THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Courtesy And The Parking Problem

MAYOR BAXTER'S idea of substituting a friendly admonition for a fine in the case of out-of-towners who violate minor traffic and parking regulations has a certain wholesome charm about it. It is a nice gesture of civic courtesy, and perhaps a practical one for a city that depends, as Charlotte does, upon the residents of a large trading area for its prosperity.

There are, however, a good many objections to it, at least insofar as it concerns parking. We are inclined to agree that a stranger who fails to see a red light, undertakes an illegal left turn, or honks his horn out of turn should be treated to a word of caution rather than a summons, and we suspect that in most cases he always has been. We doubt, on the other hand, if a congested city in which parking is recognized as the number one traffic problem can afford to suspend the rules as a matter of official policy.

The whole idea of limited parking is to make available the maximum amount of curb space to the maximum number of motorists. According to the Planning Board figures curb-parking cannot begin to accommodate all those who want, and need, to use it even when the meter system functions perfectly. Because of this the Board is now considering off-street parking in lots, storage garages, etc. as the only feasible solution to our present strangulation.

The invitation to out-of-towners to park as long as they like (and that, of course, will be the effect of granting them a special immunity to traffic court action) is certain to reduce the amount of curb-parking now available. The extent of the reduction is anybody's guess, but it will be considerable.

The only method of distinguishing between local and out-of-town cars is the presence or absence of a City license sticker on the windshield. Thus the 15 to 20 thousands residents of Charlotte whose homes are outside the present City limits and who therefore are not required to sport a windshield sticker will be "out-of-towners" in the eyes of the law and thus entitled to ignore the angry red of the parking meters.

This is certain to work a hardship on City residents who, incidentally, bear the expense of maintaining the streets they won't be able to park on. But it will also work a hardship on those authentic out-of-towners it is supposed to benefit, for it will make downtown parking space even harder for them to find.

The Mayor's idea is to extend the privilege only to "those who unintentionally violate a traffic rule." But the question of intent, in regard to parking particularly, is almost impossible to determine. The Mayor's proposal should be given a fair trial, but we fear, human nature being what it is, that it is doomed to failure. We don't want out-of-towners to think our fair City rude and unfeeling, but this effort to be mannerly certainly must not be allowed to further complicate our desperate parking and traffic problems.

'They Sav He's Very Prosperous'

Marquis Childs

Mr. Dewey's Campaign

ALBANY, N. Y.

THE visitor from Washington is impressed immediately with the majestic calm of this state capital. He is bound to feel as though he had escaped from a species of bedlam to some remote peak in the Himalayas. It has something of the quality of Shrangi-la.

At the center of this calm world is Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. Surrounded by a team of able, completely loyal men, he is moving with calculated assurance toward his goal.

That goal is the Presidency of the United States. Everything that has happened in the past seven months seems to make it more likely that he will achieve the goal. His stock in the public-opinion polls has gone up rapidly. The knowing in Washington and New York who like to think they are ahead of events talk as though it were a foregone conclusion that Dewey will be nominated at the Republican convention in Philadelphia a year from this June.

POSITION DANGER

It may be argued, of course, that this pre-eminent position is in itself a danger so far in advance of an event that can never be certain until the votes are counted. But Dewey's innate caution and the political skill acquired through four intensive campaigns are likely to save him from the kind of indiscretions and blunders which would injure his chances.

There is every indication that Dewey will continue his present policy right up to convention time. He will go on being Governor of New York, resolutely avoiding the quarrels over national policy that focus in the storm center of Washington. The pressure on him to declare himself on major issues will be intense both from within and without his party. But Dewey in the past has shown a remarkable capacity to withstand such pressures.

Next month the Governor will go on a trip to the West, with the Governors' conference in Salt Lake City as his farthest objective. The reporters who regularly cover him here in Albany will go with him. But so will his wife and two sons, and all the emphasis will be on the non-political aspects of the trip.

