THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

W. C. DOWD, Publisher — J. E. DOWD, Editor — HARRY S. ASHMORE, Associate Editor

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1946

Now Is The Time For All Good Men . . .

THIS is the season when that old typewriter exercise that goes "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party" is being translated into political action. Even such a lost cause as the candidacy of North Carolina's G.O.P. nominees for Congress has called forth a mighty effort on the part of the National Republican Committee, and no less an orator than Senator Willis of Indiana is on our midst rallying the gerrymandered faithful.

And, of course, Democrats of all degree are springing to the aid of their Party which, outside the Solid South at least, is reputed to be in the need of their best efforts. That wide and yawning chasm that separates the various Democratic wings disappeared miraculously as the General Election drew nigh, and staunch Southerners who were devoting all their energies to wrecking the Administration's legislative program only a few months ago are singing in happy chorus, "One for all, and all for one."

Out in Kentucky Senator Alben Barkley has given perhaps the ultimate demonstration of Party loyalty. The Democrats of the Seventh District have recognized Representative Andrew Jackson May's sterling services to his country by renominating him. And that, apparently, is enough for Senator Barkley who last week gave his fellow-Democrat his unqualified endorsement, conveniently forgetting that the Democratic majority in the Senate, which he leads, has sponsored an exhaustive investigation linking Mr. May to some highly questionable war-time munitions deals. It's a matter of Party loyalty, Senator Barkley's associates explain, forgetting in their turn that back in 1944 Dear Alben once set off a major explosion by publicly proclaiming his disloyalty to his Party Chief, Franklin Roosevelt, in the somewhat less vital matter of a tax bill veto.

And here at home we are treated to the fascinating spectacle of Senator Hoey appealing, with all his eloquence, to the Young Democrats to rally to the support of the Party and prevent the Republicans from capturing the Congress in November. Such an eventuality appalls the Senator, who points out that the great social and economic gains made under the aegis of that great Democrat, Franklin Roosevelt, will be imperiled unless Mr. Truman is assured the wholehearted support of a Democratic House and Senate. This is the same gentleman who in mid-Summer was valiantly defending his record in the 79th Congress, when he voted more often with the Republican minority on major legislation than he did with the Administration. The Senator, indeed, was then offering his vast public a sterling piece of oratory dealing with the obligation of a conscientious public servant to defy his Party's leaders in these terrible, collectivist times when the New Dealers seem bent on destroying the liberties of the people.

This is doubletalk, of course, slanted to the needs of the moment, but we hear no sounds of public protest at this biennial insult to its intelligence. So long as the voters continue to accept meaningless labels as an adequate basis for making their selection we shall continue to be governed by Democrats who love their Party in November as they never did in May.

It Can Still Happen Here

ATTORNEY General McMullan has made a survey of North Carolina and has failed to turn up a trace of the once-active Ku Klux Klan. The sole vestige of the nightshirted legion is a charter in the Attorney General's files listing the Klan as a Georgia domesticated corporation. In view of the tax troubles some of the top officials of that Georgia corporation have inherited from more prosperous days there is little likelihood that any organization will seek to use the charter again.

To say that the Klan's conspicuous absence in North Carolina is encouraging is to put it mildly. As part of the usual post-war reaction there has been a revival of racism in all parts of the country, with the Negro serving as whipping boy as usual. The bedsheet boys, apparently undiscouraged by the FBI's evidence linking the Klan with the late German-American Bund, have turned up in Georgia, Tennessee and elsewhere, fostering the same old program of hate and violence.

The Shelby Star believes that "our folks have long since ceased to be interested in an organization which has nothing to it but a past and a prejudice . . . At the time it was organized the Klan may have caught the imagination of a few souls who were long on sheeting and short on something to do with their nights out. But even that time has passed."

