



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Vote FOR Bonds And Consolidation

The choice at the polls tomorrow will be between progress and decay in public education.

If Mecklenburg voters have the good sense to endorse consolidation of the city and county school systems and authorize the issuance of \$8 million in bonds for new classrooms, an era of remarkable progress will be opened.

Should either proposition be rejected, the whole metropolitan community will suffer.

The choice must be made for progress. There is no reasonable alternative. The additional classrooms must be provided simply to keep pace with the county's surging population. Citizens can authorize the construction of these new classrooms by voting FOR the \$8 million bond issue.

Consolidation is an economic and educational necessity if an era of waste, disintegration and civic dissipation is to be avoided. Citizens can vote for consolidation by voting FOR a countywide school tax levy not to exceed 54 cents per \$100 valuation. The countywide levy would replace current school tax levies of 50 cents in the city, 40 cents in the county.

Neither proposal reflects shabby thought. They represent sober judgment and well-documented need. In each case, this is a stitch in time that would head off terrible problems that threaten to weaken the whole structure of public education in Mecklenburg County.

Consolidation, in particular, is the prod-

uct of years of careful study. It offers a magnificent opportunity for future educational development to be made in terms of the whole geographical area, in terms of all the children and in terms of total resources. Furthermore, for a few pennies now, there will be opportunities for long-range economies in the use of joint facilities, planning, administration, maintenance and purchasing.

It is important, also, to avoid bitter and costly competition for possession of the rich perimeter area. The county system would be wrecked economically without it and yet the city system must have it, too, if it is to avoid being bottled up with rapidly diminishing financial resources. The only sensible solution is to share the perimeter and allow every child in Mecklenburg County to have the best possible public school education—no matter where he lives.

There was a day when some purpose was served by operating two separate school systems in Mecklenburg. That day has passed. The artificial barriers are quite properly being dissolved by a single community of interest because Mecklenburgers are becoming increasingly aware of the essential interdependence of 275,000 people.

Consequently a great opportunity awaits the people of Mecklenburg County tomorrow.

We have too much faith in them to believe that the opportunity will be lost.

Let Us See Red China For Ourselves

Last week the U. S. State Department lowered the "Bamboo Curtain" between Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and Red China. Douglas, who had applied for a passport validation to write a picture article for the National Geographic magazine, is "irked" by the decision.

He has a right to be irked. The State Department's policy on travel to mainland China, reported to be the most solidly anti-American nation on the earth, has been a muddle for years. The late Secretary Dulles carried on a running battle with the nation's journalists, pleading a long succession of reasons why they should not visit the land of Mao and Chou En-lai. Was it because Red China holds American hostages and tries to "blackmail" the State Department into letting Americans travel there? Was it because the U. S. could not "protect" travelers, once they disappeared into that mysterious land mass? Was it because Americans might be "duped" and give Red China a favorable report? The reason was never made clear; nor has it been yet. Present policy seems to be that anyone who makes his living entirely by writing and reporting, but it was only after severe persistence on his part that "journalist" Averell Harriman finally won a visa—and now the Red Chinese have cancelled that.

Unquestionably, the communist rulers of China have played their own role in this muddle—sometimes taunting the State Department when it capriciously

refused a passport, sometimes refusing to let a certified politician or journalist or scholar in. But this does not excuse the State Department, which stands in abject need of a consistent and forthright policy.

Why shouldn't a Supreme Court justice—or even the rankest tourist—be allowed to visit Red China? Like some frightful behemoth, China is kept discreetly from our view. Perhaps, as C. L. Sulzberger suggests in his recent book on foreign policy, the legacy of sensitive emotionalism dating to Franklin D. Roosevelt's era yet has the State Department in its spell. Official policy is to cash and hoxton remittance, ignore the reports of the journalists, politicians, scholars, and plain citizens are available to all—even sheltered Americans. But it is high time for us to see for ourselves.

The emotional approach is wearing thin and futile. Americans may distrust Mao and Chou En-lai, fear their power, hate their objectives and their methods. But we tire of having it pretended that there is really no such thing as an Asian land of 400 million who have gone Red. The "Bamboo Curtain" then, is partly of our own making—and it serves no practical purpose. British, French, and Canadian officials are not so irrational. The reports of their journalists, politicians, scholars, and plain citizens are available to all—even sheltered Americans. But it is high time for us to see for ourselves.

