# Neighborly Discussions

In deciding to begin this spring a program ly reflected, or conformed to, current Amerof discussions to be held at informal neighborhood meetings in the homes of members, the Chapel Hill Citizens' School Council is making a wise move.

It is evident by now that, spurred by Russia's advance in scientific and technical achievement, the nation is in the mood to have an overhauling of the American school system to determine wherein it is efficient or non-efficient, and some of this impulse is of course being felt locally.

But if this movement is led by panicky politicians, bent on impressing voters, or by orators more charged with emotion than experience in educational affairs, the result will be distortion and a loss of those values that the schools have built up through the

Just now a nation given to violent reactions is disposed to blame the schools for part of the lags and deficiencies that have enabled the Russian schools to appear good by com-

But our schools have, by and large, mere-ple.

ican ideals. If their teaching has been grubby and materialist, it has been in response to demand. If they have lacked discipline and control, the same things have been evident in national life. If there hae been too much emphasis on athletics, entertainment, and ex-curricular attractions, they have reflected the tastes of a country gone half-mad on amusement.

If the school system is in need of correction, whether for aims or methods, hasty remedies should be avoided in favor of the quiet accumulation of evidence as to what the schools are doing and why. This evidence can best be discussed in neighborhood meet-

Such meetings are peculiarly suited to Chapel Hill after a period of growth that has made some parts of the community widely sundered from others. If the results become beneficial locally, other communities will doubtless follow the Chapel Hill exam-

#### Stuck With A Government

Washington, somewhat like a turtle on a log, sunning itself but not doing anybody else any good.

The nation is stuck with it for three more years, come what may.

In almost any country in Europe (except the dictatorships, some of which are supported by the US Government), there would have been a fall of the ministry and new hands would have taken the helm.

But the USA goes floundering along a narrow path between the abyss of war on one hand and the gulf of recession and unemployment on the other.

We shall be lucky if we escape some form of dictatorship or oligarchy, depending upon whether the invisible government which lies beneath the visible one is sufficently

We can see now that these defects in the American form of government, these obstacles to self-rule, can be traced back to those of the Founding Fathers who sneered at the democratic idea or distrusted repre- United States people?

The country has virtually turned in a No sentative government. They wanted rule by Confidence vote against the present United the rich and well-born. They wanted to see States government. But there it remains in the reins safely kept in the hands of a few men ruling from the top.

> They have all but won out. The Eisenhower administration is packed with men like them. The first cabinet contained nothing but millionaires except for one labor man, who soon got out.

Mr. Eisenhower labors on radio and TV to sound like Franklin Roosevelt or Woodrow Wilson. Yet all we get are sandpapered pronouncements and smooth generalities from the New York publicity experts who originally put Eisenhower over and are now trying to do the same for Nixon.

Although the earth and the heavens resound against Dulles, the President calls him the "wisest" and "most dedicated man" he

Is Mr. Eisenhower so walled off from, so indifferent to, the opinion of his fellow men that he doesn't know the world regards Secretary Dulles as an obtuse and bull-headed opponent of the peace which the world craves? Is there no way to acquaint the United States government with the needs of the

## The Battle Of Maxton

The Battle of Maxton may well become one of the historic turning points in North Carolina life, worthy to stand in the textbooks alongside the battles of Moore's Creek Bridge and King's Mountain.

Stirred by reports of the worsening of relations between the chief American races, the Ku Klux Klan poured across the South Carolina border under the leadership of a "reverend" who has a long police record of petty offenses. Their apparent intention was to overawe the Indian as well as the Negro

But at Maxton they ran into a volunteer force of men descended from the original Americans. The Klansmen had no stomach for the bombardment that followed. They

It would not be surprising to find that this marks the end of Klan marches in this nearly permanent burial.

part of North Carolina, certainly where the Lumbee Indians live. No organization of this kind can stand being laughed at.

The invaded Indians did well to fire only into the air. That ensured there would be no martyrs, no resentful dead. The dispersion that followed was as complete as if bullets had been used. The retreat at 60 miles an hour was led by the "reverend" who would be: Napoleon.

From now on, it will be hard for Kluxxers to make propaganda in the face of accusations that they are better at foot races than they are at restoring the mastership of the

Rising organizations may thrive on persecution, opposition, and even bullets. But a few laughs directed at them can be as destructive as machine guns, and ensure a more

#### Biblical Sputniks-In Name, Anyhow Now the question must be better, Elijah, he who sat on the

The Jews came out of the East and chased the gods from Mount Olympus, and then came other Jews who called themselves Nazarenes, who completed the job, and thereafter Jupiter, Juno, Mercury, Venus, and Mars began their long vigil in almost total darkness.

The early church thought that astronomy was just so much nonsense, and the astronomers, not to offend the church unnecessarily, named each of the newly discovered heavenly bodies after the Olympian gods; Jupiter, Mercury, Mars, Venus, Neptune, right down to the most recently-discovered planet, Pluto.

