



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1959

Consolidation Of Schools Won't Wait

Even as Charlotteans went to the polls today, great forces were at work to perfect the community's vision of metropolitan progress. The consolidation of the city and county public school systems, long a dream, moved a step closer to reality.

It is essential that the merger, authorized by the General Assembly last week, be completed smoothly and without needless delay.

In pressing for early action Saturday, the County School Board offered reassuring proof of its own interest. This helped clear the air of the mistaken belief that it is dragging its feet on consolidation.

There are still high hurdles ahead. It will still take many conscious steps of enlightenment to accomplish what we know from experience cannot be sustained by happy accidents.

There must be close cooperation between the two existing boards of education in calculating a countywide supplemental tax rate for the consolidated system. Despite the 60-cent maximum allowed by the enabling legislation, a considerably lower rate ought to be selected—certainly in the beginning. The higher the rate the more difficult it will be to sell consolidation to the voters.

Much will depend upon the County Commissioners, too. They will have final authority on the supplemental tax rate. Consequently, they will be called upon to exercise more than a little sensitivity to the needs of a fledgling consolidated system and great judgment in weighing those requirements against other public needs.

Finally, the voters of Mecklenburg themselves will be called upon to approve these important steps to preserve and strengthen the processes of public education throughout the county.

This final step will be the greatest of all, for it will offer to every voter a choice between progress and decay. Unless there is a merger—which, incidentally, will head off a bitter struggle over the perimeter—both systems will suffer. The consequences will be measured in educational inequities, rising costs and senseless duplications. Consolidation will add a few pennies to the tax rate now, but it will head off the hardships that will doubtless be more expensive to remedy tomorrow.

The drive for school consolidation is a product of the vigor and full creative energy of a healthy community. Metropolitan Mecklenburg can be proud of the leaders who have brought us this far toward a worthy goal. Now, we must go the second mile.

Charlotte's Symphony Comes Of Age

A revitalized Charlotte Symphony Orchestra shrewdly launched its 1959-60 ticket campaign today with the triumphant chords of Saturday's concert were still ringing in the ears of the faithful.

Under the sure and sensitive direction of Henry Janiec, the orchestra has made notable progress during the past season. Next year's series, bolstered by top local talent and several world-famous guest artists, promises to be the most exciting in years.

This re-emergence of the symphony is a cultural rags to riches story. Despite its long history and magnificent tradition, the orchestra faltered during the mid-fifties—largely because of lagging local interest. By pluck and luck, it was able to present concerts during the 1957-58 season—but without a permanent conductor. Mr. Janiec took charge last year, on a cut-rate basis, and began rebuilding. He has done marvelously well.

Now that support is assured from the United Arts Fund, an even brighter future is in prospect.

But cultural messages are transmitted rather slowly and the growth of audiences has not kept pace with the growth of the orchestra. This is a shame, for Charlotte now has a musical organization that is easily superior to the symphonies of many larger population centers. It is a shame that so many people hereabout have deprived themselves of the pure pleasure of hearing fine music performed by fine musicians in beautiful surroundings.

Charlotteans should, of course, support their own symphony orchestra. But, more important, they should treat themselves to one of the homegrown joys of living in this community. Both worthy ends can be served through the purchase of a season ticket to the 1959-60 concert series. We'd call it a gift-edge investment.

Mr. Batcrack Hears Of Another Era

Q Hello there, Mr. Batcrack. You appear to have been dipped in the best of spirits.

A I haven't had a drink all day. I feel good because the Charlotte Hornets are playing ball again. Man, they've started great, too. You keeping up with the game?

Q Please, I'm on the Q side here. How many times . . . But to answer, I did attempt the sport once, but somehow hit myself in the mouth with the bat. That occurred at age 9 and since then I've been retired. But, to press along, the situation is bright?

Q You break me up, dad. I showed you how to read the standings last year. Yeah, the Bess are really with it. They need a couple of pitchers, but at bat—nothing but great.

Q Ah, I see. Any other inherent weaknesses your keen eye has spotted?

A What's inherent?

Q Intrinsic.

A Hold the phone. If you ain't gonna talk right, I quit.

Q Pardon me, please. I'll try again. Is there anything else the team needs at this time? Any basic faults to be corrected?

A No, they look pretty solid. Of course, they might lose their manager

before the season's over.

Q That's odd. I seem to recall that you said he is of the best caliber. A veritable Horatius on defense.

A What's ver . . . Never mind. He's great in the field; he just has trouble with umpires. Umps think they're kings or something. Argue with them, out you go.

Q I take it your leader has trouble restraining himself, eh?

A Yeah, he gets jumped for it.

Q Perhaps some of the writings of Epicurus would be of value to him.

A That's not Sam Epicurus is it? Played for the old St. Louis Browns back around '24? Couldn't hit lefthanders?

Q We've got Q and A confused again. No, this man played in another league; somewhat earlier, too. Had power, with something of a curve to his pitch. Difficult to hit at times, you might say.

