THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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A Blow To Downtown Planning

THE habit of putting off until tomorrow what should be done today afflicts governments as well as individuals and produces splitting headaches for nations, states and cities. At the moment Charlotte is again feeling sharp twinges from one of its chronic cases of procrastination but the present distress is as nothing compared to the shooting pains which the community will suffer if the problem is left in the unfinished business file.

Much to City Council's distress, the matter of a set-back requirement for buildings in the downtown business district is up again. A good chance to settle this bothersome question was passed this year, when Council adopted the zoning ordinance. The law requires that in B-1 or outlying areas the street wall of any building must be 25 feet from the center of the street but is silent on this point for B-2 or downtown business districts. Council agreed to that omission in face of the fact that the need for a "front-yard" requirement for B-2 was indisputable. It still is incontestable, only more so.

Council saw that the downtown set-back provision was needed to save room for street widening to relieve traffic congestion which has grown steadily worse in recent years, retarding the growth of the city. But such regulation of B-2 for proper development of the community raised certain questions, including the matter of the city's liability, which discouraged the Councilmen. It was argued that the "front yard" requirement might make the city liable for payment on the affected property before it was actually taken over for street purposes.

Council decided it would be easier to handle the problem as it came up in specific instances. Council now has a specific instance which shows that Council simply is complicating the problem by putting off action for an up-to-date ordinance for a modern city that is bursting at the seams.

Thad L. Harrison has obtained a permit to erect a 2-story building at 117 E. 7th St. flush with the sidewalk, property line. Absence of a set-back requirement for this area is making trouble for both Mr. Harrison and Charlotte. Council has no visible legal means of interfering with this project. The owner has made a substantial investment of time and money which apparently would be adversely affected by any change in his plans at this stage. On the other hand, other property owners who voluntarily observe the set-back principle may justly argue that they are being penalized. Certainly this project violates the principle of sound city planning, encourages others to do likewise and diminishes the chances for downtown street widening. This trend, if continued, will compel new business to seek sites outside the B-2 area and depress all downtown property values.

Council now has a real problem on its hands. It will have many more of the same, and Charlotte will have to resign itself to permanent traffic congestion and to the limited development of many streets of the B-2 district unless Council gets busy on this long neglected issue.

Arab Threat To The World

THERE IS no reason to believe that the Moslem world is bluffing when it announces that it will not accept the partitioning of Palestine into Jewish and Arab countries, which was approved Saturday by the General Assembly of the United Nations

The tone of the Arab threats and the violent incidents which immediately followed the Assembly's action should leave no doubt that the seven-nation Arab League is carrying out a well-laid resistance plan. It is forcing a quick showdown on the question of an international police force, an issue which could easily disrupt the United Nations and provoke a conflict among the big powers that would doom the partition project before next Oct. 1, the time set for the establishment of the new Arab and Jewish states in Palestine.

If UN evolved a successful formula for a police force in Palestine supported by both the United States and Russia, the Arabs doubtless would back down. They are, however, proceeding on the realistic calculation that the powers cannot come to an agreement on the explosive question of collective action to enforce a decision of the United Nations against a recalcitrant minority.

The Arabs are sustained in their defiance of UN by the position of Russia and her satellites in boycotting and otherwise resisting the Balkan watch commission, the "Little Assembly" and the Korean independence commission which were set up over the objections of the Soviet bloc. The Arabs know that anything to which Russia consents in the policing of Palestine or strengthening the UN machinery will be carefully considered for its possible effect on the whole question of employing force to implement the Assembly's decisions. They are certain that the Russians will find ways to oppose or block moves that might make the Palestine settlement a precedent for proceeding further against Russia in the Balkans, the Little Assembly and the Korean issues.

In fact, the Arabs have a right to feel that the Russians welcomed the partition move as a diversion which brought others besides the Communists into open defiance of UN and thereby increased the chance that the world organization would shatter itself on the question of enforcement.

Despite the grim prospects of disaster that lie ahead, there can be no turning back. UN has sanctioned partition and must follow through. All its prestige and all its authority are at stake.

