



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON.....President and Publisher  
 BRODIE S. GRIFFITH.....General Manager  
 ROBERT H. LAMPERT.....Advertising Director  
 CECIL FINNEY.....Editor  
 PERRY MORGAN (on leave).....Associate Editor  
 R. L. YOUNG JR.....Managing Editor  
 JAMES McDOWELL.....Circulation Manager

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1959

## The Little Hole That Grew And Grew

THE proposal by Rep. J. Y. Jordan Jr. to strip North Carolina's sales tax law of virtually all of its exemptions was as welcome in Raleigh as porcupines at a picnic.

But its shock value alone is considerable.

With pluck and luck the young Buncombe legislator may yet be able to bring some of his colleagues to their senses about the biggest man-made hole in Tarheel's tax dike.

The sales tax is unfortunately here to stay. It was installed as an emergency measure in 1933 when the public school system was threatened with collapse. It was understood that a similar levy would not be enacted when the legislature met in 1935. That was wishful thinking. The tax was continued on an "emergency" basis. By 1937 the sales tax had won general acceptance as a permanent feature of the revenue act.

Over the years, however, one exemption after another has been attached. Added together they make a mockery of the ideal of equality of enforcement. At present, there are 38 different exemptions, rendering the law unjust, unfair, inequitable and discriminatory.

Most of the exemptions should clearly be eliminated. There must be some selectivity, of course. For instance, Rep. Jordan will find it extremely difficult to deal with the torrent of emotion that follows any suggestion that "food for the table" be taxed. Telegrams from widows and orphans will be falling like

autumn leaves in no time at all. But there are a couple of dozen other categories that will bear careful scrutiny.

The best guide we know for the scrutineers is a rule of construction written years ago by North Carolina's Chief Justice Stacy:

"Taxation is the rule, exemption the exception, with strict construction applicable to the latter."

Perhaps the firmest plea for a reform of the sales tax law was made in the early 1950s by then Commissioner of Revenue Eugene G. Shaw. He argued with more than a little justification that all exemptions ought to be eliminated except on sales in interstate commerce, sales to federal, state and local governmental agencies, sales to educational, hospital and charitable institutions, sales of productive equipment actually used by farmers in producing agricultural products and by industry in the actual manufacturing or processing of goods and raw materials becoming an ingredient or component part of agricultural or industrial production.

"Practically speaking," said Mr. Shaw, "an exemption in a taxing statute is the opening wedge which destroys the efficacy of enforcement. It is like a small hole in a dam and begins first with a drip, then a trickle, then a stream, then a flow, then a gush and finally a break which destroys the dam."

The exemptions in North Carolina's sales tax law have already reached the "gush" stage. Some plugging needs to be done.

## The Woes Cannot Be Wished Away

NO community can observe Brotherhood Week with a completely clear conscience. Too often, the polite pieties of casual rhetoric mask heart-rending problems. That is the way it is with Charlotte today.

We have made progress down through the years, of course. Much of it is due to the excellent work of organizations such as the National Conference of Christians and Jews. But let's not fool ourselves. A great deal more needs to be done before mutual understanding and respect become the guiding principles of all normal, everyday human relationships.

The problems cannot be wished away. They are too deeply rooted in the hard rock of human history. Each must be

facted bravely and with as much cool logic as man can summon up in one of those eras that John Donne said "are pregnant with those old twins, Hope and Fear."

Fortunately, this is a tough-minded, stable community with a strong sense of morality and fair play. It is accustomed to examining its problems and searching conscientiously for solutions. That is why, in Charlotte, there is more hope than fear.

Although there is much work to be done here in the improvement of human relations, we are confident that it will be done. It will be done because it must be done. If the community is to enjoy to the full the fruits of its progress,

## The P.O. Needs A Word-Battle Winner

THE Post Office Department can't seem to get out of the frying pan.

To the public, the agency appears to be some sort of voracious dragon which swallows its appropriations whole and then yells with a financial stomachache.

The householder can't see where service is any better, everybody gripes when the cost of stamps rises and it is part of the game to complain loudly when the post office doesn't deliver on time.

On the local scene there is a further intramural dispute.

It involves haggling over the worth of sorting mail while en route or after it arrives at its destination. The men on the trains say they can speed delivery with mobile sorting, the post office claims it can do a better job in the building.

No matter who loses the argument we hope the public comes out ahead on service. And the department could stand a shot of good public relations.

## Dry Land Is A Safer Spot For The ABC

THE Alcoholic Beverage Control Association made a wise move.

It had made tentative plans for a summer convention cruise to Bermuda. Plans have been switched to promote a less costly gathering at Nags Head.

Ever since the 1957 session of the legislature, the late A. B. Carter and room 215, the association has tiptoed its way.

