union. In the end his armies won and his nation became a world power increasing in international politics. In August of 1864 he wrote a memorandum that he expected to lose the next November election, sudden military victory brought the tide his way, the vote was 2,200,000 for him and 1,800,000 against him.

Among his bitter opponents

SACRED, YET STRANGE

In the month the war began he told his secretary, John Hay, "My policy is to have no policy."

To Gov. Michel Hahn, elected

were such figures as Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph, and Cyrus H. McCormick, inventor of the reaper. In all its essential propositions the southern Confederacy had the moral support of powerful respectable elements throughout the North, probably more than a million voters believing in the justice of the southern cause.

While the war raged he insisted that the Mississippi was one river meant to belong to one country, that railroad construction from coast to coast must be pushed through and the Union Pacific Railroad made a reality. While the war was on, and broke and came again, as generals failed and campaigns were lost, he held enough foresight to suggest to raise new armies and supply them, until generals were found, who made war as victorious wars have always been made, with terror, frightfulness, destruction, and on both sides, North and South, valor and sacrifice past words of man to tell.

SHAME AND BLAME

In the mixed shame and blame of the immense wrongs of two crashing civilizations, often with nothing to say, he said nothing, slept not at all, and on occasions he was seen to weep in a way that made weeping appropriate, decent, majestic.

As he rode alone on horseback near soldiers home on the edge of Washington one night his hat was shot off, a son he loved died as he watched at the bed, his wife was accused of betraying information to the enemy, until death came from him were necessary.

HOW COULD IT BE?

An Indiana man at the White House heard him say, "Vow, vow, don't it seem strange to you that I, who could never so much as cut off the head of a chicken, should be elected, or selected, into the midst of all this blood?"

He tried to guide Gen. Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, a Democrat, three times, governor of Massachusetts, in the governing of some 17 of the 48 parishes of Louisiana controlled by the Union armies, an area holding a fourth of the slaves of Louisiana. He would like to see the state recognize the Emancipation Proclamation, "and while she is at it, I think it would be objectionable for her to adopt some practical system by which the two races could gradually live themselves out of their old relation to each other, and both come out better prepared for the next November election."

Lincoln's changing policies from time to time aimed at saving the Union. In the end his armies won and his nation became a world power increasing in international politics. In August of 1864 he wrote a memorandum that he expected to lose the next November election, sudden military victory brought the tide his way, the vote was 2,200,000 for him and 1,800,000 against him.

Among his bitter opponents

SACRED, YET STRANGE

In the month the war began he told his secretary, John Hay, "My policy is to have no policy."

To Gov. Michel Hahn, elected

in 1864 by a majority of the 11-000 white male voters who had taken the oath of allegiance to the Union, Lincoln wrote: "Now you are about to have a convention which, among other things will probably define the elective franchise. I barely

No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the latest generation."

INADEQUATE DOGMAS

Wanting Congress to break and forget traditions his words came keen and flashing. "The dogmas of the quick-witted do not inadequately for the stormy period. We must think anew, we must act anew, we must disenthral ourselves." They are the sort of words that actuated the mind and will of the men who created and navigated that marvel of the sea, the Nautilus, and her voyagers from Pearl Harbor and under the North Pole icecap.

The people of many other countries take Lincoln now for their own. He stands for them. He stands for decency, honest dealing, plain talk and funny stories. "Look where he came from—don't let me know as we struggle and wasn't he a kind of tough struggle all his life right up to the finish?" Something like that you can hear in any nearby neighborhood and across the seas.

PERSONAL TREASURE

Millions there are who take him as a personal treasure. He had something they would like to see spread everywhere over the best Democracy? We can't find words to say exactly what it is, but he had it. In his blood and bones he carried it. In the breaking of his speeches and writings it is here. Popular government? Republican institutions? Government where the people elect their own leaders and writes it they want? He had the idea. It's there in the lights and shadows of his personality, a mystery that can be lived but never fully spoken in words.

IRON STRENGTH

Our good friend the poet and playwright Mark Van Doren tells us:

"To me, Lincoln seems to me the most interesting man who ever lived. He was gentle, but his gentleness was combined with a terrific toughness and iron strength."

How did Lincoln say he would like to be remembered? His beloved friend, Representative Owen Lovejoy of Illinois, said in May of 1864 and friends wrote to Lincoln and he replied that the pressure of duties kept him from pointing to a marble monument to Lovejoy, the last sentence of his will was to have him have the marble monument, along with the well-assured and more enduring one in the hearts of those who love his liberty unselfishly, for all men.

So perhaps we may say that the well assured and most enduring is a memorial to Lincoln which is invisibly there, today, tomorrow and for a long time yet to come in the hearts of lovers of liberty, men and women who understand that wherever there is freedom there have been those who fought, toiled and sacrificed for it.

THROUGH ETERNITY

He wrote for Congress to read on Dec. 1, 1862.

"In times like the present man would utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time and eternity."

Like an ancient pessimist he warned Congress:

"Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We will be remembered in spite of ourselves."

People's Platform

'We Need A Zoo'

Editors, The News: Charlotte: WHY NOT a zoo for Charlotte? This question interests more people than one.