A Old timer, huh? Well, if it'll help I'll pass along the word. Write down that bird's name. Sure it wasn't E. P. Kouras? Played in the Sally League about 15 years ago?

Q I'm certain. And as long as you are going to keep asking the questions, I'll retreat.

A So, go away mad. I bet that guy you said was a lousy glove man anyway.

From The Richmond News Leader

SPEAKING OF ELEPHANTS . . .

Direct mail advertising, in the day of the "soft sell," sometimes picks with disarming subtlety. The sales pitch is lobbed so lazily, with no visible windup, that the poor consumer is caught off-stride and practically defenseless.

Take the glossy print of two elephants that turned up in the mail the other day. Interesting, we thought, as our hand moved toward the waste basket. Then, we glanced at the caption: "The next time someone asks you the difference between an African and an Asian elephant . . . That did it. Now that they mentioned it, elephants hadn't come up in conversation lately, but this is the sort of question an informed citizen ought to be prepared for, and what precisely is the difference between the African Jumbo and his Asian cousin?"

Basic Books, publishers of "Elephants" by Richard Carrington, were only too happy to tell us. From Mr. Carrington's observation and investigation, these are the distinguishing features. African elephants run about 11 or 12 feet tall, weigh 7 tons, have 64-foot tusks, enormous ears and a horizontal ridged trunk. (It is readily apparent that Mr. C. knows more of the elephant than the elephant knows of himself.)

In contrast to the African beast, the Asian elephant is petite and not unattractive. He stands no higher than 10

feet, weighs a lithesome 6 tons or less, and has tusks of 4.5 feet. Most notably, however, and here Mr. Carrington waxes rhapsodic, in describing his subject, the Asian critter has "delicate ears, a smooth trunk and a svelte silhouette," a description calculated to stir interest in the most hardened reader. After all, who can resist a "svelte" pachyderm?

To make a long story short, we were hooked. We ended up reading every blessed word of advertising copy and wondering whether we shouldn't have a copy of "Elephants: A Short Account of Their Natural History, Evolution, and Influence on Mankind." Never can tell when we may be called on to arbitrate a dispute on elephant lore, or to identify a runaway circus elephant, or to explain to an inquisitive adolescent why some elephants are bigger than others. It goes to show, as they say, the power of advertising. Fortunately, Mr. Carrington's persuasive press agent was selling a book, not elephants.

Mrs. Brown: "That new couple across the street seems to be very devoted. He kisses her every time they meet. Why don't you do that?"

Mr. Brown: "I'd thought about it, but I don't know her well enough."—Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

Torch Handed Herter Still Has Strings Attached

By JOSEPH ALSEP

WASHINGTON
A moving scene occurred after John Foster Dulles had been sworn in as the President's special advisor on foreign affairs. The President himself said his farewell immediately after the little ceremony. Vice President Richard Nixon, Alan Dulles, and Christian Herter lingered for a moment in the sick room. Sumner, all his remaining store of energy by a



SECRETARY HERTER Still Under Shadow

visible effort of will speaking weakly but clearly, Dulles thereupon made a little speech to his successor as secretary of state.

He told Herter that except for the President himself, no other American now carried such a heavy burden of responsibility. He dwelt on his own "reverence" for the office he had now passed on to Herter. With a pride that might have been ironical under other

circumstances, he mentioned his own quiet but successful efforts to defend the duties and powers of the secretary of state against all "interlopers." He promised that he would be careful to avoid the "interlopers" role in his new post as the President's advisor. And he ended with the remark that the future was wholly in Herter's hands.

STILL AT WORK

The last remark must be somewhat qualified, since it is known that Dulles is indeed functioning as the President's advisor. The President drops in on his great friend as often as he can manage it. Dulles, whose faculties are wholly unimpaired by pain and physical weakness, evidently uses much of his time with the President to deliver what may be called his spoken testament on the Western situation.

As both the President and Dulles have described these meetings to others, a partial reconstruction of the Dulles testament is possible. The Berlin crisis of course constitutes the central theme. The danger of weakness, the need to stand firm, the certainty that every other Western position will crumble after any significant surrender at Berlin, constitute one group of sub-themes.

THREE POINTS

But Dulles equally stresses the American responsibility as chief nation of the West, the need to take the initiative, and the vital importance of creative American leadership.

In keeping these themes always before the President, Dulles is of course strengthening the hand of his successor.

There is no foundation at all for the idea which has some currency in Europe, that Herter is more "flexible" than Dulles, in the silly sense of that much abused word. The danger is, rather, that Herter may feel forced to be more "rigid" than Dulles, again in the silly sense, because the new secretary of state does not have quite the same freedom of action that Dulles enjoyed. And the other danger is that the President himself may be more "flexible" still in the silly sense, now that he has the approval of Dulles' stiffening influence.

HELPING HERTER

Against this latter danger, Dulles has clearly been trying to guard; and by so doing he has equally clearly been helping Herter in the best way he

can. For the rest, at least until Dwight D. Eisenhower and Nikita Khrushchev together at the summit, the future is unquestionably in Herter's hands, as Dulles told him.

