



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Children Come First But Have A Care

Mecklenburgers will support any reasonable and prudent plan to provide needed educational facilities.

If the choice is between the child and the pocketbook, our citizens will choose the child. It is as simple as that.

Nevertheless, the prospect of another multimillion-dollar bond issue is hardly reassuring. The necessity is fairly obvious. But the time is fast approaching when necessity will be asked to be the mother of invention.

Mecklenburg County has issued \$34.8 million worth of bonds for school construction since 1946. Another \$8 million bond issue in 1959 will add considerably to the public indebtedness. It is not a question of the legal limit. That is not presently in danger. It is a question of practical limits: sound fiscal policy and municipal credit ratings.

Mecklenburgers will undoubtedly vote the necessary bonds to meet emergency construction needs, but they should not be expected to vote in the dark. The fiscal health of both the city and the county should be explored frankly and publicly before citizens go to the polls. It is absolutely essential that there be a general understanding of local government's present plight and future prospects.

Make The Government Fit The Times

Endorsement of the county manager plan of government by Charlotte's enterprising Chamber of Commerce came not a moment too soon.

Never has the opportunity for action on this peculiarly sensitive question been more inviting. The trial balloon launched by Mecklenburg's legislative delegation March 23 was well-received. The expected truce in local political circles did not materialize. There was even cautious interest on the Board of County Commissioners itself.

In this atmosphere of curious anticipation, the Chamber's blessing came as a timely affirmation of a growing conviction in many minds.

Passage of appropriate legislation during the current session of the North Carolina General Assembly has become a public necessity. The bill we have in mind would be merely permissive in design. It would not force an immediate reform but would permit the county to switch to the county manager plan when and if it wishes.

The change should not be long postponed, however. Mecklenburg is outgrowing the casual form of government

that worked so smoothly during horse-car days. County government is big business today. This is an obvious consequence of sudden metropolitan growth. Increases in the population require increases in public service and more professionalized administration. These new demands on local government cannot be met successfully by old-fashioned methods.

The need: A better mechanism for debating and resolving the course of Mecklenburg's future development. It should be a system that will assemble information, monitor developments, establish goals, test their acceptability by the county's population at large, and take action on them in the most efficient, effective and economical way possible. In brief, it is the responsibility of a modern county government to make policy and guide growth in ways that will be ultimately satisfactory to the whole community.

The county manager plan offers a simple, painless way to achieve these reasonable goals. Its possibilities ought to be thoroughly explored in metropolitan Mecklenburg.

This sort of progress cannot be made overnight. But it will never be made unless there is a constant, unrelenting effort to build something better out of the status quo.

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Surplus Candidates Could Help Out

While Charlotte staggers under a wealth of candidates for City Council, we have distressing news in hand from suburban points.

One note has appeared from Matthews. With the primary to be held Saturday, that community has but four candidates for the five-seat commission.

At Davidson, nobody is keen to announce for office as the new registration book has not yet been prepared. Officially, there are no registered voters, and this with an election to be held May 5. Pineville's politics have yet to swing into gear, as filing will open April 19 and close the 25th. Nobody has said anything in advance.

The happy exceptions are Huntersville and Cornelius, where the mayors have opposition and slightly more candidates than available.

Best we can tell from the other locations, however, is that there is little excitement over who mans the wheel. Big sister Charlotte should be prepared to offer help. We can do it with a little gerrymandering, elastic precinct lines, or by waiving time-of-residence clauses.

From The Greenville (S. C.) News

THE HERITAGE OF THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Announcement in Charlotte over the weekend of the sale of The Charlotte News to its morning rival, The Charlotte Observer, marks the end of an era in Carolina journalism.

For many years Charlotte has been the only city in the states that had two separately-owned daily newspapers that have competed bitterly down through the years.