This is a test that had to come some time. The Arab challenge in Palestine is a dire threat to the whole world. The risks attendant on acceptance of that challenge are enormous, but the penalties for inaction would be equally large, or larger. The reward for success in this venture is worth all the hazards.

E. B. Dudley Sr., Good Citizen

THE WAR YEARS offered many men an opportunity to serve their country courageously and well on the field of battle. Their deeds were glorious and their story has been told in shining letters. And that is as it should be.

At the same time there was another group of men who served no less courageously and no less well far from the spotlight of dramatic action. They were the men who shouldered the burdens imposed by our country's wartime program. They gave unstintingly of their time and their experience and served as truly as did the men who took up arms and marched away to fight.

One of those who contributed so much through his service on the home front was E. B. Dudley Sr. Mr. Dudley, whose death occurred yesterday, was instrumental in the organization of the air raid warning service and served as Chief Air Raid Warden with such ability that the Charlotte organization attained a high state of perfection. Subsequently he was appointed chairman of the Mecklenburg War Price and Rationing Board.

Mr. Dudley's wide experience in dealing with the public, together with his mature judgment, fitted him admirably for the thankless duty of directing the manifold activities of the all-important rationing board. He used his power fairly, having always in mind the greatest good for the largest number. He was no hard-boiled bureaucrat but rather a gentle, kindly man who strove always to do his best. His patience, common sense and devotion to duty were in large measure responsible for the notable effectiveness of the price and rationing program during his administration.

Mr. Dudley did not give up his interest in public service after the war, accepting appointment as a member of the City's Board of Adjustment, the administrative agency responsible for the enforcement of the zoning ordinance. This assignment required a great deal of time, which he gave unreservedly.

Mr. Dudley, after many years in the railroad and insurance fields, entered the real estate business here and soon was recognized as one of the leading realtors in this section. The esteem in which he was held by his fellows was evidenced by his election as president of the Charlotte Board of Realtors and also by his selection as state director of the North Carolina Real Estate Board.

An important contribution to Charlotte was made by E. B. Dudley Sr., and his passing is a real loss to the city and its people.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

Progress In The South

A CONSTRUCTIVE program designed to provide better observance of civil rights for all Southerners, equal services for veterans under the GI Bill of Rights, increased vocational education in agriculture and industry, and intercultural education in Southern schools, was announced for the coming year by the Southern Regional Council at its annual meeting in Atlanta.

This is the sort of soundly based and reasonably devised program which should appeal to the Southern people. It is addressed to their sense of fair play and their humanitarian impulses, without being radical or revolutionary.

Here is no strident appeal for an end to all segregation "now," as was recently contained in the report of President Truman's Civil Rights Committee.

The Council has under way studies in housing, Social Security benefits, and care for the feebleminded, while a study of State laws intended to safeguard civil rights also is in the making. These reports will be made public for community action.

The phrase "community action" is important here, for most problems are far better handled at the community level or the State level than at the national, or Federal, level. Any program for improved race relations which appeals to both races as fair and reasonable will succeed, but any program which appeals to only one, and which is regarded by the other as utterly unfair and extreme, cannot possibly do so.

The Southern Regional Council is proceeding very sensibly on the theory that progress for the region must come from the grass roots, from the members of both races in each community and State.

'Oh, Santa, You're Not On A Strike, Too!'

Congress Should Take Direct Action

The Crisis Is At Hand

By SUMNER WELLES
Former Under Secretary of State

NEW YORK

IN THIS period of mounting crisis the dictatorships can maneuver with greater speed and efficiency than the democracies. Moreover, as Mr. Walter Lippmann has pointed out, an unplanned economy is at a great disadvantage in waging a diplomatic war against a planned economy. Unless all of the democratic forces within the Western countries are now willing temporarily to unite these initial handicaps can prove fatal. For there is no longer any doubt that the dangers facing democracy are as great today as they were during the second World War.

