THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher — J. E. DOWD, General Manager — WILLIAM M. REDDIG, Editor

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Charlotte Spreading Its Wings

CHARLOTTE has taken a long forward stride, creating a stir which has drawn attention in several states and numerous cities. It came with the announcement yesterday that the Civil Aeronautics Board had placed the Queen City on the Pennsylvania-Central Airlines Route 51, providing a dramatic climax to a campaign inspired two years ago by a series of special articles in The News.

Norfolk, Memphis, Pittsburgh, Washington and other cities heard the news that "Charlotte, with the metropolitan district population of approximately 113,000, is the largest city in the Carolinas and is the financial center in that area. The importance of Charlotte as a financial center is demonstrated by its annual bank clearances in excess of one billion dollars. Charlotte's prominent position in the textile world gives this city a strong community of interest with Memphis," and with Norfolk.

That statement came from CAB in Washington. It constituted the basis of the Board's action in reversing its previous decision that Charlotte was not entitled to a second trunk link which would compete with Eastern Airlines. The figures in that statement tell a familiar story to Charlotteans but their significance are heightened by this development, which will bring new widening appreciation of Charlotte's large place in the American picture.

Briefly, as stated by Frank K. Sims Jr., attorney for the Aviation Comittee, "The decision brings to us a new major trunk line and gives us a direct outlet to Memphis, Norfolk and Asheville and a new route to Washington." However, the good results of this decision may well be much more spectacular than anyone now suspects. In this fight Charlotte has acquired strong allies in other cities who will share in the benefits of our expansion and add further stimulus to the westward movement. Moreover, the impression made by the City on CAB in this case should bring quicker and broader understanding of Charlotte's needs and potentialities in other battles for more service which lie ahead.

The quickening pace of Charlotte on the airways was shown in other developments on this day. It was reflected in the fight of a Charlotte company, State Airlines, Inc., which won a rehearing on its application to establish several feeder routes, including a long one from Louisville and Cincinnati to Wilmington via Charlotte. Another notice of progress came with the announcement from Eastern Airlines that this city will be linked with Anderson, S. C., beginning today. A pointed suggestion of the new possibilities that are unfolding came from a PCA spokesman, who said:

"In meeting this and other opportunities, it will be necessary to completely overhaul our whole traffic pattern."

One of the chief reasons for greater confidence in the city's future remains to be mentioned. That is in the type of leadership demonstrated by the City officials in initiating and supporting this work, and the devotion to public service which has been shown by the Aviation Committee which Robert Lassiter Jr. heads.

An 'Ideal' Newspaper For America

A "blueprint" for a better American press comes from nine Nieman Fellows, newspaper men and women who are absorbing the academic atmosphere at Harvard under the Nieman Fund, which was established some years ago "to promote and elevate the stardards of journalism in the United States and educate persons deemed specially qualified for journalism."

The blueprint carries the somewhat alarming statement that "the press, as we see it, faces two eventualities—responsibility or regulation. If it continues its trend toward concentration of control in the hands of a few people, towards a uniformity of class interest and class expression hardly to be distinguished from totalitarianism, we do not see how it can avoid an eventual readers' revolt and severe restrictions of its rights."

Ordinarily we do not like to rush out to the defense of our business as we feel there is plenty of room for criticism of the press and it's all to the good. However, as we perused the Nieman Fellows' prescription for an "ideal" newspaper we could not help noticing its striking resemblance to the form and content of dozens of newspapers which we see every day on this desk.

"An ideal newspaper", they write, "might perhaps combine the snap and readability of the *New York Daily News*, the pictorial excellence of *Life*, the thoroughness of the *Times*, the crusading fire of the *Post-Dispatch*, the human interest and intelligence of the *Herald-Tribune*, and the sense of responsibility of the *Courier-Journal*. That would be quite a newspaper!"

We would like to add that all or most of the "ideal" qualities recommended by the Fellows are reflected in varying degrees in a majority of America's daily newspapers. They are, in fact, the standards which the American press long has tried to uphold and which have produced a notable improvement in the last generation.