It looks that way, but this is a season of uncertainty and the hate front feeds on confusion and the sense of insecurity. Proud of our record as we have every right to be, it would be a mistake to assume that what has happened to our neighbors in Georgia can't happen here. We had better, we think, cling to the principle that has served us well in the past: It won't happen here as long as North Carolinians stamp out the flames of intolerance wherever and whenever they break out.

Vinegar Joe Needed No Alibis

THE number and the diversity of the mourners who have been moved to pay public tribute to General Joseph Stilwell provides an index to the character of the great soldier who died, a delayed battle casualty, in California last week. So do the two nicknames applied fondly, and interchangably, by the men who served under him—Vinegar Joe and Vinegar Joe.

He was a hell-for-leather doughboy, too busy preparing for or fighting battles to bother with the niceties that go with the high rank he held. At the outbreak of the war he was given a major command, the experimental Seventh Motorized Division. At the war's end he had broken away from his desk as Army Ground Forces Commander to take over the subordinate, but far more active command of the Sixth Army in the Pacific. In the interim he had been through the most harrowing and unrewarding campaign undertaken by any American general, with the exception of Jonathan Wainwright.

It was in defeat that Joe Stilwell attained his greatest stature. He took a mixed force of American and Chinese troops into the jungle in an effort to keep the Japanese from severing the Burma Road. Supported by what General Marshall called "the thinnest supply line of all," he gave an excellent account of himself, but when he pulled the remnants of his command out of Indo-China months later he brushed aside the ready-made alibis his superiors had waiting for him. "I say we took a hell of a licking," he announced grimly.

Rank to Joe Stilwell meant responsibility, not privilege. He was one that group of American commanders who emerged in World War II to demonstrate that democracy and military success are not incompatible. His professional skill earned him a high place among the great commanders of history, but it was his simple and forthright character that won the respect and affection of the American people.

Another Voice

Encouraging The Drunken Driver

DURING September the State of North Carolina set a new record with 683 convictions for drunken driving, resulting in the suspension of licenses.

In the first nine months of this year North Carolina set an all-time record for convictions of drunken driving with a total of 4,233.

T. Boddie Ward, state motor vehicle commissioner, is disturbed by the trend. "This disgraceful report," he summed up the September figures, "is not only the worst monthly figure ever reported in North Carolina, but the month alone is worse than New Jersey's total of 644 revocations for all of last year."

The North Carolina motor vehicle commissioner blames the Tarheel drunken driving record on the comparatively lenient penalties imposed in North Carolina —30 days or a $50 to $1,000 fine for the first offense, imprisonment for two years or a fine of not more than $1,000 for each subsequent offense. Drivers licenses may be suspended for one year with each conviction and the court records show, Mr. Ward said, that many North Carolina drivers have been before the courts as many as six or eight times.

Mr. Ward, however, may be overlooking a bet when he puts all his faith in the sterner sentence. To increase the penalty may lead juries to acquit where they now convict. And there is some consolation for North Carolina in the very record of which he complains. It is evidence that the North Carolina law enforcement officers and the North Carolina courts are doing a good job in apprehending and convicting the Tarheel State's drunken drivers.

Nor should he overlook the fact that North Carolina is a half-dry, half-wet State, enjoying—if that be the word—local option which is a system to encourage drunken driving. To go a distance in search of a dry county takes his automobile and travels to a wet county where he purchases his legal liquor, disposes of part of it and starts home, a drinking, if not a drunken driver. It is the reason that *The Record* has opposed local option in South Carolina. The only local option that will not encourage drunken driving is the local option that exists now in South Carolina where liquor stores are legal in every county, but no liquor store will be established in any community where there isn't enough business to keep it going.—*Columbia Record.*

A new detective mystery yarn gets into atomic fission, as was only to be expected. It was not thus in the good old days, when old Sir Hilary could be done in with a spot of weed killer in the curry.

Those scholars at Duke University who see through the backs of playing cards should do O.K. at modern geography, so much of which takes place behind an iron curtain.

