



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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North Carolina Must Preserve An Ideal

The saddest sound to come out of Raleigh this week was Dr. I. Beverly Lake's attack on a treasured, 91-year-old constitutional requirement that North Carolina operate a "general and uniform system" of free public schools.

Dr. Lake, whose cause is "massive resistance" to desegregation, has again yielded to the dark counsel of fear. He would delete the public school section of Article IX and replace it with language empowering the legislature to "provide for the education of the children of the state" in a manner not explained.

The change is both unnecessary and unwise.

The principle Dr. Lake would surrender is probably more cherished by Tar Heels than any other single constitutional mandate. It has been zealously guarded for generations and our people are not likely to offer it up now as a sacrifice to the fleeting fears of a few politicians.

North Carolina is handling its racial problems with considerable wisdom and statesmanship. Its Pupil Assignment Act allows local school boards the broad flexibility they need to adjust to the requirements of federal law. This has not resulted in sudden, mass integration as the massive resistance forces predicted. Nor have we had to endure the tragedy

of Arkansas. Our public school system has remained intact, thanks to the reasonableness of our people and their dedication to the very principle Dr. Lake would dilute.

The public school provision was placed in the constitution in 1868. It represented an ideal, followed loosely at times, but sincerely during the past quarter century or so. Some aspects of the Pearsall Plan threaten its high purpose but, thankfully, they have never been used.

There is no satisfactory substitute for a general and uniform system of free public schools. The experiences of Arkansas and Virginia prove this.

In North Carolina, the public school system has served as the springboard of our progress. There can be no doubt about that fact among those who know North Carolina. The most illustrious name in the state's history is Aycock and it was his fight for this public schools that made it so. To abandon the public school system rather than operate it in accordance with law would do violence to a cherished ideal and offend the dignity of a great state.

The constitution's public school provision is a symbol of the state's interest and stake in public education. It represents a high purpose and a noble ideal. It must be preserved.

A Memo On The Art Of Tail-Bobbing

When you bob a cat's tail, you cut it off close to the body, not an inch at a time. Otherwise you have a sore tail—and a mad cat.

County Commissioners would be wise to keep this in mind as they ponder the question of which to hold first—a multi-million-dollar school bond election or a vote on a countywide tax supplement for the proposed consolidated school system. Clearly, if the law permits, both elections ought to be held at one time.

If Commissioners can agree on this point all that will remain is to determine how close to the body to slice, and when.

The date should be early. Both questions are important enough to require immediate action. The school construction needs are particularly urgent. In fact, if the two matters cannot be handled in one election because of legal technicalities, then the bond issue should be submitted

to the voters first. The reason ought to be obvious. If the bonds can be authorized rather quickly there is just enough time for planning and construction to have the new facilities ready by the fall of 1960. If the facilities are not ready by that time, several thousand children are going to be without a place to sit. As it is, it will be a race against time. The starting time cannot be delayed until the consolidation question is wrapped up. That might involve cruelty to children.

The united front of the two school boards presented to Commissioners yesterday was commendable. They know what is at stake in the two monumental issues the public will have to decide on soon and they have calculated the risks well. Commissioners would be wise to grant their joint request for a simultaneous vote.

Keep A Weather Eye On The Rules

Power boating legislation is just around the next bend in the creek, and the landlocked sailor had better keep a weather eye out for it.

A safety move came into being last summer with the Federal Boating Act, with rules to apply in all states which have not enacted their own laws by next April Fool's Day.

For once, however, North Carolina was slightly ahead of the fleet. A study commission was promoted in the 1957 legislature, approved and set to scurrying about, meeting with boat owners and others along the shoreline.

In 14 months the three-man crew discovered many things in trying to match its own recommendations with that of the federal measure to provide equal regulations for the country.

A few of the points they logged:

There should be mandatory registration with a fee for an operator's permit.

Standardized lighting for all craft to be moving after sundown.

A life preserver for each person aboard.

Fire extinguishers for all power craft.

At least two people aboard when towing water skiers, one to steer and one to keep an eye astern.

The proposed penalties for illegal operation range from \$50 to \$100 and/or six months in jail—the latter for drunken water driving.

The commission found there were 73,000 outboard motors in use in North Carolina during 1957. The figure this year is probably more than 100,000. Not only is legislation a great need, but also education for safety. And strict enforcement is, likewise, a must item.

Publications in this field predict that in the very near future boating, especially with power, will be No. 1 in recreation. Unless effective laws and learning are introduced soon, water fun will be chaotic.