There is nothing novel or startling in the blueprint drawn by the Fellows. All of the ideas which they advance have been proposed before, discussed in newsrooms, business offices, publishers' meetings, trade journals, journalism schools. In other words, their report is interesting chiefly as a statement of what the press already is thinking, planning and doing to turn out a better product.

Admittedly, the American press still is far from the Fellows' ideal but it is many times farther away from becoming a medium of "expression hardly to be distinguished from totalitarianism". In short, we find the Fellows are straining a little too hard to be bold and fearless critics but, as we said earlier, we don't mind at all and cheer them on in their studies. We have learned to expect a bit of extravagance and some absurdity when anyone sets out to tell newspaper men how to elevate themselves.

Voluntary Control May Do It

ONE of our confidential sources in Washington sends word that the food-saving is getting off to a bad start. He reports the plans thus far announced are good if in a small way but no one expects meatless days, etc., to save more than a fraction of the amount needed. Most officials know in advance that the plans will not work, just by themselves, for they are inadequate, it is added. We are wasting time to demonstrate the inadequacy of the plans.

Perhaps so, but we are beginning to wonder if the Washington cynics are seeing the whole picture. Admittedly some of the first reactions have not been good, but it is always so in the initial phase of a program like this, and the reports from the country as a whole have yet to come in.

Meanwhile, we do not intend to give up hope or spend much time flailing the public in an effort to instruct it in its duty. Our experience has been that the American people usually can be depended on to take appropriate action when confronted with the facts that justify such efforts. It is inconceivable to us that a majority of our people will not recognize this as a very worthy cause. They simply cannot miss the point that it is serving the threefold purpose of checking price rises at home, feeding the hungry people of Europe and giving us our main weapons against chaos and Communism.

Of course there will be some who cheat. There always are. However, when the force of public opinion sets in we expect to see some results that will startle the Washington pessimists.

From The Washington Post

No Time For Love

IN ALL the legend and literature about parted lovers and their efforts to get together it is doubtful whether there is any instance of daring — or foolhardiness—greater than that of Doris von Knoblock, German fraulein who had herself crated to come by air express to her German refugee sweetheart in New York.

The half-clad girl when discovered at the Frankfurt Airport had been twenty hours in a box so small that she was doubled up like a jackknife. She had subsisted on four slices of black bread and a small jar of cold, unsweetened tea. Yet she was prepared to stay in her box another night and risk the peril of suffocating or freezing in the freight plane. Had she not been discovered, she would have arrived in New York a frozen corpse, as the box would have been put in an unheated compartment where the temperature at 10,000 feet is fifteen degrees below zero. Both she and a companion, who planned to be similarly expressed to a former GI she had met in Germany, had razor blades with which to slash their wrists if they found they were suffocating.

Ever since Cleopatra wrapped herself in a rug to obtain audience with Caesar, women have resorted to ingenious and daring measures to get to the men they wanted. And every war has contributed a new version of one of the oldest of love stories. In this instance not only the airplane has been added, but what has also become a symbol of our time, the concentration camp. The German fraulein's sweetheart, Ralph Berndt, whom she met while working in a Berlin hospital, had spent eighteen months in the notorious Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, because one of his parents was Jewish. The first barriers confronting these sweethearts —one with a "von" in her name, the other half Jewish—had been an intangible one.

As a result of the dislocations and territorial spread of the last war, we may expect untold chapters to be added to the world's saga of the parted lovers. Who can estimate the number of novels, plays, movies, short stories that the Civil War inspired in the adventures of Northern men and Southern girls and vice versa? Now what a wealth of material around the globe awaits future romancers about desperate lovers, even husbands and wives, kept apart by Governments cast in the roles of Capulets and Montagues! Who knows even what tales may some day be woven around the fifteen Soviet wives who cannot join their British husbands because, according to Mr. Vishinsky, "women talk too much!"

