



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Brodie S. Griffith Editor and General Manager
R. L. Young Jr. Associate Editor
C. L. Young Jr. Managing Editor

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Rashness Is Answered With Reason

The City School System's decision to withdraw its sponsorship of Central High School's Junior-Senior Dance was, under the circumstances, a wise and prudent move.

Charlotte has yielded with reasonably good grace to the legal obligation to segregate its public education facilities. It is under no compulsion whatsoever to accept racially integrated social activities, however.

The prospect of an integrated prom was thrust suddenly upon school authorities this week by extremists who chose recklessly to disregard possible consequences. To force the issue at this time, when progress toward a tolerant solution of racial problems was being made so discreetly and so carefully, was an act of reprehensible irresponsibility. Irreparable harm could have been done to the very cause the sponsors of this move professedly regarded as prevention.

The right of a student to take part in a school-sponsored activity is not in question. But the Junior-Senior Dance at Central is a social event, and social

events are not properly a part of the educational process. Respectful of community attitudes, the safety of the young people involved and the delicate state of the desegregation process here, the school system's administration had no choice but to cancel the event.

This is ever so much more important than any specific provision of the bill. For the regulation of labor unions in order to prevent the abuses and abuses revealed by the McClellan Committee is a vast undertaking.

THE DIFFICULTY

There are in this country some 200 national unions and some 50,000 local unions. There have been a membership of about 17,000,000 workers. It is easy to say that these unions must be honestly and faithfully ad-

ministered in a democratic way. But it will not be easy for the federal government to enforce these desirable criteria in a vast and complex community like the labor unions. As an undertaking, it is comparable in its difficulty with the problem of achieving equal civil rights in all parts of the country.

As in the problem of civil rights, the crucial question is what is the maximum that can be achieved in the way of observance and enforcement by assent and consent, without imposing upon the government impossible tasks of enforcement. It is no good to say

Should The Labor Bill Be Softened Or Toughened?

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON

Having been passed by the Senate, the labor reform bill now goes to the House which is expected to hold hearings throughout the month of May. The main debate will be on whether the amended Kennedy bill should be toughened or softened. In fact, however, the overriding national interest is that a bill should be passed which establishes the principle, as does the Senate bill, that there is a public interest in the internal management of the labor unions, and that the right to regulate them is legally recognized and universally accepted.

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Mooney, Goldwater and McClellan: Three Men On A Horse

There ought to be a law against this or that when the real question is what kind of law can be expected to work. Anybody can write a bill which commands what he thinks should not be done. But what counts is a bill which not only points in the right direction but offers a good prospect of moving in that direction.

By this test the Senate bill is a good one. The proof that it is good is that it was passed unanimously, taking account of Sen. Goldwater's dissent for the sake of the record. The bill has the support of the re-

sponsible labor leaders, beginning with Mr. George Meany. Thus, if enacted into law, we may expect that there will be a large amount of voluntary observance and a limited need for measures of enforcement.

I have not in recent months followed in detail the exposures of the McClellan Committee. But a year ago, its sensational exposures of racketeering and corruption had covered only seven out of nearly 200 national unions. No doubt there are others which need to be exposed. But no doubt also, there are a great many unions which are honestly and faithfully run.

Their example and support are

very necessary to effective regulation of the labor movement. In my view, the critically important and desirable feature of the bill is the requirement for detailed financial reports. For if this requirement can be enforced, if there is full and continuing disclosure of the income, the investments, and the expenditures of the unions, the foundation of effective regulations will have been laid. This will be the last bill to regulate the unions which will be come before Congress. The regulation of corporations was not done in one bill. It has evolved with experience. The same will be true of the regulation of the unions.

EXAGGERATED ZEAL

For this reason, it is an exaggeration to become too much concerned about the softness or toughness of the provisions about labor union practices. As for the provisions to make the internal government of the unions "democratic," they may be regarded as in a class with laws prohibiting the sinful nature of man.

It would be a great pity if in an excess of zeal and of enthusiasm, very promising bill were lost.

Tarheelia Has The Politics To Spare

The invisible barriers of political timidity stand between North Carolina and an effective program of road prevention on the state's streets and highways.

