



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1959

Rescue Of Urban Renewal Program Is An Absolute Must For Charlotte

It is essential to Charlotte and hundreds of other U. S. cities that urban renewal funds be rescued from the 1959 Housing Act vetoed by President Eisenhower.

New public housing can wait its turn. Congress failed to demonstrate a clear need for the 45,000 units authorized in the omnibus bill sent to the White House June 23 — plus another 35,000 optional units a year after June 30, 1960.

But urban renewal is another matter altogether. Here a critical need exists. It is documented in gutted urban landscapes and in human tragedy. Unless funds are forthcoming soon the problem of urban blight will assume alarming proportions. The longer we wait to correct it the more it will cost to correct.

Rehousing of people displaced in slum clearance operations, of course, is essential. They must be assured of decent dwellings elsewhere. But it is neither necessary nor particularly desirable that a new unit of public housing be built for every family displaced, as Congress seems to think. To quote from the Housing and Home Finance Agency's own literature, "a good many of these people can and should be rehoused in private housing." The remainder ought to be given priority in existing public housing facilities. Confident that this phase of the problem can be licked, cities like Charlotte need additional urban renewal funds whether or not a single new public housing unit is built in fiscal 1960.

For that reason it is regrettable that the two phases of the problem were wrapped up in a single piece of unsatisfactory legislation. An adequate urban renewal bill might have been signed by the President had it not been linked to what Housing Director Norman F. Mason called a "whopping program of public housing." Had this happened, the question of new public housing could have been decided solely on its merits later and not as part of a mixed political package labeled "all or nothing."

The vetoed bill authorized urban renewal grants, under contract authority, of

\$500 million for fiscal 1960 and \$400 million for fiscal 1961.

This was not a lavish program. It would merely have kept urban renewal on a "hand-to-mouth basis," as Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.) noted, when a long-term commitment was essential. The administration itself had requested \$1,450,000,000 over a six-year period.

The urban renewal program was launched in 1949. Its funds are not simply handouts. They represent a form of teamwork between local communities and Uncle Sam. Cities may borrow money from the federal government for planning a slum clearance project, acquiring the blighted land, removing the buildings and running in such facilities as water and sewer lines to serve the new homes and businesses slated to occupy the cleared site.

Once the site is ready for new structures, the city may sell the land to a private developer. The money the developer pays the city for the site is subtracted from the total amount the city spent on the slum clearance project. The resulting figure is the city's net cost, or loss. The federal government pays the city for two-thirds of that loss.

The Urban Renewal Administration is virtually out of funds at present — but the demand for urban renewal money keeps piling up. North Carolina alone has five urban renewal projects underway. Federal funds promised or received total \$5,140,864. Charlotte's own urban renewal program will be seriously stalled unless a new renewal bill is signed into law. Without an additional appropriation of any description, the Queen City will be able to complete only about 20 per cent of the 22-acre project planned.

But Charlotte's needs represent only a drop in the bucket when compared to those of much larger cities in California, Connecticut, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania. The terrible necessity has been outlined in detail by the American Municipal Association and the U. S. Conference of Mayors. It must be met and met quickly.

President's Quiet Plea Is Not Enough

President Eisenhower continues to rely on the romantic view that the steelworkers and steel management will reach a settlement favorable to the "public interest," putting off a strike scheduled for next week.

In the quarrel, the industry asks for a wage freeze and an end to the "escalator" scheme by which steel wages follow the trend of the cost of living index; the steelworkers, of course, are asking for more money. What evidence is there that either the industry or its workers would prefer to settle for less than they ask without a strike? The steel industry, about which practically every important durable-goods industry in the country whistles as a satellite, has already produced for its main customers a satisfactory backlog of materials. The steelworkers have already given notice that they will strike on schedule. The attitude of both factions seems to be one of relative indifference to public approval or disapproval.

Nor is this surprising. Since the days of the Boston Tea Party, politicians of good reputation of all major parties, have preached that the central belief of the American economic system is that conflicting claims should be left to go their own way. If public alarm is more pronounced than usual this year, this alarm

can probably be traced to the fact that union leaders have come to take this wisdom as seriously as the leaders of big business. Thus, neither James Hoffa of the Teamsters nor David Macdonald of the steelworkers feel bound to exercise any restraint in the name of the public interest.

