THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Victory In The Gymnasium?

WE gather, after considerable study of the dispatches from Washington and The Bronx, that America will score a great victory if Ambassador Gromyko, who has already taken one brisk stroll, can be prevailed upon to keep his country represented on that sub-committee of the Parliament of Man now sitting in the Hunter College gymnasium. On the other hand, we are told, it will not represent a defeat for America if he keeps on walking.

There seems to be a rather brisk rubbing of official hands over the position in which we, with the assistance of Britain and the faceless small nations on the Security Council, have placed Soviet Russia Russia has been guilty of a ruthless disregard for the sovereign rights of Iran, and if she allows the Iranian matter to be brought before the Council her sins will be made public. If she walks out of the Council, and on out of the UNO, her refusal to face the investigation will be construed as an admission of her guilt.

That, of course, is fine, but we wonder what Jimmy Byrnes plans to do once Russia's guilt has been established one way or the other? Suppose, for instance, Ambassador Gromyko finally agrees to the hearing of Iran's case but refuses to agree to any action the Security Council might contemplate? What do we do then?

The United States, with Britain's not particularly enthusiastic backing, has insisted on making the Iranian cause her own. It is, of course, a good excuse for a showdown with Russia, and perhaps it is necessary to have it now. But, no matter how loudly we protest that the question involves the defense of small nations against aggression, the diplomatic fight before the Security Council is part of the struggle between Russia and the United States.

From the beginning it has seemed to us too heavy a burden to place upon the fledgling UNO, which was established to preserve the peace, not to create it. American insistence on bringing the matter before the Security Council, obviously weighted in her favor, has the effect of making the cause of world peace window dressing for our private contest with Russia. Regardless of how thoroughly Iran's rights have been trampled by the Soviet Union, the pious protests of America and Britain, heavily interested in Iran's oil, are subject to suspicion.

It is quite possible that we will win a great diplomatic victory in the Hunter College gymnasium. It is also possible that we will destroy the tender promise of world peace through the confederation of the nations of the world. The most important, and depressing, lesson of the Iranian dispute thus far is the demonstration that the United States and Great Britain now view UNO as the Russians have always viewed it—as an arena where the great powers struggle to establish and maintain the precarious balance that means uneasy peace.

The Caste System Is Also Horizontal

THE army, undertaking a full-dress investigation of its caste system, is calling up its most profound critics as witnesses, citizens like Bill Mauldin, the *Stars & Strikes* cartoonist, and Joe McCarthy, *Yank's* old managing editor. These professional spokesmen for the downtrodden G.I. are eloquent, of course, and they will probably have many revealing tales to tell, stories of discrimination in the Stork Club Bar, of the G.I.'s who were evicted from Claridge's in London, the Crillon in Paris and the Excelsior in Rome, of rear echelon generals who splashed happily in private swimming pools while their enlisted men had to share a public lake.

Time, we think, could be saved by introducing in evidence a copy of the new magazine, *Salute*, which is currently being produced by the ex-editors of *Yank*. Out of uniform, with their civil liberties fully restored, these young gentlemen are now venting the spleen pent up during their years of arduous service. In their first issue they got almost as nasty with their ex-officers as they did in the average edition they published while still under war department censorship. They announced, for instance, that General Eisenhower is paid $8,000 a year in salary plus a special allowance of $5,000, implying that this staggering sum is far too high. They published a cartoon showing ex-officers labeled Brehon, Hap, etc., at work in a filling station. They noted with awe that one of their staff members actually liked officers.

The reports of these journalists, who were apparently awfully busy furthering their private careers by duty in the Public Relations Office when the army was rounding up enlisted men to be commissioned as line officers (75 per cent of World War II officer personnel came from the ranks) are valid, we suppose. From their furlined foxholes in New York, London, Paris and Manila they saw and were part of that strange, unreal and frequently disgusting pseudo-military life that existed in the rear echelons. They are certainly well qualified to report on the unequal distribution of liquor, girls and private baths.

