THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1946

The Destruction Of John L. Lewis

WE have yet to hear a single voice raised in support of John L. Lewis as he once again defies the Government of the United States. Editorial condemnation is universal, and it comes from the left as well as the right. In labor circles there is only a dead silence, silence that more sensitive union bosses than the great John L. would regard as ominous.

John L. Lewis is dead wrong in the eyes of every American except, possibly, the rank and file members of his United Mine Workers, and even these still-loyal supporters are reported to be ready to carry out his strike order only "reluctantly." It is plain to all concerned that the damage this strike will do to the cause of organized labor will far outweigh any temporary advantage Lewis may obtain for his union. But still he persists in his stubborn defiance of the people of the United States, spurning every opportunity to back down without loss of face. Even from his own standpoint, the demands he is making upon the Government do not justify the effort he is undertaking and the risk he is running. We must look for a clue to his behavior in the annals of abnormal psychology.

But establishing the wrongness of John L. Lewis' course does not solve the problem he poses. There is talk of a special session of Congress to pass new anti-Lewis legislation, but that, we would say, is a measure of the Government's desperation. Existing legislation would allow the Government to throw him in jail, and probably seize the assets of his union. But, almost certainly, any such action would make him a martyr in the eyes of his miners and keep them on strike until he is released. In time it might break him, but in the meantime the people would suffer severe hardship from the lack of coal. *Ex post facto* legislation can't get coal out of the mines.

So, in the end, despite the dull anger of the people, the Government may have to bow down once more before John L. Lewis. The great John L. will have demonstrated his great strength, but he will also have moved into the position another strong man once occupied; like Samson he is proving his point by bringing the temple crashing down around his own ears. For, beyond any possible argument, John L. Lewis is proving the weakness of all existing labor legislation and inviting an unsympathetic Congress to clear the books and start all over again.

It is irrelevant to point out that John Lewis is unique, that no other labor leader has shown the degree of irresponsibility that has distinguished his career. The point, about which Mr. Lewis has left no doubt, is that the law now permits a completely unscrupulous man to establish an impregnable dictatorship over a labor union, and through it over a vital segment of the American economy.

John Lewis, working from the opposite end of the economy, has now joined company with Vanderbilt and Gould and Fiske and Rockefeller, the "robber barons" who destroyed the good reputation of big business and forced Federal control. He has asked for it, and, sooner or later, he will get it. So, unfortunately, will a number of bystanders of varying degrees of innocence.

Chip On Mr. Rivers' Shoulder

REPRESENTATIVE VITO MARCANTONIO is the closest thing to a real-honest-to-goodness Communist in the Congress of the United States. How close, we don't know, but his voting record has never wavered from the Communist line. It is therefore logical to suspect that Communists had something to do with the unsolved murder of Joseph Scottireggio, Republican ward captain in the New York slum district that sent Representative Marcantonio back to Washington after a bitter campaign.

This is, however, no more than a suspicion, no matter how logical it may be; there is as yet no proof to sustain it. But suspicion seems to be enough for Representative Mendel Rivers of South Carolina who has proclaimed to the press: "This is the most violent and [illegible] attack upon American civil liberties I have ever known. It is pure and simple, a Communist attack." Mr. Rivers has therefore wired the Attorney General demanding a Federal investigation of the Scottireggio murder.

Mr. Rivers' motive is clear enough. He has seized upon the New York incident, because of its Red tinge, to make an inverted public protest against Federal intervention in Southern civil liberties cases. His conclusion-leaping, we suppose, he would justify on the ground that there is more basis for his allegations than there is for the usual Communist-front barrage laid down when something of the sort takes place in the South.

The trouble with this sort of reaction—and we say it in sorrow, not in anger—is that it is no better than the Communist technique that inspired it. Truth is truth, justice is justice, and a member of the United States Congress is presumed to have a high regard for both. Representative Marcantonio's light regard for facts does not provide Representative Rivers with a license to bring unsupported charges before the Attorney General and the public. Two wrongs have not yet added up to a right, and before we [illegible] of proverbs, we might as well point out the obvious danger of burning the house down when fire is fought with fire.