Uncensored freedom to pursue private interest has given the unions their pound of flesh in the continual wage increases. It has been no enemy to the steel industry. An economist for Sen. Kefauver's antitrust subcommittee calculates that net profits for U. S. Steel rose from \$7.47 per ton in 1953 to \$19.31 in the first quarter of 1958.

What, then, could motivate either the steelworkers or the steel management to restrain themselves on behalf of the consuming public? "Full speed ahead" is a profitable motto and it is also in accord with the most venerable American economic wisdom.

The President's quiet plea, if conceived in the most venerable Yankee mercantile spirit, is a bit romantic. And in view of his war against inflation, it is also a bit absurd. Mr. Eisenhower should intervene personally in the dispute and use every means at his command to head off the strike.

Charlotte Takes Up Pedestrian-Chasing

Somewhere in his heavy volumes of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud must have remarked on the beast within that turns polite pedestrians into rude curs when they climb behind the wheel of the car.

It is a curious quirk of human kind. From Paris to Los Angeles, it has only taken a cranked-up engine to unleash the hunting instinct, with the result that pedestrian-chasing has become a blood sport second only to chasing foxes to hounds in Virginia. According to Charlotte police, the worst offenders here are those who

set out to make right turns on green lights but speed on, illegally, to drive the pedestrians out of the way.

Perhaps it is time for someone in Charlotte to sponsor a bad driving contest similar to the contest, Art Buchwald, humorist of the New York Herald Tribune, sponsored last year in Paris.

The grand prize, we recall, went to a certain monsieur, the driver of a Mercedes, who finished off 20 patrons at a sidewalk cafe "without damaging any of the tables."

finalize the matter. "His tribe never ends anything; they 'finalize' it. Then there are such crimes as 'accessorize,' 'interiorize' and 'initialize.' The glorious goal is to make five syllables grow where only one grew before. In this dialect, we are told that 'Mr. Jones authored a book.' To say that he wrote it would be too crude. Let's finalize the whole mess!"

For quite a time there has been a gallant Pickett's charge on grammar. The Madison Avenue boys are committing rough mayhem on a great heritage. Often they make nouns serve as verbs, as in the sickening concoction, "Please use your smoking." We are even commanded to "de-avoidpous" our food. Someone ought to tell the clients of these wizards that, with correct grammar, English sounds good AS a fine language should.

Why Lyndon Johnson Won't Let Congress Go Home

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Baines Johnson means to keep his law-makers at work at least until Sept. 14, an adjournment date without precedent in all the seventy-two sessions of the Congress.

Sen. Johnson's reasons for this extraordinary plan are a highly practical, as his reasons customarily are. The 1960 Democratic convention is scheduled for July 11 in Los Angeles. This means that next year's session will have to end no later than July 8, if the Senate's numerous Democratic presidential aspirants are not to be sadly inconvenienced.

Thus the next session will

hardly be able to do more than pass the annual appropriations bills. Meanwhile, Sen. Johnson and his senior partner, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, are grudgingly determined to extract a whole series of violently controversial measures from the 86th Congress. Come hell or high water, they mean to pass a labor reform bill, a civil rights bill, a school construction bill, and a minimum wage bill.

HERCULEAN FEATS

All these passion-charged measures, if passed as planned, will no doubt be extremely moderate bills by the standard of the Democratic left wing. But passing even the most moderate civil rights and school construction bill, for instance, will be a Herculean feat. The job must be done, if it is to be done at all, during the present session. This is why Johnson and Rayburn have agreed to a period without any previous peacetime parallel.

BUTLER'S ATTACK

These facts have considerable bearing on the row that is now going on inside the Democratic Party. Over the weekend, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Paul Butler, attacked the party leadership in Congress for failing to "come along with the party program" and for following a "conservative and moderate program" of their own. Northern Democrats like Sens. Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania and William Proxmire of Wisconsin have repeatedly said the same



SEN. LYNDON JOHNSON
An Extraordinary Plan

sort of thing. But ask Sen. Proxmire, for example, how he will judge the record of the session if all the sharply controversial bills above-listed are actually passed, even in compromise form. "It will be wonderful if we can do as much as that," is his immediate response. In other words, the first point to remember is the rather simple point that this session's record is far from complete. If Lyndon Johnson has anything to do with the outcome, it will not be a "won't do" record when finally written.