Having noted and filed these familiar complaints from the articulate democrats of the service command, the investigating committee can get down to its real business. Is the caste system necessary to maintain discipline in that vital area, forward of the liquor, the women and the private baths, where the army carries out its primary function, the slaughter of the enemy? They will note the workings of a horizontal caste system as well as a vertical one. The major general at the front lives in far less luxury and in far greater insecurity than the private first class at Communications Zone headquarters; the minor privileges accorded rank in combat are matched with terrible responsibilities.

To properly investigate these matters, we suggest that the committee call all the wearers of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Live CMH men are scarce, of course, and it may be necessary to dip into the wearers of the Distinguished Service Cross to obtain a quorum. If these men, who fought alongside the colonels and captains and lieutenants of the infantry, the air forces and the armored force echo the criticisms of rear echelon commandos who were prevented from dining with the colonels and captains and lieutenants of the service command, then the army will have real cause for worry.

Speaker Harris And An Old Ghost

LIKE a voice out of the past, Speaker Roy Harris of the Georgia House of Representatives appeared before the Columbia Rotary Club to warn that abolition of the white primary will return Georgia and South Carolina to the chaos of Reconstruction, with bloodshed as a certain result.

Mr. Harris, it will be remembered, is a sort of official voice of Georgia reaction, who has stood foursquare against his state's considerable social and economic progress under Governor Arnall. He has voiced his dire prediction, which carries considerable weight because of his office, in his own state, giving great encouragement, we suppose, to Georgia's active Klan and to the red-gallused followers of old Gene Talmadge. He now seems bent upon inflicting it upon the neighbors.

He was moved to invoke his ancient ghosts by the recent Federal Court decision which held that Georgia can no longer exclude Negroes from her Democratic primaries. The invalidity of his fears has been demonstrated by the calm acceptance of that court ruling in all parts of the state. *The Atlanta Journal* recently published a roundup of editorial comment from the Georgia press on the subject, noting with pleasure that even the weeklies and small dailies, published in the districts where racial feeling has always run high and unashamed, were undisturbed at the prospect of wholesale enfranchisement of Georgia's Negroes. A good many Georgia editors, in fact, saw the arrival of the Negro at the ballot box as a happy development that might revitalize the state's decaying political structure.

Still Mr. Harris, tilting with the shadows created by his own imagination, expresses the fear the Negroes will unite and seize all political power in the South, making necessary another reign of terror to restore the status quo. He ignores the fact that there has been no more unity among Negro voters in North Carolina, Virginia, and the other states where they are allowed to vote, than there has been among white voters. If they ever do unite to rout the white politicians it will be, as *The Columbia Record* notes, because of the natural fear generated by such ill-considered and incendiary blasts as that delivered in the South Carolina capital by the Speaker of the Georgia House.

"There may be bloodshed if he continues to warn of it," *The Record* remarks, "for such warnings have a way of creating a state of mind that will result in bloodshed. But it need not be so."

Mr. Harris' cry of wolf may be sincere, or it may be a revival of the ancient practice of using the threat of Negro domination as a guarantee against the political progress that might cost him his job. In either event it is deplorable.

In a forthcoming film a $35,000 fur coat is never worn by Rita Hayworth but is dragged negligently along behind. One recalls that Miss Mae West got the same effect by asking Beulah to peel her a grape.

Holding forth last evening on the great crisis which confronts us, the old rounder bespoke a revival of the spirit of the hardy pioneer, who somehow pulled through on gray bread and green whisky.

A film producer believes the public will be ready in 1950 for serious treatments of the war as history. No Mata Hari having emerged in the great conflict, it will of course be necessary to invent one.

Relief In Sight

People's Platform

Another Spending Spree?