The party will visit Dewey's home town of Owosso, Mich., where his mother still lives. They will visit Mrs. Dewey's home, Sapulpa, Oklahoma. On this trip Dewey intends to present himself as the friendly, able chief executive of the richest and most populous State in the union who has gone out into the country to renew old ties.

HISTORIC PARALLEL

The parallel with 1931 and '32 is inescapable. Then a Democratic Governor of New York, Franklin D. Roosevelt, was making a record in his own State which was in marked contrast to the conflict and confusion in the nation's capital, where authority was divided, as it is now, between the two parties. Today Dewey points to his reconversion record — the State public housing for veterans, the anti-discrimination bill, the half billion dollar fund available for public works when prices recede somewhat.

Back in 1931, Gov. Roosevelt was careful not to commit himself in the controversial issues that plagued Herbert Hoover as the advance of depression deepened to a major crisis. And until after he was nominated, Roosevelt ignored the scandalous mess created by the late Jimmy Walker in his heyday as Mayor of New York.

The advantages of the candidate who stands above and beyond the Washington vortex are manifold and obvious. Dewey in 1948 can run against both the Democrats AND the Republicans. That is to say, he need not accept responsibility for what his party does or does not do in Congress. In his speeches he can talk about the need to end disunity and confusion in the Federal Government, and his listeners will interpret it in many ways.

NO SILVER THREADS

Forty-five years old, with a long record of public service behind him, Dewey looks as young as he did ten years ago. If his hair is thinning a little on top, the naked eye can discern no silver threads in its ebon blackness. Members of the loyal team grouped around him have long believed him to be a man of destiny. You get the feeling today that what has gone before is scarcely more than roadwork for the race still to be run.

People's Platform

A Producer On The Price Question

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has been busily engaged for some months now trying to talk prices down, even as Herbert Hoover some years ago tried to talk prices up. Mr. Truman's effort so far has met with no greater success than Mr. Hoover's, which leads to the conclusion that conversation is an ineffective remedy for economic maladjustments.

A more practical approach to the problem was attempted in Newburyport, Massachusetts, where all the merchants in town banded together to cut retail prices ten per cent across the board. It was a brave gesture, but, as the merchants themselves recognized, it was doomed to failure unless it touched off a nationwide reduction of prices all along the chain of production. That did not happen, and the Newburyport plan must be relegated to a place alongside the other noble economic experiments of the past.

There are now indications, however, that other pressures are building at the opposite end of the line—among the producers. High retail prices may temporarily compensate the retailer for a low volume of sales, but they cannot compensate the mass-producer of the goods sold who must reach the maximum market to keep operating costs down. In at least one field the reluctance of distributors and retailers to cut into the heavy profit margins they enjoyed in the days of real shortages forced a producer to take the desperate step of publicly condemning his customers.

The United Fruit Company, the largest producer and importer of bananas, has taken to the newspapers and magazines with advertisements stating flatly that "the spread between the price we are charging for our bananas plus freight and handling charges and the prevailing retail price is, in our opinion, excessive." United's purpose, plainly, is to bring public pressure to bear upon distributors and retailers so that the market price of its product will be brought down to what the company calls "reasonable levels" and consumption of bananas thereby increased.

This is not a question of public interest versus self-interest. United obviously has as great a selfish stake in reducing prices so that it can get a highly perishable commodity of its hands as the distributor or retailer has in clinging to a high mark-up. Rather it is a timely reminder that self-interest and the public interest are usually identical in the long run. Everybody all along the line, from producer to consumer, has a stake in maintaining minimum prices and maximum sales and the rewards for all concerned will be far greater than any temporary advantage to be gained from the artificial perpetuation of an abnormal market.

An Echo From Another Era

FOR a little while it looked as though Sergeant-At-Arms Kenneth Romney of the House of Representatives would provide the GOP with a whole folio of campaign material. Romney was the hapless Democrat who turned up $143,863 short in his accounts when the Republicans started checking through his books in preparation to taking over his office.

Except for one slight detail this would have provided a host of Republican orators with an excuse to mount the stump and point out that the Sergeant's defection was a natural product of the irresponsible, free-spending New Dealing that went on across the corridor from his office. "Why," Honest John Bricker might have thundered, "would you expect this simple man to refrain from dipping into the Congressional till when his Democratic superiors were raiding the public treasury on every possible occasion?"

