



An Open Letter:

By JULIAN SCHER
News Staff Writer

An Open Letter to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the 1959 General Assembly.

Folks, you've got an invitation from Charlotte to meet here during the current legislative session. Take the Chamber of Commerce up on it. They've got great plans.

THE WHOLE THING is being arranged by a committee headed by the master planner himself, Col. Paul Yount, and it could be one of the most unusual one-day legislative sessions in the state's history.

For instance, Chamber hopes you'll accept in March. Take the March date, friends, from March 4 through 8 the Ringling Brothers will be at our Coliseum. You'll see it from a box seat. It's worth seeing and some of you Down Easterners won't get another opportunity for a while.

You'll be in high cotton, friends. There will be tours and shopping sprees for the wives, a fancy luncheon, a dinner party, and a lot of other trimmings.

Dear Legislature:

Come On Down And
See Us Some Time

Sincerely,
Charlotte

You'll come here in special chartered aircraft or buses. You take your choice.

CHAMBER PRESIDENT Buell Duncan says the trip will give you an opportunity to observe "some of the problems of metropolitan areas in North Carolina." So it won't be all play. You'll have to work some.

Plans call for a short session, probably at Owens Auditorium or the Coliseum (depending on the entertainment), and local school children will get an opportunity to see our lawmakers at work. You may even pass a local bill. (It won't be anything as hot as the annexation measure, we promise.)

A fine program is planned. All we need is the go-ahead. Sen. Bell and Rep. Nepp made the invitation official yesterday. We've even got the money to foot the bills. And it'll cost plenty. But the Chamber feels the whole idea is worth it.

Come see how the other half lives. We've just got one head, too. You'll see that those rumors about Mecklenburgers aren't always true.



At Meeting Were (L-R) George M. Ivey Jr., James C. Downs, Randall H. Cooper and Edward L. Vinson.

Group Formed To Promote City's Downtown Activities

By EMERY WISTER
News Staff Writer

An organization to promote Charlotte's downtown area was formed this morning with Charles C. Crutchfield, vice president and general manager of the Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Co., as temporary chairman.

Mr. Crutchfield was selected by over 200 businessmen and civic leaders following a report by nominating committee chairman M. W. Crosland.

The meeting, at which two Chicago downtown redevelopment authorities spoke, was held at the Carolina Theater.

DIRECTORS NAMED

Also elected were 21 directors, all nominated by Mr. Crosland's committee.

Named for three-year terms were George W. Dowdy, Mr. Crutchfield, Thomas L. Robinson, Earle J. Glick, Zeb C. Strawn, G. D. Aiken and J. E. Dowd.

Named for two years were Jack Tate, Roy L. Palmer, Kermit Huh, George Ivey Jr., J. Carlton Fleming, H. G. Odell, and Luttler Maddox.

Elected for one-year terms were Sam Galabov, M. W. Crosland, Edward L. Vinson, George D. Frazier, D. E. Jackson, Rex Knorr and Eddie Chair.

The organization's permanent officers will be selected from this group and the board is scheduled to meet Tuesday at the Barringer Hotel to name a president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary and a treasurer.

Mr. Crutchfield named Zeb C. Strawn chairman of a nominating committee, consisting of Roy L. Palmer, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Dowd and Mr. Knorr.

Making the principal address this morning was James C. Dowd.

Mom: Here's
A Story
For You

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- Classified — 5-7B
- Comics — 8C
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- Social Security Game — 3C
- Sports — 10-11A
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Like Requests Stronger Laws On Civil Rights

Legislature Hears Plan For Future

RALEIGH — A legislative program designed to keep North Carolina growing was delivered by Gov. Hodges to the final General Assembly session of his term.

He ranged over needs in public education, economic development, health and welfare, natural resources and other fields in his biennial message prepared for delivery to a non House-Senate joint session.

"Some may think it is too ambitious a program for a governor who is dealing with his last session of the General Assembly," Hodges said "but I want you to know that my approach is based entirely on my desire to do the best I can for North Carolina and its people in the time I have left as governor."

Despite its range, there was little in the program to surprise the lawmakers since it was drawn largely from recommendations of study commissions whose reports already have been made public.

MORE JOBLESS PAY

An exception was a proposal to give the governor authority in times of unemployment to extend for an additional 13 weeks the period for payment of jobless benefits. Hodges said this would aid in dealing with periods of prolonged unemployment such as that experienced during 1958.

Some of the governor's other recommendations included repeal of the civilian absentee ballot law and a shift of party primaries from Saturday to Tuesday; consideration for a mandatory polio vaccination law; a program to preserve the ocean barriers; a 75 cents hourly state minimum wage; and pre-admission tests at state-supported colleges.

