

Insurrection In The Hills

The testimony offered in Asheville's City Court on Thursday is accepted at face value, North Carolina has just had the closest thing to an armed insurrection since the Civil War. Two men—W. E. Connor, self-styled "reformer," and J. B. Wright—who are being held for the Grand Jury on charges of "conspiracy to rebel against the State" as well as conspiracy to commit murder.

The Asheville police department has been the primary object of the wrath of Connor's "Citizens' Protective Welfare Association." At one time, according to witnesses, 43 men, many of them armed, attended a secret meeting at which Connor announced plans to dynamite the 16-story Buncombe County Courthouse "if necessary to capture the police force." One witness quoted him as saying that it "would be a sight to see the blood running out of police headquarters." He actually got far enough along in his plans to lead a mob to headquarters and demand the ouster of nine members of the force.

We have no opinion as to the merits or demerits of Connor's original case against the Asheville police, but we do think that the fact that he has sought to enlist North Carolina veterans to act in accordance with the bloody precedent established

at Athens, Tennessee, And, apparently, he succeeded in convincing 43 of them to help him take the law in his own hands.

Leaders of the political "GI faction" in Buncombe, who succeeded in turning out of office a few "organization men" by peaceful means in the recent primaries, have made it clear that there is no connection between their group and Connor's. Several members of the GI organization, emphasized the point by assisting in the prosecution of the conspiracy case.

But perhaps the most significant aspect of the entire case is that "veteran" Connor is as much as a three-dollar bill. It turns out that his military career consisted of a few months service in this country, at the end of which he was given a medical discharge.

This is another point to remember that "veteran" is an all-inclusive term. We are all falling into the habit of thinking of every ex-serviceman as a comrade of Bill Mauldin's Joe and Willie when the truth is that the majority of those who served in the armed forces never experienced real danger or undue hardship. It's a curious thing, but experience after every war has shown new highway flunkies who have the most valid excuse for violence, are the least trigger-happy of all veterans.

Bootlegging Also Brutalizes Consumers

It appears that we were guilty of gross understatement in a recent editorial in which we cited figures on gambling and bootlegging in Mecklenburg to prove that crime pays very handsomely hereabouts. We quoted an estimate that the bootleg business in the County runs to about \$3,000,000 per annum, but it seems that we were using old statistics compiled in pre-inflation days. Police Chief Littlejohn has since announced, with head one, that "a little syndicate in this vicinity" sold 41,000 cases of liquor during the past twelve months. This certainly was no rough estimate, for the Chief also announced that the syndicate paid \$12,000 for 16, one of the smoothest figures imaginable. The thoroughgoing Associated Press has added the intelligence that, at the standard Charlotte bootleg price of five dollars a pint, the little syndicate grossed \$5,740,000 during the year.

We are not familiar with the overhead costs of operating a successful bootleg syndicate, but they shouldn't be too high. A modest payroll should take care of the smoothest of smooth operators, and the turn-over is so rapid that there should be no great storage expense involved. There is no evidence that any protection is being paid hereabouts. And, of course, there are no troublesome taxes to cut into the 268 per cent gross profit indicated by these

figures. It appears that our figure of \$3,000,000 stands as a conservative estimate of the bootleg syndicate's annual profit, not of its gross business.

In addition to this thriving illegal trade, it is certain that at least as much liquor is being brought legally into the county from South Carolina, a gallon at a time, by individual citizens who purchased it for private consumption. Even the most prejudiced reader, it seems to us, must regard this as evidence of the failure of the failure of prohibition in Mecklenburg.

The question will be asked: If Chief Littlejohn is able to compile such accurate figures on the extent of the liquor trade, why isn't he able to do something about it? The Chief himself provided the answer in his address before the Kiwanis Club when he said the problem called for the ultimate in "public co-operation." Since there must be a purchase for every bottle of bootleg liquor sold it is clear that thousands of local residents, condone the bootleg system by patronizing it. The chances of public co-operation to stamp out bootlegging are exactly all as long as the agents with the bulging briefcases continue to ring some of the best doorbells in town.