The Master Plan

A short time after a Charlotte News editorial appeared advocating a small car from Detroit factories, Ford knuckled under and now Chrysler has decided to do the same thing "if the public wants it."

In following our lead (please, we're kidding), the plans we've heard are for cars sized between the foreign bugs and our present "low-priced" trio.

Actually, what we want are super-small machines. It's all part of a master plan. We figure the smaller the car, the more vehicles that can be packed into a given traffic jam. The more cars, the more people to protest conditions, and delegations do have power.

David Tillinghast in The Greenville Piedmont

COMO WORTH \$25 MILLION?

Having noted in the papers that Perry Como the TV singing maestro and evidently rated as just about tops in television entertainment, had just signed a two-year contract at \$25 million, I sat myself down in front of my TV somewhat sheepishly.

Frankly, I had not rated Mr. Como so high as entertainment or so dollar-worthy.

But there was the newspaper story expatiating at length on the future of the Como show and the 25 million bucks the master of ceremonies and his hired hands were to reap for the next two years, less whatever it takes to provide the studio settings and other trappings for the broadcast period.

A million dollars a month for four or five hours of TV entertainment. Even with the elaborate preparations, rehearsals and preliminaries, the amount of money is enormous, is out of perspective.

I wouldn't take anything away from Perry Como or his ability to sell himself high. I would not detract from his popularity but if there isn't some "haywireness" in this evaluation of his program at \$25 million for two years, some hysteria, there isn't a bull weevil in South Carolina.

No matter how well the production is

planned and handled, the elements put together just don't have that kind of worth. Or perhaps I should put TV up in moth balls until the World Series and football.

His sponsors can pay Perry Como the \$25 million if they wish. Other sponsors of other programs can up the ante if they wish but money itself is no guarantee of quality or of value.

Perhaps I should join a class in appreciation of TV and expose myself to what these maestros of one sort and another have that so consistently escapes me. Or what some of these entertainers, who claim to be singers, comedians or what have you possess besides the fact that they are featured in some other event, which must be duly plugged and re-plugged before they leave the TV stage.

Tomorrow I'll try to get out of the other side of the bed.

Little Tommy was a screaming terror, and his father was surprised when the boy's mother suggested they buy him a bicycle. "Do you really think that will improve his behavior?" asked the father. "No," the mother replied, "but it will spread it over a wider area."—FOUR MYERS (FLA.) NEWS-PRESS.

Meet Mr. Rockefeller

A New Dealer In Disguise?

By JOSEPH ALSOP

NEW YORK CITY
At the moment, Nelson Rockefeller's experiment with the government of New York is going through a moderately rough patch. Rockefeller's bold measures to permit the state to pay its way without stinting on necessary tasks has plainly aroused some resentment among the voters.

Here in New York City, for instance, privately conducted opinion soundings indicate that if a new election were held tomorrow, Rockefeller would not cut anything like so far into the huge Democratic metropolitan majority as he did last November. But one of the important points about an experiment like Gov. Rockefeller's is its relatively long-range character.

PAINFUL TREATMENT

Doing what is unpopular but necessary in politics, such as raising New York State taxes to pay the state's bills, is a rougher like submitting to medical treatment. The medicine, or the surgery, may be decidedly unpleasant but enable men and women do not expect flavorless poisons and painless knives. They judge by the end results. A major question confronting all modern conservatives is whether voters in the mass have the same good sense about the body politic as most of them have as individuals about their own bodies.

The Rockefeller phenomenon, which has attracted such interest all over the country, is in fact an essay in modern conservatism. It is a test of the "progressive conservative" that President Eisenhower used to talk about, before he finally

ROCKY'S DILEMMA
began to see the nation's problem exclusively through the eyes of the voters provided by George M. Humphrey.

In the most literal sense of the word, it is obviously unconservative since the nation's defenses are a time of great danger. In the same fashion, it would have been unconservative to raise the state's essential services instead of raising taxes. Faced with the competition of the burgeoning states of the west, the great eastern industrial states are in continuous danger of running down and falling behind. But these states like New York State also have to pay in order to keep up, because it is equally unconservative to raise the money to meet the bills as they come in.

This is Rockefeller's dilemma as he quite consciously and clearly saw it when he took office. By any sensible test, the results to date of his attack on his dilemma have been remarkably impressive. Superficially, perhaps the most impressive feature has been Rockefeller's smooth, patient and successful management of the initially recalcitrant state legislature. He is the Republican boss here nowadays, and he has proved it.

