THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Fine Arts Drive Deserves Wide Support

THE "noble experiment" in mass support for Charlotte's leading cultural activities has begun. It must not fail.

The point of no return was passed yesterday afternoon when a date was finally announced for the opening of the community's first Fine Arts Fund drive. It is Monday, March 16. Charles H. Conner will serve as general chairman.

It is no small task that Mr. Conner has undertaken. Federated fund-raising for health, welfare and recreation agencies is not new. It began with Cleveland's first Community Chest in 1913. But only in recent years has the same general philosophy been adapted to culture's special needs. The nearest successful example is Winston-Salem's fine arts fund.

Viewed coldly, an arts fund lacks the immediate sock-appeal of charity. A part of the local arts fund's job will be education. Large numbers of people will have to be taught the value of a healthy cultural life in a community such as Charlotte.

It is our own view that, even today, the creative and dynamic elements of Charlotte's culture are generating values which make it possible to offer opportunities for a greater self-fulfillment and a richer life for the whole population. Given a sounder economic base, Charlotte's cultural organizations can contribute much, much more to the general well-being of the community.

There was a time when good music, good drama and good art was the private province of the elite. Those days have passed. Today culture is the birthright of any claimant. One of the aims of the arts fund is to make it possible for the extension of serious cultural values to increasingly large numbers of people. By broadening the base of support for the arts, the fund will also be broadening the base of appreciation and enjoyment.

A united appeal for cultural activities has a further practical value. Previously, each organization has conducted its own independent campaign at various times of the year. The result: Too much campaign organization, too much drain on volunteer leadership, too much bother to contributors. The arts fund will bring the same sort of unity of purpose and application to the cultural scene that Mecklenburg's United Appeal brought to the local health, welfare and recreation scene.

Consequently, Mecklenburgers will be able to give once for eight participating member groups — the Charlotte Choral Society, Charlotte Opera Association, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Oratorio Singers, Mint Museum of Art, Symphonette, Children's Nature Museum and Mecklenburg Historical Association.

The fund-raising effort also has the active support of nine sponsoring members who will not share in the contributions —the Little Theater, Children's Theater, Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Community Concerts Association, Queens and Davidson Colleges, Charlotte Music Club and the Guild of Charlotte Artists.

It is a bold adventure in fund-raising, but a worthy one.

It is certainly deserving of the community's fullest support.

Cheers For The Chamber Of Commerce

BEFORE the General Assembly's visit becomes a faded memory, the Chamber of Commerce ought to be awarded a round of applause.

From idea to execution, the whole operation was a notable success.

The task was gargantuan. Moving the governor and his staff, the Senate, the House of Representatives and key state officials from Raleigh to Charlotte would have taxed the logistical genius of Napoleon himself. But with Col. Paul Younts in the role of field marshal, it was done with amazing ease and precision.

The honorables arrived in a slightly suspicious frame of mind. But thankfully, they were not subjected to special pleadings of any kind. It was merely suggested that they have a good look around and enjoy themselves. They did —and what's more they liked what they saw. Obviously, most of the visiting lawmakers left with a better appreciation of the Queen City's character and outlook.

There will be no direct benefits. The Capitol will not be moved to Trade and Tryon nor will Charlotte's Confederate Navy Yard be reactivated. But we have a feeling that the long-term gains in terms of understanding and goodwill will be considerable.

The Chamber is not only to be congratulated for doing what it did but also for doing it so well.

A Type Of Protest

AS middle age approaches, it comes to mind they just don't do things the way they did a few years ago. Things are in a sorry state.

Have you noticed? These confound office doors are much harder to open. It was easier to steer a model A Ford than these modern cars. And have you run lately to try to catch a bus? They've installed longer sidewalks all around.

Even publishers won't cooperate. They keep printing books and magazines in this smallest type available, that deliberately trying to harm good words. It's overstanding, too, and one of these fine days we're going to raise rain with somebody.

New York Sweepers Try The Hard Sell

WHEN the City of New York decides to do something, it doesn't spare the publicity.

Its latest effort came in an all-out cleanup offensive, spearheaded by a department of sanitation task force.

Into Times Square the blitzkrieg rolled, marshaled by a street sweeper festooned with garlands. Two models in shorts and sweaters rode shotgun, with Mayor Wagner on hand sporting a sparkling smile for photographers.

Then confusion descended.

Photographers sought pictures of the models handing flowers to folks kind enough to drop their trash into city containers. At first, the volunteers, in typical New Yorker hurry, wouldn't wait. City employes rushed ahead, offering free paper for people to hold if they'd just pose with the girls.

Having rigged their subjects, the line of march broke down as cameramen took up to five minutes at each stop. The stalled parade caused a beautiful traffic jam, and it took superior police work to untangle the knot.

