



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1959

The New City Council Must Retool Municipal Government For Progress

Wave after wave, the icy realities of Charlotte's present plight jostled the new City Council's consciousness today.

No Council in recent memory has faced so much on so soon.

Merely to fulfill budget demands will be a monumental task. Each new administration faces these "normal" problems of transition and adjustment. The gentlemen elected Tuesday, however, must launch a whole new era of municipal government. Yesterday's status quo will have no status. Bit by bit, administrative and financial structures will have to be retooled to cope with the pressures of great growth and fresh metropolitan concepts.

This will require a revision of attitudes, a sounder understanding of common needs and a clearer appreciation of the future's promise.

First and foremost will be the task of finding and hiring a new city manager.

Henry A. Yancey's successor must be a man of unusual ability. Truly, he must lead the Queen City into the new era.

No small-bore politicians, courteous hangers-on or eager amateurs need apply. This is a job for a trained professional who will be called upon to exhibit administrative skill and finesse above and beyond the limits of any single councilman's capacity.

Ideally, he should have a graduate degree in public administration and a number of years of practical experience.

Furthermore, he should be a man in whom the Council and the public will have complete faith and confidence.

The appointment—or reappointment—of key department heads will be a chore of only slightly less significance.

On the whole, City Hall has in positions of planning and administration men of exceptional ability. It is unfortunate that so many of their recommendations have been ignored, overruled or watered down in the past by councilmen who have lacked either the vision or the courage to implement them. The new Council ought to demonstrate a sturdier respect for the talents of the men and women it hires for the highly specialized tasks of public administration.

Even as these personnel problems are being resolved, the new municipal governing body must be giving serious thought to what many consider the most perplexing dilemma of all—the city's finances.

This fiscal field will require all of the ingenuity at the Council's command for Charlotte is already perilously close to prudent limits of bonded indebtedness. The cumulative pressures of urbanism will demand new spending. Yet the flow of new revenue has not kept pace with these mounting demands. New sources obviously must be found and a new effectiveness in administering old sources must surely be developed.

Bound tightly to the city's fiscal woe is the problem of the perimeter. The annexation of this suburban fringe will be accomplished Jan. 1, 1960. This means the final half of the budget which councilman will prepare for fiscal 1959-60 must take into account the immediate extension of important services to an area roughly 30 square miles in size.

The city already has a running start on the water and sewer services for the perimeter. Bonds were authorized for this purpose last year. But money is yet to be provided for such essentials as police and fire protection and garbage service.

Then, as the area develops, there will be streets, traffic signals, health services, recreation programs and a variety of other public necessities to be funneled in all directions at once.

The organizational and financial contrivances which the old Council devised to provide these services have been criti-



Big City, Big Problems

cized as either unfair, ineffective or cumbersome. It will be up to the new Council to make necessary and appropriate adjustments.

As great a challenge will be the opportunities for new consolidations of city and county services to perfect local government as an instrument of positive and coordinated action. Some progress along this line has been made but it has been hampered by much timidity and lack of vision. The consolidation of the tax offices of the two governmental units should be completed under a single, highly qualified administrator. This should be followed by the consolidation of city and county recreation and law enforcement departments. All of these mergers ought to be made as part of a conscious pattern of progress toward metropolitan government, a carefully devised structure to do what must be done in Mecklenburg in the most effective, economical and democratic manner possible.

Yet metropolitan government is a long-range proposition. As its promise is being explored, Charlotte's municipal leaders must tackle and solve the various "necessity" problems brought about by obscuring congestion and a swift movement of an effective urban renewal program for the city's blighted areas and positive action on a master roads plan that is to be completed in July.

Urban renewal is a social and economic must. Certain preliminary steps have already been made. But the City Council must assume the burden of leadership to make certain that the entire program is carried through to successful completion.

Likewise, a solution to the city's traffic problem is still in the early planning stages. Once the costly master plan is received, councilmen must have the gumption to grasp its significance and act wisely on the challenges it raises. Unless positive action is taken, Charlotte will be in danger of strangling in its own congestion.

The same conditions which will give Charlotte's traffic situation a new urgency will create other woes: Public safety, parking, and the decay of the central business district, to name but a few. These are all milestones of progress which must not be muddled past. Each will require thoughtful and imaginative attention.

In short, Charlotte will have to stop acting like a village floating aimlessly in North Carolina's great, green hinterland and begin acting like a well-managed metropolitan community.

There is much to be accomplished. The new City Council must supply the creative leadership and broad vision to help Charlotte make 1959-61 a biennium of progress.

