



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Plan To Merge School Systems Opens New Era For Metropolitan Mecklenburg

AGREEMENT on a master plan to consolidate the city and county school systems symbolizes a new awakening in metropolitan Mecklenburg.

Artificial barriers are at last being dissolved by a single community of interest. More and more Mecklenburgers are becoming aware of the essential interdependence of 275,000 people.

It is a wise and healthy response to the necessities of the age.

The alternatives are complacency and stagnation. The best armor against both is the certain knowledge that the progress of metropolitan Mecklenburg is not a limited field but a continuing process that grows more vital with each successive test.

Unity in public education is one of the essentials of progress in Mecklenburg County. It cannot be put off any longer.

The reasons for a consolidated school system for the entire county have been explained in these columns for years. By now, the benefits to both the children, their parents and the taxpayers should be fairly easy to recognize. A single, well-coordinated administrative unit could provide uniformly high standards with maximum efficiency.

But there is another reason why a merger is necessary now—one that is not so simple to grasp. It involves Charlotte's perimeter.

This important residential area will be taken into the city in 1960. Yet it will not necessarily become a part of the city school district. Unless consolidation can be arranged there is sure to be a battle for the perimeter because of its high property valuations.

To lose the perimeter would wreck the county school system. It means almost as much to an expanding city school

system for it cannot afford to be bottled up inside the present district lines. The only sensible solution is consolidation. This is the only way the perimeter can be shared in such a way that will benefit the entire metropolitan community.

After years of earnest argument and discussion, the school boards of the two administrative units recognize the validity of this solution.

Last night they agreed on the basic principles of legislation that will be required to bring about the merger.

The burden of responsibility will now fall upon the shoulders of Mecklenburg's legislative delegation. They will be asked tomorrow morning to introduce a bill paving the way for the proposed merger. If the measure becomes law, Mecklenburg will be asked later to approve a single countywide tax supplement for the consolidated system. At present, the city and the county have their own separate supplemental tax levies.

It is obvious that many hurdles still remain before consolidation is a reality. But we are convinced that the larger barriers are behind us. Surely, no one will want to block progress now.

Meanwhile, the members of the two school boards have earned the congratulations of the entire metropolitan community. They have labored long and conscientiously on the proposed merger.

There was much give and take across the conference table. Naturally, some compromises had to be made at critical moments in the negotiations. Fortunately, the public is represented on both boards by people who genuinely believe in the greatest good for the greatest number.

To lose the perimeter would wreck the county school system. It means almost as much to an expanding city school

People's Platform

Charlotte
 Editors, The News: YOUR editorial on the review of Job T. Reiker's "Education and Freedom" left me with ambivalent feeling of admiration and disappointment. The former by reason of the several paragraphs treating fresh observations in the complex field of educational philosophy in which I am interested. The disappointment is caused by the confusion arising from the multitude of key issues which you have thrown into the hopper. I count

The 'Great Debate' in Education Is A Sham

You and Adm. Rickover are correct in stating that despite the fact that we have our own people for education—and how we do so in this lack!—this still does not mean that we are inhibiting factors of financial impoverishment of education nationally were removed forthwith you would do a poor job educating if you had an incorrect philosophy and methodology. And this leads to your exciting discovery that the "great debate" over American education has been mislabeled. It is not a debate between the old-fashioned "classics" and educationists, nor between the old-fashioned "to-ris" and the "progressives." The numerous forms that we "battles" in educational philosophy hold down to is this issue, and the question that I am sure you are wrong! The product of the "old" was, in a different way, to be sure no better than the "new" but it was not culpable as to the "new." Indeed the latter arose as an antidote to the former, albeit not successfully.

The issue, if posed in terms of one or the other of these categories, leads to a dead end. Such discussions invariably end in name calling and mutual recrimination. In reality, this is not the issue at all. It is rather that this presentation is the essence of the confusion.

What is the answer? Ah, there's the rub. Happily many people are trying to insure that one out of whom Rickover is one. Your answer, "motivation" is not the answer. I have my ideas to offer them which would take a book. Suffice it merely to add my little in support of your fundamental proposition that it is not to be found in fighting the false issue of "Progressive" vs. "Classical" vs. "Traditional." When the smoke is cleared from this sham battle, we'll be free to look for the answer. But in one sentence, my own idea is that the real problem is to figure out and agree upon precisely no glittering generalities. WHAT I do wish to teach our children, it is in this area of CONTENT, and not METHOD, that the fatal confusion lies. The method will flow from this. To arrive at an agreement on this content will take the wisdom of all people of good will who are interested in the problem of salvaging our educational system.