'Poor Devill'

People's Platform

How We Came To This

Editors, THE NEWS:

THANK you very much for your editorial, "How Did We Ever Come To This" in yesterday's (Oct. 9) News. May I quote your next to the last paragraph, as follows:

"How did we come to this? How have we allowed a Marxist social experiment, which has long since degenerated into an empty facade concealing a nation of faceless men, to so condition our thinking? Why do we substitute name-calling for argument, labels for facts, selfrighteousness for self-criticism?"

Your last paragraph, which I shall not quote, was true and to the point. If only the renegades in our midst—many of whom are intelligent and should know better! — would not only read but ponder. But they are hopeless because they have closed their minds to the truth.

What truth? The truth that hits any thinking person between the eyes is simply this:

That Marxism as practiced in Russia is a form of totalitarianism as absolute as was ever practiced by any Czar; and a hundred times more efficient! Is it any wonder, therefore, that our USA can at present get no co-operation from the ruler of USSR when the latter holds the power of life and death over every citizen in that luminous country and has never extended freedom as we understand and practice it to his unounted millions of subjects?

Why does Stalin speak of peace when his munitions factories are running full blast (if reports be true) and his huge army remains intact? Have we forgotten so soon that Adolf Hitler spoke piously of peace, when his armies were poised and ready to strike down his peaceful neighbors?

Today the Russian propaganda magazines, Pravda and Izvestia, keep up a vicious barrage of abuse against their late allies, Britain and America. The USSR speaks of peace, but keeps her cast military machine in readiness for instant action. Yet we have closed our eyes to these war-like actions and are allowing soft-spoken words of peace to soothe our (very recent) fears.

Peace, what a wonderful word it is; but we will do well to remember as we work and pray for it, that another "Pearl Harbor" can happen again. We have everything to lose if we forget too soon our sons who lie on foreign battlefields.

—SIGNATURE WITHHELD.

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

YOU have asked the $64 question; "How Did we Ever Come To This?" And I answer: Because we have allowed every Tom, Dick and Harry to enter these United States, bask in the sunshine of our freedom, preach, teach and organize subversive groups for the sole purpose of destroying our democracy.

And now that we have found the fly in the ointment I suggest we bridle the alien gangsters, lead them to the bar of justice and tell them in no uncertain terms to pledge allegiance to our democratic way of life or get out of the country at once—for we want no part of their Hitler or Stalin modus operandi.

—ORA E. SEMPRE.

How Long, Oh Lord?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

MEAT—MEAT—MEAT. The cry should have been heard by now in high Heaven. How long, oh Lord, will our beloved country be ruled by a small percentage of money grabbers and hoarders, who hold vast accumulations of meat ready to eat? Hard working people and sick people are dying from anemia and weakness.

Poor dealers know how to play safe, and they deny meat or lard to all people they do not know or trust and save a small portion for each regular customer. They are glad to get it at any price due to crass ignorance and an unholy desire for meat. They cuss OPA for the shortage, but I have never yet heard buying masses condemn OPA.

If OPA were taken off at once we would still be in a much worse position. Meats of all kinds would triple the present prices before morning and a large per cent of our people would still be unable to buy it. It is quite easy to buy meat yet, if one is able and willing to go far over ceiling prices. OPA is flagrantly violated on every hand; it's almost equal to a state of war and the Congress should act at once. All packing houses and other suspected places of meat holding should be taken over by the Government and searched and all hoarded meat should be confiscated and the owners fully prosecuted. It just does not make sense the way our famine is permitted to get worse every day.

—SIGNATURE WITHHELD

Hold That Line

CLOVER, S. C.

Editors, THE NEWS:

IT WAS stated some time ago that Charlotte had an extremely high murder rate. I wonder why some Charlotte paper hasn't got the nerve to tell the world that it is the Negro population that has so many murders instead of letting the white population get a black eye on that score?

As to "South Carolina's Gift To Georgia," that's OK. Neither state is overrun with Republicans. If they were, I suppose the Negro would vote.