Let us concede that Charlotte is a metropolis whose future growth is unlimited, being geographically located in the almost center of what some day will be known as a metropolitan "strip city," running from Atlanta, Ga. to Raleigh, N. C., and whose status as a cultural center has already been established. It is a city with more churches per capita than any other in the United States and beautiful parks and lakes, recreation areas. It has a collection of one of any kind, Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey Circus will hold its world premiere. It has a jet age airport which Arthur Godfrey highly praised. It is a city which is becoming a medical center. It has botanical gardens and clubs, and art museum.

Could we want or have more? There is — a zoo.

If you asked this same question of the populace of Charlotte and the surrounding metropolitan area you would receive an affirmative answer.

Have you noticed the amazing growth of family pets during the past decade — dogs, cats, canaries, parakeets, turtles, aquariums of rabble rouser John Kasper. The Seaboard White Citizens Council has buried them. Two of Fleming's henchmen, Eugene Colton and H. Cary Hansel, also signed the rental papers for the box.

Could we want or have more? There is — a zoo.

If you asked this same question of the populace of Charlotte and the surrounding metropolitan area you would receive an affirmative answer.

Have you noticed the amazing growth of family pets during the past decade — dogs, cats, canaries, parakeets, turtles, aquariums of rabble rouser John Kasper. The Seaboard White Citizens Council has buried them. Two of Fleming's henchmen, Eugene Colton and H. Cary Hansel, also signed the rental papers for the box.

Could we want or have more? There is — a zoo.

If you asked this same question of the populace of Charlotte and the surrounding metropolitan area you would receive an affirmative answer.

Have you noticed the amazing growth of family pets during the past decade — dogs, cats, canaries, parakeets, turtles, aquariums of rabble rouser John Kasper. The Seaboard White Citizens Council has buried them. Two of Fleming's henchmen, Eugene Colton and H. Cary Hansel, also signed the rental papers for the box.

Could we want or have more? There is — a zoo.

If you asked this same question of the populace of Charlotte and the surrounding metropolitan area you would receive an affirmative answer.

ple in this mechanized age have more leisure time on their hands than ever before. Time to enjoy the finer things in life, to appreciate the friendship and excitement of animals.

Children of all ages, yes, and adults, too, over the world are fascinated by the animal kingdom. Little boys and girls learn to recognize and name animals long before most material objects. Their books are full of animal stories and pictures. That is the sad part — learning from pictures.

I don't believe there is a zoo of any consequence between Washington, D. C., and the state of Florida — a zoo worthy of the name, large enough to be known and appreciated as such, a zoo where animals are fed and housed properly as cages and dumb animals humbly should be confined.

A zoo located in Charlotte would lend tremendous income toward drawing more people from hundreds of miles around — with the resulting increase in sales for the merchants of this city.

Think of the big loads of children from the schools and the automobiles full of families which would be drawn to this city because of the zoo.

In view of the facts brought out above, and many more, I believe the answer to the question is "Yes." More money was spent on dog food last year than on all types of baby food combined. Pop-

ularization of the synagogue bombing. Allen was indicted as well as one of the five men who attended a strategy session at which the dynamiting was discussed. Rockwell ended some letters to Allen with the Nazi phrase "See Hell." One of his letters referred cryptically to a "big blast" but Rockwell insisted to the FBI that he meant a planned picketing and knew nothing of the subsequent bombing.

Rockwell boasted to associates that he "kicked" signs, used in picketing the White House, in Cairo. What apparently happened, however, is that snatches of the picketing were forwarded to the FBI that meant a planned picketing that Arrasmith had contacts in the "Arab Secret Service."

"And I Still Say, 'Who Could Ever Fill Your Shoes?'"



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON — JUST across the Potomac River from the nation's capital, in fact only a stone's throw from the Lincoln Memorial where the Great Emancipator is shown in thoughtful meditation, are the headquarters of one of the most virulent and vicious hate-nests in the U.S.

Virginia Hate-Mongers Contact Nasser

WASHINGTON — The group operated largely from Rockwell's home at 6512 Williamsburg Blvd. Rockwell is the son of the prewar radio comedian and roving chair philosopher "Old Doc" Rockwell whose squeaky voice was once familiar to millions of listeners. The younger Rockwell, whose philosophy has taken a bizarre twist from the horse sense preached by his famous father, stayed as a house guest last May in the home of Mrs. Helen Lane, member of the Arlington School Board. His baggage included a printing press with which he printed hate propaganda in Mrs. Lane's basement.

Kasper's Sidekick

The box was rented on Feb. 2 by Floyd Fleming, grizzled old hate agitator and sidekick of rabble rouser John Kasper. The Seaboard White Citizens Council has buried them. Two of Fleming's henchmen, Eugene Colton and H. Cary Hansel, also signed the rental papers for the box.

Virginia Hate-Mongers Contact Nasser

WASHINGTON — The group operated largely from Rockwell's home at 6512 Williamsburg Blvd. Rockwell is the son of the prewar radio comedian and roving chair philosopher "Old Doc" Rockwell whose squeaky voice was once familiar to millions of listeners. The younger Rockwell, whose philosophy has taken a bizarre twist from the horse sense preached by his famous father, stayed as a house guest last May in the home of Mrs. Helen Lane, member of the Arlington School Board. His baggage included a printing press with which he printed hate propaganda in Mrs. Lane's basement.