PINEVILLE

THE public is somewhat confused in regard to registering and voting in the bond election: the right way is for everybody to register and vote. If the ones in authority would inject a little common sense and a whole less nonsense in our school system they would not need any bonds. They are running busses criscross all over the county hauling children from one school to another vacating one building and jampacking another. There are children that have missed part and very often all of the first recitation because of the long haul. If the children were a little more evenly distributed and every school had the same number of grades, the children, teachers, and parents would all take more interest.

This is not the time to jump into big debts. The country is topsy turvey. We are going through a crazy period. Won't anybody tell or can't they tell how much it will up the tax rate? It is supposed to raise it around 50 cents for the county and twice that for the city.

The farmers don't need another dollar added to their taxes, we don't have the labor to farm with now, it is a rub to get along. If another depression came, which most surely will, they will be selling people out for taxes. The public had better wake up and put a stop to this wild reckless spending before it is too late. The time to lock the stable is before the horse is stolen. Now they want to go on another spending spree—build three buildings for the high school, add more miles to the joy ride, want to teach everything from agriculture to science, and the children will only get a smattering of any of the stuff. If a child gets a good high school education and wants anything more he will manage to get it. Last year there was nine agriculture teachers in the county and only nine boys took to farming; it would have been cheaper for the state to have paid their way in college than to support the nine teachers. If the bonds carry they won't be half paid until they will want that much more for another spree.

—J. F. YOUNGBLOOD

(NOTE: The exact extent of the tax increase necessary to cover the proposed City-County bond issue is difficult to determine. A committee of financial experts is at work now, and definite figures will be announced prior to the bond election.—Eds., THE NEWS).

Why Not Three?

CHARLOTTE

WHO was it that said something about the force of a blow being determined by the amount of the rebound? Well, I was beginning to wonder if my script of a few days ago had turned out to be an absolute dud, when lo and behold, a faint echo emanates from somewhere in the vicinity of Jacksonville—one Mr. Griffith by name. This happens to be the first time I ever read or heard it proclaimed, publicly or privately, by implication or without reservation, that either Einstein or Robert Louis Stevenson or both were the very essense of perfection or recognized authorities in the realm of theological research. However, personally, I still feel constrained to go back and beyond these great personalities for my philosophy of life.

Thanks, pal, for the title of "Oldtimer," "That's—" (with apologies to Senator Claghorn) "Now get this—that's a compliment and that's NOT a joke." However, I am inclined to believe that I am not as old as you imply. At least I am not too young to learn but most emphatically too old to be confused by the various "isms" and loosely concocted up-to-date man-made theories.

If it is true (as Mr. Griffith says) that two and two do not necessarily make four, then why not have some "wise guys" get together and start a movement to make two and two equal three? Might come in handy twelve months from now in making out our income tax report.

—S. R. HUTTO.

Anti-Balfour Declaration

CHARLOTTE

IN a recent statement on Palestine which will probably go down in history as the Anti-Balfour declaration, Mr. Bevin, the British Foreign Secretary, asserts that the cause of the Palestinian Arabs has become a matter of keen interest to their 90 million co-religionists in India.

I do not know whether the views expressed by the all-India Moslem League in favor of the Arab claims on Palestine are shared by their 90 million co-religionists in India. But what is certain is that these views cannot be reconciled with the so-called Parkistan Policy pursued by the League with regard to the political future of India. It is well known that the leaders of the League have always opposed any form of self-government in India which would expose the Moslem minority to the rule of a Hindu majority. They have been persistent in their demands for a separate Moslem state in India. Is it not obvious that the dangers to which a Jewish minority in Palestine which would be exposed are no less grave than the dangers of the Moslem minority in India? The recent outbreaks in Cairo and the pogrom of Tripoli.

The plight of the Jews in Jerusalem where the Arab name of the greatest city on earth is El Khuck or The Holy. In denying the elementary right of the homeless Jews to rebuild their national home, the Moslem league is denying the moral basis of their own political claim in India.