Hodges also asked lawmakers to study carefully highway safety recommendations from the Motor Vehicles Department, welfare proposals which the State Board of Public Welfare will offer, and legislation to provide for constructive employment for prisoners.

The governor laid money details of his program for his budget message scheduled for Monday evening at another joint House-Senate meeting.

Thus, he touched only briefly on proposals such as an incentive fund to encourage more public school support; local government bonds, a capital improvement bond issue for state-supported colleges and universities; and funds for a new state legislative building. Hodges endorsed all three and promised more specific action in the budget talk.

LEFT OPEN

He also left open such topics as pay raises for school teachers and state workers, but said his budget message would include "recommendations" regarding several phases of employee relations.

Hodges said for a later special message his recommendations on court reforms and revisions of the State Constitution. Both are likely to be major causes of debate for the current General Assembly.

He had to drop recommendations for handling the school segregation issue. He said North Carolina has dealt wisely in moving the responsibility for the problem to the local level. If future developments make it necessary, he promised to take steps to bring the matter before the Assembly.

Our Weather

Fair and cool today. Fair and colder tonight. Friday fair and rather cold.

Low this morning 37
Low tomorrow morning 28
High today 58
High tomorrow 48
High yesterday 55
Sunrise today 7:19 a.m.; sunset today 5:36 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 3A

They Tried To Sell Kids--To Police

HOUSTON, Tex. — A former airman from Michigan and his British-born wife tried to sell their 8-year-old twin boys for \$500, but the prospective buyers were probing juvenile officers.

Police yesterday filed charges against Clark Dean Stillion of Brighton, Mich., and his wife, Rosemarie, both 24. Two juvenile officers posing as a married couple purchased the boys, complete with bill of sale, with marked money.

Stillion said he had been unable to get a job since his release from the Air Force. Both he and his wife were jailed.

"We were doing it for the good of the children," sobbed Mrs. Stillion after her arrest yesterday. "I would have torn my heart completely, but it would have meant giving the kids a home and the things they needed."

The twins are Thomas James and George Frederick Lewis, children of Mrs. Stillion by a former marriage.

"BETTER LIFE"
"We never wanted to leave our mommy," Thomas told reporters. "But mommy and daddy said we had to that we would have a better life."

Detective R. G. Brumley and Policewoman Lillian Dixon believe an investigation after receiving a tip a couple was trying to give the twins away.

At their second meeting with the Stillions yesterday the two police officers counted out \$300 and promised to pick up the boys after a trip the bank to obtain another \$200.

They said Stillion wrote out a bill of sale setting the price at \$500 and pledged that the Stillions would not try to regain the



Stillions Sit Glumly In Police Station

twins unless the purchasers could not take care of them.

"When Stillion picked up the \$300, we bugged them," Mrs. Dixon said.

"I was desperate," Stillion told newsmen. "We hoped we could come back and reclaim them because we knew the bill of sale had no legal standing."

His wife said the \$300 would have given them a chance to "get back on our feet and take care of the other two children."

The Stillions' two daughters, Nancy, 4, and Tina, 3, were not offered for sale. They have been turned over to juvenile authorities.

The couple said they met while Stillion was stationed with the

Air Force near Southampton, England. Mrs. Stillion said she obtained a divorce from the father of the boys who could marry Stillion before he returned to the United States in 1954.

She said she was awarded custody of the boys, who are British subjects. She originally was from Newcastle, she said.

Stillion said after his return from England he had difficulty getting a steady job and drifted from Michigan to California, Louisiana and about two months ago to Houston.

A hoped-for job with a pipeline company here failed to materialize. Mrs. Stillion obtained a job as a waitress but later lost it.

East Germany Parents Reunited As Jail Doors Open

HERLESHAUSEN, Germany (AP)—Communist East Germany today released U. S. Army pilot Richard Mackin and four other American soldiers held in East Germany for several weeks.

Mackin, a 27-year-old American from Washington, D. C. parachuted into East Germany Dec. 3 after he got lost and his small plane ran out of gas.

The four soldiers are Elwyn Bell of Hill City, Kan.; Kenneth G. Carlson of San Leandro, Calif.; James W. Hayes, of Baltimore, Md.; and Myron Hampton whose hometown was not given.

The four disappeared in Berlin during November and December last year.

He crossed into West Germany at this frontier post on the border of Communist East Germany shortly after noon. Mackin looked pale. He wore Army fatigues and a felt cap. He said he felt fine.

