

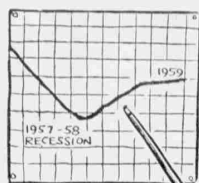


THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1959

'I Said Last Year That Things Would Bottom Out'



HERB BLOCK

Macmillan's Visit

'Private' Affair?

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
 The visit of British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan here is strictly a summit meeting of the White House and that's that.

The British Prime Minister talked with the Canadian Prime Minister in Ottawa yesterday and then flew here in time for a dinner at the British Embassy. To that dinner, only Vice President Richard M. Nixon and a blue ribbon list from the topmost State Department ranks was invited. No members of Congress were included, not even the chairmen of committees dealing with foreign policy.

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Mecklenburg Must Seize The Moment

TIME is running out for school consolidation.

If a controversy over purse-string control is not resolved tomorrow the issue may be given a hasty funeral and abandoned.

The situation is that serious. Consequently, legislators, city and county school board members, County Commissioners and Classroom Teachers Association representatives who will gather at the courthouse are confronted by a grave responsibility.

The big questions have generally been decided. The value of a unified system of public education for the entire county—a source of revenue the city system needs and the county system cannot afford to surrender.

The only problem of any real significance left is one of fiscal control. County Commissioners want authority to determine any supplementary tax levy themselves. School men say this authority should rest in the hands of the proposed consolidated board of education.

The point at issue is little more than

a technicality. In practice, it would matter trivially who holds the purse strings. We cannot imagine either group of officials abusing their power in this highly sensitive field of public education. Checks and balances would be provided either way—with the citizens of Mecklenburg County as final arbiters.

Our own feeling is that the school board could handle the chore with a greater degree of sensitivity and care and that the commissioners' intrusion is somewhat unnecessary. But better a little bureaucracy than a stalemate on one of the most important issues to face Mecklenburgers in years. As we noted above, it simply doesn't make that much difference.

Therefore, we urge the interested parties from both sides of the fence to come to tomorrow's conference with a willingness to hand a little on technicalities in order to achieve the larger objective.

The hands of the clock are moving. If appropriate legislation is to be secured during the current session of the North Carolina General Assembly our local delegation will have to have been drawn without delay. Naturally, on a matter as important as this, some degree of unanimity is desirable.

The moment, just arriving, is decisive. It must be seized.

Further Protection For Our Aged

HARDLY a month goes by without a tragic news from some point in the United States of a disastrous fire at a home for the aged.

Fortunately, North Carolina has been spared—but how long will the state's luck last?

As it happens, there is a bill before the House Welfare Committee in Raleigh now to require licensing of all boarding homes for the aged. It represents a golden chance to lock the barn door before any losses.

Rep. Ed Kemp of Guilford told the committee there are some 62 unlicensed rest homes in the state. About half of them are substandard, he said. They are overcrowded, understaffed, inadequate, and definite fire hazards.

Not long ago, a midwestern fire took the lives of nine elderly people who were trapped in a rest home. Others were injured leaping for safety. This, sad to say, is no typical story, because many of the homes' residents cannot

help themselves in an emergency, and in a fire-trap of a building the safety factor registers on the minus side.

Rep. Kemp stressed darkly that "some day the state will have a major tragedy."

But the possibility of this grim event can be reduced by bringing into the fold all unlicensed homes for the aged. We must have the help of people who cannot help themselves.

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Newest Outlook

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People's Platform

Teach Them To Drive First

Chapel Hill

Editors, The News:

FIRST, I should like to commend The Charlotte News for its excellent contribution to safety. Through its fine editorials and feature articles on this topic, it is rendering an invaluable service. The article by Staff Writer John Kigo on March 12—"How Would You Like to be Child's Killer?"—was superb. There is a great challenge confronting every media today to promote safety, which should be of vital concern to every individual.

It is not necessary to put on another 100 patrolmen. The State could save many million dollars and still make a greater contribution to safety by taking at least half of the present payroll force, re-examined, re-trained, and put them in the high schools to help with training our youth. We must train youth before the accident. They should be taught why laws exist and why they should be respected, as well as respect the law enforcement officers.

Patrolmen do not prevent accidents, they only pick up the victims and wakes. There are many cases on record where patrolmen have caused serious accidents by excessive speeding or speeding through fog and dust. A patrol-

Even 50 per cent of our fatal accidents are coming from the age brackets of 24 and under. It is obvious this is the group in which we must concentrate and endeavor

to help. I would suggest:

1.—Change the law for a teenager to begin driving at 18 rather than 16.

2.—Place the driver training courses in all of the high schools of North Carolina.

The schools which now have these courses are doing a magnificent job. It should be required that every candidate pass the course and test before a driver's license is issued.

That is the attitude of too many drivers. We must improve our own attitude toward others. A part of the Golden Rule. We must pass some moral responsibility for the other fellow, a moral personal responsibility for this staggering slaughter on the highways.

We should have the vision, courage and daring to rise up with a determination to stop this unnecessary carnage.

—D. C. PHILLIPS

U. S. Broke Letter, Spirit of Promises

Eikhart Ind.

THE SPIRIT and bone of the purpose and promises of the various wartime agreements of Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam were to defeat, disarm and divide-militaristic aggressive Germany for the safety and security of Russia in particular, and the whole world in general.

Now we have not only broken the letter, but the spirit of our wartime agreements, by once more re-arming, re-training and now trying to reunite this Germany we helped to destroy with our boys' lives, sweat, blood and tears.

True, our large capitalist corporations now just about run West Germany and they and their West German co-partners have grown sleek and fat on the rich subsidies of foreign aid which has and is pouring billions of American taxpayers' dollars into our former enemy's economy.

The Russians, again, since we have torn up the bones of the wartime agreements, she will face the remainder, namely, the Berlin part of the deal, which is a thorn in her defensive belt of protective satellite states designed to absorb the first shock of battle.

In London, Khrushchev talks and whines. Khrushchev talks and whines who will lead us out of this mess instead of war—back to friendly co-existence in a disarmed world. Then a united Germany may be possible.

—GEO. DAY

Mr. K Cries Wolf

A careful study of Khrushchev's statements shows that he has threatened war or the equivalent of war on at least four occasions. When the British and French landed at Suiz he threatened to rain rockets on London and Paris again when the United States landed troops in Lebanon. Khrushchev talks and whines.

Here Are The Reasons

This decision was not plucked out of the thin air. It was based upon the following intelligence:

1.—The Red Army marshals do not want war.

2.—The Soviet President does not want war.

3.—Although Khrushchev has talked about war and even threatened war over

man should have no more right to break the speed law than any other driver.

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