—J. M. SHIELDS.

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

The Case For Hoover

WASHINGTON

HERBERT HOOVER, at 71, is making a strenuous tour of Europe in order to learn at first hand the European food needs. This has given rise to the revival of charges that Hoover used food for political purposes after the last war.

In part at least, this charge comes from Communist sources. The political motivation is obvious. All the evidence indicates, however, that the charge is basically unfair.

Because Hoover has now become an important figure in America's relief picture, the facts deserve an airing.

In 1921 and 1922, Hoover's American Relief Administration saved millions of Soviet citizens from starvation. At the peak of operations, the Hoover agency was feeding 4,171,661 children and 6,207,968 adults in 24 provinces, the Ukraine, and the cities of Moscow and Leningrad. This was an extraordinary operation, attesting to the efficiency with which Hoover had organized relief for shattered Europe.

Because of Soviet censorship, relief for Russia began only after the famine had reached very serious proportions. In July of 1921, the Bolshevik Government permitted Maxim Gorki to make an appeal. The following month, an agreement was reached between the American Relief Administration and the Soviet Government. Immediately the ARA began moving food supplies into Russia.

The Soviet Government agreed to allow American personnel to supervise the food distribution. In turn, the ARA gave a formal pledge that American relief workers would not participate in any political activity.

All ARA workers who went into Russia, many of them young men just out of college, signed a contract containing a pledge to abstain from any political activity or any consideration of politics in the giving of food. They were closely watched in most areas by local commissars who could always report to Moscow any violation of this pledge.

It's important to remember the climate of American public opinion at the time this voluntary effort was taking place. The excesses of the Russian Revolution had been wildly exaggerated in a large section of the press. Both in England and in this country, there were many who were vociferous against the Bolsheviks.

Yet Congress appropriated $20,000,000 and the Russian Government spent $4,000,000 in Red Cross supplies were sent out. From military sources, including the Hoover ARA, food remittances by Russian national funds to bring the total of more than $45,000,000.

An objective study of the Hoover mission in Russia was made by the National Conference on Social Work, which specialized in analyzed philanthropic and relief organizations. The board reported:

"We found evidences everywhere that these efforts have made a deep and lasting impression upon the Russian people as a whole and have aroused a gratitude which will not die. The tendency of certain strongly partisan Communist groups and individuals to minimize the work or to feature that of purely Communist organizations should not be taken too seriously. Though given undue publicity in the equally partisan Soviet press, their assertions do not represent the feeling of the people nor, for that matter, of many of the less bigoted Communists.

Those who participated in the Hoover operation after the last war say that the one country in which the charge of political use of relief might be substantiated is Hungary. The distribution of relief in Hungary coincided with a fearful civil war. The American official in charge of the distribution of American food in Hungary supported the Right in putting down the Bela Kun revolution, according to those familiar with the operation.

That was an exception to a general rule. It does not justify the charge that the ARA used relief for political ends.

Before the ARA went into Russia, the famine had reached such proportions that the Government was seriously threatened. If the famine had continued, with all the seed being eaten in the food-producing areas, then swarms of dying and diseased refugees might have overwhelmed the still weak Government.

It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the Hoover food mission saved the Government of Lenin. That is something to remember when reckless charges are hurled about.

Bertram Benedict

Another Coal Strike

WASHINGTON

A coal strike has been called in the bituminous fields for Sunday midnight.

If the threatened bituminous coal strike occurs, it will be the eighth in the 27 years since 1919. And this listing does not include sporadic wildcat strikes, nor walkouts in small producing areas, nor separate anthracite strikes.

1919—A contract signed in 1917 was to run until April, 1920. During World War I the coal mines were controlled by the Government through the Fuel Administration. Price control was withdrawn on Feb. 1, 1919. The union maintained that the operators were hence free to raise prices to meet higher wage demands based on cost of living increases. A strike went into effect on Nov. 1, 1919, and Government price controls were restored. The Government got an injunction against the strike, which was then officially called off, but the miners refused to go back—then as now men couldn't be forced to work by court order.