From The St. Louis Post Dispatch

WHERE LILACS BLOOM

Walt Whitman, poet of American democracy, sang of the lilac bush tall-growing, "with many a pointed blossom rising delicate, with the perfume strong I love, with every leaf a miracle." Amy Lowell drew word pictures of the "great puffs" of lilacs, "candid and clear-cut, standing beside clean doorways," just everywhere "in this new England." They decorated Emerson's yard at Concord and Longfellow's in Cambridge and framed the windows at the house of the Alcotts. Which is a way of saying that the lilac, now in such generous bloom hereabouts, seems to belong to the United States, along with Plymouth Rock, Johnny Appleseed and the Oregon Trail.

So it will come as a shock to American travelers behind the Iron Curtain just about a month from now when they find lilac bushes in full flower along the Kremlin's pink brick walls. On seeing his first Communist lilac bush, the American tourist can hardly believe his eyes. Then he goes deeper and more and he has no choice but to accept the fact

that there they are. It is as surprising

an experience as awaits an American in all Europe and he had better be prepared for the blow.

The Soviets, let it be said, have not claimed that they originated the lilac and this score their restraint is well deserved. The common variety of lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, is a native of south-western Asia and first was imported to Vienna in the 1500s to give it a start in Europe. Then there is Alfred Noyes' poetic command to "go down to Kew in lilac-time, in lilac-time, in lilac-time, not far from London" which rolls on barrel-organ notes every spring and often in other seasons as well.

If Nikita K. of the Moscow Reds senses the lilac's fragrance, so does T. Williams of the Boston Red Sox. It helped Abe Lincoln get through those Civil War springs, and Henry Shaw cut bouquets from his garden in Tower Grove. In a word, lilacs in bloom, "false blue, white, purple," are one of those common denominators that make all the world kin, regardless of ideologies.

Republican Committee Seeks The Elixir Of Comeback

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

The attempt to chart a comeback trail for the Republican Party got underway last weekend in Highland Park, Ill. This courageous enterprise is in the hands of the 48-member GOP Committee on Program and Progress whose chairman is Charles H. Percy, president of the Bell and Howell Co.

The committee got acquainted with the new national chairman, Sen. Morton of Kentucky, and listened to more college professors than most of them had seen since their college days. The old pro touch was lent by Gov. Stratton of Illinois, who dined with them Saturday night at the Percy residence.

BREAKING THE JINX

The scuttlebutt emanating from this occasion is that in the interests of his candidacy for vice president next year, Stratton may seek to break the jinx on a third term for the governor of Illinois. It had been expected that Stratton next year would oppose Sen. Paul Douglas, whom Democrats expect to re-nominate and re-elect.

The motive attributed to Stratton is his desire to re-

main in command of the large Illinois delegation to the national convention and his realization that Douglas would be hard to beat. Illinois Democrats refer to their potential candidates for governor as "worthy" rather than "formidable," which in politics is a big difference.

DAWNING SUSPICION

Democrats also are eyeing Percy's activities with a dawning suspicion that he might like to replace Douglas. Douglas has defeated two extreme right wing Republicans; in the vigorous young Percy he would confront an Eisenhower Republican whose internationalist and domestic views, while less liberal than his own, would to some degree blur the issues.

Sen. Morton described the Highland Park meeting as preliminary. The committee target for reporting to President Eisenhower and the party is Sept. 1 next. Morton appeared encouraged by the fact that it represents all factions in the party and got underway with energy and good spirits.

WHERE PROBLEMS BEGIN

The chairman's own problems will begin with the report.

He will be largely responsible for finding ways and means of handling it. It is now assumed, for example, that the Republican candidate for president will be either Vice President Nixon or Gov. Rockefeller; the new credo must be cleared with both as well as with the President.

Republicans in Congress will want to be consulted and they represent all shades of opinion. It will be helpful that they are represented on the committee by their own leaders, Sen. Dirksen and Rep. Halleck.

This is one of the major differences between the GOP

group and the Democratic Advisory Council with which it is being compared, especially now that it has so notably embraced the egghead influence. Speaker Rayburn and Sen. Johnson refused to join the Democratic group and their distaste for its free advice in party matters is extreme.

Vigor After Confusion

Britain Shows A Rosy Face

By JOSEPH ALSTOP

LONDON

Britain today presents a picture of vigorous recovery, which contrasts remarkably with the confusion and defeatism that prevailed for so long after the Suez disaster.

