



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1959

### Mach-3 Mumbo-Jumbo Hits Charlotte

The brain-teasers of America's \$40 billion-a-year arsenal descended quickly on Piedmont North Carolina two weeks ago.

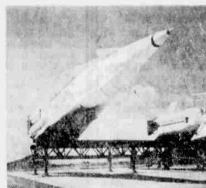
The Army's Nike Hercules ground-to-air missile, whose innards are made by Western Electric plants in Burlington, Greensboro and Winston-Salem, and which is encased and assembled here in Charlotte at Douglas, is caught in a life-struggle in Congress. Its rival: The Air Force's costlier and as yet non-operational Bomarc.

Defense Secretary Neil McElroy rang in this rivalry with a typical job of administrative buck-passing. He said he wouldn't be embarrassed if Congress struck "Pentagon feet to the fire" and forced an elimination of some defense overlaps. Promptly, drastically, the Senate Armed Services Committee cut like appropriations. The cut jeopardized at a stroke an uncounted but large number of North Carolina paychecks at Western Electric and Douglas.

Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee moved to force the issue from the other side. It leaped some \$160 million from the rival Bomarc appropriations. Elsewhere, Army and Air Force brass hats have added to the furor, shooting volleys and counter-volleys of propaganda for their respective missiles. The Air Force claims the Nike Hercules proved all but a dud in a SAC exercise over Chicago, where it was only 8 per cent effective. The Army says that's a lie: that the Nike Hercules can blast supreme enemy missiles from the skies with the greatest of accuracy.

Sen. Sam Ervin, Rep. Charles R. Jones, and other members of the North Carolina representation in Congress have rallied behind the Nike. What else can they do? Rep. Carl Durham, prey to much classified information about our defenses, warns of a "major hole in our air defense if we cut out the Nike Hercules." But surely that is not the only reason why he and fellow House Republicans are talking and voting Nike instead of Bomarc. North Carolina politicians have little choice, politically speaking, but to rally around when a North Carolina industrial interest is jeopardized. The dilemma of folks back home is no easier.

As Tar Heels, we know that thousands of people in this state draw their pay-



Charlotte's Nike Hercules

checks every week from the Nike appropriation. Western Electric and Douglas are vertebral in the state economy.

As taxpayers, however, we are helpless tyros in face of all the Mach-3 mumbo-jumbo. Is the Nike preferable to the Bomarc? Does the national defense system need both? Are both obsolete and actually ready for the scrap-heap? In the last resort, probably no one knows the answer. That includes the political representatives who cry out against "holes" in air defense and the Army and Air Force moguls who are always swatting and snarling at one another.

As Americans, we do worry about the state of defenses. Kennedy and Symington have taken up Alopeian jeremiads over the dangerous, and spreading, "missile gap"—due to reach its greatest spread in two years or so.

So in different moods we wear different masks. The taxpayer cries out against inflationary budget deficits until a defense factory closes down nearby; and the worrier about missile gaps looks on supinely at the profligate gapping of the Army and Air Force with each other. Essentially, the fault falls squarely on unfortunate exercises in petty jealousy known as "inter-service rivalry." But beyond that it is a question of whether Neil McElroy is master in his own house—the Pentagon. It is ludicrous to see Mr. McElroy passing the buck to Congress. Like the services, it is a murky market place of conflicting loyalties and interests. Putting McElroy himself ought to be putting the Pentagon's head feet to the fire; and ideally the President ought now to be giving a few hot feet. We propose one for Mr. McElroy, if needed.

### One Loosened Lace Is Not Enough

The City Council loosened another lace on Charlotte's railroad straitjacket this week and won the gratitude of thousands of thoroughly harassed motorists.

City Hall should not be satisfied, however, until the straitjacket can be shed completely.

The latest note of progress: Engineer Frank T. Miller has been authorized to redesign the E. 4th St. underpass to permit a broader flow of traffic. Widening the underpass will eliminate one of up-town Charlotte's worst bottlenecks.

But truly significant progress will not be made until the city's westside gap separation project can be launched. This will mean raising the Southern Railway tracks through the heart of Charlotte, the construction of underpasses at W. Trade and W. 4th St. and the widening of the W. Morehead St. underpass. It

will also mean the Southern can abandon its horrendous passenger depot and construct a new and more serviceable one elsewhere.

The city has a \$1.5 million bond issue in reserve for its share of the program. But the total cost of the westside work will approach \$4 million. State and federal funds will be needed to make up the difference.

The need is urgent. Charlotte was fitted for its railroad straitjacket in the 1850s. The situation was relieved somewhat in 1935-36 when a crossline was constructed so that some trains could be rerouted out of the Queen City's eastern section. This left the westside project as the No. 1 program. Every reasonable effort should be made to secure the necessary state and federal funds to complete the work during the current municipal administration.

### A Triumph Of Reason In Little Rock

The recall of three "massive resistance" leaders from Little Rock's school board this week strengthened the moderate South's threadbare faith in reason.

It was a dramatic change of heart. Last year, voters in the Arkansas capital endorsed Gov. Orval Faubus' school-closing action by a 3-1 margin. Moderation's fortunes had never been so moth-eaten.

It would be improper to suggest, however, that a single cut-and-dried issue was at stake in this latest election. The three segregationist board members had been instrumental in the discharge of 44 "moderate" teachers. Thoroughly alarmed, local business and professional leaders organized the "Committee to Stop This Outrageous Purge" (STOP). A rival group was formed called the "Committee to Retain Our Segregated Schools" (CROSS). Both STOP and CROSS forces were successful in launching a recall action against "massive resistance" and "moderate" board members. The "moderates" won and the segregationists were defeated—despite the spirited efforts of

Gov. Faubus, Rep. Dale Alford of Arkansas, Rep. John Bell Williams of Mississippi and a one-time Ku Klux Klansman from California.