TAFT'S IDEA

Some northern Democrats will still be dissatisfied with the record, but mainly because they share the opinion of the late Sen. Robert A. Taft, who once remarked that "the business of

an opposition is to oppose." Like Taft when President Truman was in office, they would like to attack the President at every turn, whether or not there was any prospect of a positive result. Speaker Rayburn, Sen. Johnson and their comrades in the Democratic leadership are convinced that this kind of fruitless contention for contention's sake is downright bad politics.

FAINT AND FAIR?

In the matter of the budget, for instance, Johnson is by no means wedded to the President's view that the American economy will faint and fail if government investment is substantially increased. But he rightly holds that the Congress cannot make a comprehensive new attack on the gigantic problem of government investment. Congress can pass swollen appropriations bills, of course. But only the President can take the initiative to revise the tax structure. Only the President can do all the other complex and difficult things which certainly must be done before government investment can be increased with safety.

Therefore Johnson and Rayburn have decided that spending is to be held out as the means to do with the session. Some northern Democrats are displeased with this decision, but there is no sign that the country is displeased. On the contrary, the most recent poll by the *Quinn* shows that more Americans than ever before — well over 60 per cent — are now planning to vote for Democratic senators and representatives in the next election.

As far as Congress is concerned, the political wisdom of the Johnson approach was amply proven in 1958. Before election time there was grumbling about Johnson's leadership very like the present grumbling although it was then rather more muted. In the outcome, running on the Johnson-Rayburn record, the Democratic Party scored a shattering triumph at the polls.

Dr. Gallup's latest figure is only an extension and a confirmation of the testimony of 1958. It must be added that if the Republicans could find such comfort anywhere, their complacency and self-satisfaction would be pretty nearly insupportable.

Russian Tour Opens Nixon's Campaign

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

Vice President Nixon's journey to Russia starting July 28 is widely viewed here as the opening of the campaign to be nominated and elected president. About 60 reporters will accompany him, and others now stationed in Europe will join the party in Moscow.

The vice president's solicitude for them is such that he is considering letting them have the honor of making the initial flight in the newer and faster Boeing jet which has been set aside for him. This would mean to those who must picture the President's brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, and the other assorted notables of the official party would arrive after the press.

It is the pattern of presidential air travel, where reporters and photographers are always dispatched ahead of the White House party so that the news channels and news technicians can be ready and waiting to record the event for posterity and the voting public. For obvious reasons it is agreeable to those who must picture the occasion in words and on film.

NO CENSORSHIP

Nixon is also trying to induce the Soviet authorities to lift all censorship on communications from his party. Reporters are told these assurances have been given. The trip, again they would welcome such expediting of their technical chores, the more especially as they will be operating in strange territory with nearly all of them having a language difficulty besides.

The Nixon staff has been justly praised for its foresight and attention to just such details when their boss travels. It helps to relieve the inevitable tensions among the competitive newsmen and to foster as much togetherness as they are capable of when at work — which is not very much.

The press party has not yet been assured that it has the all clear from the Russians. A major problem seems to be that the Russians are insisting that for his journey across Siberia, Russian planes must be used. They appear not ready to promise that a fleet of them will be available so that all reporters who so desire can go too, and that will be most of them.

IS A RECIPROCAL AFFAIR

It is not yet apparent whether the mixed reception accorded here to First Deputy Premier Koslov means problems for the vice presidential safari. The Koslov and Nixon travels are a reciprocal affair, each being assigned to open his country's Trade Fair in the homeland of his country's greatest rival.

That the Russians will strive for complete security for the Nixon party cannot be doubted so just as this government has so justly for Koslov. But Koslov has been plainly shown the hardened temper of official Washington toward the Soviet Union and in some instances, in Detroit local officials have turned the cold shoulder.

Correspondents traveling with the Soviet visitor have recorded Koslov's awareness of the situation and his annoyance with it. It is feared that Soviet officials may retaliate in kind when the Nixon party moves about Russia.

'I Can't Get Over It—And He's A Fellow Texan Too'



People's Platform

Can The 'Hired Help' Be Fired?

Charlotte Editors. The News:

In the past, as now, whenever National Democratic Chairman Paul Butler has unleashed an attack on southern Democratic conservatives, those same southern Democrats have taken the position that Mr. Butler is merely "hired help" and does not "run" the Democratic Party.

