THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

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CROSBY COLUMN

Greek drama can be done on the radio, but not the way Mutual Broadcasting System did "The Trojan Woman" recently. Columnist John Crosby takes off on the subject on page 2-A today.

U. S. MAKES NEW PHONE PEACE MOVE

Kuester Announces Retirement From C.. Of C. Position

City Booster Is Ending Long Service To Charlotte

Stepping Down At Year's End

By J. A. DALY
Charlotte News Staff Writer

After 40 years of service as Charlotte's "chief booster," Clarence O. Kuester announced today his retirement as executive vice-president of effective at the close of this year.

This announcement was made to an admiring, sympathetic and intently listening board of directors in monthly session this afternoon in Hotel Charlotte.

Mr. Kuester, Charlotte's official lamplighter in his boyhood, explained that his decision was being presented at this time to the board and J. H. Bridges, president, to allow ample time to engage "a fully qualified, younger man for the duty of leading the Chamber of Commerce activities in the years of great growth that are ahead of our city."

Born in Charlotte in 1876, when the community had about 3,000 population, Mr. Kuester will be 71 years of age on June 5.

His dramatic statement meant that one of the two Carolinas' most colorful and aggressive leaders for commercial, industrial and civic progress was removing himself voluntarily from official and active leadership postwar community development activities.

When Mr. Kuester concluded his declaration, members of the directorate voiced feelingly brief tributes to his ability, loyalty and diplomatic aggressiveness which through the years lifted him to an outstanding position among the professional builders of communities.

BRIDGES' COMMENT

At adjournment of the directorate's session, Mr. Bridges, as president, made this comment to the press:

"The officers and directors of the Chamber of Commerce desire that it should be definitely understood by the membership and the public that Mr. Kuester will continue in close association with this organization, though he will retire as executive vice-president and manager."

Mr. Bridges explained that "Mr. Kuester's services will continue to be available at any time when his advice and experience can be utilized to advance the best interests of Charlotte, after his successor has taken over the manager's duties. That is his expressed desire, one which is appreciated by the board."

Mr. Bridges presented the decision by Mr. Kuester to the board by a brief statement on behalf of the veteran executive officer. He added that it is Mr. Kuester's wish that the retirement become effective at the end of this year.

W. C. Dowd Jr., as a longtime friend and associate of Mr. Kuester and as a member of the directorate, moved that Mr. Kuester's "decision be accepted with regret and that at the proper time more appropriate recognition be taken of it."

Mr. Dowd further moved that Mr. Bridges, as president, be authorized to name a committee of five from the directorate to begin searching for a successor to Mr. Kuester.

TRIBUTE PAID

Speaking a tribute in which other members of the group concurred, Mr. Dowd said that he deeply regretted to see Mr. Kuester "step aside", and he highly praised Mr. Kuester's service that rendered many notable accomplishments in advancement of Charlotte.

Seconded by Col. Norman Pease, industrial department chairman, this motion was adopted unanimously.

The Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and its predecessor organizations have operated continuously since 1887. Mr. Kuester's first interest in Chamber of Commerce work grew out of the fact that, around the age of ten years, he was the floorsweeper at the one-

See KUESTER on page 6-A

CLARENCE O. KUESTER today announced his retirement as executive vice-president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce after 40 years' service as the city's chief booster. His retirement will be effective at the end of the year.

Russia And U. S. Blamed By Wallace

Says Toughness Breeds Toughness

PARIS — (AP) — Russia and the United States "have undermined the solemn cause for which their young men died," Henry A. Wallace said tonight.

Earlier in an interview, Wallace declared that the Soviet Union should get from 10 to 17 billions of dollars worth of goods and services under a $50,000,000,000 world reconstruction program, in return for which the Russians should be required to forego heavy reparations demands upon Germany.

Declaring he had found in western Europe strong support for his world unity campaign, the former American vice-president in an address prepared for a meeting sponsored by the American Veterans Committee, said both Russian Communism and American capitalism must change their present courses if peace is to be preserved.

The speech, described as a restatement of Wallace's "fundamental convictions," included the most definitive declaration on Communism the American has made since his arrival in Europe two weeks ago.