STRONG POSITION

But if you look a little deeper into the Rockefeller phenomenon, you are even more impressed by the strong position he has achieved for the next round. The fiscal soundness of the state has been assured. Ac-

cording to former Gov. Averell Harriman, it has even been rather more than assured. Rockefeller, who took from the voters at the last session of the legislature, may be able to give something back at the next session. In any case, with the fiscal problems solved, Rockefeller is now free to tackle all the knotty state problems of transportation and education and welfare and the like, which are growing more knotty every day because of the sheer physical growth of the American society.

"That's the best part of it," he says. "It's exciting to study all these new problems in a tough situation, and make some changes and adjustments, and get a practical good result."

WHAT'S AHEAD

Problems like bus taxation, and middle income housing, and the communications between cities and their commuting areas, have little surface romance or excitement. Yet these problems affect the everyday lives of everyday citizens considerably more than the character of the nation's atomic energy program. This is the sort of problem now being intensely studied by the brilliant young lawyers and experts recruited from the universities who infest the Rockefeller administration, making it seem oddly like a miniature Bigelow New Deal.

All this intensive preparation for constructive work later on suggests that the present rough patch is the prelude to a very smooth patch. If the smooth patch comes and is noticed by the country, and if Vice Presi-



Nelson Rockefeller: Man In A Hurry

dent Nixon still seems likely to have difficulty defeating any of the stronger Democratic candidates, Nelson Rockefeller will eventually have an exceedingly hard decision to make.

NOW'S THE TIME

Despite the wifal talk of some interested people in Washington, Rockefeller is not at all the sort of man to put off a hard decision in 1960, because "it ought to be easier in 1964." His willingness to put off a hard decision is noticed by the country, and if Vice Presi-

dently against him, proved his conviction that opportunities must be boldly seized rather than coyly awaited.

But that is all far in the future. In the year 1959, Rockefeller will not leave New York State for any political purpose. His time of decision will come in January-February of 1960. The cold, hard facts of the situation as it has developed by then, will then be coolly and toughly assessed. The decision will be reached on the basis of those facts, and only at that time. It is unpredictable now.

Tell You What—Let's Offer To Guarantee As Much Democracy As They Have In The Capital Of The U.S.



People's Platform

Consolidate First, Then Vote Bonds

Charlotte

Editors, The News: As a candidate for City Council, I agree with the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and the Charlotte Board of Realtors that consolidation of schools should be accomplished before the public is asked to vote on a bond issue.

A lot of work has been done in preparing a suitable bill to be introduced to the North Carolina General Assembly. Now

that the bill has been presented and is likely to be passed within the near future to rush an election for a bond issue would not be fair to the general public. It is like asking for money carte blanche, or seeking funds to spend without a definite program as to how it will be spent.

If the consolidation is completed first, the need for new schools, the proper locations and the cost for construction can be presented to the public before it is asked to vote for funds which are naturally going to increase the tax rate. The pressing need for additional schools and extra class rooms demands more consideration to

spending and less money for frills. I refer to the not so well known Alexander Graham Junior High School, which is a beautiful piece of architecture, but which could have been built for a lot less money and could be operated at a lot less cost for the function it performs.

As long as educating the children is the paramount issue, we should provide adequate facilities to give all the children a chance to get an education and not to provide a few children with the opportunity of attending school in a show place.

—ED COOK

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
Gov. John Patterson of Alabama, who was cussing out Negro Congressman William Dawson of Chicago a short time ago for probing a highway scandal in Alabama, got mysterious and unexpected help overnight from that Negro.

The help took the form of a telegram received by Alabama grand jury in Mobile then in the act of probing highly embarrassing highway charges that the governor's former campaign manager, now finance director, was trying to increase a highway land appraisal from \$1 to \$100,000. Gov. Patterson had made statement after statement trying to belittle the probe, had even denounced the fact that a Negro congressman in Wash-

ington, Dawson, chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, was investigating the matter.

Then suddenly a mysterious telegram arrived from the Negro he had berated, aimed at rescuing the governor.

Who Sent It?

What was so mysterious about the telegram was the fact that no one knew who really sent it. Congressman Dawson's name was signed to it, but his secretary, Miss Norma O. Williams, said it had not cleared through her office.

Furthermore, the congressman actually in charge of the investigation, Rep. John Blaink of Minnesota, knew

nothing about any telegram. He said that the committee's report was not yet typed, so that Chairman Dawson had had no chance to read it. Thus, the telegram was unwarranted. Furthermore, the report, just brought back from Alabama by committee investigator Arthur Periman, generally substantiated the charges made against Gov. Patterson's finance director.