Even if members would row to Ber-

muda they would draw fire from militant forces who oppose the existence of the group.

It would be even worse if cruise plans had been carried out and bad weather encountered. Think of the reaction if members had been spotted staggering about the deck and hanging limply at the rail.

The mal de mer would have been continued by the opposition long after the trip had ended.

David Tillingshast In The Greenville Piedmont

## A GRAIN OF SALT, PLEASE

A GRAIN of salt, please, a grain of salt!

A press service women's editor writes out of New York that would be charming intelligence, if we could be certain it were so.

She is quoted: "Women will look like women again this spring." And she adds: "And not like potato sacks, pyramids or French courtesans in negligees."

On the looks, it that sounds good but I still want my grain of salt handy.

It is going to take a lot more than the twist of fashions as may be decreed by designers to make women look like women.

Perhaps they will look the part in high levels of society and in places of dress formality and decorum but that's not going to be enough.

I am thinking about the thousands of women on view in public places at any time but more especially in warm weather, who are walking violators of the basic conventions on womanhood or ladyhood.

They are to be seen on the street, in stores, in places where others feel some formality.

What we are talking about is the degrading mixed costumes that aggravate the eye so often—dress coats and some of the various types of female trousers

garb worn together with just about as much appropriateness as one high heel shoe and one sandal.

That's just one instance as there are many variations, all of them similarly detrimental as they destroy the distinctiveness that belongs to womanhood and leave in their wake a loss that it is difficult to understand how any woman who respects herself would willfully inflict on herself.

But come summer, and what sights one can see as our women abandon the thought of ladylike appearance in favor of sloppy, slovenly garb, which makes them look worse than potato sacks, pyramids or French courtesans in negligees.

Some of them look like fugitives from plain decency. Some are bizarre. Some are painfully extreme, letting the vanity of style overrun their common sense when it comes to individual comeliness.

Some apparently ignore the fact that they have a great natural resource, a sacred endowment as it were that sets them apart, and under the guise of being comfortable, being in style, or being different, flagrantly turn their backs on all womanliness.

There are not many men in this world who don't deep down want women to be women by every trait they possess.

# Politicians Play A Frisky Game Of Tag With Budget

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON (The Honorable Everett M. Dirksen, newly elected Senate Republican leader, has sent a slightly belated Valentine to the President who supported him for the post against the opposition of the erstwhile Eisenhower Republican.) It was signed, "Little Speech."

Dirksen laid off an allegation by Democrats that in truth and fact the President has been the big spender and the Democratic Congress is an economizer.

SILENT SUFFERING

For months the Democrats had taken in silence charge, by the President that there is a party of wild extravagance. In speeches by Senate and House leaders Lyndon Johnson and John McCormack,

the worm finally turned. These speeches purported to show that it is actually Congress that cut \$3 billion from the President's budget.

IKE WAS STUNG

According to Republicans, the President was stung by the Johnson-McCormack switch on his arguments. At his weekly meetings with GOP leaders from the Hill, he indicated his feeling that Republicans in Congress should reply. The dutiful Dirksen responded in several thousand eloquent words, plus a collection of charts handed to him by the Bureau of the Budget.

MERCY HOUR

Forewarned of the Dirksen experiment, a baker's dozen of experi-



## It's Going To Take More Of This

enced Democratic backsliders, led by Johnson himself, took to the floor while most Republicans lurked to the cloakrooms. The result provided a merry hour for a capital all too normally freighted with gloom.

Figures normally are prone to

lie and liars to figure in the case of anything as big as the ten-pound budget, the temptation to employ the huge figures for partisan effect is well nigh irresistible.

EXPERT JOB

Dirksen, a natural-born debater who has repeatedly proved that he can be convinced on both sides of many questions, did an expert job with very little help from his cohorts. However, he was up against other experts as Sen. Johnson, Mike Mansfield and John Sparkman. All had served with him in both House and Senate and knew his gambits.

WRONG WORD

In the final confusion of charges and counter-charges, Dirksen was betrayed into saying, "I have given you the figures, the defense

rests." This was, of course, the position into which the Democrats aimed to put him. Realizing his mistake, he cried hastily, "No, no, defense is the wrong word. We need no defense."

AURA OF CYNICISM

The fact is—and all the debaters knew it—that they were playing a game of tag with the budget. It would at least hold the tie-spender label on the other. All recognize that the budget will be big, but other experts as Sen. Johnson, Mike Mansfield and John Sparkman are making a genuine, sustained and consistent effort to have it otherwise. Nobody in Washington, from the President down, is setting an example of the kind of austerity which would at least help to dissipate the aura of cynicism which hangs over the whole situation.