In neither France nor Italy have the democratic parties so far demonstrated that they appreciate this self-evident truth. Unless they do, they risk being crushed between the right and the left.

Mr. Zhdanov and his Cominform have proclaimed that the Soviet Government will prevent the Marshall Plan from helping the peoples of Western Europe. As the surest way of achieving that objective in France it is the Kremlin's purpose to push General de Gaulle into immediate control of the government and thereafter, by persistent strikes and sabotage, stop all production, with resultant economic and social chaos, and thereby goad de Gaulle into undertaking dictatorship measures which would antagonize a great majority of the French people and end in a popular swing towards Communism.

OUTLOOK QUITE DARK

No French Prime Minister ever faced a bleaker outlook than Robert Schuman. His Government must seek to curb an inflation already out of control, satisfy the legitimate complaints of the wage earners, cope with the revolutionary tactics of the Communists, and yet at the same time discourage the return to power of General de Gaulle.

There is a profound cleavage between the French Socialist Party and the other democratic parties on economic and financial policy. It is essentially the same cleavage as that to be found in England. Whether these liberal parties can work effectively together, notwithstanding their disagreement on internal policy, depends upon their willingness to subordinate these differences to the need of saving democratic government in France.

In Italy the appeal of rightist authoritarianism is so far much less pronounced than in France. The effort of the Communists to portray de Gasperi as a new Mussolini is grotesque. But de Gasperi can only remain in power until the national election next March if he is able to retain his majority in the National Assembly, to control inflation and raise living standards, and, what is perhaps today even more urgent, to defend his truly democratic government against an armed Communist uprising.

DISAGREEMENT BLOCKS COALITION

The first of these contingencies involves a purely internal Italian question. The answer to that question will be found in de Gasperi's ability to form a more broadly national government in which the non-Communist Socialists are represented. Both the Republican Party, headed by Pacciardi, and the Socialist Workers Party, composed of those right-wing Socialists who rejected the leadership of the Communists' stooge, Nenni, eight months ago, are willing to join in such a coalition. The leader of the Socialist Workers Party, Giuseppe Saragat, is one of the truest and ablest democrats to be found in Western Europe. But here again the differences between the right-wing Socialists and the other democratic parties over the need for resort to a managed economy have long delayed the establishment of the kind of coalition that can best save the Italian people from a Communist dictatorship.

The other two uncertainties that enshroud the fate of the de Gasperi Government must be resolved in Washington. Living standards will not be raised, and economic recovery will not be advanced, unless emergency relief as well as help under the Marshall plan are made available promptly.

The ability of the present democratic government of Italy to maintain itself in the face of a Communist rebellion raises an even graver question.

As I wrote many months ago in this column, the Italian Communists are not only well organized and well financed, but they are well armed. They can instantly receive further arms and munitions from across the Yugoslav frontier. The Italian Government is permitted by the present peace treaty to keep no more than 200,000 men under arms, including the 70,000 Carabinieri.

DIRECT THREAT TO U. S.

The American people surely recognize that the overthrow by an armed Communist minority of the democratic governments of Western Europe would endanger the safety of the United States. Were this country to permit such an attempt to succeed, the declared policy of the American Government would be doomed, and that is the only policy that can bring about a world order under which the American people could safely live.

Had the American Government been empowered and prepared in 1933 to announce that Axis aggression against the democracies would be regarded as aggression against the United States, it is more than probable that the second World War could have been averted. Were the Congress of the United States now to declare unequivocally by joint resolution that any Soviet-inspired attempt to overthrow by armed force the freely elected and constitutional governments of Western Europe would be considered an attack against the United States, it is equally improbable that such an attempt would be made.

People's Platform

Profit For Queen City

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE splendid co-operation and liberal support which you gave to the Queen City Classic is deeply appreciated. The good will engendered throughout the city is also appreciated by the Second Ward and West Charlotte High Schools.

The financial success of the game has made possible greatly needed improvements in the athletic department of both schools. Soon there will be available to our students increased opportunities for the physical and moral development which a well rounded athletic program affords.