The Observer, under the able direction of the late Curtis B. Johnson, long ago established itself as the leading newspaper of the Carolinas from the standpoint of circulation and advertising revenue, but it did so only in the face of the stiffest sort of competition from The News, for many years owned and operated by the Dowd family until its sale in 1947 to Thomas L. Robinson.

The News, in its heyday of the late 1920s and 1930s probably produced more outstanding writers and newsmen than any other newspaper in this part of the country.

Readers of The News probably recall the searching editorials of the late Cash, editor of The News in the late 1930s whose was a lone voice crying in the wilderness when he recognized the potential danger of Adolf Hitler long before the outbreak of World War II. Cash was author of "The Mind of the South," a searching study of the South that was

at this writing Charlotte has no less than 19 City Council hopefuls, with several more yet to plunk down their \$5. It is a good wager for about 25 names in the primary pot. This is for seven chairs on the City Hall dais and somebody is going to be disappointed.

What with all these volunteers, at least a few of them could keep swimming politically if they entered neighboring races which are short of names.

This would be the basis for a farm system of candidates who could claim much seasoning when they file for Charlotte's next contest. And, who knows? It might even boost the batting averages of several old pros in the lineup.

Gazetter Additions

Noticed in passing through out-of-town papers: Imaginative names called by artists in the world of shedding costumes. They include Justa Dream, Misty Ayres, Candy Barr and Blaza Glory.

for him a Guggenheim Fellowship for study in Mexico.

Then there was Cameron Shipp who migrated to Hollywood where he made a name for himself as a freelance writer and biographer of such movie stars as Lionel Barrymore and Billie Burke.

Marion Hargrove, whose "See Here, Private Hargrove," skyrocketed him to fame overnight, for several years was a member of The News staff.

Timothy Pridden, courthouse reporter and political writer for The News for many years, authored several historical novels dealing with the Revolutionary War days in the Cape Fear section of North Carolina.

Other former News staffers who have moved on to bigger things include such able writers and executives as Reed Sarrett, executive editor of the Winston-Salem papers; Furman Bisher, sports editor of the Atlanta Journal; Chauncey Durden, sports editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch; a successful freelance writer and contributor to the Greensboro News; C. A. McKnight and Tom Fesperman, editor and managing editor of The Charlotte Observer, respectively; and Harry Ashmore, Pulitzer prize-winning executive editor of the Arkansas Gazette in Little Rock, Ark.

It was men like these who for many years kept The Charlotte News in the forefront of the South when it came to editorial excellence.

The New South Issues A Challenge To Excellence

By LENOIR CHAMBERS

Editors' Note: This fervent plea for a fuller understanding of Dixie's destiny is condensed from an address delivered to the Order of the Golden Fleece at the University of North Carolina, Mr. Chambers, a native of Charlotte, is editor of The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk.

I am willing to guess, and even to bet if I can find a way to collect my winnings, that the youngest man in this room will find himself concerned all his life with the ambitions and the ideas and the actions of yellow people in Asia and of black people in Africa.

I plead for a fuller recognition of our — whether we like it or not — of our world responsibilities. We can't get away from them. There is no longer any Fortress America to retreat to, and maybe there never was. We play our part in this world, or the world will break us. We play our part guided by understanding and wisdom, and maybe we can make a greater contribution to history.

I am not suggesting — for the record, I repeat that I am not suggesting — any issues of accession in the 1950s or any other time ahead. But certain patterns of thinking and certain developments since 1914 emphasize the parallels.

Over much of the South — that is, in North Carolina — the making of public policy for the handling of the immensely complicated and difficult school problems has lacked the minds and spirits of many of the South's men of excellence. The guidance of affairs has been too often in the hands of the extreme, the politically shrewd and ambitious, the opportunistic, the ruthless. We have missed too often the wiser, the more thoughtful, the more far-seeing, who can look beyond the next election, the

People's Platform

Mr. Holly Editors, The News:

Forgive my skepticism, but I shall wait for the first possible change in the editorial policy of this newspaper, politically speaking. This in spite of statements from Messrs. Knight and Robinson that there would be no change in any way.