In the main, this British recovery is economic, at least as yet. Its indices are rising: hard currency reserves, declining unemployment, a stable price index, exports that compete successfully even with West Germany's, and a living standard that begins to compare even with the United States. And this British recovery is important news, for two quite different reasons.

NERVE AND SUCCESS

On the one hand, very few people realize, even today, how near Britain came after Suez to actual public bankruptcy. There were moments when the runs on sterling and the drop in the reserves seemed quite likely to leave the British treasury powerless to meet its obligations. The curbs inherited by Prime Minister Harold Macmillan were about as poor as they could be. But the Prime Minister and his quietly effective chancellor of the exchequer, Derick Heathcoat Amory, have played their bad cards with great coolness, nerve and success. Thus Britain's recovery is noteworthy simply as an important feat of political-economic leadership.

FLUSH NO FEVER

On the other hand, however, it is also noteworthy for another much more fundamental reason. One has to keep one's fingers crossed, but the present British recovery looks very much more solid and enduring than the recovery of any other major power.

Oil Investments Are

Investments In Peril



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ing than the other postwar recoveries. In those earlier cases, the flush of seeming prosperity always turned into the fever of a currency crisis.

NO CRISIS THIS YEAR

Except for 1953, in fact, Britain has had a currency crisis in every odd-numbered year from 1949 onwards. In 1959, in contrast, confidence in the currency is high. More important still, almost all the costly, over-stretching postwar tasks, in industry, have been completed and paid for. With these domestic tasks out of the way, the desperately precarious period of hand-to-mouth planning would seem to be over.

POLITICS VS. ECONOMICS

All this does not mean, of course, that Britain is now invulnerable to the shocks of economic fortune. In the first place, as one high official has

recently remarked "In the country it's politically disastrous to have more than 500,000 unemployed, and it's economically disastrous to have less than 250,000."

In the second place, Britain remains particularly vulnerable because of her continuing dependence on profits from oil investments in raw material producing countries like the Middle East, which are now in full nationalistic ferment. The oil investments, bringing in about one billion dollars a year, are the largest single item. If all profits from such investments in all politically insecure areas are lumped together, that total income now runs close to 1.5 billion dollars a year. This is about 14 percent of Britain's total earnings overseas.

BLACKMAIL IN PROSPECT?

That is an enormous percentage in the politically insecure category. It means, for instance, that the Kremlin's agents can ever get a grip on Middle Eastern oil, they can use their oil-control as a powerful instrument of political-economic blackmail in London. The passivity and division of council in London, after the terrible defeat of the revolution in Iraq, were the main causes of the sense of impending defeat that was so strong here only a little more than a year ago.

In the interval, the situation in the Middle East has worsened and the situations in Africa and other ex-colonial areas have also grown more threatening. But the picture has changed for the better in other ways. Although heavy British losses in the ex-colonial areas seem no less likely, it now seems likely that these losses will occur piecemeal, in a gradual manner, thus adjustment will be far more easy.

People's Platform

Spruill Deserves

A Ticket Home

Editor, The News:

Writing of the automobile mechanical inspection bill, the Associated Press on April 29 quoted veteran Rep. C. Wayne Spruill of Berle County as follows:

"The 1947 law probably saved a few lives, but it killed about 10 politicians."

This, Sir, really lays it on the line. The political "life" of a politician is superior in value to the physical life of a human being.

I submit to you that Rep. Spruill and all other members of the North Carolina General Assembly who concur with his published statement should be impeached. I also submit that Mr. Spruill be given, at the taxpayers' expense, a permanent one-way ticket out of Raleigh.

—GARLAND McPHERSON

There's Shame In

The North, Too

Editor, The News:

Reading your editorial of April 28, "Fortune Picks a Man at Poplarville," I got the distinct impression that I was witnessing another chapter in the NAACP-sponsored hate campaign against the South and the southern people. After re-reading the editorial, the initial impression remains.

In essence, what you said was true, but why do you imply that such things cannot happen outside the South? There have been racial clashes in many states outside the South—the worst in the country's history occurred in Chicago—yet they were not given the "exclusively southern" tag. Why is it that racial tensions are played up in the South but hushed up in other parts of the country? Mob law, as displayed in the Mississippi incident, is a shameful thing—almost as shameful as the crime of which Mack Charles Parker was accused.

But the fact that it happened in the South doesn't mean that it couldn't also happen in New York or Detroit. The NAACP, with the willing help of its tool, the U. S. Supreme Court, has done just as much to create racial hatred in the northern states as it has in the South.