INDIANAPOLIS — For the first time in a week and a half, the parents of a missing boy are together with their family again.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Robbins, who were taking turns going to jail, were tearfully reunited Wednesday evening when Mrs. Robbins, 35, was freed from the county jail.

She had been there since Sunday, serving her shift in an unusual every-other-week sentence imposed because the couple failed to pay their delinquent son's keep in a private correctional institution.

Juvenile Court Judge Harold N. Fields had sentenced the Robbins to spend alternate weeks in jail, were tearfully reunited Wednesday evening when Mrs. Robbins, 35, was freed from the county jail.

She had been there since Sunday, serving her shift in an unusual every-other-week sentence imposed because the couple failed to pay their delinquent son's keep in a private correctional institution.

It was Judge Fields who lifted the parents Wednesday after a hearing at which the mother and father agreed to make some payment for their son's tuition and to cooperate with the court.

"Do you realize you have a legal responsibility to the boy?" Judge Fields asked at the hearing.

The parents, who have six other children, said they understood their responsibility.

Then the judge told them: "If you will try to the best of your ability to support the boy and make facts and figures available, I can order your release."

The couple still must return to court to decide just how much they can contribute to keep the boy. James, 12, in the private institution.

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Churches And Schools Mentioned

WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower today to strengthen civil rights laws by making it a federal crime to use force or threats of force to obstruct court orders in school desegregation cases.

As part of a seven-point legislative package, Eisenhower said this proposal would give the government a valuable enforcement power to deter mob violence and such other acts of violence or threats which seek to obstruct court decrees in desegregation cases.

The program had been lagged by the President in advance as a moderate one designed not to raise temperatures.

But it may not please either Southern segregationists or Northern liberals of both parties in all respects.

THE PROVISIONS

The package provides: Additional investigative power for the FBI in crimes involving destruction or attempted destruction of schools or churches. Eisenhower would give a federal offense of flight from one state to another to avoid detention or prosecution.

Authority for the attorney general to inspect federal election records and require the preservation of such records for a reasonable time, in order to help preserve the right to vote as "the keystone of democratic self-government."

Temporary financial and technical help to state and local agencies to help them adjust to the school integration.

Temporary authority to provide for educating children of members of the military services whose parents have been closed because of integration troubles.

Extension for two years of the life of the Civil Rights Commission. The commission will go out of business in September without an extension.

Converting the committee on government contracts into a commission on equal job opportunity on a statutory basis.

Present non-discrimination in employment under government contracts is required only by presidential executive orders rather than by laws enacted by Congress.

One thing which reportedly came out at the last minute—albeit in a somewhat tentative way—was a proposal to let the federal government intervene more directly in school integration suits. This would have been done, under suggestions which were considered at one point, by suits filed by the attorney general in instances in which the government could prove that individuals were fearful of reprisals if they themselves sued.

Woman Dies In Collision

GASTONIA — An automobile pulled out of a side road and collided with a milk delivery truck in heavy fog today, killing a 78-year-old Bessemer City woman and injuring six persons.

Mrs. Elizabeth Croft was killed. Injured were five members of her family, and the driver of the dairy truck, Robert G. Duncan, 22, of Gastonia.

The driver of the car, Max Croft, 17, was injured critically. Less seriously hurt were his mother, Mrs. Bessie Croft, 42; his sister, Mrs. Arville Owens, 22; his mother's sister, Leslie Wiggins, 41; and his cousin, Jerry Croft, 2.

The milk truck was owned by the H. J. Ryne & Sons Dairy of Gastonia.

The accident occurred on the Gastonia-Bessemer City highway, two miles from Bessemer City.

Anti-Smokers On Warpath

(From AP Reports)

Here we go again. Taking his cue from South Dakota, a Utah lawmaker has come up with a bill to place the skull and crossbones on cigarette packages.

Rep. Wallace Peterson of Salt Lake City said he will introduce the measure today. The bill would call for the package to be marked, "Contents of this package contain poisonous ingredients." He said he modeled his bill after one introduced in the South Dakota Senate.

She's Excused

It wasn't hard to understand why the Paducah, Ky., woman was excused from jury duty.

She said she had no objection to the death penalty but would never agree to life imprisonment because she has claustrophobia, a fear of closed-in places.

Thanks, Pal

When Joseph Morav's car refused to start yesterday, the Newark N. J., man lifted the hood and found a penciled note that read: "Thanks for the use of your battery. I had to use it because mine went dead, and I had a long walk ahead of me, so I took yours."

Insult Accepted

Because the city needs revenue, Tulsa, Okla. officials decided to swallow pride and honor an irate citizen's check.

It read: "Pay to the order of the thieves of City Hall, \$13.50 for water from a bunch of crooks."