WON WAGE INCREASE

On Dec. 10 the miners accepted arbitration by a Presidential commission, and went back to work. The award, on March 10, 1920, granted a 27 per cent wage increase, but denied the demand for a six-hour day. The award did not cover unorganized Southern mines, which in the ensuing years won more and more of the market.

1922—The 1919 wage scales were renewed, after a strike called for that purpose had lasted five months and after President Harding had intervened. This was the first time that the bituminous and anthracite miners had struck in unison. The wage scales were renewed in the Jacksonville agreement of 1924, to run for three years; but over these three years many operators cut wages in violation of the contract. They held they could not otherwise meet the competition of the non-union Southern mines. Sporadic strikes accompanied these violations of the contract all over the coal fields.

1927—A seven months' strike to renew the Jacksonville wage rates was lost. The industry became demoralized, with the union retaining control only in the anthracite field and east of the Mississippi only in the the bituminous field in Illinois and part of Indiana.

GAIN CONTROL

1933—The collective bargaining guaranty of the N.R.A. Act of 1933 and the support of the Roosevelt Administration enabled the union to regain control of the bituminous mines, especially after the two Guffey coal acts had regularized the industry. There were strikes in the captive mines in 1933 and a general bituminous walkout of 10 days in 1935. A strike called on April 1, 1939, was chiefly for unionization; after 40 days and Administration intervention, the union won organization of most mines covered by the Appalachian Agreement, and of many in the South.

1941—A strike of 22 days won a 31 increase to $7 a day in the Northern mines. In June the Defense Mediation Board handed down a decision abolishing the wage differential in the South and extending to the Southern fields other gains achieved by the Northern miners. A strike of some months in the captive mines resulted in the award of the closed shop to those mines by a Presidential commission in December.

MINES SEIZED

1943—A strike for a $2 a day wage increase was in effect for four separate periods between May and November, including a separate walkout in the captive mines in October. It resulted in Government seizure of the mines for a time and substantial wage increases ultimately.

1945—A separate strike of supervisory employees in October shut down many mines, because most state laws forbid miners to enter a mine until the workings have been inspected, and also because miners as a group will not cross a picket line. There had been similar walkouts by the supervisory employees in certain localities during the latter half of 1944.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Cables Tell Of Red Plot Against Iran

WASHINGTON

THE American people are now getting their first close-up of Oriental diplomacy of the cloak-and-dagger variety. Neither side in the Iranian dispute is averse to using these tactics, but the ablest exponent is inscrutable Soviet Ambassador Gromyko. Though young in the game and sometimes considered a mere messenger from Moscow, Gromyko knows what he's doing every minute. Nothing slips by him.

While the audience, mostly American, watches the Soviet diplomatic stalling at the UNO meeting, a much clearer picture is revealed behind the scenes. Confidential cables pouring into the State Department and the British Foreign Office from Anglo-American representatives in Iran plead for utmost speed. The cables from Moscow to Gromyko order him to stall, delay, and then stall some more.

That's why the Soviet Ambassador acts if he has nothing to do but sit and talk. That's why Polish Ambassador Oscar Lange, a Soviet supporter, is always getting hungry. He is always the first to ask for a recess for lunch or dinner. Every recess means more time killed. That's how Gromyko keeps avoiding a vote to the last possible moment.

Meanwhile, however, high drama is being enacted in Tehran. There, both Britain and America are represented by anti-Soviet diplomats. They have pinned their hopes on the equally anti-Soviet Shah of Iran.

On the other side is the Russian Ambassador, who has his orders to stage a revolt at the earliest possible moment, ousting the Shah and making Iranian Premier Qavam top man.