Recently, on the floor of Congress, Congressman Dorn of South Carolina had this to say about Mr. Butler:

"Lately the philosophy he expounds is that of the National Socialists, the collectivists and the Fascists. He evidently thinks all of the thinking and

planning of the Democratic Party should be done by himself and his liberal gang."

If Mr. Butler is so distasteful to the South and mere hired help, as they claim, then why don't they "fire" him? Or would a test of strength simply point up the fact that, while stubborn southerners refuse to leave the Democratic Party — the Democratic Party has not assiduously left them.

—DOROTHY A. PRESSER

Quote, Unquote

"The earth laughs in flowers." — Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Educations Editor

Praises Feature

Editors. The News:

Someone has sent me a copy of your very attractive feature entitled, "You Asked For It." Mildred. And here it is, by News Staff Writer Julian Scheer. I want you to know that I deeply appreciate your doing such a feature. It is this type of story which helps us to build prestige for the profession.

I am sure I speak for many, many teachers when I thank you for a fine little story.

—W. AMOS ABRAMS
Editor
North Carolina Education

Simon Stylites In The Christian Century

TIME TO 'GRAMMARIZE'

Among the bright spots of the little galaxy of songs in "My Fair Lady" is one tuneless outburst entitled "Why Don't the English Teach Their Children How To Speak?" That song ought to be the Holy hymn of all English and speech classes.

Led by an army of pedants and bright advertising men, the general public is now making a violent and brutal assault on the English language, the worst since Shakespeare and the translation of the King James Bible stabilized it. Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the English language. And hurry!

Take for instance that abomination of desolation, the vogue of making an alleged verb out of any noun found lying around unemployed. Thus the executive secretary of almost anything says "Let's

finalize the matter." His tribe never ends anything; they "finalize" it. Then there are such crimes as "accessorize," "interiorize" and "initialize." The glorious goal is to make five syllables grow where only one grew before. In this dialect, we are told that "Mr. Jones authored a book." To say that he wrote it would be too crude. Let's finalize the whole mess!"

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

Eisenhower probably didn't mean to play his cards that way, but he has handed the Democratic Congress an issue that will either tear the Lyndon Johnson Democrats and the liberal Democrats into two fiercely divided camps or unite them in harmony. The issue is his veto of the housing bill.

To get the inside story of why this is going to make or break the Democrats you have to know the following developments that have transpired in the privacy of Senate cloakrooms:

Clark's Secret Chart

Cloakroom Development No. 1.—Sen. Joe Clark of Pennsylvania, one of only three Democrats to be elected mayor of Philadelphia since the Civil War and therefore in a position to speak for northern Democrats, has

been showing other Democratic senators a chart of how Lyndon Johnson has failed to support the Democratic Party. In case after case, Clark's chart shows, the man who was elected leader of the Democratic Senate has failed to follow the Democrats. Clark maintains that Johnson doesn't deserve to serve as Democratic leader.

Ike's 'Ingratitude'

Cloakroom Development No. 2.—Johnson himself is weeping on the shoulders of his Republican friends over the ingratitude of President Eisenhower. He is calling Ike an "all-or-nothing man," a man who doesn't appreciate compromise. Lyndon tells Republican senators that he, Johnson, has stuck out his own neck with Democrats to give Eisenhower compromise leg-

islation approaching what he wanted, whereupon Eisenhower vetoes it. In the face of Ike's veto, Democratic rebels are saying, "We need you so. Why compromise in the first place? If the President is going to veto Johnson's attempts to give him what he wants, why not pass the Democratic program in the first place?"

Kozlov's Boost

Cloakroom Development No. 3.—occurred in the privacy of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, when Deputy Premier Kozlov was lunching with its members. He was talking about housing, admitted that at present the United States was ahead. Then he proudly unfolded a program for Soviet housing considered more ambitious than the one Eisenhower has just vetoed.

Cloakroom Development No. 4.—Rebellious Democrats point out that they have Eisenhower over the housing barrel. All they have to do is repeat the same housing bill he just vetoed and keep re-passing it. Eventually he will have to sign it—if they are tough enough.

He'll Have To Sign It

The reason he will have to sign it is because the housing bill contains mortgage money authority for FHA upon which the housing industry depends. The FHA has already exhausted its mortgage money and is writing IOUs to keep the building boom going.