There should be a lesson in this for Charlotteans. Besides keeping a tidy city for the sake of cleanliness, we'd hate to be subjected to a last-ditch publicity campaign on trash.

It's part of self-preservation, too. If ever we saw a flower-bedecked street sweeper descending on us with models in its hair we'd probably be stunned, stopped cold in mid-street.

With our luck we'd be run down and neatly scrubbed into the monster's dustbin. And if there's any place we have no desire to visit, it's the digestive tract of a monster festooned with garlands or not.

From The New York Times

BASEBALL IN THE CONGO

A YOUNG American consul from Massachusetts has managed to establish a six-club baseball league at Brazzaville in the new Congo Republic. The equipment is not quite standard. Since there are no gloves or masks, the ball is made of soft rubber. But the bats turned out from a local wood, are splendid. And the boys on the Congo are just beginning to learn about baseball, but they love to bat.

Their idol is a premier batsman, Ernie Banks of the Chicago Cubs, since he is the man who hits the "grande frappe," or home run. The boys have heard all about him, but they have never seen his picture. The consul explains, rather ruefully, that he has tried to get pictures to prove to his boys that Ernie Banks is real, but that so far his requests have gone unanswered.

Maybe he didn't make the requests in the right place. So we'll make some for him. First, to the management of the Chicago Cubs; second, to the president of the National League; third, to any good fans who happen to have a spare picture around. Address the pictures to Consul Frank Magliozzi, Brazzaville, Congo Republic.

It might be a good idea, while we are at it, to send some pictures of some of our other great Negro stars to prove that while there is only one Ernie Banks he has some competition. Some 16mm movies might also be a good idea. And our State Department, which has had some good experience in the use of athletes to promote international understanding, might just possibly consider the idea of sending Ernie on a "diplomatic" mission to the Congo when the season is over.

A GI in England, out late at night, knocked on the door of an inn called "George and the Dragon." A window on the second floor finally opened and a disgruntled female shouted down, "What do you want?"

"I want something to eat," called up the GI. "Go away, we're closed," said the woman, slamming the window.

The soldier kept knocking until the woman opened the window again. "If you won't let me in," called up the soldier, "let me talk to George." — HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE.

People's Platform

Will City's Perimeter Include The Whole State?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

SO, North Carolina's lawmakers, governor, senators, congressmen, their wives, secretaries and sweethearts came to Charlotte to study the problems of a metropolis.

Ain't it amazing, the excuses the country folks can cook up when they want to come to town to see Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey Circus?

Come to think of it, though, it might be a good idea. So long as they can derive the benefit of our facilities we might take the whole blamed state into our perimeter area, so they can assume their share of our obligations.

Of course, Jim Smith and Van Every might have to move their factories clear down to South Carolina though.

—A. C. BUCKLE

'Either Turn Catholic Or Imitate Virginians'

Chicago

Editors, The News:

ENCLOSED is a circular being distributed in the area in Chicago in which I presently live.

(Editors' Note: The circular referred to is a Catholic publication noting that North Carolina "is still the least Catholic area in the world." It refers to the state as "the China of America" and tells of recent progress in the "process of evangelization.")

We, unfortunate expatriates from Virginia, have known all along about North Carolinians but we did not tell the rest of the world, especially the Yankees about you, but it seems to get out just the same.

Of course, I will say that under your splendid governor you are making material progress, but there is nothing else for you to do to redeem yourselves except to either turn Catholic or just study hard and imitate Virginians.

— BYRON BACON BLACK

GOV. LUTHER HODGES
Maybe He'll Be Mayor

News Commended By School Board

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

THE City Board of Education at its regular meeting on Feb. 10, by unanimous approval, passed a resolution expressing appreciation to The Charlotte News for the favorable approach that has been given to education during the past year.

The board is extremely grateful for the interest and concern shown for the Charlotte City Schools by The News and commends your newspaper for its active participation in the educational growth of the children and young people in the community.

—CHRIS FOLK
Director
School-Community Relations
Charlotte City Schools

Spiritual Forces Needed In Strikes

Springfield, Mass.

Editors, The News:

IT seems to me that our spiritual leaders should take a more active interest in the prevention and the settlement of disputes between employers and workers. As ambassadors of Christ, the Prince of Peace, the prevention of strife in the community, as well as in the nation and between nations, should interest them deeply.

At the first sign of serious differences between management and workers in any place, I think the spiritual forces should be mobilized and even public prayers requested to effect a peaceful settlement of the dispute and thereby avoid the many evils, social, economic and moral, entailed by strikes.

This is not to belittle the efforts of the various state and federal conciliation services, but is simply a recognition of the truth of our Divine Saviour's words: "Without Me you can do nothing."

Before a work stoppage is called, I think a public meeting should be held at which representatives of both parties could explain to the people of the community why they cannot reach an agreement. This would give public officials, civic leaders, clergymen and others an opportunity to exert their influence and point out ways to settle the dispute amicably and justly.