Should you stray very far away from political philosophy, or the moment either of my favorite columnists might be dropped, then and there my name will be among those missing from the subscription list, after having been a constant reader of the paper for a quarter of a century or more.

I have long admired The News for its more or less unbiased stand in regard to politics. So on your guard, gentlemen, lest there be many people who will feel as I do if your policy "takes a turn for the worse."

Let the Observer continue to lean toward the Republican side of the fence if it so desires, and I shall have no further quarrel with it, as in the days past — unless it becomes too outspoken. But if you continue your present policy, my blessings upon you!

—MRS. D. S. BEATTY

Has Pearl Harbor Been Forgotten?

Gatney, S. C. Editors, The News:

One thing you can say for the American people — they have the shortest memories of any people on earth.

First, back in 1932, they forgot what a mess the Republican Party could make of the country. Then they forgot how Hungary stood in World War II. Now, apparently, they've even forgotten Pearl Harbor. While the first two can be forgiven, the last is unforgivable and inexcusable.

Of course, I speak of the press — not to mention radio and television — the Japanese Crown Prince Akhito. To anyone who remembers when all Japs were little yellow-bellies, the current rash of Jap-worshipping is thoroughly sickening. Noting all the glamorous publicity that is being heaped on the royal heir of the son of the son of the Rising Sun, one is inclined to wonder if Colin Kelly and Douglas MacArthur were waiting their time in the case of Kelly, his life.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

In all the congressional probes of national defense no one has put the finger on one reason the cost of defense is so high. This is the increasing monopolization of defense orders by big business and the steady freeze-out of little business.

Defense Watchdog

At long last, however, Congressman Eddie Hebert of New Orleans, the defense watchdog, is calling two of the airplane companies, Lockheed and North American Aviation, to see why 84 per cent of the new missile manufacture, plus missile parts, have been

southern states were dragged down the hill toward secession. There is no sadder story in all American history," he wrote, "than that of the southern conservatives in the final crisis. They probably constituted a majority against secession but were too confused and divided to gain control."

HARSH WORDS

"Under such circumstances, the advantage was with the smaller group of determined, unassimilated radicals who had talked loudly of southern rights and Republican threats, and who were quietly, but not openly, planning secession. They arrogantly assumed that the interests and the rights of the South. They hurled the charges of disloyalty, cowardice and weakness against all who would not join their ranks."

I thought of these words the other day when I read that a southerner of some reputation dared to call Harry Ashmore the Arkansas Gazette a renegade.

How this seizure of leadership came about is a long story. It can be matched in interesting ways at other points in our history. But the most clearly demonstrable fact is that it does not represent the way of the future. It has broken down too often and in too many areas, and it will break down more.

How these things will come about, or when, or by what ideas, experiments, methods, and policies, I do not know, and I suggest that you look with a skeptical eye on any man who tells you he does



The Path Of Moderation

people who are now grouped under the designation of moderates. The designation may not always seem glamorous, but the position is solid.

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know. There is no past solution. There are no many Sudans, and these problems are too complex. One tight device cannot possibly be wise or practical, even if it is constitutional, for all.

That, of course, is a major part of the tragedy of such a state program as the one in Virginia which went by the name of massive resistance — that, and the dead-end of closed schools to which inevitably it led.

It was possible in earlier periods, I believe, for the leadership of the President of the United States — if really exerted — to help make moderation more respectable.

Perhaps it is not too late for that now. It is never too late

for statesmanship. It is never too late for statesmanship among and by southern people at all levels and wherever they live. They will have painful adjustments in any major changes, and the remainder of the country should never forget that. They need understanding and they need time.

But primarily the South must come to an understanding of its own destiny.

WRONG METHODS

It cannot solve great regional problems in terms of a past that will never return. It cannot solve them in terms of extremism.

