

The News of orange county

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No valid arguments against bond issue

What are the arguments against passage of the \$61.6 million bond referendum next Tuesday? The News knows of no valid arguments.

But the most effective way to attack the logic of those who oppose this much-needed capital improvements program is to examine their arguments. To this, and most other public bond referendums there have been two basic points in opposition:

(1) "We already owe too much money. If this work has got to be done it ought to be on a pay-as-you-go basis."

—North Carolina has a sizeable bonded debt, indeed, which it is paying on schedule and with no difficulty. The state also has an excellent bond credit rating; and conservative estimates show no tax increases as a result of the proposed new bonds. The needs are here and now—not two, five, or 10 years hence when pay-as-you-go funds might be accumulated. And, building costs continue to rise in a proportion that represents a greater cost than the interest on long-term bond loans.

11 on ballot . . .

(2) "I am against some of the bond proposals."

There are 11 proposals on the ballot. If you must oppose some of them, do so. But do not vote against the entire issue because of some individual projects you do not favor.

And remember—every single project involved in this referendum has already undergone careful scrutiny by the Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly—which itself has reduced certain projects already.

It should not be necessary to point out the local benefits to Orange County that are involved in these tremendously important bond-contingent projects for the University. There is far more than a selfish interest involved for hometowners of Orange.

Big -- and favorable vote is in order here

The News is confident that the statewide bond referendum will pass by a good margin next Tuesday, and that every precinct in Orange County will favor the issues as they did two years ago.

But we are concerned for the margin of support the Land of Orange will give the referendum proposals. The margin in favor of similarly worthwhile issues has been better than 10-to-one sometimes in the past. The local totals should stack up that way again.

Unfortunately, though, Chapel Hill and Orange County folk are too complacent at times. We have a fairly prosperous country, and a generally comfortable lot. The Uni-

Note: Your own views on the opinions expressed above are invited. If you agree, disagree, or have some additional insight on this matter you are invited to give the public the benefit of your thinking in a "letter to the editor." Please limit these to 300 words.

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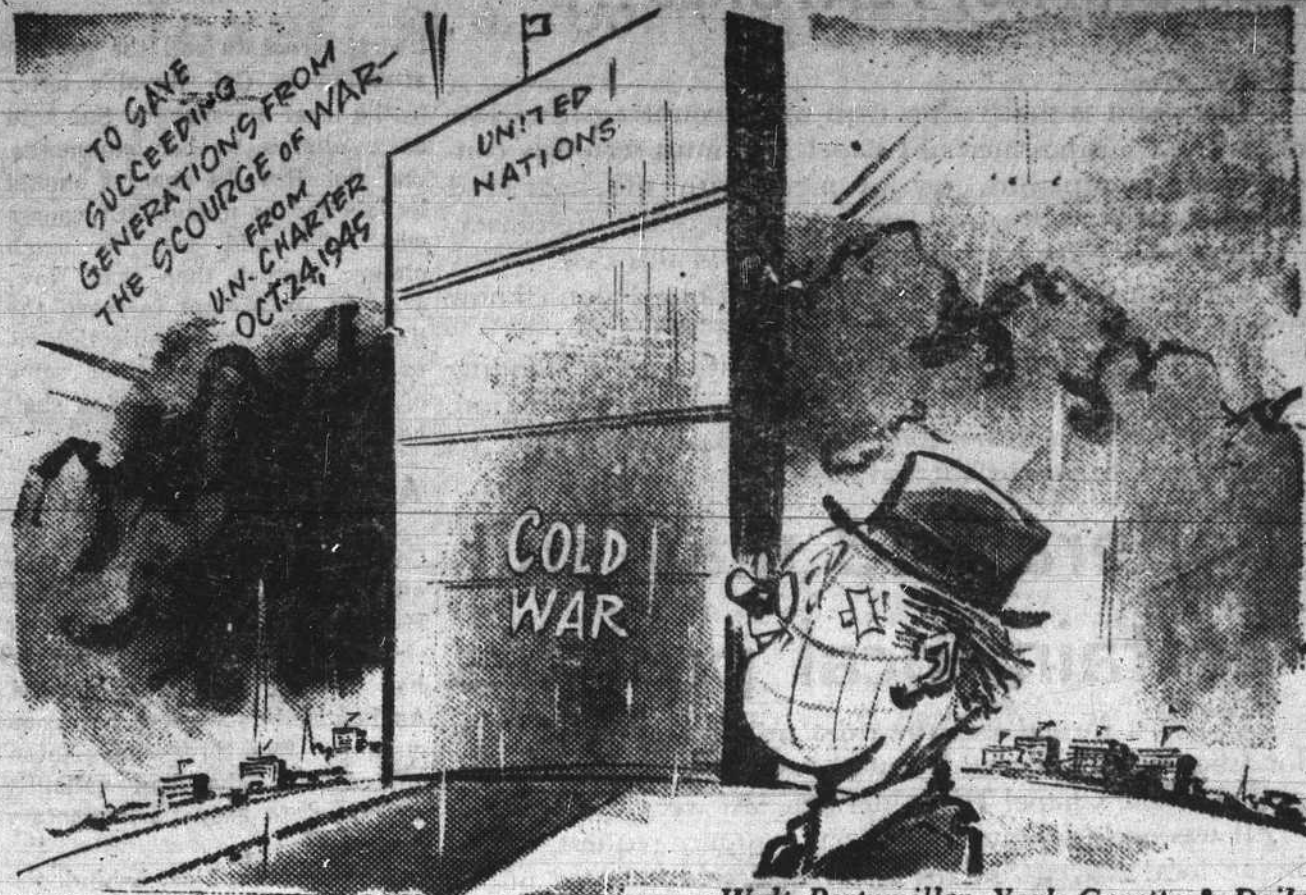
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—Walt Partymiller, York Gazette & Daily