Hodding Carter titled a recent *Saturday Evening Post* article, "Chip On Our Shoulder Down South." Mr. Rivers gives proof that the chip is still there, balanced as precariously as ever. And shoulder chips, justified or unjustified, are never very becoming.

A Butter Ball In Every Home

ERNEST ALBERT HOOTON is professor of anthropology at Harvard, and undoubtedly a scholar, a gentleman, and a ranking authority on how man ever got into the shape he's in. But Dr. Hooton has never allowed academic dust to settle into the crevices of his own brain; he is America's most notable eccentric and Harvard's gift to the feature editors.

The good doctor hit the headlines again last week with a frontal attack on feminine America's fondest illusions. The broad masculine shoulder, the flat masculine belly, the bulging masculine bicep—these things may be good to look at, but they are the poorest possible equipment for a husband, Professor Hooton proclaimed. He-men, he says, spend all their time stamping around the house complaining that they're not getting enough exercise, and then too, they get old faster. All in all, they make very unsatisfactory mates.

Having thus disposed of Van Johnson, the Professor next turned his attention to the Frank Sinatra type which is now enjoying a great vogue. Thin and scrawny men, says Dr. Hooton, are always tired and dispirited, and are usually inhibited. No fun at all around the house.

The ideal mate? Among women who know men best, says Dr. Hooton, it's the fat man two to one. The butter ball is easier to get along with, is house-broken in advance, likes people (including even his own wife), and, since he is reluctant to move at all, is naturally a home-loving type.

We only regret that this latest dispatch from Cambridge wasn't accompanied by a late photograph of Dr. Hooton. The last one we saw was taken about the time he adopted the French wrestler, The Angel, and was arguing that ugly men are the most charming. He was a fair match for The Angel then, facial feature for facial feature, but he was quite slender; we suspect, however, that the Professor has been putting on a little weight lately.

'How About A Little Disarmament Among Ourselves?'

People's Platform

The Soul Of Wake Forest

KINSTON

Editors, THE NEWS:

I CAN no longer speak in public, nor can I work at my desk. I wish to say some words to my Baptist brethren about Wake Forest College.

At present I have seen no provision for a campus nor for any buildings. With the information before me at present I much prefer to have the Baptist people give the college a million dollars each year than to have any foundation give us ten million.

During my sixty years of public ministry I have tried to influence my Baptist people on all matters of policy to think as I think and act as I act. If they decide against me then I go with them.

Wake Forest College has a body and it has a soul. The things which make Wake Forest College worthwhile cannot be reproduced by a camera. The campus is beautiful, the buildings are attractive. The soul of Wake Forest College is something else.

In the light of the educational history of America we are in danger of losing the soul of the college as we grow a new body, a larger, stronger richer body.

A quiet Teacher of Galilee told his followers, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26). Wake Forest College is doing business for God now on the same spot on which it started in the forest of Wake County in 1834. The spot is not of primary importance, but I would think a long time before I would risk the loss of the spirit of Wake Forest College.

While we are thinking of Wake Forest College and Baptist educational institutions it is of passing interest to study, "The Baptist Educational Graveyard." I am not at all concerned that Wake Forest College is to depart this life. Whether it remains at Wake Forest or is moved to Winston-Salem it is to continue to live and grow.

As we face the problem of moving Wake Forest College the facts set forth are worth study.

I intimated that Wake Forest College might lose the spirit which it has had through the years. The only way we can make an intelligent guess for the future is to study the past.

My experience based on observation extending through many years is two-fold: first, prosperity has its perils and second, that he who holds the money end of any enterprise as a rule directs the policy.