UNDERSTANDING URGED

Appealing for conciliation and understanding, he asserted:

"I believe that toughness breeds toughness and that both the United States and Russia by their actions have already undermined the solemn cause for which their young men died."

Wallace said he recognized that conflicts existed among capitalist, socialist and Communist societies, but refused to concede these conflicts were irreconcilable.

"I believe that the United States is committed by her history to a democratic civilization of competitive enterprise and that most of the rest of the world, afflicted by the misery of war and scarcity, is moving towards Socialism or Communism," he said.

"I believe Russia is committed by her history of centuries of Czarist tyranny to the use of representative measures as an essential element in holding the Soviets together until such time as an abundance of consumers goods makes possible the freedoms which mean so much to us in the west.

DARDANELLES AMBITIONS

"I believe Russia is committed by both Czarist history and geography to push continually for free access to the Mediterranean through the Dardanelles. I believe the religion of Russia will continue to be Communism and that even though there is no Russia-inspired international in the future, local Communists playing the Moscow line by ear will have considerable influence in all nations where there is scarcity.

"I believe that Communism grows rapidly in significance in all areas where there is scarcity or racial discrimination. I believe that Communism like early Christianity, will thrive under the martydom of persecution."

Union Council Ultimatum

UAW Insists That GM Give 15-Cent Hourly Pay Raise

DETROIT — (AP) — The CIO United Auto Workers' 200-man National General Motors Council voted unanimously today to demand from the corporation a straight 15-cent hourly wage increase without any strings attached.

General Motors had turned down the 15-cent union proposal following a two and one-half hour extraordinary negotiating session Tuesday night.

The UAW's top negotiators will take the council's ultimatum back to another conference with the corporation.

Rejection of General Motor's latest offer of 11 1/2 cents hourly wage hike and an additional 3 1/2 cents for six annual holidays pay came in a voice vote by the national council after President Walter P. Reuther had strongly recommended that action.

In a speech lasting an hour and a half, the red-haired Reuther reiterated in strong language that the auto workers should press for a straight 15 cents increase without General Motors "telling us how we should spend it."

The union had made two proposals to General Motors Tuesday night in addition to the flat 15-cent hourly raise and the corporation rejected all of them.

A union announcement said the National Council will meet again tonight at 8 P. M. and will be ready to consider any proposal that may develop from the afternoon negotiating session with GM.

Reuther denounced the CIO United Electrical Workers and United Rubber Workers for signing contracts with GM on the basis of the corporation's latest offer to the auto workers. The electrical workers accepted an increase of 18 1/2 cents a year ago in the midst of the 113-day GM strike, a figure that subsequently was accepted by the auto workers.

The UAW president said these two unions had been asked to hold up on their wage agreements but that they signed without acknowledging the suggestion and without notification to Phil Murray, CIO president.

At the close of last night's session, Reuther charged GM with an "arrogant, arbitrary attitude" in demanding acceptance of its offer of 11 1/2 cents hourly, with an additional 3 1/2 cents for the six holidays.

Grocery Chain Slashes

Many Towns Join Price Cut Plan

NEWBURYPORT, Mass. — (AP) — A New England grocery chain today slashed prices 30 per cent and a half dozen other communities prepared to join with this city in "rolling back" prices.

The Clover Farm chain—128 independently-owned stores in Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire — announced effective immediately the price cut on 150 items.

Buyers' response to a general 10 per cent price cut in Newburyport, where the movement originated yesterday, sent observers from other cities away enthusiastic about taking similar steps to combat inflation.

Merchants in Leominster—a central Massachusetts city of 23,000—announced tomorrow they would inaugurate a three-day experiment known as "devaluation days" with a general 10 per cent cut in prices.

SALES UP

Newburyport stores reported their sales were up from 10 to 46 per cent over normal Tuesday's business, with automobile accessories showing the biggest gain.

Department store sales were up 20 to 25 per cent; food 15 to 20 per cent; clothing 25 to 30 per cent; jewelry and hardware 10 to 15 per cent.

Norman J. Randell, executive secretary of the city's development council, said that inquiries on details of how the plan worked came from Ansonia, Conn., and Brattleboro, Vt. — both cities in which they were ready to embark on the same experiment.

The response from wholesalers in signifying willingness to go along with retailers in cutting prices has been good, Randell said.