versity has fared pretty well to date. And the good fights for public improvements have been fairly well fought hereabouts.

Result has been that Orange supported bond referendums. But the turnout at the polls has generally been one-fourth or less of the total for general or primary elections.

Orange County owes it to itself to be disturbed and concerned to a degree that it will turn out a BIG vote as well as a favorable one.

'The Age of Orange' is a good complement

Orange County has borne a far greater share in the development of North Carolina that its geography and population would give it on an average basis.

This is skillfully shown and well-documented in "The Age of Orange," Prof. Ruth Blackwelder's newly-published history of the county from its founding in 1752 until the Civil War.

By sub-title alone—"Political and Intellectual Leadership in North Carolina, 1752-1861"—Prof. Blackwelder's work shows the richness of Orange County's contributions in this formative era.

The book is dedicated to the memory of citizens of Orange County "who saw the changes that were needed in their county and state in the 18th and 19th centuries and who had the courage to work and achieve them."

So "The Age of Orange" is of more than provincial interest by its neatly-organized exhibition of this county's gifts to the state through the many outstanding leaders it produced.

Was biggest, most populous . . .

As the state's largest county in population and size soon after its founding, Orange held regional pioneers in the public school and transportation movement in this state. It came to be a pivotal county in political struggles. The whittling away of 10 other counties from its borders, beginning in 1770, took away Orange's greatest potential in agricultural lands and industry.

But it left the core county with men of vision who early made of it an educational center exclusive of the University. It is noted in "The Age of Orange," for instance, that over half of the boys and girls in the County between ages five and 21 were in local schools in 1860—and further that more than 50 different schools and academies existed in the county during its first century of history.

"The Age of Orange" is a fine complement to the bi-centennial history of the County by UNC Profs. Lefler and Wager in 1953. And the "Age" shows a heritage that Orange County has made to grow and prosper in the years since those covered by Prof. Blackwelder's book.

Merchants have a duty on student complaints

Of late there have been quite a number of UNC student protests against Chapel Hill merchants. To our thinking these protests are not well founded, but that is not the point.

Sure as an Army dogface is going to gripe, so are students going to complain about local business practices and

(Editorials continued on Page 3)

Newsman's Notepad . . .

Incident gives a lab tryout of freedom, proves a point

The Conference on Freedom and the First Amendment held in Chapel Hill last weekend provided an un-planned and interesting laboratory test of that sacred liberty—freedom of speech.

Around 150 persons—about equally divided between the races—asssembled for the meeting. By a showing of hands at one point in the day-long program around one-fourth of their number were ministers. Through the day they hammered away toward practical means of applying the guarantees of the first amendment. Their primary aims were abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee and its state satellites, and promotion of civil rights, particularly in elimination of racial discrimination. To the observer the group seemed a serious dedicated lot with a zeal for its aims, whether one wholly agreed or not.

True to tradition . . .

But true to the tradition of Chapel Hill, the occasion was not without its surprise controversy. Col. Henry Royall of Chapel Hill, in a letter printed in both local newspapers on the day before the conference last week, attacked the meeting and its sponsors, terming the use of a local church for this purpose "anti-Christ."

As the sessions opened a young High Point public relations man identified as Arthur Lyon handed out pink mimeographed flyers linking the meeting to alleged Communist front groups. Mrs. Stephen Emery of Chapel Hill also passed out literature hostile to the spirit of the conference. Both protests were nominally accented by the delegates present for the rally with puzzled casualty.

During the afternoon Col. Royall and Mr. Lyon sat through the meeting as silent observers of the scene. Then, during a brain-storming open forum on suggestions for safeguarding first amendment freedoms the spontaneous test occurred.

Miss Mary Gilson, Chapel Hill's plain-spoken octogenarian

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