Please, Oh Cereal Men, Just A Label

It is a faint hope, but one which continues, that the day will arrive when cereals revert to being nothing but cereal.

Let us point out hastily that we're nothing against the stuff. It is nutritious, tastes just fine, builds strong heads and comes in bright packages.

Aye, and there's the rub. As a childswinner, we realize these somewhat gaudy trappings are supposed to attract the young. The more people who can crunch away the more sales to graph. The cereal people are only doing their best.

But we do wonder if top management in the hearty-goodness-at-breakfast field still has youngsters of first grade or less. We doubt it.

We can speak only from experience, but that should suffice. For supermarket buying has become a grim struggle, a bitter survival to retain parental authority, a careful planning of strategy to keep one's sanity.

An example: A situation arises whereby the children must be taken to the store. It is madness to walk in and let

them go. They will beeline for the cereal shelves—and then one has lost the game.

There will be at least half a dozen brands in serious contention. They will either contain a prize or offer some cash and hoxton remittance. Ignore the pleas and the clamor grows until heads begin to turn. This can be embarrassing.

Another avenue is to buy the lot, but this is a financial drain and half-eaten cereals will litter the home cabinet.

We tried taking turn about, but the prize-winning child is subject to being run down with a grocery cart by a poor loser.

We've taken the cowardly way out recently, to sneak off to the store and come home with a brand that offers nothing but vitamins and other fortification.

There again we often lose, forced to finish the box ourselves as the tots have turned to oatmeal or bacon and eggs.

The only solution we feel is for all manufacturers to put the brand name on the box and let it go at that.

Besides, one day the prizes might extend to the adult orbit more than they do, and we couldn't decide which brand to buy either.

FAR FINER CALLING

One of my boys is in the first grade at school. Thinking that he had been exposed to enough of life and education to begin thinking about serious matters, such as becoming a scientist or President, I inquired about his plans for adulthood. Without hesitation, as if he certainly had been considering the problem, he replied, "I want to be a janitor."

Apparently things haven't changed too much. Being janitor is, in the minds of small boys, an interesting and noble calling. It also is a noble calling in the minds of adults who were fortunate enough to have a school janitor such as we had in high school Mr. Bottoms, who was known to all of us, and if he had a first name we never worried about it. But we were fortunate that he thought of his job as being more than following a broom around or seeing that furnace pipes

did not rattle and bang which he did well enough.

He was our confessor, confidant, adviser, booster and disciplinarian. He steadily withstood some of the most outrageous pranks ever devised by gile minds. He could be counted on to give us eleven-hour advice which saved us from unbalanced appearances before the principal. He might at times be relied on for emergency funds for those who met his standards. He tidied up after feelings wrecked by scholastic disaster as efficiently as he swept the halls. The English class have their vantage point system. I'll take a good janitor any time.

A woman president by the year 2000 is the prediction—and the first baseball of the season thrown out underhand—Columbia S. C. State.

—A LEGISLATOR GRADES THE LEGISLATURE— The 1959 General Assembly Dodged 'Basic Issues'

By REP. WATTS HILL JR.
(First In A Series)

Editors' Note: Courage and candor are characteristics of Durham's Watts Hill Jr., one of the brightest new stars on North Carolina's political horizon. In this series, written exclusively for The News, he examines the record of the 1959 legislature and comes to some provocative conclusions about what was and was not accomplished during 4½ months of non-stop lawmaking. Rep. Hill, now in his second term, is chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education.

DURHAM
The single outstanding characteristic of an otherwise excellent 1959 General Assembly was its failure to deal with the basic issues which face North Carolina today and its preoccupation with second-order problems which result from a failure by previous sessions to deal with basic issues.

It is generally conceded that the first step in solving any problem is to recognize its existence. To recognize a political problem often takes considerable insight and to admit its existence after it is recognized often requires courage. But it is only when fundamental issues are recognized and admitted that an individual or a legislative body can seek a solution.

When measured solely in terms of dealing with basic issues, the 1959 session must rank as a failure along with most sessions since the early thirties.

'STATUS QUO'

In the areas of education, constitutional revision and taxation, to name only a few, the basic issues were not recognized and dealt with. The major effort was instead largely directed to maintaining a basically inadequate "status quo."