Three large suppliers — a Lowell hosiery firm, a candy manufacturer and a men's clothier—have already granted discounts ranging from 10 to 15 per cent to the stores on all but a few items.

Hundreds of shoppers from cities and towns adjoining Newburyport joined in yesterday's buying spree, Randell said, but the big test is expected tomorrow and Saturday — paydays for most industrial firms here.

Merchants of the neighboring town of Amesbury voted unanimously last night to adopt the "Newburyport plan" after observers reported that the first day of the experiment appeared to be "highly successful."

Portsmouth, N. H., business men, who also sent a delegation to Newburyport yesterday—the first day of the experiment—took steps to obtain price cut pledges which would put the program in operation in that shibuilding city.

Taft Opens Debate

Changes Urged In Labor Laws

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Senator Taft, Republican, Ohio, told the Senate today the labor laws must be changed because they have permitted "many injustices, for the most part on behalf of unions."

Opening debate on the Senate's general labor bill, Taft said that "on the surface" the need for revision of the laws is due also to "the large number of strikes" which affect the general welfare.

The Senate bill, as drawn by its Labor Committee, would impose many checks on unions and strikes, but even so it is less drastic—from the standpoint of unions — than the bill passed overwhelmingly by the House last week.

Taft told his colleagues that before passage of the Clayton Act, the Norris-La Guardia Anti-Injunction Act and the Wagner Collective Bargaining Act several years ago, employers had "all the advantage."

PENDULUM SWUNG

These laws all deal with rights of unions and workers, and Taft said they swung the pendulum to the other extreme.

"Today the power in collective bargaining is all on the side of labor unions, except perhaps in the case of the largest corporations," he added.

Taft said the goal should be to bring both labor and management to a point "where neither will feel they can make an unreasonable demand and get away with it."

Declaring that the solution of labor-management strife "must rest in a free economy based on free collective bargaining," Taft said:

"The alternative is Government wage fixing, price fixing and planned economy."

Relief Bill Debate On

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Rep. Eaton, Republican, New Jersey, opening debate on the Administration's $350,000,000 foreign relief measure, asserted today that civilization faces a choice between "freedom, which is the American way, and slavery which is the Russian way."

Eaton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, termed the communistic ideology "a mortal enemy."

As he took the floor, Eaton acknowledged a move of gathering momentum to rewrite the relief bill on the floor—one primarily aimed at spelling out the countries to which aid would be sent and denying it to nations under communistic rule.

GREEK-TURK AID VOTED

The relief measure is separate from the $400,000,000 aid program for Greece and Turkey which was approved by the Senate yesterday and sent to the House.

In tones of sarcasm, Eaton told his Republican colleagues that if they try to revamp the relief bill "I hope to God you have a good time," and added that if such an attempt is successful, it will amount to a vote of no confidence" in the foreign affairs committee. He said that if that happened, he would call the committee together for a decision on whether to disband.

Rep. Cox, Democrat, Georgia, broke in to say he was convinced that this nation has permitted itself to be "used by Russia to provide relief funds for the benefit of the Soviet Union.

Murray Plans To Meet Green

PITTSBURGH—(AP)—Philip Murray, CIO president, said today he was arranging "as soon as possible" to meet with AFL President William Green to discuss unification of the two labor organizations.

"We cannot meet tomorrow," Murray told reporters today following the signing of a two-year contract with U. S. Steel, "but I'm arranging to meet him as soon as possible."

The unification meeting was proposed by Green Monday in a telegram to the CIO chief. Green suggested the conference be held in Washington tomorrow morning.

Bag Filled With U. N. Papers Lost

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y. — (AP) — Trygve Lie, secretary general of the United Nations, said today that a suitcase full of documents had disappeared while the Security Council's Balkans Investigation Commission was en route from Greece to Geneva.

Lie said, however, that there was still no evidence that the documents had been stolen and that the Commission is trying to trace the suitcase.

Housing Bill Approved

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Senate Banking Committee approved 7 to 6 today a long-range housing bill designed to encourage construction of 15,000,000 homes by 1958.

Senator Buck, Republican of Delaware told reporters the Committee deadlocked, 6 to 6, on the first vote and had to telephone Senator Maybank, Democrat of South Carolina, who was on an official visit to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., to break the tie. Maybank voted for the plan.