Temperatures have cooled in Little Rock since President Eisenhower's unequipped troops to Central High School. The people no longer react blindly to Gov. Faubus' fiery rhetoric. They have drawn upon moral and intellectual resources which have frequently been the South's great strength in periods of reflection after unfortunate adventures. Ancient social convictions have been profoundly violated in the South during the past five years. But intelligent southerners know that suicide is no solution. The permanent closing of public schools is a form of suicide.

Whatever other issues were involved in this week's election, Little Rock's "moderates" have shown clearly that they prefer some desegregation to no public education at all. It is a defeat for Faubusism and a triumph of common sense. The effects will be felt throughout the region.

From The Memphis Commercial Appeal

### TV'S HARDEST BREED

Unquestionably, we should say, the hardest breed known in the world today is made up of the private detectives who appear in television plays. Every week, or nearly that often, they are walled in the stomach, knocked on the jaws, battered about the nose, slammed into furniture and so on. The remarkable thing about them is that they are knocked in the head with lead pipe blackjacks, the butts of guns, clubs and the like and never sustain a concussion, much less a skull fracture. A few minutes of grunting, groaning unconsciousness and they are as good as new and

may be better than ever. Of all the wonders wrought by TV none is more fantastic than the hardness of the heads of the private eyes.

A standing joke is one that's gotten pretty tired from all that standing and should be allowed to rest—Wall Street Journal.

—We often think that the mechanical refrigerator is universal, and then we read about some wife stabbing her husband with an icpick. — Jacksonville Times-Union.

## People's Platform

Editors, The News

In its issue of May 29, 1959, The News published a letter signed by Mr. Charles L. Morris of Gaffney, South Carolina, which drew some comparisons between the costs of operating the White House in 1952 and today. I do not know where Mr. Morris got his figures but they do not agree with information recently furnished to the House Committee on Appropriations by the Bureau of the Budget. The committee was considering the budget request for funds to finance these activities during 1960 and the question of comparable costs arose, as a result of which the Bureau of the Budget prepared and submitted to the committee a statement and table containing comparative cost data for the years in question.

No doubt your readers would like to see the official figures submitted to the committee. I am therefore attaching a statement containing excerpts from the report and table compiled by the Bureau of the Budget which show that on a comparable basis, the number of employees in the White House and in the Executive Office has declined from 1,594 in 1952 to 1,408 in 1959, a reduction of 96.

I do not submit this information for the purpose of defending the President. I feel that substantial savings could be made, without endangering efficiency, in the Executive Office. However, in the Congress itself. But since the figures furnished by the Bureau of the Budget show that there has not been an increase in the White House since 1952, I thought you might like to publish the attached statement for the information of your readers.

—CHARLES R. JONES  
U. S. Representative

(Enclosure)

"It is our view that a comparison based on total Ex-

### Homage To Hoover

## The Honest Cop

By ROBERT C. RUARK

LONDON  
Somebody, either Confucius or me, once said that the only good thing about time is that it passes.

The fact that J. Edgar Hoover has been running the FBI for 25 years suddenly strikes me as an awful lot of time. I have known John Edgar Hoover for more than 20 of those 25 years, and I am a mere telling himself.

Between us, one time, we managed to get a savage killer put away, when his main excuse for the murder was that he was an ex-G.I. At that time this was a test case. I have a letter somewhere in the files from John E. Hoover saying that the future of crime and punishment in America hung on whether or not this delinquent paid for his crime, or was awarded for his military service. It turned out, as the British say, he danced.

'G-MEN'

People who just think of the FBI as "G-Men" cannot know what a power of help the gentlemen in that big building can be if the man is honest and the cause is right. There is something quite wonderful about an honest cop, and the FBI is a real honest cop. These folks do not merrily turn the man's wrong, tag him, fetch him back, and deliver him.

I started knowing Hoover when he was a well-known statesman in the South's great strength in periods of reflection after unfortunate adventures. Ancient social convictions have been profoundly violated in the South during the past five years. But intelligent southerners know that suicide is no solution. The permanent closing of public schools is a form of suicide.

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## White House Payroll Trimmed, Says Jonas

Washington

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ecutive Office of the President appropriations and personnel provides a better measure of increases or decreases in presidential staff than does a comparison using only certain portions of the Executive Office. Each president tends to organize and use the Executive Office somewhat differently so that comparisons of appropriations and personnel have some validity only if comparisons take into account the total Executive Office. However, we believe that it is appropriate to exclude from this comparison the Federal Civil Defense Administration, the Department of Defense, the Council of Economic Advisors, Emergency Fund for the President, National Security Council, National Security Resources Board, Office of Defense Mobilization, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, Special Projects, President's Advisory Committee on Government Organization, President's Committee on Fund-Raising in the Federal Service.

Had civil defense activities not been deducted from 1950

breakdowns of the executive office, the total appropriation would have been \$39,529,560 for 1950 as compared to \$16,949,363 for 1952. Likewise, the total number of positions would have been 2,941 in 1950 as compared to 1,594 in 1952.

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The breakdown for the executive office during 1952 and 1959 includes appropriations for the compensation of the President, the White House office, the executive mansion and grounds, White House police, Bureau of the Budget, Council of Economic Advisors, Emergency Fund for the President, National Security Council, National Security Resources Board, Office of Defense Mobilization, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, Special Projects, President's Advisory Committee on Government Organization, President's Committee on Fund-Raising in the Federal Service.

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