Are You Remembering To Save Grain, Too?

Samuel Grafton

The Issue Is Peace

NEW YORK

WHAT attitude shall one adopt and live by during the current crisis between Russia and the West? It seems to me the desire for peace is still the strongest, the safest, the least likely to maimer one in the dangers of historical error and moral warping.

In other words, after you have listened to some speaker make a powerful, clever, even a documented and reasoned attack on Russia, does something within you want him to go on and propose some plan for solving the problem and establishing the peace? Or are you satisfied, politically, morally and esthetically, with the attack alone? If so, you are perhaps already partially mobilized inside.

Do you pounce eagerly upon a new argument against Russia, or is there a little bit of regret somewhere within you that the situation has deteriorated enough to produce such arguments? Would you be delighted with, or sorry over, new evidences, say, of Russian expansionist tendencies? Have you, over the last two years, slipped into the mental habit of making points instead of making peace?

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The people of the world are entitled, of course, to take the same approach to the other side, also. Is the organization of a new Comintern, or of a loose two-or three-quarters Comintern, a step toward peace, or is it an episode in a mobilization for a fight?

What evidence does the Soviet Union give that it believes it to be possible, and desirable, for a capitalist United States to live out its own destiny in a peaceful world? Does Russia entertain such a belief? Doesn't the Soviet effort to prove that American capitalist thinking resembles that of Hitler Germany come dangerously close to setting up the doctrine that peace with America is impossible?

Remember that the issue is peace. It is a distortion of the issue to change it into a noisy schoolyard dispute over which side is better. Who has set up for us the formal and intimely problem of instantly deciding which side is loftier, purer, nobler, and how has this problem come to be substituted for the real problem we faced at the end of the war, which was the making of peace?

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It is possible to become so lost in watching the successive points made by each contestant (with head shifting from side to side, as when one watches a tennis match) as to forget that the game itself is bad. To what judge, sitting on what bench, are we addressing these impassioned briefs? The issue is peace, not the assertion of superiority, and, in fact, the best way to assert superiority, and to make it stick, is to show capacity for leadership in making peace.

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To want peace, to demand peace, to talk peace, to issue peace plans, to request the Soviet Union to come forth with peace proposals, is the only meaningful way in which to conduct this controversy.

The world listens with a sinking heart to the ingenious fellow (whether he be an American politician or a member of the new fractional Comintern) who hints that peace is impossible, and who douses the whole issue in a muggy, methaphysical salad dressing, thick with unripe analyses of national differences, and seasoned with a dash of determinism. Nothing is more indeterminate than determinism, as the last war showed, when it disclosed Germany and Russia fighting on the same side.

The issue is still peace, and the side which can ram home into the consciousness of the world its desire for peace will need no press agents to extol its virtues or to win it adherents.

People's Platform

So That's What You Mean?

Editors, THE NEWS:

I like Sam Spade the best, I think, but Walter Winchell was at his venomous best a couple of Sunday nights ago. You know, when he took up a whole program in daring Mr. Molotov and Mr. Vishinkl to deny that 70 per cent of the world's everything else is owned by 7 per cent of the world's population, that is, the citizens of the good old U. S. A.

I guess a psychiatrist could tell you right off what Mr. Winchell was striving for in his oration, but I guess that the best way for us laymen to try to understand it is through the back door, the negative approach that is. Thus, I don't think that Mr. Winchell was trying—

(1) To excite Mr. Molotov's and Mr. Vishinkl's envious admiration (his tone of voice didn't quite fit); or

(2) To let them know that we understand their plight, and are not going to let them down in their hour of need, just because we have wound up Hitler's little ball of twine, now, and don't need them any more (ditto about the tone of voice); or

(3) To send them into gales of laughter by suggesting that, under the Czars, the Russians had more chicken, butter, etc., per Russian, than they now enjoy (the tone of voice still applying).