Herter's first task is simply to find a basis for Western unity that will be strong enough to withstand all sorts of Soviet nerve-war pressures in the forthcoming negotiations. It is lamentable, but it is a fact, that there are still unbridled differences about the right negotiating approach among the Western allies. Most important, there is a difference between the Germans, French, and Americans, on the one hand, and the British on the other. The British wish to open negotiations with the Soviets by offering concessions, to show good will; and they argue that a revision of the status of Ber-

lin is positively desirable. The other allies hold that it is a mistake to open any bargaining session by offering concessions, which will only be taken as the prelude to further concessions.

The difference is really about tactics more than about substance; but it is an important difference all the same, since it is capable of producing sorts of recriminations later on, if and when the Soviet nerve-war pressure grows serious. Fortunately, there is a revision in the fact that Herter will find some way to resolve this inter-ally difference, when he meets with the other Western foreign ministers before the talks with the Soviets at Geneva. For the new secretary has all the hope and knowledge, the tact and imagination and courage, that his task demands.

People's Platform

A Vote For Daylight Time

Rock Hill, S. C.

Editors, The News:

That system of setting clocks one or two hours ahead so as to provide an earlier working day and produce the advantage of an extra period of daylight . . . will soon start in this benighted area north and west of us.

True it may be that our lawmakers are sometimes a little slow in seeing the advantages other states have claimed for their peoples. It's been only since the time of the Mecklenburg Declaration that Benjamin Franklin originated the idea of daylight saving.

William Willett (1856-1915) advocated daylight saving in a pamphlet "Waste of Daylight" 1897 and the system has been used in many parts of the U. S. and Europe since World War I. Perhaps some day in the near future we'll be able to get an extra hour of daylight between the latter part of April and the first of October. Who knows?

It's been said that farmers are bored now by TV show hours and not controlled by sun time. But our legislators are not concerned that this business of extra hours for swimming, golfing, cutting the grass or the extra enjoyment of life may be a subject of controversy. Have you, gentle reader,



More Daylight To Cut Grass

ever sent a three-cent postcard urging daylight saving time to your elected representative?

—WILLIAM GREEN

Help Lawmakers

To Spend More

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I have a great respect for the sound thinking of Mr. Parks Yandell, whose letters to the editors appear occasionally.

—CHARLES E. HORNE

'You Think There's Still Hope?'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

The other day I drew some mean inferences regarding the activities of Sen. Frank Lausche of Ohio which I now want to take back. I called attention to the fact that Lausche, in his terms as governor of Ohio, had served as attorney for the New York Central Railroad, and later when re-elected governor, put across a heavy sales tax on trucks; also that he sat on a Senate subcommittee recently which voted to let the railroads discontinue suburban trains regardless of prohibitions by state governments.

Records Opened

Sen. Lausche has now done an unusual thing. He has let me see his financial records, and I am convinced that although he did legislate as reported above, he did so from conviction, and was not influenced by his brief period as counsel for the Federa-

tion of Railway Progress.

Sen. Lausche was governor of Ohio longer than any other man in history.

Money In Bonds

Most of his money is in U. S. government bonds. As governor of Ohio he was urging state employees to buy bonds and so he himself bought a \$100 bond, later a \$200 bond, each month. It was deducted from his salary as governor. This accumulated \$17,000 of U. S. bonds, but had to sell \$10,000 of them to buy a house in Washington. He has a mortgage of \$17,424 on that house.

The senator also bought nine shares of Bank of America stock in 1950 for \$315 a share, plus 20 shares of stock in the Cincinnati Enquirer for \$10 each, when it was being purchased by its employees and others interested in continuing newspaper competition in Cincinnati.

Sen. Lausche Votes By Conviction

The total value of these stocks is now estimated at \$4,543. He also has some insurance in a Slovenian insurance company in Cleveland, but hardly enough to mention.

This is a pitifully small amount of worldly wealth for a man to acquire, especially when he is serving as city judge, mayor of Cleveland and five times governor of Ohio.

Test For Rayburn

Good old Sam Rayburn faces a big test on bossism shortly. He is due for a showdown with courtly Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia who looks like Sherlock Holmes and specializes in blocking housing bills inside his Rules Committee. Smith is now sitting on the \$2 billion housing bill and if Mr. Sam doesn't make good his promise to blast the bill out of Smith's committee he'll have some very rebellious congressmen to cope with.

Last January when Rep. Chet Holifield of California appealed to Rayburn to end bossism by committee chairman, Holifield wrote down a statement in Rayburn's office which he asked the speaker to read. Sam read it and agreed—namely that if Smith of Virginia bottled up any more bills, Rayburn would join Holifield and others in upstaging Smith's throttle-hold on vital legislation.

Now it's up to Sam to carry out his pledge, and this reporter can report that Sam always keeps his word.

All Votes Needed

Inside fact is that Sam would have moved earlier except for one thing. Last week was a Jewish holiday, which meant that about 50 big-city congressmen, were absent. Sam wanted those big-city votes around to back him in voting for the housing bill.