As much was frankly admitted by at least one edgy legislator this week when the House Roads Committee buried a mechanical inspection bill for another session.

"It probably saved a few lives," said Rep. Wayland Spruill of North Carolina's ill-fated 1947 inspection law, "but it killed about a hundred politicians."

"Then Rep. Spruill explained away their own part in killing the measure by arguing that high speed is what causes most accidents on Tar Heel highways. Correct. But what's so terrible about passing a bill that will prevent some of the accidents?"

Cousin Wayland's candor was refreshing—but not his courage.

Certainly, the 1947 law was a fright and it did exile some politicians to the boondocks. That's a shame, too. But we are somewhat more interested in saving lives than saving politicians. If the General Assembly would enact a good inspection law possibly everybody would enjoy salvation together.

As a matter of fact the newest proposal was carefully designed to eliminate the disadvantages of North Carolina's first clumsy attempt at making

motor vehicles fit to drive. It was a conscientious and wholly logical effort to keep death traps off the roads of the state. But in the legislature, the opinion prevailed that death or maiming on a highway is somehow less fatal, less hurtful and less to be feared than death by disease. There are laws to prevent the spread of disease. There should be laws to prevent a dangerously defective automobile from spreading its own brand of deadly peril over the state.

Cousin Wayland's less candid colleagues have explained away their own part in killing the measure by arguing that high speed is what causes most accidents on Tar Heel highways. Correct. But what's so terrible about passing a bill that will prevent some of the accidents?"

It has been conservatively estimated that mechanical defects are actually responsible for 5 to 10 per cent of all motor vehicle mishaps in North Carolina. If the automobiles operating on Tar Heel highways last year had been in good condition perhaps as many as 50 or 100 people now dead might still be alive. It would be worth a little inconvenience. It might even be worth the defeat at the polls of several dozen politicians. We seem to have a sudden surplus of those anyway.

Clare Learns About Dragon's Teeth

Clare Boothe Luce has put a prudent end to a week of imprudent words by resigning as ambassador to Brazil.

"The climate of good will," she told President Eisenhower in a letter, "has been poisoned."

Few will choose to regard her as a martyr. On the other hand, not many more will see her nemesis, Sen. Morse of Oregon, as a venal St. George who valiantly slew "the woman with the serpent's tongue."

L'affaire Luce, which had a kind of off-color sprightliness to it, saw the function of diplomatic advice and comment in the Senate dissolve into a personal vendetta which did neither the Senate nor foreign relations any good.

Sen. Morse, whatever his true convictions about Mrs. Luce's qualifications, did not alone give his colleagues conclusive

evidence that she should not be confirmed. He tried to parley a 15-year-old partisan smear of Franklin D. Roosevelt. "Mrs. Luce charged in Oct., 1944 that he 'lied us into war' in disqualification. It would not have worked alone. But Mrs. Luce flared up and let her acid tongue run away with her. When she charged her troubles with Sen. Morse to his having been kicked in the head by a horse, what had not been clear before came clear. She had helped Sen. Morse document his charge—namely that Mrs. Luce's taste for sharp and partisan remarks made her unreliable as a diplomat."

So Sen. Morse has won a shabby victory. And baited with her own past, Mrs. Luce has learned that words, as Milton said, can become soon dragon's teeth that spring up armed men.

It's The Clash Of Ideas That Counts

In recent years, Charlotte's municipal election campaigns have been as stylized as the synopsis of a soap opera plot. The 1959 model is refreshingly different and the voters are the winners.

In place of the worn clichés of the too-polite past, the issues have been raised, challenges hurled and ideas expressed.

Since it is largely through the clash of ideas that voters are able to make up their minds about individual candidates, we welcome this new political vitality. Sound government, worst enemy is apathy, for it leads inevitably to stagnation and decay.

Debate ought to be encouraged, not stifled. Furthermore, a reluctance to raise and discuss issues ought to be viewed with some suspicion by the voters. The people who would govern Charlotte must come equipped with a sound and vital core of ideas and they must possess the ability to communicate them.