The gross income from the game was $3,101.80; $540.75 was derived from student activity funds and $2,651.05 from ticket sales, advance and at the game. Our expenses were $257.31, leaving a net profit of $2,844.49.

For the many varied benefits derived from the Queen City Classic, we are deeply grateful to loyal friends like you who made it so great a success.

Sincerely,

—Planning Committee of Queen City Classic
K. Diamond, Co-Chairman
J. F. Towns, Co-Chairman

Samuel Grafton

Civil Liberties

NEW YORK

I PITY those who consider they are not called upon to defend the civil liberties of the dismissed Hollywood writers, and who feel that they still wait for a happier occasion and an easier issue on which to make their civil liberties fights. There are no happy occasions in the defense of civil liberties. Civil liberties cases always revolve around relatively unpopular figures, taking unpopular positions, usually against the majority view. Where these elements are missing there is, usually, no civil liberties case.

Very few people ever get into trouble on civil liberties by endorsing the majority view, and the number of beloved national figures, popular and appealing, who have their civil liberties taken away is extremely small.

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Those who say, then, that we need not concern ourselves about this case because the issue is the allegation of Communism, or even the refusal of the Hollywood figures concerned to declare themselves on Communism, are talking nonsense. Whom do you think that those who make free with civil liberties are going to pick for their tests? Santa Claus?

Those who intend to reserve their defenses of civil liberties until such time as, say, someone threatens the civil rights of Senator Taft, or Bernard Baruch, have chosen remarkably easy careers for themselves, including the one of waiting until it is too late

There is often a kind of borderline element in civil liberties cases. That is what makes them civil liberties cases. It is precisely on the borderline of belief and behavior that civil liberties are easiest to attack and hardest to defend, which is why the pitched battles take place there.

But the center is safe only when the borderline is safe. And it is a thrinking borderline. It has a dreadful, elastic quality; with every defeat for civil rights, it snaps in closer, and he who dodges a fight on the borderline will find very soon that he has made an engagement for another, closer to home.

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Is that rhetoric? Let us see. Six weeks ago the average American student of government would have said, without hesitation, that any American had a right to think as he pleased politically, to keep his sympathies private, and to hold his job regardless of his political feelings or his willingness to discuss them in public. Who will say so now? What has happened to the ten Hollywood figures, in being cited for contempt of Congress, and in being, perhaps, deprived of their livelihoods, is serious. But what has happened to the 30,000 other workers in the motion picture industry is even more serious.

One of their rights has been eroded and washed away; the effect is as sweeping as if a new amendment to the Constitution had been adopted, or a new law passed. All this has been done without legislation, and without negotiation; there has been a change of status for all workers in the industry, and in related industries, and it has taken place between minutes, without their participation or consent.

Yet how can one defend the 30,000 without defending the ten? How can you fight the battle, except where the battle is? You may regret that the battle has been joined on what I call the unpopular borderline of behavior, but you cannot afford to lose by forfeit because you prefer to wait for another fight, on a cozier field.

If you believe in human liberty, you do not choose civil liberties issues; they choose you, as this one does.

Freedom Train

Freeing The Slaves

By CHARLES W. DUKE
(Reprinted from Editor & Publisher)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the "Great Emancipator," embodied a growing American abhorrence of slavery that was climaxed by the Civil War of 1861-1865. Although Lincoln was a lifelong opponent of the slave system, he reached his great decision to attack the "peculiar institution" of the South only because he felt the success of the Union cause required it.

In his famous letter to Horace Greeley, editor of The New York Tribune, dated Aug. 22, 1862, Mr. Lincoln wrote: "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and it is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that."

In a message to Congress in March, 1862, Lincoln urged recognition of the principle of compensation to the states that would abolish slavery. A resolution to that effect was passed but no slaveholding State could be persuaded to free its slaves on such a basis. In April same year, Lincoln signed a Congress in the District of Columbia, with compensation to slaveowners, and in July slavery was prohibited in the territories.