Thus, by the process of elimination, we find that we must look for motivation in Gertrude Stein's "I like American and American" ('47 the Magazine of the Year—October issue):

"If a country is very big (says Gertie) is it generous. I do not have to say so. If any airplane flies very high does it have to fly higher. Listen to this. I say that America is a large land and it being so they do not have to care because nobody can stare since they are all there so they can be mean. Do you see what I mean. Oh yes you do, you do see what I mean."

I know what Gertie means, and I know what Winchell means. If I didn't know words I would know what Winchell means, because I know a tone of voice, do you see what I mean. And I should like to say to Mr. Winchell that it gets cold in Russia do you see what I mean. Yes you do Mr. Winchell, you do, you do see what I mean. And I know some Americans who don't have any chicken and they have less butter because nobody can stare since they are all there and they can be mean.

—ALTON E. BASSETT.

Work For Brotherhood

MONROE

LANGFORD Chapel Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, for the first time, held a week of interracial services, September 29-October 3.

Needless to say that our government has done much good, peace organizations and peace conferences are doing some good in meeting the great demands for world peace. The time is at hand for the Christian Church to take its rightful place in this world crisis. Until we, as one big family created in God's own image, forget and abolish all isms, creeds and color, and do more toward christianizing our communities, states, and nation, we can only hope for the worst. Peace must begin in the mind and soul of people with their God and their fellowman before there can be national peace.

President Truman has asked the nation to deny itself meat on Tuesdays and called on each individual to save a slice of bread a day. His appeal drew swift reaction.

How many of us have asked any, or all of the people of our community to deny themselves some of the unnecessary pleasures, and called on each individual to give more consideration and prayer to Kingdom Building for Christ? This appeal, too, should draw swift action. Why don't we "Christians" do more than admit that something ought to be done?

The following ministers and two laymen really did something toward Interracial Brotherhood and Fellowship when they gladly accepted the invitation to bring a message of good-will to both colored and white. There were five consecutive nights of real worship to God by white and colored people who were created in God's image.

Rev. B. S. Broom, minister of West Monroe Baptist Church.

Dr. E. P. Billups, minister of Central Methodist Church.

Rev. Fred B. Drane, minister of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Rev. Roy F. Whitley, minister of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. O. M. Staton, Superintendent of Union County Schools.

Mr. J. W. Graham, Principal of Winchester Avenue High School.

These speakers delivered messages which were both dynamic and helpful. Music was furnished by Elizabeth Church Junior Choir, Mrs. Rachel Bookhardt, Pianist; Winchester Avenue High School Choral Club, Miss P. M. Chambers, Directress; and Langford Chapel Junior Choir, Miss E. R. Hasty, Pianist. All the choirs rendered very good singing.

Many thanks to all who participated in making this program a success. There were others who were interested but were otherwise engaged.

—PAUL L. BIGBY, Minister.

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.

Quote, Unquote

ENGLISH is spoken best in Washington, Nashville and Boston. Says who? Says a language poll taken by the Linguaphone Institute of America. Dissents are quickly in order. Washington English has no character of its own, but is a medley of all the accents, ranging from excellent to horrible, of the nation. Nashville talk is too silkily Southern. Boston English, to the ears of most of the country, should pay an import duty. The best English is spoken in the Middle West. The place in the Middle West where it is spoken most exquisitely is Louisville, Ky.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Every day we read in scores of newspapers dispatches quoting statesmen that the world is facing a frightful crisis. In those same newspapers we see numerous pictures of the statesmen and on the countenance of every one of them is a smile or broad grin.—Charleston News and Courier.

The utter disregard of the limits of possibility in the promises of the average political candidate is exceeded only by the unbounded gullibility of the average voter.—Larourche (La.) Comet.

Marquis Childs

Our Diplomats Fail

PARIS.

AS a result of the journeying of perhaps a fourth of the American Congress through Europe and the Near East, one decision is now fairly clear. Whatever the final form and dimension of the Marshall Plan as it emerges from the Congress, it will not be administered by the Department of State.