If THE NEWS is not a Republican newspaper, lock, stock and barrel, they should remove their signs. The Mason-Dixon line is too far north. It should be on the North Carolina-South Carolina state line.

—SIGNATURE WITHHELD

Morris Field

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Editors, THE NEWS:

I AM enclosing a copy of a letter which I have written to Mr. Wyatt in regard to this matter mentioned in the article by Pete McKnight in THE NEWS of Oct. 9:

Honorable Wilson W. Wyatt, Housing Administrator
Federal Housing Administration
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wyatt:

Reference is hereby made to correspondence which has heretofore passed between your office and Mayor Herbert Baxter of Charlotte, North Carolina, in regard to the application for priorities for ranges, heaters and other household equipment for the 604 housing units at Morris Field near the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

I recognize the fact that there are bottlenecks in connection with the production of certain household appliances and equipment. It seems to me, however, that the application for this equipment and these appliances has been pending long enough for the same to receive favorable action. The purpose of this letter is to urge you grant immediate favorable consideration to this application.

S. J. ERVIN JR.,
Member of Congress.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Marquis Childs

Trend To The Right

COLUMBUS, OHIO

A MONTH ago, or even two weeks ago, the story in Ohio was quite a different one. Then it seemed fairly certain that popular Democratic Governor Frank Lausche would be re-elected; and his popularity was counted on to help weaker candidates on the Democratic ticket. Now, if the polls can be believed, such a marked Republican trend has set in that Lausche himself seems likely to go under. Even some leading Democrats, when they talk privately, admit their gloom.

The trouble about the polls is that they show such a great change in the past month that they can scarcely be believed. They show that Lausche has lost strength rapidly in the industrial areas which he must count on for heavy majorities in order to win. In certain sections of Cleveland, where his majority two years ago was 68 per cent, he leads today by only 53 per cent.

Polls have been wrong before and they can be wrong again. But something is happening here which may mean a Republican sweep, with the Democrats losing one Senate seat and at least three seats in the House.

Lausche, who has never placed much reliance on the Democratic organization, has for the past two years found himself in a political box, surrounded on all sides by a Republican Legislature. On a statewide scale, it's like the position in which Truman will find himself if the Republicans win control of the House this Fall.

QUESTIONABLE RECORD

Lausche's record as Governor doe not appear in too favorable a light, even when the difficulties of his position are considered. Elected in 1944 with the blessing of President Roosevelt, and rewarded, outside the state at least, as a liberal, he has tried to move toward the right. At the same time, the left-wing faction in the CIO-PAC has embarrassed him with impossible demands.

As a middle-of-the-roader, Lausche has found few supporters on the right and he has lost adherents on the left. His accomplishments, such as somewhat improving the fearful conditions in Ohio's medieval lunatic asylums, tend to be obscured.

The way seems cleared for reaction. The question is how far the pendulum will swing. If you take Ohio's two leading Republicans as a measuring rod, the answer is: a long way.

On domestic issues, former Gov John Bricker would go back to the pre-New Deal era. In this, he is far to the right of Senator Robert A. Taft, who stands for a minimum program of social reform.

On foreign policy, Taft seems to be taking a line that leads back to American isolation. His utmost attack on the verdict at Nuremberg is a straw in that wind. It was not so much his belief that the verdict was immoral as that he should have waited until the trials were over before speaking out in violent denunciation of the war-guilt principle.

SOVIET "APPEASEMENT"

Far more extraordinary is the speech Taft made a month ago at the Republican State Convention. His tone was one of fussy perfectionism, with the strong implication that we should stand on principle and turn our backs on the sordid quarrels of the rest of the world. He accused both Truman and Roosevelt of "appeasing" Russia. That appeasement, said Taft, has "only helped to build up the greatest totalitarian state the world has ever seen . . . Election of a "New Deal Congress" in November would lead to further appeasement of Russia, he said.

On the subject of the Bretton Woods agreement, Taft spoke with scorn of ten billion dollars "made available to foreigners." He urged that peacetime conscription be ended "unless there is a real threat of some new war, which God forbid."