—MATTHEW SCHWARZ



ADM. H. G. RICKOVER Content Comes First

ed—all in one editorial—and my head is in a swirl. The unfortunate result in such a case is the loss of the editorial staff. The freshness of some significant issues is lost in the shuffle. A discussion in briefest form of all the issues would constitute a good sized brochure. I am constrained to comment on so much of what you say that it is difficult to figure out where to seize hold for comment on some of the issues would be to neglect others and they are all so important.

In this dilemma, I should like to choose what I consider perhaps the most important idea, if we are to unravel the tangled skein which is American education. And I may add here that Dr. Conant is wrong. There is indeed such an area as "American education." Every well characterized in your statement as "sunk down in progressive theory"—only you would have capitalized "progressive" for this "Progressive" theory is far from progressive.

No one is against being progressive (small case). I am happy you are aware of this, as is evidenced in your observation that there is an irony in the fact that "the pursuit of progress" is not a stupid adherence to outmoded standards, created this peculiar "hybridism." In short, "Progressive Education" is not progressive. And it is your viewpoint on this issue on which I wish to comment.

In American schools, the Progressive Education theories are pretty well established as "official." Practically all teacher colleges and pedagogical books and periodicals are basically based upon it. The validity of its basic tenets is rarely brought into question. From this almost universal agreement, it would be supposed that the results of the educational product were highly acceptable. Yet the critical state of education is today too well established to warrant staidly denials. The problem of reading retardation, for example, has become a popular subject in newspaper, magazine and best seller.

It would be supposed that the individual groups would be the first to take the method to find out where the trouble lies. In fact, however, there is almost total absence of questioning of the accepted method. Your description of their reaction is superb: "Now even those who they look out against their eyes with the language of their words partially see but fear to admit their culpability..."

We need your help. Thanks

Many Groups Aid Retarded Children

Charlotte
 Editors, The News: WE WISH to take this occasion first to thank your staff for the fine materials, announcements and news releases that you have carried over the past months.

We particularly want to thank you for the very fine editorial concerning the work of the County School Board for the use of Nevins School as a place for vacation, recreational and work shop for our mentally handicapped Mecklenburg County. We have found that over the past three years in our work with the trainable, mentally retarded that the 17-year age that are in their homes with little outside contact, who can be helped in a vocational way. They may not be able to master the intricacies of the job, but they can be helped in a vocational way.

We are now sponsoring in the city schools three classes of mentally retarded, trainable, ages 6 through 17, for which we receive, from the state school system, an appropriation of \$33 per month. We are also directly supporting, with the help of the Southern Baptist Church, a class of trainable, mentally retarded at the Park Road Baptist Church. This church is doing a rather fine thing for the retarded. They have a Sunday school department for all denominations, where the parents have the opportunity to go to their respective churches.

I should also say the Citizens are supporting this work in the city schools as their project. If the Citizens had not come to the aid of the retarded, they probably not have these classes today.

We do not want the citizens in and around Nevins to get the idea that we are trying to take something away from them. We are not. We are only trying to help them. Nevins can be a great asset to the city.

When you assistant, Jack Anderson,

Murrow And Golden: 'Bleeding Hearts'

Charlotte
 Editors, The News: WELL, the mighty Atlas has done the unprecedented; he set the heavens gently down and rested his tired shoulders for about 15 minutes on the night of Feb. 13, and Charlotteans, particularly, marveled at the resulting phenomena. Two bleeding hearts of the liberal establishment—Ed

Murrow And Golden: 'Bleeding Hearts'

Murrow and Harry Golden—were brought together in "brilliant" but what was the miracle of television.

Those of us who've been apprehensive over the integration question can now relax and forget it. Golden announced to the nation that his celebrated "Vertical Plan" is "effective." Naturally, I could write for hours marveling at what I saw and heard when Atlas took to the air that night, but I must cut this short and tend to a far more important matter. Must rush right out to buy a dozen copies of Golden's book. You see, a few of the boys in colloblock 29 are having trouble with their reactionary warden. It seems that the stupid fellow won't permit as much

"freedom and brotherhood" as the boys feel is their inalienable right to have. Freedom to run the prison, freedom to escape, and such trivial things as that, is all the boys want. They're really good boys—haven't done much wrong—and it's our fault that they are in there anyway.

anyhow, I thought that by putting a copy of Harry's book in the hands of each of them, it might tend to soothe and ease tensions a bit. And there's always a chance that a copy will fall into the hated warden's hands. If that happens—ZOOM—freedom and brotherhood will run rampant, and it will be right with the boys, the warden—and indeed, even the world! —J. R. CHERRY JR.