It was in this setting that "Honest Abe" wrote his first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. In it, he sets down for the first time his plan for the abolition of slavery. This was the first material move toward achievement of his desired goal. That preliminary first draft, bearing the date of July 14, 1862, is on Freedom Train, being made available by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach. History shows, however, that it was not until Sept. 23, 1862, that President Lincoln issued his preliminary Proclamation of Emancipation.

By virtue of his authority as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, Mr. Lincoln declared that on Jan. 1, 1863 all slaves within any state or district then declared to be in rebellion against the United States "shall be then, thenceforth, and forever free." The first and signature page of the official proclamation, bearing Lincoln's signature and the seal of the United States, are shown on the train. They come from the National Archives.

In order to place above question the step he had taken with doubtful constitutional authority and to remove slavery from the whole country, Mr. Lincoln urged upon Congress the adoption of a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting slavery in all parts of the country. Shown on the train is the original proposal, dated Jan. 11, 1864, by which the Senate proposed a joint resolution to amend the Constitution.

After a long and bitter fight in Congress, this project was sent to the states for ratification in January, 1865. Extraordinary measures were recognized as necessary to win the support of the required three-fourths of the states. One more sure vote for the amendment was secured in the North by the admission of Nevada to the Union. When Lee surrendered and with the collapse of the Confederacy soon thereafter, it became possible for the Federal military authorities to force ratification by a sufficient number of Southern states. The 13th Amendment became effective —and was so declared—Dec. 18, 1865.

Displayed also on Freedom Train is an enlarged photograph of the engrossed joint resolution of Congress proposing the 14th Amendment. This extends citizenship to all persons born in the United States and seeks to protect life, liberty and property from arbitrary action by the states. It was designed to guarantee civil rights to the Negro and to reduce Congressional representations in the proportion that the states denied suffrage to adult male citizens. First passed in Congress on June 16, 1866, it was declared completed on July 28, 1868. Presented also is a copy of the 15th Amendment. It is shown only as an enlarged photograph because the original is bound with many other laws in a single volume that is too large for display on Freedom Train. This was the third of the three constitutional amendments growing directly out of the War Between the States. This had to do with enfranchisement of the Negro.

No exhibit of Lincolniana would be truly representative without some selection from the speech of the immortal document beginning: "Four score and seven years ago I brought forth on this continent," at Gettysburg on the afternoon of Nov. 19, 1863, upon the occasion of the dedication of a cemetery for the Civil War dead.

Americans who flock to Freedom Train may see the identical manuscript which Lincoln held in his hand on that fateful day. Lincoln is known to have written two drafts of the speech. It was the second that he delivered, and the one here shown. Both were given by the President to his secretary, John Hay, whose three children presented them to the Library of Congress in 1916.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Meyers Delayed Safer Transport Planes

WASHINGTON

ONE of the most tragic blunders of the war was the shooting down of 800 American paratroopers by Allied gunners over Sicily. After losing 23 transport planes loaded with 400 paratroopers on July 13, 1943, we lost 21 planes loaded with almost 400 men on July 14—chiefly shot down by Allied gunners.

Although this column published some of the facts at the time, part of the story of this tragic loss was hushed up by wartime censorship.

Last week, however, Stuart Symington, Secretary for Air, proclaimed that he wanted no brass hats protected when it comes to shenanigans inside the Air Corps.

Actually, if all the truth came out regarding certain Air Corps cronies, it would be very near to some of Symington's own close Air Corps friends.

Tried To Tell

IN THE case of General Meyers, this column has already told how Meyers deceived Congress and the White House on airplane production, and how other brass hats condoned it. But in the case of the needlessly killed paratroopers, one man who tried to prevent future tragedies of this kind—Lieut. Col. David Laux—was exiled to the Army's Siberia. One day after he urged the Secretary of War to investigate failure to protect paratroopers, Laux was flown to Nome, Alaska, nearest American point to the real Siberia, to sit there, idle, for the duration of the war.

Another officer, Brig. Gen. Ray Aloysius Dunn, who protested against failure to safeguard paratroopers over Sicily, was broken to the rank of Colonel and sent to the Pacific.