From The Chicago Tribune

TUCKERED IN

IT BELONGS to the exclusive club known as the tie tuckers. I say "exclusive" because there are only a few of us in the U. S. A.

You know how long some neckties are, well, after I get mine tied, mornings, I tuck the ends of my tie into the waist of my trousers. When I get to the office where I lay my pallid brow against weighty problems and take my coat off, the first fellow I meet with a

false-toned "Good morning" says: "Hey!" and as I stop he gently pulls my tie out of its anchorage, and I say, "Oh, thanks" with a hangman's grin.

As I turn away I replace the ends of my tie, as I meet the second fellow, "Come here," he says, and jerks my tie out with a loud guffaw. I turn away and tuck tie. It's my tie and I will tuck it down the back of my neck if I wish.

People's Platform Too Many 'Bluebloods' Seek Council Seats

Charlotte Editors, The News:

I want to warn the voters of Charlotte that they will be making a grave mistake if they elect a City Council made up exclusively of Myers Park residents.

There are too many of these so-called "bluebloods" running this time for comfort. A number of them on the City Council wouldn't do any harm, but enough is enough. Charlotte needs a government that will look after the interests of the little man, too. Most of the people in this city are little people, whether they want to admit it or not. They ought to have somebody to protect them against people who only think of their own class.

In Charlotte's creed still "the brotherhood of man, the fatherhood of God and the neighborhood of Myers Park."

—JESSE TAYLOR

Two In Primary Had A Majority

Marshallville Editors, The News:

From here it would seem that in Charlotte's municipal election Tuesday you should have 12 contestants for five seats instead of 14 for seven seats since two (Herbert Hiltch and Gibson Smith) are already elected by having more than a majority.

There were probably not many more votes cast than the total for mayor (15,762) with not much more than 7,800 votes being an absolute majority. Hiltch received 4,379 and Smith 7,929.

It could be embarrassing if a different group of voters went to the polls Tuesday and upset the majority already recorded.

—JOHN P. U. McLEOD

Negroes Only Want Equal Opportunities

Charlotte Editors, The News:

The Negro problem will not get solved here in America by calling names and by hating. Like any other problem, it calls for keen, active minds and understanding hearts. The Negro wants nothing except the same opportunities that white people have and he believes most reasonable men will say that he is entitled to that. The Negro does not want to marry white women, but he does want white men to leave his Negro women alone.

Each race should be proud of his race and try to reach the highest possible success. Each Negro is entitled to the best education that is possible for him to secure. When they have finished their education they are entitled to a job that they are prepared to hold. It is about time that white

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

Low Nichols, executive vice president of Schenley Distillers, is not the only big liquor executive playing a backstage part in influencing Washington. Nichols was the chief author of the recent criticism of the Supreme Court adopted by the American Bar Association which has kicked up such a furor in legal circles.

But he has company. Temperance groups have been casting an eye on some other influential liquor executives and lobbyists.

Week-End Jaunts

One is Clinton Hester, lobbyist for U. S. Brewers' Foundation, who makes it a practice every year to entertain the office staffs of Democratic congressmen and their wives at his palatial Virginia estate near Lexington. Significantly, Harry Livingston, disbarred clerk of the House of Representatives, helped arrange for this very plush weekend jaunt with meals, rooms, plenty of liquor and a Saturday-night

men quit exploiting Negroes who are too cowardly to hold up for their own rights."

—J. W. JEWELL

Civil Wrongs Raise A Danger Signal

Charlotte Editors, The News:

Civil rights or civil wrongs is the conflict that is now being debated in our national Congress.

The question is asked, "Are all American citizens, regardless of their race or financial position in life, being granted and protected with their constitutional rights?"

A great deal of evidence has been presented which tends to prove that a great many American citizens are being denied many rights and protection; and in our own minds if we believe one individual American citizen has been denied one constitutional right, then it becomes our duty, as Christians, to take heed of the danger signal raised around our heads.

It is becoming evident that too many citizens are being arrested and imprisoned without any basic protection of their rights.

It is evident that too many governments are not meeting their responsibility in seeing that these human rights are secured and protected.