The people who think all is peachy-perfect between the races in the North should take off their rose-colored glasses; they're either fools or dreamers, and neither has very much to do with the ears.

So the next time you hear of stones being hurled through the

Drew Pearson's

Merry-Go-Round

Editor, The News:

There is nothing like a beautiful lady to upset the equanimity of senators, the poise of diplomats, and sometimes the peace of the world.

As a result Washington has been getting a greater kick out of L'Affaire Luce vs. Morse than the revolt in Panama, the crisis over Berlin, or even the fact that Ike was barred from the Gettysburg golf course unless he walked.

Question Of Women

It gets down to the question of how well women serve as diplomats or in Congress or might serve some day in the White House.

It is no secret that some politicians considered Mrs. Luce's brief Brazilian service, to be for barely more than a year, as a steppingstone for her vice-presidential nomination. As a Cath-

Eisenhower Earns

A Frying Pan

Editor, The News:

Eisenhower and Humphrey's twaddle to the American businessmen on how to stop communism was the coldest frying pan for a century. Shock (the American businessman) is not going to invest anything where he will not get something for his investment. Profit is the bitch goddess of all businessmen. American businessmen care nothing about the condition of the people of underdeveloped countries. American businessmen are not concerned about the condition of the taxpayers in the United States. And I am sure they are not concerned about the condition of the people elsewhere.

—TELLER SUTTLE

Don't Ever Yield

To Bad Advice

Editor, The News:

There is one piece of advice that I have given to thousands of young people who have gone to school to me. This advice is, "Anyone who asks you to do a wrong thing is not your friend. He may swear by all that is good that he is your friend but that does not make it true."

Trying to get control of others seems to be a game at which many moderns love to play. All of us know that it is not right for one person to control another person. Of course, in a democracy we elect our rulers and that is permissible, but such rulers must have the good of those they represent at heart more than they do themselves. Unselfish rulers will never become tyrants.

—J. W. JEWELL

Clare's Secrets Were Public Record

Editor, The News:

It is believed she could counter-act the vote-pulling powers of Sen. Jack Kennedy, Democrat.

Voted With Morse

The fact is that Mrs. Luce served

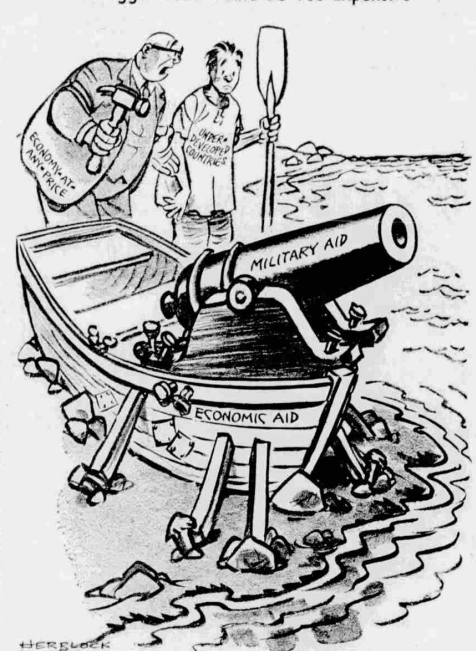
completely and courageously in the House of Representatives.

Her voting record, ironically, was just the same as that of Sen. Wayne Morse. She was a fighting, intelligent liberal.

Whether Sen. Capehart of Indiana likes it or not, the temperament, emotions and mental condition of a prospective diplomat, male or female, must be a right of senatorial scrutiny.

No Secret

Both Sen. Capehart and Sen. Morse could have discovered Mrs. Luce has been under psychiatric care by reading her own authorized biography, written by Allen Tate and published recently



Black Shaft

At the time of her divorce from

George Browne and during the Wall Street crash of the Hoover administration, George of Clare's friends committed suicide, and "she became a psychopant that she sought the help of a psychoanalyst," writes her biographer.

Brilliance In Italy

Other emotional periods are frankly reported. "She who had never lost the nerve in physical danger was terrified that she was losing her mind," recounts Hatch regarding a "black shaft of despair" to which Clare dropped in late 1943. It was at this point that she returned to her original faith—Catholicism.

In the Woman's Home Companion November through January 1955-56, at the height of her career as ambassador to Rome.

Retirement

Brilliance is frequently wrapped up in emotion. And when, after three years in Italy, the embassy staff presented Clare with a gold medalion, she broke into tears. Try as she could, she was not able to stop weeping. So her husband suggested that the time had come to go back to New York for a physical checkup. This was what led to Mrs. Luce's retirement from diplomacy.