Prosperity brings perils. Moses sounded a note of warning to the people of Israel (Deut. 32:15). He uses a figure of speech. Jeshurun was a good ox. He pulled the plow well. When hitched to a cart he walked away drawing the load. His master rewarded him well, He fed him well. Then comes the tragic story. Goodbye plow, goodbye cart. Hear the result of the liberal feeding: "But Jeshurun waxed fat and kicked." I have seen that in family life, in industry, in church life and in colleges and universities.

A college needs money. During more than fifty years I have sent a small stream of money yearly to Wake Forest to help along. Controlled prosperity is a blessing. For many years Wake Forest College was humble and poor. In recent years it has become prosperous, and greater things are ahead whether it remains at Wake Forest or goes to Winston-Salem. The Lord kept the college humble; the Baptist people kept it poor. The Baptist and others have now brought prosperity. There is a peril ahead. Can we control it? We shall see.

We may wait a while. It is hardly probable that the Baptist State Convention is to vote to move Wake Forest College to Winston-Salem with no campus and no money with which to erect buildings. The cash now on hand was given to erect buildings at Wake Forest and to endow the college at Wake Forest, hence is not available for any other purpose.

—B. W. SPILMAN.

Footnote's Footnote

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IN answer to your footnote to Mr. Presser's article of Nov. 13th, may I remind you that you said, nothing in my background suggests the slightest qualifications for the office I sought. Let me remind you that is your prejudiced opinion. Thousands of voters do not [illegible] in my own Democratic community where by neighbors know me I received 66 votes to 71 for Mr. Jones. My neighbors are most certainly better qualified to pass judgment on me then you are. Since I am a Northerner and a Republican, regardless of my qualifications your opinion would be the same.

You said, I was unknown to most of the Republicans when I was given a last resort nomination; well, you sure didn't try to get me acquainted with the voters.

Don't try to smear my campaign discussion of issues when you refused to bring them before the voters, and let them decide.

And finally you said, I was not only an outlander but a Northerner. That fact we never tried to hide, we advertised that I came here in 1927. For once Mr. Editor, I want you to get yourself straight, people like you and in your capacity have caused more trouble for the South between friends and neighbors than any other class. You certainly agitate and magnify a hatred between people, friends and neighbors. Whether you know it or not you set neighbor against neighbor and friend against friend; but in spite of what you say people are now seeing beyond the Southern prejudice in public print. Most all of my neighbors are born Southerners. I am sure I am their friend, and found them to be good friends and neighbors, I hold them in high esteem, I love them and I would fight for them. And now you try to throw a sprag of hatred into the wheels of friendship. You have about played your last card in the Northern deck. People refuse to be further swindled out of their friendship. Remember you have many Northerners and Republicans in your midst and all of these have Southern Democrat friends. From now on when you lowrate Republicans and Northerners beyond just reason you are only cutting the throat of your own paper. I am sure all that you can say or do will not change my friendship for my friends and neighbors, and I think they too are beyond your influence.

I agree with you, that a good many Republican leaders gave me as little support in my campaign as your paper did, and that seems to mean, I was supposed to be the political goat by premeditated control.

—P. C. BURKHOLDER.

(NOTE: To keep the record straight, it should be noted that we made mention of Mr. Burkholder's "foreign" birth only after the election, and then in listing the practical political handicaps that made him a "political goat by pre-meditated control." We confess that we had a little difficulty in figuring out just how we managed to "low-rate" Mr. Burkholder and ignore him at one and the same time.—EDS., THE NEWS.)

Marquis Childs

World Relief Policies

WASHINGTON

WHATEVER else you may say about Fiorello La Guardia, he is a scrapper. Although he knows the odds are about 9 to 1 against him, he is going to do battle before the United Nations for his plan for continuing relief on an international basis.

The embattled director of UNRRA feels passionately about this issue. He will make his fight alone, since policy-makers in the State Department are opposed to his proposal to set up a much smaller organization to replace UNRRA when it expires on Dec. 31.