The Senate passed a similar bill during the last session of Congress, but the measure was shelved in the House. Senators Wagner, Democrat of New York, Ellender, Democrat of Louisiana and Taft, Republican of Ohio, sponsored both bills.

COST ESTIMATE

Buck estimates the cost of the program to the Federal Government at about $7,500,000,000 over a 45-year period.

Among provisions opposed by many private builders is one authorizing construction of 500,000 public housing units in the first four years after enactment of the bill. On this part of the program, the Federal Government would subsidize states and local communities at the rate of $26,400,000 each year for four years.

The Federal grant for the next 41 years would about to about $105,000,000 annually.

On private construction, purchasers would be required to make a down payment of only five per cent on homes costing up to $5,000. Insured loans would cover 95 per cent of the cost at four per cent interest over a period of 30 years.

Calcutta Police Hurl Tear Gas At Crowds

CALCUTTA — (AP) — Tear gas bombs were used by police today to disperse milling crowds in the southern sector of this city as Hindus held a one-day strike protesting alleged police maltreatment of citizens in connection with the recent wave of communal disturbances.

Darts From Room To Room Ahead Of Firemen

Firebug Starts Seven Blazes At Duke Hospital

DURHAM —(AP)— Police and firemen today are seeking a firebug who set seven fires at Duke Hospital early today, kept firemen and hospital officials on the run for four hours, and caused extensive damage to the X-ray storage room and its files.

The first fire broke out at 2:30 A. M., and it was not until 6:40 that all the fires were out, the firebug running just ahead of the firemen all the time, darting from one floor to the next and touching off blazes.

H. C. Mickey, superintendent of the hospital, said there was no panic among the patients and that few, if any, knew what was going on. He said he has "no idea, no information or no suspects," and "can find no reason to believe why anyone would do such a thing."

Damage to the X-ray films in the storage room is impossible to estimate, according to Mickey, who said the records were "invaluable." Only the fact that the films were of the new safety type prevented a possible disaster, Mickey said, as the old type film when burning would have given off a very poisonous gas, 127 people having been killed in such a way in a Cleveland clinic in 1929.

The first fire broke out in a trash can in a medical laboratory on the second floor near the center of the building. A nurse and the intern then noticed smoke coming down the steps from the third floor. They ran up and found that a large wicker basket which had been filled and placed in a corridor was on fire.

When they returned to the second floor they found another trash can fire in the X-ray observing room.

A few minutes later a nurse noticed a window shade on fire in the secretary's lounge room in the basement of the hospital. Firemen rushed down and put it out.

It was not long before the firemen were called to the orthopaedic clinic on the first floor where a rubber coat hanging against the wall had been set on fire.

Shortly thereafter firemen were dispatched to the fourth floor where another trash basket had been set on fire in a corridor.

At 5:45 an intern noticed dense smoke coming out of the X-ray storage room on the second floor directly across the corridor from the X-ray observation room where one of the other fires had been set.

A number of X-ray films in the rear of the room had been set on fire, and Mickey said that approximately 10,000 were destroyed and that a good many others were damaged.

The most extensive damage was done in the X-ray observation room, all of the other blazes, except the second one, being put out, resulting in negligible damage. The second blaze caused damage estimated at $200 to the walls and ceiling.

Mickey said he and other hospital officials have "made a mental picture and gone through the records to see who has been discharged and to find out if there have been any dissatisfied patients" but have been unable to put the finger of suspicion on anyone.

Council Due To Adjourn

MOSCOW — (AP) — Secretary of State Marshall said today that if the Austrian peace treaty is not completed by September, the United States favors referring the whole problem to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

A highly placed American informant said on leaving the Council of Foreign Ministers, where Marshall said the Russians had not altered their position on the deadlocked issues of the Austrian treaty, that it looked as if the Council would adjourn sine die tomorrow.

REDS REJECT PROPOSAL

In a swift moving session, Marshall told the Council also that the Russians had rejected the American proposal for a four-power German disarmament treaty.

Replying to this charge, Russian Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov said that it was the United States which had blocked it by rejecting the Soviet amendments proposed to such a treaty.

Meanwhile, delegations were packing, and from all appearances the visiting diplomats and their staffs expected to be gone from Moscow within three or four days after the conference ends.