Telegram's Text

Despite this, the mysterious telegram signed by Chairman Dawson had reached the grand jury at 4:30 p. m., reading: "There is not a scintilla of evidence in the land case. We washed our hands of this case on the floor of the House yesterday. (signed)

William L. Dawson, chairman House Government Operations Committee."

Significantly, the telegram left Washington at 3:58 p. m. Significantly it was broadcast over station WKRG in Mobile, a station well known to friends of Congressman Frank Boykin of Alabama, at 4:01.

Further investigation revealed that Boykin, who opposed Gov. Patterson for election but is now doing his best to win his favor, conferred with Chairman Dawson regarding the Mobile land scandal and urged that no further investigation be undertaken. Members of the committee stated that Dawson had given an all-out investigation. At Boykin's behest on the ground that no federal money had been lost.

The Black Eye Patch Simply Does Wonders

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain
The very next time you see a tall, rakish gentleman, with the look of eagles in his good eye and a black patch over the other, do not mistake this distinguished chap for the fellow who sells shirts in the advertisements, or even for a temporary beach prat.

This new eye-patched gentleman will be me. From now on, I am never going to be without a black patch, although both my eyes are still so strong that the oculist won't even give me reading glasses.

SEAMSTER INSTINCT

A while back in London town, after escaping from the white heat hunters of Nairobi, I detected a thing on my starboard baby blue. It was tucked away in a corner, and looked like a patch of truffle on a slab of pate de foie gras. It seemed an odd place to be growing mushrooms, so the seamstress decided to whack it off.

Not to excite false sympathy, I must confess that the whole procedure took less time than an ordinary haircut, but as the seamstress insisted in the due went mad, several stitches needed brief protection. Hence the eye patch.

Now I am here to tell you fellows who aren't making out so well socially, this eye-patch gimmick is sheer murder. It beats a beard all hollow, and is streets ahead of a monocle. As an attention getter, you couldn't do better with neon lights for eyes.

PIRATICAL TYPE

Suddenly, amazingly, gone is the sort of snoot-pudding face with the retreating hairline and the extra line of chin. Gone are the slightly lopped ears and, in place, out comes a dapper type who gazes arrogantly around him with a faintly lit eyebrow over his good pepper. The black patch distracts all attention from the mundane blob of fleshly surroundings, and lo! what have we here!

Why, we have a man of mystery, a man who may have suffered a wound, a piratical type, certainly an intriguing sort to the curious dames one finds scattered around cocktail parties.

Women being insatiably curious, the floating population of a public gathering inevitably drifts toward the man with the patch. Apart from curiosity, sympathy is mixed up in the attraction, and, what is more

important, the definite hostility of all the men without eye patches. This hostility is immediately detected by the ladies, and, vicious little brutes that they are, they are pleased to fuel their escorts' jealousy.

ENVYABLE POSITION

Now between curiosity, sympathy, and dotting the steady eye, you are in an unenviable position, the patch-wearer is in a most enviable position, especially if he has a santon to set off the black shield. The conversational play is disgustingly easy. The lady looks inquiringly at the patch, and the patch-wearer says simply: "Pardon this nauseous nuisance, but I just returned from Kenya (or New Guinea or India) the other day."

Beyond the word "and" nothing more is needed. The least the bemused dame can assume is an assuage through the pupil, or at worst, a nasty nip from a leopard. This gives a zesty tang to the one-eyed man, whereas if he were wearing dark glasses, the lady would merely assume that he was making an ignoble hanger.

ALMOST INFALLIBLE

I have noticed that in hailing cabs or finding seats in restaurants, the eye-patch is almost infallible. It also keeps you from doing a fair share of the housework, such as mixing a Martini for the mob. It gets you immediate attention in the shops.

But the best it buys is an easy out when you want to go far away from a bunch of bore. You just mutter something about "the old eye's acting up, you know," and simply fade. About 40 pounds apiece! The lady who is even downright rude to people and get away with it, for anyone who would murder a enemy, it is a bouncer, not to mention a cad.

ULTIMATE TEST

I tell you, after this experience, I am never going to be without a few eye patches. This very afternoon I am going to wear one out to an airport, and if I can't fox the customs and also delude the excess-baggage people into not weighing my shoulder suitcases (which total about 40 pounds apiece) the black eye patch will have passed its ultimate test.

It suddenly occurs to me that I don't know why I'm telling you all this . . .