"If," said the Senator, "an American industry meeting any substantial part of domestic demands is threatened by lower costs abroad, it should be protected by a tariff and not subsidized by the taxpayer."

The bronze statue of William McKinley on the Ohio Capitol lawn is said to have come to life at this point to give out generous bronze applause. But that is probably only a Democratic canard.

Samuel Grafton

What Makes 'Em Jump?

NEW YORK

WHAT MAKES a voter make up his mind? There are politicians who will tell you a hat that's the meat shortage is going to have a large effect on the November elections. Meat'll do it, they say; the shortage will tip the delicately-balanced scales in the voter's mind, and though he lacks a hundred other things to make him happy, from world peace to 50-cent butter, he will vote the pain that hurts him most.

The theory is that the American voter, after enjoying some twelve to sixteen years of education, and after thorough exposure to newspaper editorial, radio forums and other means of gaining light on the leading issues, will react with simple, uncomplicated rage to the world about him, like the patient in the dentist's chair, who forgets everything but the one nerve in the one tooth. Politicians (especially the more old-fashioned kind, who remember torchlight parades) like the idea that if they can only find the right nerve, they can make the voter rise, clawing and jumping, out of the chair.

DOUBLE PAIN

It used to be true, in a simpler day; I donder if it still is, some think so. Mr. Mark Sullivan for example, believes he has found another such exposed nerve. He says that voters are offended by strikes of city employees (as in Pontiac, Michigan) and by strikes of utilities workers (as in Pittsburgh) and that the "public opinion thus generated" is likely to be "a factor in the November elections." Under this theory, the voter who is enraged both by the meat shortage and by these strikes should jump exactly twice as high as a voter who is merely bothered by only one of these things, having had a pair of nerves poked, so to speak, and having suffered a psychic one-two.

But the question of how much response follows how much stimulus is one of the subtlest of all questions in physiology and psychology. Some organisms respond hardly at all to very considerable pressure, while there are others (for some reason the names Bilbo, Rankin float into mind) which attain a very satisfactory elevation on rather slight stimulus. What goes on between the poke, and the response is a kind of mystery, apparently beyond our grasp.

At this point I find myself thinking I don't know why, about the Labor victories in the British elections of a year ago last Summer. One of the most accurate American political observers I know, in Britain at the time, became convinced, a day or two before the election, that the Labor Party would win. He was talked out of sending this prediction scoop home by leaders of the Labor Party itself. No, they told him: it couldn't be true; the voters were too attached to Churchill, too grateful to him, to give Labor in. (The war nerve, and the personal loyalty nerve.) Labor did win, a victory which left a while had it trembling like a leaf.

PROS BAFFLED

And the registration of voters in New York has suddenly, startlingly shot upward this year, running, on some days, 50 per cent ahead of registration for the last Gubernatorial election. Nobody seems to understands it. The professional politicians are baffled. The whisper was, a few weeks ago, that Mr. Dewey will be re-elected by an easy landslide. The new registration figures, in Democratic New York City, change that picture in some unknown way. Either they represent anger about meat, etc., and are Dewey figures, in which case Mr. Dewey will be re-elected by a truly astonishing majority; or else they show a Democratic awakening in which case Mr. Mead and Mr. Lehman will be in.

What do these registration figures, in Democratic territory mean? To me they mean that voters' reactions these days are extraordinarily complex. I wrote much about apathy in liberal ranks, early this Summer. It seems to me that apathy is diminishing, that under the tremendous, bitter, current pressure against liberal thinking has, for from standing a stampede according to the jumping nerve theory of politics) actually caused a reaction, a defensive mobilization, taking place obscurely down below, in those regions of the mind where voters strike a rough resultant of the grand total of all their hopes and wants and fears.