—RICHARD LENZI

'Peace! Separate Peace! Piece By Piece!'

The Smug Risk-Takers Are Pressing Our Luck

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

VIVID impressions — sometimes painfully vivid impressions — are the usual result of first hand experience. An massive airplane-load of such impressions was the result of this reporter's visit to the Strategic Air Command. Two among them stand out with special vividness.

On the one hand, anyone at all who visits SAC is bound to be impressed by the sheer magnificence of this great force. But on the other hand, any reasonably sharp-eyed visitor is also bound to be struck by the risks our national policy-makers have been smugly taking in these last years.

Another report has described the greatest and most inexcusable of these risks — the failure to mount an airborne alert at SAC while we have zero warning of a potential Soviet missile — strike. But that is by no means the end of the distasteful story. Indeed, it is fairly surprising that the quality of SAC has not been impaired already. Quality normally suffers when a force is simultaneously burdened with an almost unbearable responsibility, and denied the means for carrying this responsibility with the fullest assurance of success.

BIGGER BANG

The moment when SAC's responsibility became all but unbearable was the moment, in the late autumn of 1953, when the Eisenhower administration decided that a balanced defense would cost too much. "The new look" that was then taken, the subsequent reliance on "a bigger bang for a buck," really meant concentrating most of the burden of safe-guarding this country and the free world on SAC's shoulders. The degree of concentration is revealed by a single statistic. We now enjoy what is ironically called nuclear plenty, but even today, 90 per cent of our nuclear weapons are assigned to SAC.

You might therefore suppose that no pains or expense would have been spared to maintain SAC in the highest possible condition of fighting readiness. But any such supposition would in fact be grossly incorrect. Without entering into the follies and inadequacies of the missile programs, it is only necessary to look at SAC's status as a great strategic air force.

DEFICIENCIES

Any such look immediately reveals a whole series of easily remediable deficiencies which have been allowed to arise because the remedies cost money. They begin at the center, in the big, theoretically bomb-proof underground command post where SAC's vital brains are located. It was built when the power of H-bombs was already well-known, but the plans had been prepared in the A-bomb era. With his customary ineffable wisdom, former Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson would not approve the extra expenditure to give hardness against H-bombs. Thus SAC's brains are now contained in an allegedly bomb-proof shelter, which is not proof against the only kind of bomb that is likely to drop on it.

INCREASED PERIL

Even more important, there is the grave problem of the B-47s. These medium range jet bombers still constitute more than two-thirds of the entire SAC force. Some have been replaced with B-52s, and some more will be in the future. In 1960-61, a couple of squadrons of B-47s will also switch to the new B-58 jet bomber. But for the whole period of the missile gap, at least half of SAC's aircraft will be B-47s.

Unfortunately, the B-47s were designed to operate from overseas bases, which have now been neutralized by the new Soviet capability in medium range missiles. B-47 operations from bases on this side of the Atlantic are also crippled, at present, by their dependence on the slow and obsolete KC-97 tanker. With KC-97 refuelling, the B-47s can in theory reach their targets, but they cannot use the complex, fuel-consuming tactics which will give them the best chance of penetrating the enemy defenses and getting away again. In short, dependence on the KC-97s greatly increases the peril of the crews and greatly reduces their chances of success.

The superb new jet-tanker, the KC-135, would almost completely overcome the B-47s' difficulties. The Pentagon has only to raise a finger to double current KC-135 production, but no finger has been raised.

POUND FOOLISHNESS

The examples cited are not exceptional. They are typical. They do not necessarily mean, thank God, that SAC cannot perform its assigned task. But they most certainly mean that the administration has not done everything possible to insure the fullest effectiveness of the great deterrent on which all American policy depends. Even today, when our danger is so apparent, everything possible is still not being done. A clearer proof of penny wisdom and pound foolishness could hardly be imagined.

McElroy's Successor

Quarles Warms Up Offstage

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon accepts the immediate departure of Defense Secretary Neil McElroy as a fact and understands that Deputy Secretary Donald A. Quarles will succeed him. It is the obvious choice, since the time remaining to the Eisenhower administration is about equal to the time it would take a newcomer to master the job.

Quarles is not popular with the services and lacks prestige with Congress. Yet, when matters have been allowed to reach a certain point in government, promotion of the man who is there generally is indicated. Whatever its misgivings, Congress will not complain.

NO ALTERNATIVE

The situation is analagous to that at the State Department—the other vital Cabinet spot—where the word is that should Secretary John Foster Dulles not return to his desk after his cancer radiation treatments, Acting Secretary Christian A. Herter will take over. Again, senators will wish the replacement were a stronger one but they see no alternative.