The French are scheduled to go aboard a special train leaving as soon as possible after the final session. Luggage from the French Embassy was reported being stowed aboard the train today.

Arline Judge Free To Take 5th Mate

MIAMI, Fla.—(AP)—Arline Judge was free today to marry her fifth husband, and the diminutive movie actress said she would wed Robert Topping of New York, brother of one of her former husbands, Dan Topping.

A divorce decree was recorded here yesterday granting Miss Judge her freedom from Vincent Morgan Ryan, Chicago advertising man. They married in Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 3, 1945.

Miss Judge testified Ryan made fun of her career. She said she is a resident of Miami Beach. The decree was signed by Circuit Judge N. Vernon Hawthorne.

Marion Hutton To Try Out For Film Role

HOLLYWOOD —(AP)— Actress Marion Hutton received a horseshoe, for luck, and a bouquet of roses from her sister, Betty, when she arrived from New York yesterday to test for a screen role originally planned for Betty.

The latter had another assignment, so she suggested that her producer test Marion. He made the arrangements, having heard Marion sing in a Boston night club.

Bell Units And Unions Invited To Conference

Would Reopen Negotiations

WASHINGTON — (AP) — In a fresh step toward ending the telephone strike, the Government today asked three key units of the Bell Telephone System and unions to meet with Federal conciliators.

Invitations to reopen negotiations were issued to the Long Lines Division of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., the Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. and the Western Electric Company's installation and manufacturing departments.

Conciliation Director Edgar L. Warren said the meetings will be arranged as soon as possible — tomorrow he hoped. Warren added to newsmen:

"We certainly hope we will be able to get something out of this conference."

11TH DAY OF STRIKE

This was the 17th day of the deadlocked dispute between the Bell System and the striking National Federation of Telephone Workers.

Conciliation conferences with the AT&T Long Lines and the Southwestern Company were held before the strike began April 7, but ended without a settlement.

The announcement of the invitations was issued after Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach conferred separately with Chairman Charles R. Denny of the Communications Commission and these union leaders:

Joseph A. Beirne, president of the National Federation of Telephone Workers; John J. Moran, vice-president; and John L. Crull of the National Bargaining Committee.

While the talks were under way at the Labor Department, CIO President Philip Murray issued a statement calling upon the American Telephone and Telegraph Company to begin collective bargaining with telephone workers on a national basis in an effort to end the strike.

Murray, who is in Pittsburgh, said that this would be "an easy way to settle the strike."

"If a spirit of willingness to go half way is manifested by the company, if it engages immediately in real collective bargaining with the union, I am sure that the strike can be quickly settled."

Murray asserted that the economic facts of the case are clear, "that the telephone employees are entitled to wage increases."

At Philadelphia

Demonstrators Mar Flagstad Appearance

PHILADELPHIA — (AP) — The aroma of stench bombs and boos filled the hallowed Academy of Music at the Kirsten Flagstad concert in what a music critic today described as the "worst demonstration" ever experienced at the Academy.

The outbreak came at a concert given by the Norwegian soprano as picketts paraded before the Academy with signs reading: "Flagstad preferred a Nazi regime—don't play second fiddle!—stay out" and "artists are not above judgment. We condemned Hitler! We condemn Flagstad!"

More than 1,000 persons were present when Mme. Flagstad made her initial appearance on stage. She was greeted with a wild ovation, which lasted for more than a moment and her first selection was well received.

However, booing began and the first stench bomb was dropped in the loges. But Mme. Flagstad's supporters were not driven out.

Ushers and detectives ejected hecklers as another stench bomb was dropped.

Then several of the patrons accosted a heckler and for a few moments before detectives converged on the scene, there was a free-for-all virtually at the singer's feet with opposing sides shouting "Communist" and "Fascist", at each other.

No arrests were made.

The Philadelphia Inquirer music critic, Linton Martin, said the demonstration was the worst ever experienced at the Academy.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy this afternoon, tonight, and tomorrow.

Temperature at 2:30	63
High and low last 24 hours	63-43
Sunset today	7:02
Sunrise tomorrow	5:49
Sunset today	7:02
Sunrise tomorrow	5:48

More Weather Data on page 6-A