It cannot solve them by closing the public schools as if education were a matter of no account and the descent of the South still deeper into the pit of educational deficiency could be avoided.

It cannot solve them by excluding from its councils the entire Negro citizenship, as if it did not exist and share responsibilities.

It cannot exclude its own educational leadership.

It cannot solve them by submerging all forces of moderation which have been chiefly responsible for the improvement in the relations of the races for the past 50 years.

It cannot exclude equity and justice.

The school segregation problems of the South are too important to be left to the politicians alone. The South will make a genuine improvement in the ultimate resolution of all these perplexities only when it enlists in effective order the influence of the wisest and most courageous people of the South — and of the nation — for duties that will test their practicality, their patience, and their courage to the limit. That is the hard but inescapable course.

It is the challenge to excellence.

Fair Warning Given By Long-Time Subscriber

Perhaps the U. S. government could invite Akhito and his bride to spend their honeymoon at the U. S. Capitol.

—CHARLES L. MORRIS

Steel Prices Rise Faster Than Wages

The institute does well by clearly explaining why steel prices raised by \$1 for every \$1 of added wage costs.

After such a review the institute should show how much every wage increase has in-

creased or decreased the profits and capital gains of steel companies. Following this, an explanation for the tremendous unemployment in the industry would be helpful.

It is no good blinking at facts! The average reader is completely convinced that the steel companies "never had it so good."

Does it not seem like plain, good business for the American Iron and Steel Institute to get full value out of its advertising budget by getting down to earth with its plain, fun-filled mill newspaper readers by writing copy that will give us

facts and figures that can be easily understood and perhaps change our convictions?

—WILLIAM A. GRIFFITH

One College Should Serve Needs Of All Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I am in perfect agreement with those who believe that one good community college can more adequately serve the needs of all the people of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County than can two separate colleges of a similar nature. I believe the vast majority of the citizens of the Greater Charlotte area realize that the building of two new and separate campuses is a waste of the taxpayers' money.

I suggest that the governmental and educational officials of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County select an internal committee of community leaders to think this matter through together.

If a study shows that a need for an evening high school exists, that type of school can continue to be operated at the present site of Carver College or moved to an already existing more centrally located high school building and opened to all people who need and desire its services. The vocational needs of the young people of this area will soon be met through the opening of the vocational school at the present site of Central High School.

—LOYD H. DAVIS

Somebody Must Replenish Race

Charlotte Editors, The News:

While we are about this business of making laws for illegitimacy, shouldn't we pause for one split second and hear the Gospel According to St. Matthew, first chapter, 18th verse.

"Or shall we pass one more law? A law that will require married men who are financially able and mentally fit to undergo an operation that will permit them to produce children. Someone has to replenish the human race. Or is this the beginning of the end?"

—LOUISE ARDREY

'Shall We Turn Up The News Broadcast A Little?'



Small Firms Refused Missile Orders

going to the giants of industry — in many cases without competitive bids.

Unfilled Orders

Hebert will probe, among other things, charges that the big missile manufacturers have hundreds of millions of dollars worth of unfilled government orders, dating back to seven years. Some are reported so long unfulfilled that the missile parts are obsolete.

Meanwhile the big corporations have not farmed out subcontracts to small companies.

Lazure Called Up

One witness who will be hauled up before Congress for special cross-examination is A. C. Lazure, general counsel of Army Ordnance, and a key figure in the Army's missile procurement.

When George Estok, Bridgeport, Conn., electronic manufacturer, complained to Lazure that he and his small producers were being denied missile parts contracts by Army Ord-

nance, Lazure sharply countered: "You have no inherent right to expect military contracts."

Inherent Right?

I agree that I have no inherent right to contracts," replied Estok, "but I do have a right to bid on them. My firm and other small producers, however, which are able to produce quickly and cheaply, are not given a chance to bid."

Note — After Congressman Hebert finishes with Lockheed and North American he has some other defense contractors on his list for investigation.