McElroy is coming under heavy criticism for planning to leave his post during the time of great danger. The cutting edge of the blows is keener because it is well established that he is pleading the threatened loss of personal financial benefits from his firm, Procter and Gamble.

The stock market tipsters are busy interpreting this in ways which will no doubt appear in the operations of the big board. Military circles are suggesting that Senate majority leader Lyndon Johnson, in his capacity as chairman of the Space Committee, has succeeded in getting from the service chiefs testimony which contradicts the McElroy defense of President Eisenhower's military budget cuts.

DONALD A. QUARLES
Congress Has Misgivings

Thus in any military troubles arising out of the Berlin situation, McElroy would be foreordained as the goat. The position is reminiscent of Louis Johnson's role in the Korean War crisis when his Pentagon economies suddenly became criminal. President Truman had proposed them; the then Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eisenhower, had seconded the motion, and Congress had cheered. But it was curtains for Johnson.

The whole thing must seem curious to the Cincinnati business man who, despite prior lack of government, was wafted into the Pentagon with fanfare that even included a presidential boomlet. McElroy states that the President agreed he might serve for only a limited time. Such an agreement constitutes a monument to the Eisenhower optimism and his apparently unquenchable faith that a man who can make money can pass miracles in the public service as well.

Yet, the President can plead too that the voters re-elected him after four years of observing his operations and after his own frank statement that his health would not permit him to be as active as formerly he had been.

CALENDAR'S PRISONER

What finally appears is that once again a dramatic situation shows how the American system makes government the prisoner of the calendar. The Democratic sweep last November was, in effect, a repudiation of the Eisenhower leadership, yet he must stay and make the best of things for the remainder of his term.

It would be hard enough in any case, every administration starts to deteriorate in its final two years when its first team tires or feels it has earned a safe harbor in private life. Its replacements have short tenure and many headaches to look forward to while the press and public are already looking ahead to their successors.

What is new here is the nature of the present danger, and even that is unfortunately no longer very new, either.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Gore Has Five Relatives On Payroll

WASHINGTON

IT is an ironic twist of fate that the man who replaced the chief enemy of nepotism in Congress is now one of the chief beneficiaries of nepotism on Capitol Hill. He is Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee, one of the Democratic hopefuls for president.

Gore, when he first came to Washington 20 years ago, succeeded to the House vacancy left by Congressman John Ridley Mitchell of Tennessee who waged an unrelenting campaign against putting relatives on the public payroll. In 1952 he was elected senator.

Secret Lists

The relatives of Sen. Gore are not published, first because the Senate payroll remains secret, second because Gore has placed some of his relatives in jobs outside Congress. To unearth senatorial relatives the Associated Press has been asking senators point blank for the names of wives, children, brothers, cousins, and aunts they have appointed to public office. So far this has produced more indignation than information.

Roll Call

However, though he doesn't publicize it, bright-eyed Albert Gore holds the unofficial record for Senate nepotism. He has probably taken care of more relatives at the taxpayers' expense than anyone else in the Senate, possibly than anyone else on Capitol Hill. Here is the roll-call of Gore relatives on the public payroll:

1—Mrs. Betty Gentry, a sister, who works for the Federal Trade Commission.

2—Christine Coggins, a niece, is on the senator's own office payroll.

3—Joe Marks, a nephew, works in the Senate post office.

4—Mrs. Grace Keyes, another sister, also works in the Senate post office.

This last piece of nepotism took a little arranging. By the time his second sister came along looking for a job, he had run out of patronage except for a job as Senate guard. Ladies can't serve as guards, no matter whose sisters they may be, so the junior senator from Tennessee arranged with another senator to trade a guard's job for a post office job. Now he has two of his kinfolk in the Senate post office.

5—Finally the senator secured a job for his 20-year-old daughter, Nancy, as a guide last year at the U. S. pavillion at the Brussels' World Fair. She saved enough money, largely out of her earnings, to come home by way of Poland, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Japan and Hawaii.

Mrs. Luce And Bolivia

Bolivian riots against Americans, inspired by Time magazine, will make it extremely difficult for Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce, wife of the publisher of Time, to serve effectively in her new post as U.S. ambassador to Brazil.

The reason is that the Luce family has been so closely tied up to the Eisenhower administration that when Time magazine suggests Bolivia be carved up among its neighbors, the idea is interpreted as having Eisenhower support.

All Time's Fault

It was Time's report that U.S. authorities believe Bolivia should be divided up between its neighbors, which incited Bolivian mobs to stone the American Embassy and U.S. Information Center in La Paz, and caused Americans to be evacuated to an army camp outside the city.

If Mrs. Luce takes her post as ambassador to Brazil it would be a source of continued resentment to Bolivians. For Brazil has a long border adjacent to Bolivia, and the lowlands of Bolivia actually have much more unity, economically and geographically, with Brazil than with the 12,000-foot plateau of Bolivia.