These May Be A Little Harder To Execute



Herblock's 'Ike's Right'

Who Can Replace Dulles?

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON
 THE decision taken by the President, when he refused to accept Mr. Dulles' resignation, was most surely the right one. For granted that Mr. Dulles cannot expect to be the kind of secretary of state that he has been before, accepting the fact that he must for some time to be under treatment and withdrawn from actively, there is nevertheless reason to hope that he can still play a most necessary role.

This is to assure the world that the ship will continue on the course in which he himself in the past few months has set it. No one else can give this assurance, and without it there might well be confusion, miscalculation, and suspicion abroad and at home.

There are, of course, obvious disadvantages in a situation where the secretary of state is ill and inactive while the actual conduct of affairs is the responsibility of his subordinates. But it is hard to imagine any good alternative, given all the circumstances of the unique relation with the President, his record and his reputation, and the fact that we are approaching one of the many climaxes of the cold war.

CHANGE OF HEART
 It is no mere accident, nor is it a sign of the fickleness of public opinion that, even before his physical illness there had begun a marked change in world sentiment about Secretary Dulles. This change of public opinion came due only to his indomitable personal behavior. It reflects a change in the temper and tone of his diplomacy. It is a response to the sign of "flexibility" which Mr. Dulles has judged to be

prudent and desirable both in the Far East and in Germany. In these changes the rejuvenated Department of State has played its necessary part.

This is the first reason why it would be a mistake to bring in from the outside a new and untried personage. There is nobody on the outside who now possesses the kind of experience needed for negotiation in the current phase of our encounter with the Soviet Union. Whoever he was, he would be a novice, and long before he could hope to master the situation in his own mind, the climax we are now approaching would have come and gone.

DEWEY WON'T DO
 There is now a well-qualified professional team in charge of the central issues in Europe and what this team needs is the confidence and the advice of the President and the Congress.

There is no one available from the outside who can do this better than, or indeed half so well as, the President himself—especially if Mr. Dulles is able from his seclusion to watch over the general line of policy for which he has set the direction.

THOMAS E. DEWEY
 No Sale

paired not only the ravages of McCarthyism but also the political brawls of the Republican Party after 20 years in the wilderness.

If this were a new administration at the beginning of its term, and if there were no administrative backlog in Germany, the President might look around for a secretary of state who in the old tradition of the office was a political power in the land. He might think, let us say, of Gov. Dewey. But that would be an error of knowledge and experience are so necessary, and when there is so good a team already in the field.

No More Part-Time Leadership, Please

THE "strong team" of second stringers currently running the State Department undoubtedly deserves the praise of News pundit Walter Lippmann and others who don't want John Foster Dulles to resign.

The team's good report card, however, was earned under a secretary who was, first, last and always, a do-it-yourself diplomat. Deprived of Mr. Dulles' strong active leadership, how much can actually be expected of State Department bureaucracy? The outlook is not reassuring.

Acting Secretary Christian Herter is able enough. But he is after all only "acting." The coming weeks, and possibly months, will not be a fair test of his ability for he will be understandably inhibited. Who could begin to solve any of the world's agonizing problems without the full powers and prerogatives of the office of secretary of state and with the stricken Mr. Dulles perching over his shoulder?

We are convinced that it would serve the best interests of the United States and of the Western Alliance for Mr. Dulles to be replaced at once by an experienced State Department hand who can devote full time to the most demanding job in the Cabinet.

The world need not shudder at the thought of such a move. There would be no call for sudden, dramatic policy shifts—even one which might accompany a change of administrations in Washington.

It is our conviction that it would serve the best interests of the United States and of the Western Alliance for Mr. Dulles to be replaced at once by an experienced State Department hand who can devote full time to the most demanding job in the Cabinet.

THE state attorney general has mentioned, in passing, the existence of a small North Carolina band ledged "The Black Shirts."

A Salisbury-area gathering of perhaps a dozen the Shermans appears to be a splinter group from the Ku Klux Klan. Mr. Sewell said it had the same general format.

Apparently they gather to plan dark consequences for those who have disregarded the principles of Klandom.

In both the Black Shirts, they come under surveillance of Tar Heel law officials. We predict no bright future for them. It might do well for this bunch to remember Catfish Cole and the Maxton Indian Massacre too.