## 'You Mean There Are Other Crimes Connected With Them?'



## People's Platform Press Encourages Mobs?

Charlotte, The News

THE other day a man's motel room was forcibly entered and he was beaten severely. When he appealed to the local police and sheriff, he was denied protection and not even permitted to use the radio telephone to request assistance from the State Highway Patrol.

The man in question, representative Bob Beame of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, is a citizen of Greensboro, who was engaged in the lawful pursuit of his business as a union organizer because of a request from a substantial number of employees at Franklin Hosiery Mills for assistance in organizing a local union.

Mr. Beame sustained serious injuries as a result of his beating by a lawless group of people in violation of his every legal right in the pursuit of his work. The thing that concerns me most is that I have failed to see a single line in either the Charlotte papers condemning this mob action, nor have we heard a condemnation from a single pulpit of any church in the area.

As a matter of fact, it has been apparent for some time that a great many of our daily newspapers not only condone lawless mob action, but encourage it by their careless use of statements about people being run out of town because they didn't conform to thinking of

certain people who differ with them on their political and economic thinking. This is a dangerous situation. It can point the way to similar situations to those which occurred in Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Fascist Spain as well as Communist Russia.

We cannot have the laws in this country applied to fit any particular situation; they must apply to all law breakers alike.

—CAREY E. HAIGLER  
 Director  
 Region 5, AFL-CIO

Editors' Note: The press is hardly to blame for what did or did not happen in Franklin. Reader Haigler's insinuation is absurd.

Does 'Yellow Peril' Menace The West?

Salisbury, The News

I DON'T think Americans should be much scared of the atomic bombs of Russia. There is much more danger that the teeming millions of China will spill over in the Americas and take over the entire world by sheer force of numbers.

There should be some kind of a union of all European people in order to protect themselves against this great hordes of Chinese and to keep them from spill-

ing over into Europe and the Americas and taking charge of the entire world.

The agitators for an Atlantic Union like Wendell Wilkie and others had this Chinese danger in mind when they tried to get a union of Western Europe and the United States.

—J. W. JEWELL

Japanese Boy Seeks Mecklenburg Friends

Osaaka, Japan, The News

I AM writing this letter as I have learned the name of The Charlotte News through the Youth Council for International Contact, has tens of thousands of members throughout Japan. Its purpose is to create international friendship and understanding. We are trying to introduce your country to Japan with the best of our knowledge.

The reason I am writing is that I would like to have a friend in your country but do not know how to get one. If I could have the cooperation of your paper, which has so many readers, it would be a great help to me.

—HIROKAZU SHIMIZU  
 313 Kasuga-cho  
 Suika  
 Osaaka, Japan

WASHINGTON

ONE thing, and one thing only, says Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts the front-runner of the Democratic presidential nomination. Without the evidence of his extraordinary appeal to the mass of American voters, Kennedy would hardly be in the running at all.

Some of the evidence for this mass appeal is drawn from a series of state and city polls taken by the professional opinion-taker, Louis Harris. These fairly staggering documents—even were in their meaning for the Republicans than for Kennedy's Democratic rivals—have been confined to small circle of politicians friendly to Kennedy. Copies have been obtained from a member of this circle.

In view of their origin, the Harris polls will no doubt be denounced as less than impartial. But the first place, Kennedy is only one of many candidates, Republican as well as Democratic, concerning whom Harris has made opinion tests, and the records show that the Harris tests have been useful. Then too, the more general results of the inquiring Mr. Gallup's recent national presidential poll strongly confirm the Harris results. Finally, this reporter has often run doorbells with Harris and can vouch for the care Harris takes in his polling.

In sum, if the findings of any polls deserve attention (which can only be said), the findings of the Harris polls deserve it. For the main findings, Kennedy was tested against the Republican front-runner, Vice President Richard M. Nixon. State by state, omitting the undecided voters who generally form about a quarter of those polled, the percentages of Kennedy fans were as follows:

State	Kennedy	Nixon
California	55	45
Florida	72	28
Maryland	58	42
Ohio	54	46
Oregon	59	41
Pennsylvania	57	43
West Virginia	56	44
Wisconsin	50.4	49.6

All these state tests of Kennedy versus Nixon were made during the last elections, as interesting extras, so to say, when Harris had been commissioned to do other political polling in the same states. In some of the states, other Democratic candidates, Adlai E. Stevenson was not run against Nixon in the same state where the strength of Humphrey and Spingarn was tested. But in Ohio, where Kennedy beat Nixon easily, Stevenson was also run against the Vice President and lost the race by a hair, 50.3 to 49.5.

Another, much more recent Harris poll indicates that the sup-

port for Jack Kennedy is not just a passing mania of the people in the walk-ups, the split-levels, and the farm-houses, Farm houses, to be sure, did not enter into this one, which was taken within the last weeks in the cities of Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Salt Lake city, and Phoenix. This time, the news for the Vice President was even worse than in the other polls, since he did markedly less well than New York's bustling Mayor Nelson Rockefeller in these cities in his own home territory.