At the meeting of the UNRRA Council in Switzerland last Summer, Assistant Secretary of State Will Clayton served notice that the United States opposed a longer life for UNRRA. He based his stand on a conviction that Congress would grant no more appropriations for the organization, which has drawn most of its support from the U. S. Treasury.

If that was true before the Republican landslide, it is doubly true today. There are those who say that a new and somewhat nervous caution has already come over policy-makers and policy-implementers inside the State Department. The danger is that this caution will prevent the kind of positive action, such as relief, which is essential to American leadership in world affairs.

SOVIET FAVORS PLAN

La Guardia led off his battle with an impassioned plea, lasting an hour and a half, before the Economic and Financial Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. For the first time, he told of his visit with Marshal Stalin in Moscow last Summer. Stalin told La Guardia that Russia favored continuation of an international relief organization and would be able to contribute to the pool of supplies.

This was in marked contrast to the previous attitude of the USSR, which has been a receiving rather than a contributing nation. It had somewhat the look of a deathbed conversion. At the height of the food crisis last Spring, Russia announced she was selling 400,000 tons of wheat to hungry France. By a remarkable coincidence, this came in the middle of a critical French election campaign.

Nevertheless, La Guardia was willing to take Stalin at his word. He saw in Stalin's reply evidence of a real desire for co-operation. That is one reason he is so eager to get approval for a new relief set-up.

The day after La Guardia's plea before the UN committee, Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson politely but coldly turned thumbs down on it. He said that America would give relief, as a nation, to individual countries. This relief, it was fairly plain, would go to those countries that have shown appreciation of American aid and would be withheld from countries that have attacked the United States.

SHEEP AND GOATS

Greece, Italy and Austria would be on the approved list. Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Ukraine and White Russia would be on the black list. Those within UNRRA who know the relief problem from the inside believe there are grave dangers in this policy.

They do not predict any wholesale starvation. (Czechoslovakia is over the hump. Yugoslavia will have to do considerable belt tightening. Poland will suffer most of all). But what UNRRA experts do fear is that the gradual, painstaking process of recovery will be retarded throughout Eastern Europe. Thus, the faint hope of a Europe with normal trade relations will be dimmed. What is more, the action of the United States will not change the Governments of these countries. It will merely serve to intensify the propaganda against the USA.

That is why La Guardia is going on with his fight. He intends now to make a plea before the General Assembly itself. Delegates of other nations will also be heard on this subject of relief.

One thing is true—it certainly will be a new departure for this country to use its bountiful resources of food as a political weapon. The contrast with our relief policy after World War I is sharp. While the Communists in this country have said that American relief after 1918 was given and withheld in accord with politics, the facts overwhelm such propaganda.

In 1921, immediately following the first plea for help, Herbert Hoover's American Relief Administration started to feed millions of Russians. Remember that this was at a time when talk of a crusade against the Bolsheviki was widespread. Yet Hoover directed the feeding of 4,171,441 children and 6,257,958 adults in Soviet Russia in 1921 and 1922. Millions were saved from starvation or crippling malnutrition.

The very name America meant salvation and hope. That has been a source of strength in the years that have followed. Let's not change it.

Samuel Grafton

Higher Rent Battle

NEW YORK

THE GOVERNMENT is giving free potatoes to charitable institutions all over the country, and is even paying the freight to get the things off its hands. This is a strange thing to happen during a period that everybody agrees is inflationary. It is a bizarre touch, for during a real inflation potatoes would be cherished like diamonds; and this is one more bit of evidence to show that there is something phony about our present inflation. Vaguely, it arouses suspicion, like a $3 bill; you look at it and have a feeling that something is wrong.

A prominent men's hatter drops prices as much as 44 per cent, reducing his $15 lids to $8.45. That, too, is no way to carry on during an inflation. In a real inflation a hatter clutches his hats to his bosom, and glares fiercely at prospective customers who come sneaking into his store with nothing but money in their hands.