But about one hundred years ago it became evident that the mind of man will concern itself more and more with outer-space and those heavenly bodies, and thinking of the planets, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Venus, Neptune and the others, the thundering agnostics of the 19th century, Mr. Lecky, and Mr. Gibbon, slapped their thighs in glee as they shouted; "There are no saints in heaven.'

asked; was it all a coincidence?; it is possible that those Olympians were real gods after all? And adding validity to this puzzle, the United States, the very bastion of Christianity, is following the pattern without hesitation, with their own space satellites named Zeus, Thor, Atlas, to say nothing of another Jupiter himself. This is of vital importance. Our spaceships and satellites will circle the globe for centuries to come, and America owes it to Christianity to strike a blow for the Judaic-Christian civilization.

Let us start clean. Our first satellite should be Saul, or even

mountain top and was fed by the ravens. Our second successful one should be, of course, King David, and I would certainly like to see one named Deborah, the Mother of Israel, who would give a good account of herself against Venus, and eventually with our spaceplatforms we can go down the line with Paul, Peter, Augustine, Thomas, Aquinas, and one which would do special honor to my own city of Charlotte, - John

Let's forget that Zeus and Jupiter business and also leave behind forever the completely materialistic Sputniks.

AIR TRIPS ON CREDIT

Pan American World Airways. which pioneered the 'pay later' plan, said that 12 per cent more customers used their credit system last year than in 1956.

The American Express Company reports that its credit travel plan volume in 1957 was 60 per cent greater than the year before. Under most plans operated by

the airlines an initial payment of 10 per cent is required by the customer when tickets are bought and the rest can be paid in installments extending over twenty months or less. Some of the plans include not only plane fare but expenses for hotels and meals, the cost of sight-seeing, luggage and other incidentals. -New York



#### UNC Must Reassert Leadership In A Region Torn By New Turmoil (Editorial In The Charlotte News)

the sharecropper and his plight;

of the cotton farmer in general;

of cotton altogether; of the wast-

ed resources of the South; of

the historical myths that blocked

It was after such trailblazing

research and bold leadership that

the late W. J. Cash was able to

write in 'The Mind of The South'

'that a decisive breach had been

made in the savage ideal, in the

historical solidity and rigidly en-

that the modern mind had been

established within the gates, and

that here at long last there was

springing up in the South a

growing body of men - small

enough when set against the

mass of the South but vastly

large when set against anything

of the kind which had even ex-

isted in Dixie before-who had

broken fully or largely out of

that pattern described by Hen-

ry Adams in the case of Rooney

Lee and fixed by Reconstruction;

men who deliberately chose to

know and think rather than mere-

ly to feel in terms fixed finally

by southern patriotism and the

prejudices associated with it;

men capable of detachment and

actively engaged in analysis and

It is easy to argue that the

principal battles were won dur-

ing the Thirties, that the Uni-

versity's inspirational leadership

provided the breakthrough and

that forces of sense and sanity

rose up all over the South to es-

tablish a new order based upon

a realistic appraisal of real and

But this is to say that Dixie's

house is in order, that no new

hobgoblins of the spirit have re-

placed those of the Thirties, that

a massive social and economic

That is not the way the world

Festering in Dixie today are

problems and issues of terrifying

complexity. They involve the

status of the Negro, the future

of agriculture, the effect on the

economy of a sudden postwar

wave of industrialization, the

terrible necessity of regional

planning, the continuing waste of

great natural resources, the ling-

ering poverty of many of the

South's people, the strengths and

weaknesses in southern institu-

tions and folklore, the social and

economic frontiers still to be

nonotrated the swift changes in

the regional culture that war, de-

pression and finally prosperity

have brought about and, most

works and it is not the way the

crisis hardly exists at all.

South works, either.

imagined problems.

criticism of the South itself."

acted uniformity of the South-

the region's progress and pros-

Universities, says Dr. Robert Maynard Hutchins with characteristic scorn for academic icons, have ceased to be "centers of independent thought and criti-

The aging enfant terrible of higher education goes even further. Their decadence is so pronounced, he declares, that "it would be simpler and more hopeful to establish new institutions than to try to reform the universities to the extent that

would be required." It may be unsettling to some Tar Heels that Dr. Hutchins' remarks were made not in one of the walnut-lined cubicles of the Fund for the Republic, which he now heads, but on the campus of the University of North Carolina, that most hallowed of all southern centers of independent thought and criticism.

Whatever disclaimers he might have inserted concerning the exclusion of "present company," Dr. Hutchins has made a point that should trouble Chapel Hill as deeply as, say, Ann Arbor, Berkeley or Cambridge.

The University of North Carolina still enjoys worldwide respect as a center of southern enlightenment. Its reputation as a rallying point for reason in social, economic and racial inquiry is without equal below the Mason-Dixon line. The plain fact is, however, that the University made its reputation during the turbulent Thirties at a time when much of America was stricken with a social conscience. It has not bolstered that reputation in recent years with anything resembling the noteworthy accomplishments of those earlier days of courage and candor.