Members of Congress of varying shades of political belief are carrying home the conviction that a new instrument must be found; that anything on the scale envisioned by the Marshall Plan cannot be entrusted to any of the old-line Government departments.

There are several reasons for this conviction. One is the poor impression which our diplomatic representation abroad made on the traveling Congressmen. They did not, of course, stop to ask themselves how much they were to blame for the weaknesses they found.

The returning Congressmen believe that our diplomats, given their conditioning and background, could not be counted on to see that American resources were used wisely. This comes not merely from chronic grumblers and doubters such as Representative John Taber of New York, who is on guard over the House Appropriations Committee. Democrats on the liberal side—Mike Monroney of Oklahoma for example—are of the same opinion.

FORM THEIR OWN PLAN

Along with this basic conviction the returning travelers are taking home a number of ideas about how the plan can be carried out. In fact, when the debate begins, a multiplicity of ideas will be brought forward and the danger is likely to be a bill that in final passage is so complicated as to be all but unworkable.

Most of the constructive ideas center around a Government corporation to administer and supervise the spending of Marshall Plan funds and the allocation of resources. This instrumentality might bear a family resemblance to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

At the top would be a non-political board of directors. They would have over-all supervisory powers. Subsidiary corporations might be formed in partnership with each nation participating in the plan.

The top corporation might be given an initial grant of, say, $4,000,000,000. It would be empowered to issue non-interest bearing bonds up to a fixed amount. Thus the blow to the American taxpayer would be softened.

PLAN OF REPAYMENT

Returning Congressmen are also talking in terms of repayment not in dollars, which is generally conceded to be impossible, but in raw materials. Belgium, for example, would repay us in uranium for dollars. The repayments would not become until after European rehabilitation was well advanced.

It is possible to foresee the structure of a Government corporation to administer the Marshall Plan. When it comes down to naming specific men to run the corporation, the difficulties begin. But this is not the chief question mark.

The real question is where, in such a picture, our ambassadors and ministers, with their staffs, would fit in. A Government corporation with billions to spend and allocate would certainly become the major instrument of foreign policy in Europe. It is an ancient rule of politics that power attracts power.

We can already see in Greece the kind of conflicts that grow out of divided authority. In some respects Greece is a sort of proving ground for the Marshall Plan. Planners would do well to study with care.

In Athens the American aid mission is doing the spending and allocating. There is considerable grief. The Greeks are looking to the mission rather than to the embassy. This has made for cross-purpose and confusion, thereby impeding a program already far too long delayed.

ONE WAY AROUND

One suggestion is being considered to get around such a conflict. That is to make the ambassador a member of the board of directors of the subsidiary corporation in the country to which he is accredited.

All this is, of course, tentative. But such a concept is being developed. It will be offered when the Marshall Plan is introduced and it will have wide support certainly in the House and perhaps in the Senate, too.

Some of the ideas being discussed go far beyond this. They forsee an extraordinary degree of American superstition over how American funds shall be used within the individual countries. These ideas show imagination and boldness. They are of Republican rather than Democratic origin.

On the one hand, Americans may feel that these bold concepts push the United States too far in the direction of superintendent over Europe's fortunes. On the other hand, Europeans may feel that such powers tread too heavily on the delicate ground of sovereignty. That will be known in the future. But one thing is certain, and that is that America is embarked on an extraordinary adventure.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Luckman Wins His Battle With Senators

WASHINGTON

POOR Food Czar Charley Luckman gets it going and coming. First he is roasted by the liquor distillers, the hotel and restaurant men; and now he gets it in the neck from Senators. Eight of them—all Republicans—sat down to lunch with him last week and, led by Oregon's Wayne Morse and Minnesota's Ed Thye, raised cain about poultryless Thursdays.

Before the stormy, closed-door session was over, however, tough-minded Luckman won the indorsement of all eight Senators without agreeing to any basic changes in his "waste less—eat less" program.

Senator Morse, former dean of the Oregon University Law School, but also something of an expert on chickens, did most of the talking.