Without a doubt the person with money can secure his rights because he can afford the necessary legal talent; but to the unfortunate person without money no legal talent is provided to protect and secure the

full measure of justice in too many of our courts.

In too many of our states these unfortunate victims are thrown before a magistrate, who in many instances possesses no legal training and in many cases possesses no reading and writing talent, but who does possess the talent to levy fines and to collect fees.

In too many areas the only requirements for the office of magistrate is a strong prejudice and a willingness to deny the basic elements of a fair trial.

Yes, let us be honest with ourselves and admit that the sovereign states have not met their responsibility in this matter.

After 184 years of independence the federal government

now finds itself in the position whereby it must step in with its great power to protect the basic rights of all Americans.

Since the states have not met this responsibility we must act to help or else we can awaken from our sleep and find a nightmare staring us in the face. When we set a trap for the bear, the bear or else the trap can also catch us. When we allow a police state to persecute a few, we may to our horror discover that this power can be extended to the many.

In too many cases the courts and state governments have allowed civil wrongs to be practiced upon their citizens, both while and colored.

As a Christian, southern born and bred, it is my conviction that these wrongs will only be righted when the power of the federal government is placed in the background to watch and grant us all the full blessings of the Constitution of the United States.

—GRADY S. THOMAS

Poor Uncle Sam Gets The Blame

Rock Hill, S. C.

Editors, The News:

Floor of Uncle Sam gets blamed for everything these days. As the big four-foot plane eased off at 10,000 feet and beat its nose from Washington, D. C., to Charlotte, the lovely young airline hostess announced, "Because this is a tourist flight, the government does not permit us to serve free meals. However, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cakes will be served at no charge. Sandwiches are on sale at 50 cents each."

Now, I figure the pretty hostess was told to announce the reason she was peddling sandwiches at half a buck a throw was the old government's fault.

If the airlines will post the federal regulations forbidding their serving the "free" lunch so that I can see where the agency says "no charge," I'll eat the wax paper-wrapped horrors. I remember old Uncle Sam, lurching at the local saloon keeper who cut out free lunches with his beer. Uncle John said then, "If you let them have a pig's knuckle they'll lick the whole hog."

It seems I read that one of the foreign airlines stuck to its guns and now serves dinners on its overseas air flights at no charge.

Of course, the airlines are cooking the goose that lays its golden dividends. There I am 15 miles up in the air, hungry as an eagle and I get the pitch: "No food except sandwiches. The government is to blame, don't blame us poor airlines."

—BOB OCCUPADO



Booze Served Illegally On Capitol Hill

The Prestige Gift From The Old South. This monthly it was not better nor worse than 15 other liquors advertised in the same issue of Life magazine.

Natural Inclinations?

After spending the week end with lobbyist Hester, the assistants of Democratic congressmen naturally are inclined to throw open the doors whenever Hester, were as ordered as holding for the U. S. Brewers' Foundation.

Previously, temperance groups concentrated on Vice President Nixon's administrative assistant, Robert L. King, who was on leave as general manager of Southern Comfort Distillery.

'Deliciously Different'

The National Temperance League pointed out that important legislation being before Congress, involving rules and regulations for liquor advertising, and that Southern Comfort, which itself is 100-proof, was advertising itself as "Deliciously Different."

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King Fired

Vice President Nixon finally bowed, dropped King as his assistant.

Temperance groups are also taking Daniel Webster, were as ordered as holding for the U. S. Brewers' Foundation.

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Illegal Tippling

In the old days, liquor flowed so freely under the Capitol dome that it became a national scandal. Some of our well-known statesmen, among them Daniel Webster, were as ordered as holding for the U. S. Brewers' Foundation.

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Byrd Is Busy

Busiest backstage buttonholer for the Senate confirmation for Adm. Lewis Strauss was Sen. Byrd of Virginia. Byrd has been waylaying his friends from the Deep South urging them to vote for Strauss.

Footnote

Note — Byrd's son, Harry Jr., is a director of the International Rayon Company, controlled by former Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey. Strauss used to serve as technical adviser of International Rayon, and like the Byrd family is also close to George Humphrey. It was Humphrey who persuaded Eisenhower to appoint Strauss secretary of commerce.