That is not to say that the University of North Carolina is no longer a great university or even that it is not longer demonstrating the same dauntless attitudes and intellectual curiosity about the new New South of the 1950s as it did about the old New South of the mid-1930s.

Fer one thing, the University lacks a strong figure around whom to rally. In the 1930s there were Howard W. Odum and Frank Porter Graham.

It was Odum who, with talented and dedicated associates and the aid of Rockefeller money. carried on a monumental series of studies of the South which was to culminate in the publication of "Southern Regions Of The United States" in 1936 by the University of North Carolina Press. It was at Chapel Hill that sociologists dared to undertake studies of the Negro, his psychology as well as his sociology; of important, a new and realistic inventory of the actualities of what is to be done.

> The battles have not been won. Yet all around us guardians of the status quo are practicing, with windy evocations of the past, the same old immutability, the same old obstinance. There is a terrified truculence toward even the evolutionary changes common to a dynamic society because these changes are either misunderstood or distrusted This condition confronts the University of North Carolina

with a clear and present challenge to reassert its leadership in southern thought and inquiry.

The status quo has no status. The University can no longer afford to live in the glow of past triumphs. It has an obligation to mobilize its forces and act, to rise above complacency and illusion.

Exploration of the socio-economic condition of the South today will require fully as much courage, candor, independent thought and constructive criticism as was the case in the Thirties. If anything, it will require more, for certain aged-in-anguish orthodoxies have not been recently challenged in North Carolina. They have grown wild and weedy for a decade.

The leadership in this great adventure must come from a young, eminently promising but still untested inheritor of the mantle of Frank Porter Graham. His name is William Clyde Fri-

#### No Safety Device

Carlton Fleming, Charlotte lawyer, told the Classroom Teachers Association there that the so-called safety valves of the Pearsall plan may cause North Carolina's pupil assignment law to be held unconstitutional

Of course, they may. All that the special session of 1956 and the election which followed it accomplished was the addition of new constitutional hazards to the pupil assignment system. The only result of the adoption of the Pearsall plan was to make more precarious North Carolina's efforts to modify the impact of the Supreme Court school decision. That was pointed out when the Pearsall plan was

adopted. It is still true. North Carolina was sold an increased danger as if it were an added protection.—Raleigh News

### **Chips That Fall**

"The enemy of woman," says an authority, "is fat."

Of man, too.

Half the world is now dieting against fat. The other half is about to.

Coincident is the fact that nearly everybody now sits down when at work. Big shots, small shots, executives, and their numerous secretaries and assistants, they all sit. Only preachers, Ku Klux orators, bank tellers, and girls in the dime store stand when at work. What wonder there is such a spread even before middle-age widens the

American meals used to be prepared for people who worked in an upright position. Meals had to be full and heavy for men who lifted and ploughed, and for women who rarely got a chance to sit down during a working

Heavy meals became a habit. The habit persists, though working habits, especially in towns, have changed. Hence fat.

The magazine, "Plaisir de France," gives a list of nine women who have changed the face of the world:

- 1. Hatchepsout of Egypt.
- 2. Cleopatra 3. Ste. Genevieve
- Joan of Arc
- Isabelle the Catholic
- 6. Anne Boleyn
- Mme. Tallien
- Mary Baker Eddy

9. Mme. Curie. It is to be noted that the list is not of those who have influnced people, even by the million. Otherwise Mother

Goose would surely have been No. 10.

President Eisenhower's langnage shows in his Economic Report how muffled has been the fall from military man to political leader. One paragraph follows:

"During much of the year, the task of restraining inflationary pressures was paramount, and policies were directed to this end. In the closing months of the year, and currently, the task has our phone. Mo been to facilitate readjustments in the economy essential to the resumption of sustainable economic growth, but to do so without reviving inflationary pressures

As a general he was understood when he said "Go." But in White Houseeze he would have to say "The order before you is a direction that you are to proceed toward a given area until either circumstances have changed or you are authorized to proceed in quite another direction.'

The paragraph in question was merely trying to say that The Federal Reserve Board put an end to the prosperity wave by making money tight, and now has gone into reverse and is hoping for the

Among the signs of approaching spring we note the first kite sent up by a small boy, the browning of the buds among the elms, and the reddening of the willow

### Stream...

By DAN ANDERSON

(Special For The News Leader) 'The little stream seems not to know.

When it first leaves the spring, Precisely where or how to go, And takes a wavering Uncertain way that turns aside At any check or block.

Its timid trickle swinging wide Around ridge, rise and rock, Later, by other freshets fed.

Gaining in flow and force, It carves a bolder, straighter bed, Until it joins the course

Of a great river, rushing, deep, Cutting its channel's track With unity's relentless sweep That mountains can't hold back. Letters the Ed

CHILDREN This is a parental pro

does wonders -? Preservi ments of h left to our great, all-read vision. In a recen

by Katherine Children's Sh tain Kangara and the scan imaginative as a dying r forever to offspring. Thill course, but i coming to re of juvenile c tration of mea the fact thata white is whin of character young people! The magic

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