All this is by way of leading up to the subject of rents; and it would seem that those who want rent ceilings raised must somehow get around the awkward fact that every American economist and his dog expects a price recession in the Spring. What are we trying to do, find a higher platform to jump from? Or are we hurrying to get in one more round before closing time?

Except for individual adjustments in hardship cases, it would be a risky and unsettling move, economically, to raise rents now, in the face of an absolutely predictable price recession; for rents freeze into leases, and do not go down quickly via "natural process," like the price of whisky, or white shirts. Tactically, the situation probably is that unless rents can be put up in the next two or three months, before costs start down, they probably can't be put up at all; hence the slight hurry-up note in the raise-the-rent campaign, to get it done before the cooling of the last embers of the inflationary fire.

Those embers still glow, and may still flare up, but there is, as I say, something spurious about the whole thing. It is not a real inflation, when department stores run ads (as some have begun to do) announcing sharp price reductions, near the start of the Christmas shopping season. There is some hope that we may actually have prevented a shattering inflation. In spite of the yowling, all-thumbs manner in which we handled our control problem, we may soon be entitled to look at each other with new regard and to say: "Hey, we did it!"

If that proves true, the next point will be to prevent a shattering recession, to think in terms of being ready with unemployment relief, and public works, so that retailers who were prevented from charging too much during the inflationary period, will not find themselves without customers during the deflation swing. (The landlord, smarting under continued rent control, has at least the satisfaction of knowing that because of housing shortages he will do capacity business during the recession, which is more than other business men can be sure of.)

SAME OLD FIGHT

Here there will be a peculiar development: the same bitter wing which wanted controls off and prices to jump skyhigh during the war, will now demand that again we let nature take its course, and allow our economy to plumb bottom in a recession, if it wants to. Just as it sought the maximum advantage from the rise, it will seek the maximum advantage, in terms of cost-reduction and wage-reduction, in a fall. The fight goes on; it is the same fight as before, stood on its head. But to level off the worst of these peaks and valleys is the chief task of free people in this country; in it is embodied all the difference between living like civilized men or living like civilized savages.

Another Voice

The WCTU Sets An Example

IN the current issue of *Colliers* magazine there is quoted a United Press dispatch from Columbus, Ohio, which has some importance for South Carolina.

"The Women's Christian Temperance Union does not seek the return of prohibition, its president, Mary B. Ervin, said here today," the dispatch tells.

"The temperance leader said the W. C. T. U. wanted to encourage total abstinence from use of alcoholic beverages, but that 'we have tried prohibition and it is not the answer for the W. C. T. U.'"

Nor is it the answer for South Carolina. Yet the temperance organizations of this state still cling to it as the one remedy. The political drys regularly introduce in the General Assembly a prohibition bill which annually consumes a great deal of legislative time and energy, diverting the legislators from other problems which they could solve. The General Assembly might even do something about devising a better liquor control plan if the members were able to concentrate on this phase of the problem.

South Carolina needs a little relief from this annual show of shadow boxing, time consuming and confusing.

It could get it if the temperance leaders of South Carolina would profit by the W. C. T. U. president's example and come to the conclusion that "we have tried prohibition and it is not the answer for South Carolina."—*Columbia Record.*

A good joke never dies. In his 30 years in the ministry a preacher has assembled one of the country's most interesting button collections.

The return of beef in quantity to the cafe menu removes the last suspicion of horse except the d'oeuvres.

An expediter gets out some statistics on homes under construction, which we seem to have mislaid. Anyway, they threaten in time to upset the dream status of that dream house.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Capital Society Now 'Recognizing' GOP

WASHINGTON

MOST amusing sight on the Merry-Go-Round scene today is the frantic scramble of the socialites, the lobbyists, and local power politicians to get religion in a hurry. In this case, religion is better known as the GOP. After fourteen years of Democratic rule, the Republicans were so far down the social list they almost developed an inferiority complex. But now they are staging a grand comeback. The invitations to once-scorned Republican Senators and Congressmen have doubled and tripled, as hostesses bid for the newly-won prestige of GOP solons.