In the area where the basic issues were most nearly isolated and the solution was most clearly indicated—court reorganization—failure to meet the challenge was clearly evident. There is little cause for the action of the legislature in this area as no member can truthfully plead lack of opportunity to be informed

fully on what he was voting. No, the problem here was a general unwillingness to face up to basic issues.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

In the broad field of public education, the 1959 session was more constructive than it might appear to have been. Higher education budgets provide for really substantial salary increases for key personnel, and many new programs were provided for. However, the very "go forward" nature of these budgets made it possible for many policy decisions to be deferred until later—decisions which must be faced up to in the next few years if we are going to continue to maintain our current generally excellent system of higher education.

Among the many areas currently being studied by the Board of Higher Education and probably by the boards of trustees of some of the colleges and the University are student testing to reduce failures after admission, greater utilization of existing classrooms, etc. But, again, most of these problems are the result of much more basic issues which are seldom discussed outside of academic circles and rarely, if ever, in the legislative halls.

WHO AND WHERE?

Among these basic issues are to be found really fundamental questions such as "Who should go to college in North Carolina?" and its logical corollary, "once that is decided, 'What college should they go to?'" The Board of Higher Education has dealt with these questions and recommended an essentially a four-level statewide system with the consolidated University at the top for the most highly qualified students, and most graduate students, to be followed in order by the colleges, the community colleges and then the technical institutes.

This concept, tested and proven in much wealthier states, is really the only tenable one for us but it is not generally understood and, therefore, not generally accepted by the majority of the legislature. As a consequence, appropriations for higher education are still made largely on a basis of what has been done in the past combined with what additions can be obtained through the legislative skill of an individual legislator for an institution in his area.



North Carolina's House of Representatives In Action: "A Time For Greatness"

The statewide concept is almost completely ignored.

One might well ask how long we can continue in this vein without misappropriating our all-too-limited resources.

DISSATISFACTION

When it comes to our public school system, a similar situation exists. Over a period of many years, and enormous though still inadequate increases in expenditures, we have so broadened the courses offered in our schools that we are in real danger of doing nothing well because we are trying to do everything, even if poorly. General and rural dissatisfaction exists with our present system even though it is one of the better systems in the country.

QUALITY AND QUANTITY

The public and legislature alike is asking, "Are we getting the most from the dollar we spend on education?" and they are finding that all too often the answer is "No." They are quite properly becoming concerned with "quality" as well as "quantity," particularly as it affects teachers and curriculum and, therefore, ultimately the pupil.

The Board of Education, unlike the Board of Higher Education, is just beginning to deal with these basic questions. Faced with a marked resistance on the part of professional educators to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of our present system publicly, the Board of Education has been faced with an almost impossible task—reorganizing the state public school system. And this in the face of considerable op-

position from those educators who believe that all that is needed is more money. On the other hand, a large segment of the public and the majority of the legislature are willing to make more money available but will not do so until there is some reasonable assurance that it will be more effectively spent.

BAD DAYS AHEAD?

Lean days are ahead for the public schools if the professional educators do not publicly admit to some of the non-monetary shortcomings in primary and secondary education today.

The caliber of men comprising the Board of Education and the depth of public and legislative interest indicate enormous improvements will come in the long term. But it is hard to see how some lean years can be avoided in the immediate future if the education profession does not face up to facts, admit its own weaknesses and help in correcting them. More money is vital and basic but the profession is going to have to put at least as much effort into cleaning up its own house as it has put, in the past, into getting more money.

THE CONSTITUTION

To return to revision of the Constitution for a moment, what is essentially taking place in Raleigh and throughout the state today is that we are groping for a government and leadership which is capable of meeting the challenge of the times. The tragedy is not so much that constitutional revision was put off by the 1959 General Assembly but rather

that even to minor a revision as that originally recommended is a time which calls for unacceptance.

The truth is that our economic growth may be exceeding our willingness to comprehend the problems which such growth inevitably brings. Problems which so long as they remain unrecognized will go unsolved. And yet, if we do not face up to and solve our problems, our economic growth is going to grind to a tragic halt.

THE BIG CHALLENGE

This is a time of unparalleled opportunity in North Carolina. It is a time which calls for greatness. Both insight to recognize problems for what they are—a condition of growth—and the courage to solve them in the interest of the whole state. Both insight and courage must be found and supported.