"You obviously were unaware of some economic facts when you asked the American public to do without eggs and poultry one day a week," he said. "I'm for feeding Europe and I am sure all my Republican colleagues want to see you attain your objectives, but not at the expense of upsetting our agricultural economy.

"It seems to me that this is a very poor time to ask people to abstain from poultry when cold-storage plants are bulging with it. We have 225,000,000 pounds of turkey, chicken and other poultry in cold storage and an additional 600,000,000 pounds of turkey will move into the market for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's business in the next 90 days, plus another 100,000,000 pounds of other poultry."

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, who was present, confirmed the fact that this vast amount of poultry was on hand.

"Why don't you send some of this to Europe?" asked Morse.

"Well, I guess the answer is pretty obvious," replied Luckman. "Europe wants grain, because it is cheaper and has a higher calory content. Also, it might seem incongruous to feed chicken and turkey to starving people."

"Let's not kid ourselves about that," broke in Senator Thye, himself a Minnesota farmer. "I'm not trying to be little our humanitarian efforts, but I think everyone agrees that whatever relief we send Europe will be a gift, which is perfectly all right if you have to keep people from starving.

"But if we are going to write off repayment, let's send what we can best afford, without too much sacrifice to our farm program. A lot of small poultry farmers, including many war veterans in Minnesota and other states, are going to be hurt if you cancel your poultryless Thursday.

"Your program is unfair," continued Thye. "It should have been spread more evenly over our whole economy, so that one segment of the population would not be asked to make too great a sacrifice."

Senators Owen Brewster of Maine and Homer Ferguson of Michigan remarked that they would have to answer similar protests from poultry farmers in their states. How, they inquired, would Luckman answer such protests?

Faith In American People

"The American people have met emergencies like this before and they will do it again," replied Luckman. "We're not trying to discriminate against any one class; we are asking all the people to contribute to the best of their ability. This involves sacrifice."

At one point, Luckman, who is head of Lever Bros., giant soap company, confessed: "Let me take off my whiskers for a moment and tell you, as a businessman, I sympathize with you."

He went on to explain, however, that his program is aimed to trim the fat off young, wheat-fed fryers. He believes the public can do without super-tender drumsticks for a while and let this grain be diverted to Europe.

"There's some logic in what you say," conceded Senator Morse, "and you have an even stronger emotional argument on your side. But you can't solve this problem by emotion. The State Department has got to get it out of its head that we should concentrate on shipping one commodity—grain."

The Oregon Senator contended that we should also send dried fruits, such as prunes and apricots, now surplus on the West Coast. He also reminded Luckman that large quantities of peas, beans and fruits had rotted this year because canners, fearing a glutted market, had refused to buy them.

"Why didn't the Government buy up this stuff and start canning it for European relief during the Summer, instead of letting it rot?" Morse asked. "Why didn't the department food planners must have been asleep at the switch, for everyone knew that this crisis in Europe was coming."

Luckman responded that he wasn't responsible for what happened last Spring, and the food program had only just been dumped in his lap.

"I'm doing the best I can with the materials I have," he said. "I've been told to save food for Europe and that means, primarily, saving grain. I am sure the farmers of the country realize this and want to help us."

When Maine's Senator Brewster picked up the check at the end of lunch, it was evident the Republican Senators had lived up to the topic of their conversation. Their menu—bean soup, apple sauce, crackers and coffee—came to $4.08 for 12 people, or 34 cents per person.

NOTE—One reason for the misunderstanding between Secretary of Agriculture Anderson and President Truman was that the President had made his plea for poultryless Thursdays without consulting the Agriculture Department. On the same day Truman went on the air, the Agriculture Department had prepared to launch exactly the opposite program—namely, encourage people to eat more poultry so farmers would send more chickens to market, thus reducing the grain fed on poultry farms.

Even after the President announced his poultryless Thursdays, the Agriculture Department still liked its program, better and quietly went ahead with it. Result: There should be more poultry on the market all week, except Thursdays.