Scores of Washingtonians are now racking their brains to figure out whom they know who knows someone who knows someone high in Republican ranks.

Always in step with the time is popular Presidential court jester George Allen, who never hesitates to tell a joke on himself. If you walk into Allen's private office, first thing you will see is an autographed picture of his good friend, Harry Truman. Second thing is a newly hung autographed photo of Senator Arthur Vandenberg. A glance at the wall shows, however, that although the picture was recently hung, it was not recently autographed. It says, "For my dear friend, George E. Allen. With best wishes, A. H. Vandenberg." The date is June 9, 1938.

Asked whether he hung the photo on the day after elections, the ever-lovable court-jester replied:

"Oh, no. I didn't wait that long. I hung it up at quarter past eight on election night. Sure was dusty, but I had it all polished up."

New Witch-Hunt

ABOUT two weeks before elections, Mississippi's rootin' tootin' Congressman John Rankin, Democrat, and New Jersey's witch-hunting J. Parnell Thomas, Republican, put their heads together and agreed that, with a Republican election certain, now was the time to sweep out of the Government all the liberals whom Rankin and Thomas do not like.

To this end, it was agreed that New Jersey's Thomas was to be chairman of the Un-American Affairs Committee, while Rankin was to continue as the driving force. Thomas was to carry the ball just enough to retain some semblance of being chairman, but most of the work was to be done by the so-called "gentleman" from Mississippi.

The agreement was no sooner reached than Robert Stripling, former chief investigator under Martin Dies, and three times deferred from the draft, was re-employed. Stripling was given the promise that he would become chief investigator under the Republican Congress beginning in January.

Since his return, Stripling has been slipping into the old House Office Building by the southeast entrance, wearing dark glasses to conceal his identity. In addition, a sun-tan picked up in the Army has helped disguise him. For three weeks he has been busy going over the files of the old Dies Committee, working up a master list of those in the Federal service whom the Rankin Committee will smear at the first opportunity.

Prediction: Congress is in for more witch-hunting than since the days when ex-Congressman Ham Fish of New York followed a hot lead to an old trunk in a Baltimore warehouse, supposed to be full of Soviet documents. When he lifted the lid, he found only cabbages.

GOP Closed-Door Caucus

THERE was only one major dispute when the House Republican Steering Committee held its closed-door caucus on legislative policies the other day. This was over whether the Republicans should accept all of the Reorganization Act, adopted at the last Congress and providing for consolidation of Congressional Committees.

Elder statesman Jim Wadsworth of New York finally settled the dispute in his level-headed way, with few feelings fractured.

Rep. Sterling Cole of New York, high-ranking member of the Naval Affairs Committee, started the debate by warmly opposing the merger of the Naval Affairs and Military Affairs Committees into one 33-man Committee on Armed Forces, as provided by the act.

Cole argued that the consolation would be untimely unless the Army and Navy themselves were merged. He pointed out that most members of the Military Committee favored Army-Navy unification, while most Naval Committee members opposed it; therefore throwing these two battling factions into a single committee would merely cause disharmony.

"Until the merger question is settled, these two committees should remain independent," Cole contended.

Representative Leslie Arends of Illinois, a member of the Military Committee, plus several others, echoed the same view. But Wadsworth quickly harpooned their objections.

"National defense is an over-all matter and should be handled as such by a single committee," said the big New York cattle farmer and ex-Senator. "Our experience with overlapping defense legislation during the last war proved this conclusively, Wadsworth continued. It was absurd, he added, for the Army and Navy to continue to bring their closely related problems before separate committees.

Upshot was that the GOP leaders went on record to accept the Reorganization Act in toto, with the understanding that changes might be made later if necessary.