The Black Shirts face being cast ashore on a little race-harred island of their own making.

But unlike the miniturers of the Bounty, this pitiful band will find trouble in propagating their chosen world, and there will be no romantic footnotes in history to mark their struggle.

Our Thought For Today

THIS bit of information is reported by Washington Post. It is chance of a single Soviet missile would get shot off and should destroy some American city, although war would not necessarily follow. U. S. would first want to make sure the shot was an accident.—L. S. News & Women Editor

Although the most serene marriage is a 30-50 proposition, couples should marry much younger if possible.—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

The hard part of a diet is not washing what you eat. It's watching what your hands eat.—GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA

Western state on TV now live a variety of unusual and new uses waiting for a legal bid by a future who are to speak only through the mouth of a man. It would have still more satisfactory for

Apology From Olympus

ONE of those fabulous film setups in which the screen curves round the audience and gives the onlookers a feeling of being right in the midst of the pictured events broke down upon occasion the other afternoon—as completely indeed as did ever one of the early movie projects of the social centers in New York.

In this case respect did the apparatus interpretation differ from one in the horse-and-buggy age. An electrically magnified voice coming over a loud speaker tried to convey the humble apologies of the management with appropriate sentiments. It sounded, however, more like the voice of Zeus telling mortals that there had been a traffic jam in the planetary system.

This is not what is wanted at such a time. What was there is a breakdown of movie apparatus. It seems there are always drives of children on hand. And while it may have been wholesome for them to be reminded that even the awesome machines of these times are so to speak only human in their nature, it would have still more satisfactory for

them to have had on the stage before them a real human being. And he would try to explain the situation amid the delirious details that used to greet the arrival of the nickelodeon on his Saturday afternoon.

But one had had everything. Maybe a good human collapse of seemingly sophisticated machinery is all one can expect for the price of admission these days.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

MEMBERS of the Cabinet have been revealing highly important facts about the American defense program which European military attaches in Washington have called in great detail back to their own defense ministries.

Some of the facts are so important that they have been placed in a strict curtain of secrecy around the Alabama, Gordon, Pershing, and other of the War Relocation Authority. It is indirectly involved.

A newspaperman asks the Justice Department regarding this case, and he is greeted with the story states of one who is found to pry into the atomic secrets of the U.S.

It was closed once

The case was considered by the Treasury Department to be anti-air and was recommended for criminal prosecution. But when the case was on March 10, the Justice Department refused to go along with the Treasury and raised the case "closed." This means that it goes into

the limbo of forgotten things and gathers dust in Justice Department files.

The Justice Department has had an interesting time in the last 50 years of prosecuting Democrats and not prosecuting Republicans. Since almost everyone is a Democrat in Alabama, it is not surprising that the board of appeals of ex-Gov. Persons are Democrats, and since some of the money involved went to the Alabama, Gordon, Pershing, and other of the War Relocation Authority, it is not surprising that the Justice Department would leap upon the Alabama case with gusto and glee.

Highly Embarrassing

However, just the reverse happened. Ex-Gov. Persons when queried by this column stated that he did not ask his brother the case. He was not. He admitted that some of the money involved had been spent on his behalf politically. Obviously the case was embarrassing to those in high places in Washington—even though Democrats were involved. So the case has become a "top secret" case.

When my assistant, Jack Anderson,

approached the Justice Department, he was not permitted to talk to Joseph M. Howard, chief of the Tax Division's Criminal Section, who had signed the letter of March 10, 1958, telling the Treasury why the case could not be prosecuted.

Howard, the hearing officer, who had listened to the defense arguments of ex-Gov. Persons' benchmen.

Luther Huston, efficient press relations officer, who had signed the letter, was "under consideration in the department," and therefore no comment could be made.

When was the case reopened?

"I don't know," Huston replied. Actually it was reopened the same week that was also returned access to the files regarding suppression of the case.

They Can't Talk

"Will you permit me to see Howard and McBride?" Anderson asked.

"What would be your answer if we inquired about a less embarrassing case?"

Big Alabama Tax Case Marked 'Secret'

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Mum's The Word

"He cannot talk about the case," Huston reiterated. "The department would not authorize him to discuss it."

"Who issued the order?"

"Charles Rice, assistant attorney general in the Tax Division."

Huston was reminded that the case had not been closed.

"What would be the rules if the case were not pending but still closed?" he was asked.

"I would have to say that while the case is there in its present status no one in the department can discuss it," Huston replied.

Huston, a former New York Times man, has done a conscientious job in the Justice Department. He was only carrying out orders.