ONE-SIDED

Omitting the undecided voters, Kennedy beat Nixon 61.39; Spingarn beat Nixon 53.47; and Humphrey beat Nixon 54.46. Kennedy also beat Rockefeller 57.43; but Rockefeller defeated Spingarn 52.48, and he barely defeated Humphrey 50.42. In this poll of West Coast cities, it may be added, all three Democratic entrants ran especially well among Catholic voters, with Kennedy strongly in the lead, rather naturally. The Protestant voters were more than they liked their fellow-Protestants, Spingarn and Humphrey. For instance, Kennedy and Rockefeller ran 50.50 among the Protestants, whereas Rockefeller did 46.46 among Catholics, and Spingarn 46.46, and Humphrey 50.50.

ONE-SIDED

One would hardly dare to present these figures if it were not for the recollection of such experiences as the doorbell ringing in the White House, and the fact that for Eisenhower in 1952, for Harrisman quite comfortably in 1954, and for Eisenhower again in 1956, Harris went about on that occasion. We found the kind of switch from Harrisman to Rockefeller that eventually gave Rockefeller the victory. Yet in a Kennedy-Nixon test which we did not publish, we also found Kennedy leading Rockefeller and swamping Nixon by about 20 percentage points. Here again, the Protestants included many Kennedy-fan-

atic. The election is far ahead, of course, and delegates are not won by opinion-polling. But there is a Harrisman in the data presented above.

SEN. JOHN KENNEDY  
 High, Wide And Handsome

Quote, Unquote

"Publishing a volume of verse is like dropping a rose petal down the Grand Canyon and waiting for the echo."—Don Marquis

SEN. JOHN KENNEDY  
 High, Wide And Handsome

Quote, Unquote

"Publishing a volume of verse is like dropping a rose petal down the Grand Canyon and waiting for the echo."—Don Marquis

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

A LOT of people have been wondering how the United States of America, with its vast resources of money, brains and private initiative, let itself fall behind Russia on missiles and satellites.

Part of the inside story could be unfolded next week—if senators are persistent enough—when they consider the confirmation of the man who once headed the Atomic Energy Commission, Adam Lewis L. Strauss, to be the new secretary of commerce.

Oppenheimer Purge

For it was Adm. Strauss who instigated the purge which knocked Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, developer of the Atomic Bomb, out of government. With his exit, scores of other scientists got discouraged or quit government altogether.

"Scientists are individualists," said Dr. Harold Urey, Nobel Prize winner and

## Senators Should Question Adm. Strauss

discoverer of the hydrogen atom of atomic weight 2. "They are considered queer people. But they will not be required. They should be ordered to make certain discoveries. We will never know how many scientists were dissuaded from working for the government or how many discoveries remained undiscovered by the purging of Robert Oppenheimer."

Secret Trial

The general fact that Oppenheimer's brain was lost to the government because Adm. Strauss did not approve of his free-thinking ideas is already well known. But the purge trial which Oppenheimer was held behind closed doors, with Roger Robb, later counsel for Bernard Goldfine, acting as chief prosecutor. Though a censored version of the transcript was later published, the public has never gotten a detailed picture of what happened at that purge trial. The senators who cross-examine Adm.

## Ike Subs For Benson

The audience didn't know it, but the speech President Eisenhower delivered to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association last week was actually one which Secretary of Agriculture Benson had intended to deliver. The REA chairman, Warren Magnuson, the popular, ex-governor senator from Washington, will probably let the admiral off with a kiss and a promise.

Ike Subs For Benson

The audience didn't know it, but the speech President Eisenhower delivered to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association last week was actually one which Secretary of Agriculture Benson had intended to deliver. The REA chairman, Warren Magnuson, the popular, ex-governor senator from Washington, will probably let the admiral off with a kiss and a promise.

Benson did his best to wangle an invitation but the Rural Electric Co-ops love him about as much as they do the big utilities. He has slashed their loan

## Twin Billing

However, Jim Hagerty saw a chance to introduce a legislative candidate for President and insisted Ike be given the spot previously reserved for Sen. Jack Kennedy of Massachusetts. But instead of canceling Kennedy's speech, the co-ops gave him twin billing with Ike. This nettled the President considerably but he dutifully showed up and read Benson's speech to the convention.

Twin Billing

However, Jim Hagerty saw a chance to introduce a legislative candidate for President and insisted Ike be given the spot previously reserved for Sen. Jack Kennedy of Massachusetts. But instead of canceling Kennedy's speech, the co-ops gave him twin billing with Ike. This nettled the President considerably but he dutifully showed up and read Benson's speech to the convention.