OLD WAYS CHANGE

Hot-shot issues, one-shot issues, razzmatazz and tippecanoe are old hat these heavy days, and Tyler and torchlights, too; and men do want many things, and they can add. The old, simple, primitive order changes, in a way that has been increasingly baffling of late years to politicians of an older school, and the man who tries to win by exploiting a single prevalent dazzler of an idea may find that he has, by making men think, organized more than he knew, and in an opposite direction.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Readers Praise And Criticize 5-Year Plan

WASHINGTON

MANY people continue to write me about my five-year plan for peace and friendship with Russia. Their letters, judged not only by volume but by contents, indicate that the American public is both thinking intensely and worrying about the problems of Russia. That in itself is a healthy sign.

The majority of the letters favor the proposed plan to win over the Russian people—regardless of their Government—by an exchange of information, students, musical and theatrical programs, and by permitting one American radio station and newspaper to operate in Moscow with a reciprocal Russian station and newspaper in New York.

Some reaction, however, has been negative and critical.

Most of the letters reveal such an interesting cross-section of the mind of the American public, that I am letting those who are thinking about Russia write today's column. Here are carefully selected samples of what the American public thinks about how we can avoid war with Russia.

'Russia Hiding Poverty'

CHARLES K. COLEMAN, LYNDHURST, N. J.—"I have been in the U. S. Merchant Service since 1922, during which time I have been to Russia five times. While there I noticed anything mechanical that came to view (I am a marine engineer). The vast majority of these machines were of foreign manufacture. The few machines that were unlabeled were obviously poor imitations of foreign products. Why then do you maintain that a country that is unable to compete with such small nations as Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, etc., in world markets can possibly produce an atomic bomb, long-range jet-propelled planes, etc., in the short period of five or even ten years? Russia has never produced, with all her tremendous resources, one essential commodity that has found a market outside her own borders.

"My belief is that Russia is hiding nothing more dangerous than extreme poverty—and the Baltic States plus Czechoslovakia and Poland will provide acute indigestion to Russia for the next 50 years."

Would 'Gladly' Adopt Russian

MRS. MARY ELLEN LEWIS, SHEFFIELD, ALA.—Let's start with your five-year plan at once. I will gladly take one Russian student into my home and keep him (or her) for nothing if need be while he is in this country. I'll teach him English and probably learn Russian in turn, and will, in every way, treat him as my own child. I'd be only too delighted if my two sons would go to Russia on a similar mission.

"I feel that no sacrifice would be too great to bring about a lasting friendship between our two great nations. My two sons came back unscathed . . . Millions of American boys would not have come back if it were not for 20 million Russian casualties."

Russians Respect U. S.

N. SIDROW, WASHINGTON, D. C.—"I spent eight months with Russian sailors in the capacity of instructor in radar and communication with the U. S. Navy. After discharge, in order to learn more about the Russian people, I obtained a position with the Soviet Purchasing Commission.

"I find they are just plain people. They do not believe in diplomatic language because they do not understand it. I crossed this country twice as guide for a group of their engineers and really learned to know them. . . . Russian people respect men who are true to their own country. By that I mean that the ideals of our form of government stand higher in their eyes than those who don't.

"I never met a Russian yet who did not have high respect for the U. S. They have highest admiration for our engineering and the way we do business. Unless I am a blind fool, these people are not naturally cruel to us. They like direct conversations, and direct answers.

"For instance, they wanted me to ask some business and professional men, 'what type of education did you have?' They were very surprised when I told them that was not a proper question. They were amazed at the ease with which they get any information they want here, and at the way some of our so-called capitalists received them. If only our Government made an effort to get the American people to know the Russians, we would be so much better off!

"Mr. Pearson, our Government has too many so-called experts on the Russian nation who don't know anything about Russia. We have either lovers or haters. What we need are intelligent men to exchange calls with Russia and yet be Americans also. This type of people will penetrate the Russian's inbred suspicion.

MRS. J. L. MEMORY JR., WAKE FOREST, N. C.—"I believe men and women's organizations—work clubs, PTA, missionary unions, and such—would back you in putting over the plan."