Qavam is virtually a Soviet puppet. During the last two years, the Russians have permitted him to get away with all sorts of economic concessions in Northern Iran under the protection of Red Army troops. As a result, Qavam is one of the wealthiest men in the Near East.

Revolutions Take Time

HOWEVER, revolutions are not set up overnight. They take both money and time. The Soviet Embassy in Tehran is reliably regarded to have distributed $1,500,000 in gold to Iranian political leaders in the past month to expedite a revolt. Simultaneously, the British Embassy, no slouch at cloak-and-dagger diplomacy, has seen to it that the Shah of Iran has everything necessary to protect Anglo-American interests. The British Army, which left Iran more than a month ago, left behind valuable military equipment to aid in resisting any Russian-inspired uprising.

In New York also, there is more than mere power politics involved in what has been going on behind the scenes. The Iranian Ambassador to the United States, Hussein Ala, is bitterly anti-Russian. However, Hussein Ala gets his orders from pro-Russian Premier Qavam, who recently rebuffed him. Ala's pals, who include some people who helped the Nazis before the war, have urged him to force his case against Russia into the open before Qavam removes him.

So while high-sounding phrases are poured out for public consumption under the lights at the UNO Security Council meeting, Oriental politics in their roughest, toughest cloak-and-dagger form flourish backstage.

Senator Thomas Blows Up

ABLE Elbert Thomas of Utah, chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, is a reserved, mild-mannered man. Seldom does he lose his temper. But the other day when the Military Affairs Committee was preparing to vote on the long-delayed Federal Science Bill, Thomas really let loose against procrastinating Senator Revercomb of West Virginia.

For months Revercomb had been a member of a subcommittee to pass on the Federal Science Bill. But despite that he still wanted more delay.

The bill is one of the most badly needed in the Government. Scientific research is now the crux of modern warfare, and the science bill provides for that research.

The bill is one of the most carefully written of any before the Senate. It was drafted only after Senator Kilgore of West Virginia, chairman of the subcommittee, had heard over 100 witnesses, including the Secretaries of War, Navy and Interior, Bernie Baruch, Dr. Vannevar Bush, the National Association of Manufacturers, the AFL, the CIO, and dozens of the nation's leading scientists.

Revercomb, although a member of this subcommittee, had not bothered to attend its hearings. However, when the bill came before the full Senate Military Affairs Committee, he had the nerve to ask for delay.

"I want to study the bill further," the West Virginia Republican said.

Two Gentlemen From West Va.

IT was no secret to every member of the committee why he wanted the delay. Revercomb is a bitter enemy of Senator Kilgore, Democrat, also of West Virginia. Kilgore is coauthor of the Federal Science Bill, along with Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington, and is chairman of the subcommittee which studied the bill. The last thing Revercomb wants, therefore, is to see his Democratic West Virginia colleague receive national credit.

This was what caused Chairman Thomas to blow up. Thomas was one of the nation's outstanding social scientists before he came to the Senate, and when Revercomb said that he questioned the inclusion of social scientists among the scientists to receive Federal support, Chairman Thomas shot back:

"Your subcommittee has thoroughly thrashed this thing out with both the Government officials and the distinguished scientists who appeared before it, and found the present language acceptable."

"Do you mean to tell me we can't discuss the bill in full committee?" Revercomb asked belligerently.

"Certainly we can," the Utah Senator replied, "if we discuss it intelligently."

Despite this sarcasm, Revercomb insisted that the committee vote on whether support for the social sciences should be included in the bill.

"The Government might be paying for racial studies and things like that," he muttered.

The vote was taken and Revercomb was defeated. Thomas then gently explained that it is practically impossible to draw a line of demarcation between the social sciences and the physical sciences.

"It is very easy to distinguish physical science from social sciences," Revercomb insisted.

"Yes," Thomas replied, this time not so gently, "If you don't know anything about either."

The committee then decided not to wait for Revercomb to get educated regarding the bill which his own subcommittee had been studying for months, and voted to approve it.