"Thus we come, as we always do, to a familiar question: Are the public morals improved by diverting millions of dollars that might be used for public purposes into the hands of our leading criminals?"

The Girl Scouts Need Leaders

A member agency of the Community Chest, the Mecklenburg County Girl Scout Council is staking its financial future on the current Chest campaign. But the Council is also participating in National Girl Scout Week beginning today, with the idea of attracting public attention to a problem that money cannot solve.

Since the first Girl Scout troop was organized in Charlotte in 1920 the organization has grown until today it can count an active membership of about one thousand, sixteen girls, white and Negro. Its 10-point program is designed to integrate development of the girl in relation to the community and the outside world, stress the development of "strong character," a healthy attitude toward life, an enduring set of values, and the ideals of service.

The value of this program can hardly be questioned by anyone who is familiar with Charlotte's state of the art. It is an intelligent, yet few social agencies have suffered so from lack of adequate public resources. The thousand girls who are now Scouts are only a beginning; Council records show that another thousand have applied for membership and have

been consigned to the waiting list because of a continuing lack of volunteer adult leaders.

How many women who profess genuine concern with the social problems of the community content themselves with reading an occasional paper, or attending a Thursday Afternoon Uplift and Character Assassination Society? A good many, we suspect, and some of them at least have probably gone so far as to look around this city for the people who are doing it. It seems to us their search would lead them straight to the Girl Scouts. The record will show that few investments of time and energy could pay bigger dividends in the matter of promoting better citizenship, the ultimate goal of all social action.

The fact that the need for volunteer workers has kept the effectiveness of the Girl Scout organization in Charlotte down to 50 per cent, and perhaps less, is an intelligence. Yet few social agencies have suffered so from lack of adequate public resources. The thousand girls who are now Scouts are only a beginning; Council records show that another thousand have applied for membership and have

Another Voice

'Of A Very Great Man

THE PASSAGE through the House of Commons yesterday (October 11) of the second reading of the Roosevelt Memorial Bill—moved by the Prime Minister and supported by Mr. Churchill—will arouse deep emotions throughout the country. For its terms, the statue of the great President will stand in the heart of the city, above any other for the commemoration of the life and work of one who inspired one-half of a great Anglo-American collaboration in the darkest days of the world's history. Parliamentary approval while General Eisenhower, the commander in battle of the armies of the two nations, was being honored at Cambridge, in the course of a visit during which he was being spontaneously welcomed by sovereign and people alike is a happy coincidence. General Eisenhower can take back with him to the United States the assurance that the memorial to the greatest of our Presidents will stand in the hearts of Britons of every class for two things: the friendship of a very great man, and the firm assurance that it is nation will, in the face of seemingly hopeless odds, stand by the battle of human dignity, liberty and freedom, it will still in spite of all find "great allies."—The London Times.

That London should be the site of this memorial calls for no argument, and the special fitness of Grosvenor Square arises from its long associations with the President. John Adams, the first United States envoy to Great Britain, lived there, Walter Hills Page had his embassy there during the first World War and Mr. Winant during the second. It is a fitting place to stand above any other for the commemoration of the life and work of one who inspired one-half of a great Anglo-American collaboration in the darkest days of the world's history. Parliamentary approval while General Eisenhower, the commander in battle of the armies of the two nations, was being honored at Cambridge, in the course of a visit during which he was being spontaneously welcomed by sovereign and people alike is a happy coincidence. General Eisenhower can take back with him to the United States the assurance that the memorial to the greatest of our Presidents will stand in the hearts of Britons of every class for two things: the friendship of a very great man, and the firm assurance that it is nation will, in the face of seemingly hopeless odds, stand by the battle of human dignity, liberty and freedom, it will still in spite of all find "great allies."—The London Times.