No, the 1959 session was not a bad session by any means. It had some very positive contributions and took little, if any, action which will do irreparable damage. But it also was most conspicuous for its failure to grapple with the real issues of our day and time.

Someday, and let us hope that it is soon, provincialism and satisfaction with our downward pride in mediocrity (which results in only the short term, immediate problems being recognized) will be replaced with insight and courage enough to face up to basic issues.

Only then is North Carolina going to achieve her full place in the sun.

TOMORROW: Why the courts were not "reformed."

People's Platform

'How We'll Vote'

By A. Matthews

Editors, The News:
Thanks to The Charlotte News, many people already know that my wife, Avery, and I care very deeply what happens to children in Mecklenburg County.

Because we care, we want our friends to know that we strongly favor a vote FOR the city-county administrative consolidation of the schools and the necessary funds for support and expansion which the schools must have.

Eight thousand five hundred and ninety-nine friends voted FOR me as a member of the school board, knowing that I favored city-county administrative consolidation. A June election usually brings out few voters. Therefore, I want to remind my friends who troubled to vote last June that the effort and inconvenience of going to the polls Tuesday is vital.

Let's remember how we have improved the schools in this run-around-Charlotte by enthusiastic interest and increased financial support and determine to go forward together with our friends in town to conserve and support increasingly the best in each system as we welcome new neighbors and grow together.

—DAN HOOD

Thoughtful Will Vote

For New School Bonds

Charlotte

Editors, The News:
Julian Scheer reports on the final meeting of a steering committee at the Chamber of Com-

merce office to get out a favorable vote on next Tuesday's school consolidation and \$8 million school bond issue.

It is surprising and confusing to me to hear and read of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce attitude. Are these businessmen quite sure they are not being sold a "bill of goods" by County School Superintendent J. W. Wilson and City Superintendent Dr. E. H. Garner?

I raise the question because a United States Chamber of Commerce committee testified at a congressional hearing on federal aid to education that the need for more classrooms and educational facilities did not exist until that is, educators who said they were talking through their hats.

Thank goodness the local brand of Chamber of Commerce spokesmen have seen the light which is hidden from their brethren who speak in their behalf on the national legislative level.

Regardless of confusion caused by the "chambers" it is my intention to vote for the bond issue and more classrooms and more light which is hidden from their brethren who speak in their behalf on the national legislative level.

—WILLIAM A. GRIFFITH

Quote, Unquote

"Every baby born in the world is a finer one than the last." — Charles Dickens.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
One of the problems of the harassed governor of Louisiana is his fondness for race-track gambling. For a good many years Earl Long has bet fanatically, averaging about 27 races a day, with three bets on three horses in each race—to win, place, and show.

Tip-Off

With most people, Internal Revenue doesn't worry too much about betting money. But one of Long's political enemies had tipped off the tax agents about his gambling and they sent a squad of men to check over his winnings and losses. Earl had reported

Internal Revenue Works Hard On Long

no income from racing. He merely moved off his losses against his winnings.

This, together with the "contributions" the governor received from the Teamsters to repeal the right-to-work law, from the steamship operators to vote the Mississippi Bar Pilots bill, all came under such rigorous tax scrutiny that Long, appeared to the Treasury in Washington for a delay.

"This is more than one man can take," he told his nephew, Sen. Russell Long, shortly before his mental crisis. They've got 12 to 14 men working on me day and night. I've also got 120 legislators nagging at me. These agents ought to let me alone until the

Legislature, is ever, so I can handle one problem at a time."

Sen. Long tried to help out his uncle by asking Commissioner of Internal Revenue Dana Latham for a delay of 60 days. But Latham refused even 30 days.

"We would be criticized," he replied.

Contributions?

Governor Long had argued to Internal Revenue that the money he had received was not bribes but contributions for his re-election campaign. And since the Louisiana constitution forbids a governor to succeed himself, Long had to figure out some

way to get around the constitution. Having announced last spring that he would run, he called a special meeting of the legislature, and was trying to pass a voters registration bill when he delivered the speech which caused such a furor in Louisiana.

Like his brother Huey, who died of an assassin's bullet, Earl Long's chief political support has come from lower income voters. The Negroes and poor white have been his main base. His brother Huey introduced free textbooks in Louisiana schools for the first time in history, and Earl devoted \$52,000,000 received from the state's oil lands to raising teachers' salaries.

Bob Fain, In The Lexington Herald-Leader