Burned To Cinders

HE WASN'T wanted around Washington, where he might talk to newspapermen. The whole tragic story of Army cover-up revolves around the fact that a small group of officers tried to get paratrooper transport planes equipped with armor plates around the pilot's seat and with self-sealing gasoline tanks. Without self-sealing tanks, a bullet penetrating the transport's gas tanks caused it to burst into flames. The paratroopers inside were burned to cinders before they had half a chance to bail out.

Efforts to get this protection on transport planes were increased after the Sicilian tragedy. It was well known that when D-Day, with thousands of U. S. paratroopers flying over Normandy, more men might be lost unless their transports were equipped at least with self-sealing tanks.

This armor plate protection was approved by Maj. Gen. P. L. Williams and by Col. Ralph Bagby, Chief of Staff of Airborne Infantry in the Mediterranean. Finally an order was written and sent to Gen. Bennett Meyers, in charge of airplane procurement. He was to install self-sealing tanks in paratroop transports.

But nothing happened. Weeks dragged by. The cross-Channel invasion of France was coming nearer. But still nothing happened. Finally Colonel Laux, one of the officers who had seen men murdered over Sicily, sat down and wrote a letter to Secretary of War Stimson. And to make sure Stimson got it, Laux took the letter to Stimson's home and delivered it personally to Mrs. Stimson.

For doing this, Colonel Laux next morning was ordered to Nome, Alaska.

Text Of Laux Letter

THIS columnist has now obtained a copy of Laux's letter, dated June 1, 1944. Pertinent portions follow:

"In commenting upon the loss of troop-carrier aircraft at Catania, Sicily, last July 13-14, you stated: 'To say that the Army will tolerate blundering or endeavor to cover it up is simply not true.'

"In view of your statement," continued Colonel Laux, "I feel confident that you would not tolerate the situation which exists in connection with self-sealing tanks for troop-carrier aircraft, if you knew the facts.

"When Mr. Lovett (then Assistant Secretary of War for Air, now Under Secretary of State) indicated that Drew Pearson was about to release an article showing that the Army Air Forces were asleep at the switch on this subject, I was directed by my immediate superior to prepare a defense for the Army Air Forces in these words:

"'Even though we all recognize the necessity for self-sealing tanks in troop-carrier aircraft, that is not the point. The Army Air Forces are being attacked and our job is to protect the Chief (Gen. Hap. Arnold). It is now up to us to present all the reasons why we should not have self-sealing tanks.'

"I declined to prepare such a document . . .

'Little Short Of Murder'

"I HAVE recently completed 18 months overseas duty, participating in both the Sicilian and Italian troop-carrier operations. At Catania, Sicily, on the nigh of July 13-14, I stood in the navigator's dome of the leading troop-carrier aircraft and watched the Navy and the enemy shoot down our planes.

"Consequently, I realize the necessity of self-sealing tanks to a degree that cannot be appreciated by anyone who has not gone into combat in troop-carrier aircraft. That belief is shared by every troop-carrier pilot and every troop-carrier officer who has been charged with the responsibility of sending men into combat.

"It is little short of murder. I have waged many battles within this Headquarters in an effort to correct the situation—without success. However, a copy of the latest staff study on the subject is attached for your information.

"The actual record of self-sealing tanks for troop-carrier aircraft will show that they have been demanded consistently for a period of a year and a half—that the material is available—that the priority of other Air Forces projects would not be affected—and that the tanks could have been produced and delivered to the United Kingdom in time for the coming invasion."

Secretary of War Stimson, however, merely referred this letter to one of the officers who had opposed self-sealing tanks—Gen. Barney Giles—and later in the day, Colonel Laux, the man who dared correct a bad Army blunder, found himself flying to Nome, Alaska, with no orders other than to sit there for the war's duration.

If Secretary for Air Symington really wants to clean up brass-hat blunders, he might call Colonel Laux to get the full story. If not, the rest of the story will be told in this column shortly.