People's Platform

The Boulevard, Pro And Con

CHARLOTTE EDITORS: The News: I was necessarily out of the city on the occasion of the mass meeting of citizens petitioning that additional possible routes be readmitted to the city. I was very much interested in the matter, we submitted the story in each of the Charlotte papers concerning the meeting and neither Mr. Sims, spokesman for the group, nor any other person allude at all to the fact that the route under discussion is in close proximity to several of our schools? The route, find no mention of this important point, which, to me, is the most serious phase of the whole matter. The News carried recently, this boulevard skirts the grounds of Elizabeth School, Second Ward High School, and Ag Junior High, and is within a block or two of Midwood School and Central High School. Our home in Charlotte is at 512 Park Terrace.

(MRS. WILSON R. ANNIE MURRAY LONG WHITE)

(NOTE: Attorney Sims and other protestants at the mass meeting ignored the proximity of the proposed boulevard to several schools, but only in passing. It was not stressed sufficiently, in the judgment of the News, to make it one of the major points of objection. Proponents of the suggested route have pointed out that many schools in Charlotte now face heavily traveled streets, and that the boulevard would actually reduce the hazard to children of the traffic load. However, over, where the boulevard would pass within a block of a school pedestrian underpasses would be provided.

—Eds. THE NEWS)

town boulevard. You have certainly brought out both sides of this question in an unbiased manner.

In my opinion THE NEWS has rendered an outstanding service to the City of Charlotte in bringing these matters so forcefully to the attention of the people. I have made many favorable comments on your splendid editorial.

—J. H. BRIDGES

Look Homeward, Justice

CHARLOTTE EDITORS: THE NEWS: I NOTICED in Justice Robert H. Jackson's report to President Truman of the prosecution of the Nazi ring leaders that Mr. Jackson wanted the German politicians, diplomats and industrialists prosecuted and brought to justice.

What the American people need to know is why Justice Jackson doesn't prosecute and bring to justice the politicians in our country who are traitors to our Constitution.

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Truman know this condition in our country, yet they do nothing with such people. Why should we spend so much time and money prosecuting such people in our country, and do nothing about them in our country? Your duty to your oath of office, Mr. Jackson, is to protect our Constitution and prosecute all traitors. All of them. We sure would appreciate such action.

—MRS. J. D. BIGGERS

Heardly Endorsed

LENOIR EDITORS: THE NEWS: We Caldwell County teachers wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the detailed account of our San Piedmont District meeting in Charlotte which you gave in your paper on Friday, Oct. 18.

We appreciate the great help you are giving us in our struggle for a fair increase in salary. The Caldwell County Unit of the North Carolina Education Association has been very active in the fight for a salary increase of \$1,500-\$3,500 a year.

—VIRGINIA S. COBB

The Sabbath

CHARLOTTE EDITORS: THE NEWS: I WISH to state my position in regard to Sunday as a professional football. I am of the same opinion as the majority of the community, and I am in full agreement with the commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep it Holy," is just as binding and helpful to Christians today as it was when given on Mount Sinai.

Yes, as Mr. Ivey has said, in my opinion, our only hope of keeping our country prosperous and great is the Christian religion.

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Drew Pearson's Cuban Go-Round

WASHINGTON THERE are now 53 separate items on the agenda to be discussed at the United Nations, but No. 1 on the list which comes to explosives is the Cuban proposal to end the war.

The man who thus had the nerve to snap his fingers in the face of the Big Five is young Cuban Ambassador Guillermo Beltrán, who is accustomed to doing things that require courage.

Elected mayor of Havana at the phenomenal age of 27, Beltrán has been on the political firing line ever since, including one hot campaign he waged against ex-President Batista, the strong man of Cuba, who was overthrown in 1940, following which most of the leaders who opposed him fled to Miami. Not so Guillermo Beltrán. He remained in Havana to be the first Cuban to sign the United Nations Charter, and he remained without bodyguard. Eventually Batista, who admired courage, offered Beltrán a place in his Cabinet, which he declined.

It was at the San Francisco conference that Beltrán first began his attack on the veto. He has continued the battle ever since, and his power may be double that of the officials of the Western powers, have urged him not to press for a roll call on this dynamite-laden issue in New York.

Beltrán is the most vocal of the Cuban group in the United Nations if they right to block any action they don't like is taken away," said the young ambassador. "But if so, I believe it is better to know now instead later."

Most Latin Americans are strong for the Cuban proposal. Cuba, eleven countries have also expressed their support. America, eleven countries have also expressed their support. America, eleven countries have also expressed their support.

Beltrán believes that if he can hold these 41 votes through the roll call, the veto power may be done away with.

Beltrán apologizes for his blunt candor at diplomatic functions.

My grandfather, Jonathan Beltrán," he explains, "was a

hard-headed Yankee trader from Boston, so maybe that's why the matter with me."

Kate Smith was excited she lost her hat and almost forgot her gloves when she called at the White House to launch the Community Chest drive and to give President Truman the original copy of the Community Chest march, "The Red Feather." It was composed by Major George Howard of the Army Band, who accompanied her. "Ge, it's great to be home again, Mr. President," said Smith once she got to the White House, gloves and all. "You know, I am a native Washingtonian."

"It's a rare occasion when you find a native Washingtonian who knows any more. They tell me about everybody here is from Missouri."

Hollywood Hinders Army

DISOUSTED by the contractual snails with Hollywood producers during the war, the Army and Navy have quietly decided that they will use no more Hollywood film or talent in their training films. The reason is that Hollywood has been blocked from use by educational institutions, unions and civic groups—even though made with public funds.

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How Solid Is Dixie?

NEW ORLEANS (COMING East by the southern route, you pass through the Solid South. It is solid enough for this election, at any rate. But what will happen in 1948, and after, is another question. Even in the Deep South where the Republican Party is a name ghost moribund to think of.

You get a question here that is the same question Democrats in the South are asking. They want to know whether President Truman will be the candidate of his party for the 1948 election. For one thing, the challenger is likely to be Henry A. Wallace, with the political power of the South. He may be two years hence, behind him. This is the prospect which makes the Democrats in the South a little uneasy as they contemplate the future. If they can do so, the South will continue to vote Democratic as regularly as election time rolls around.

EXERCISE CONTROL

The question, it seems to me, more or less answers itself. The Democrats of the South exercise a great deal of control over the party machinery. By virtue of the seniority system, the House and Senate, they are going to have a lot to say about the Democratic ticket in 1948.

Both loyalty and tradition dictate renomination for President Truman. Consequently, there can be a way to step out. But no matter what the reason it would be taken completely off the cards for Truman, too, by stepping out he would precipitate the feud within the party which is only held in abeyance because he represents a compromise between the two wings of the party.

With one shattering exception, the Democratic Party in Louisiana has been in the habit of electing a national pattern. Huey Long took this state on the widest spree that had ever been seen, and he has been on or anywhere else. In the decade since Long's assassination, Democrats have been running the state. Huey Long's assassination, Democrats have been running the state. Huey Long's assassination, Democrats have been running the state.

You can close down the obvious

Harold Ickes

Advice On Pipe Lines

WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATOR Robert M. Littlejohn, War Assets Administrator, has given the following advice on pipe lines.

I hope that you will not mind if I do a little "pipe line" on the subject of pipe lines. I am sure that you will not mind if I do a little "pipe line" on the subject of pipe lines. I am sure that you will not mind if I do a little "pipe line" on the subject of pipe lines.

John L. Lewis doesn't want any competition for coal so he, with the help of the coal operators and "labor boys" who are not so much staff to the cleaners' fall. The private utilities are helping, too. They are helping, too. They are helping, too.

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When In Doubt

WHEN Stuart Symington was appointed to the office that you now hold, he was given a letter and advice from my old friend, Mr. Bernard M. Baruch, who has proved, over and over again, to be a man of great wisdom and insight. He is in matters of high policy, and he is a man of great wisdom and insight. He is in matters of high policy, and he is a man of great wisdom and insight.

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