But, alas, there *was* that detail. The shortages go back a full twenty years, to the halcyon days when a high-collared Republican sat in the White House and GOP watchdogs were ranged outside the Treasury gates. Indeed it was the high-flown Republican boom of 1927 that led to Kenneth Romney's downfall. He made a brief excursion, in the company of a Representative from Florida, into that state's roaring real estate market and came out of it in 1927 with his fingers burned to the tune of $65,000. He kept his books balanced thereafter by virtue of a bundle of bad checks signed by his Congressional friend, but he never managed to get even again.

Romney has been tried and found guilty, and now awaits sentence in Washington. Punishment, we suppose, is due one who couldn't distinguish between the things that are Caesar's and those that are his own, but we hope the Judge won't be too hard on him. His juggling skill concealed his shortages for twenty years, which places his crime in another era—a time when a nation's bad guesses were paying off and some of our best people were equipped with shortages of one sort or another. Romney's story is as out of date as the king-size currency he originally misappropriated, and it isn't half as interesting as Andy May's.

A Social Liability?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

HAVING perused the very numerous articles recently appearing in the local press for and against the establishment of ABC stores I deduce therefrom what seems to be several pertinent conclusions. In the first place it is indisputable that the paramount issue involved in the present local liquor controversy is whether or not prohibition affords a method of alcoholic control superior to every other medium that has been employed. Granting the foregoing assertion to be true then certainly the drys conspicuously failed to make out a substantial case.

In all the voluminous correspondence emanating from dry sources addressed to Charlotte papers virtually nothing was offered to prove that prohibition is practical or at any time contributed to the social and economic welfare of the populace. Now if the drys are capable of answering this major question for reasons satisfactory to themselves they steadfastly and studiously decline to do so.

During the past 50 years dry spokesmen were continually interrogated concerning that definitely outstanding matter. Nevertheless about the only commitment the interested public is able to extract in reply from dry leaders is another rehash of the physiological effects engendered by the excessive use of alcohol and its inherent social iniquities, coupled with ominous predictions in reference to legal liquor stores, and including a heated verbal attempt to impugn the sincerity and integrity of dispensary proponents. No apologies are offered for the flagrant failure of prohibition. The fact that the intelligent public has from time immemorial regarded the abuse of whisky a curse is obviously of little significance to the drys.

Another question relevant to this discussion: How much co-operation have the drys furnished in the formidable task of prohibition enforcement? It apparently doesn't occur to them that owing to overwhelming material and human obstacles dry administration is rendered a stupendous and impossible pursuit. Yet the dry forces seem convinced that prohibition can in some miraculous manner become a perfect success through the sole efforts of our limited police department. The Protestants traditionally boast of a militant church organization. With respect to prohibition however the one occasion on which its votaries display perceptible activity is when their pet measure is threatened by repeal. Under such circumstances I admit the drys manifest the aggressiveness and ingenuity characterizing the professional politician. Most of the time, however, so far as the average dry is concerned, the populace is scarcely aware that prohibition even exists.

And in this connection may I ask why does the geographical element figure so prominently in relationship between prohibition and religion? In New Orleans, for instance, they have Protestant church groups the same as in Charlotte. These denominations in the Louisiana metropolis evince negligable inclination to enter the government province in order to promote some moral issue and there is no resultant deterioration in social standards. Paradoxically here in town we find a decidedly large number of Protestant adherents head over heels in politics to maintain an antiquated social liability and a positive deterrent to progress.

—A. M. GAUNT

Old Story

KANNAPOLIS

Editors, THE NEWS:

IF the bootleggers of Rowan and Mecklenburg Counties spent millions of dollars to perpetuate their illegal interests they could not hope for the success being guaranteed free of cost by the so-called anti-ABC groups. These well meaning citizens are unintentionally supporting the cause of these criminals with their time, money, and even their prayers. Such backing must bring tears of joy to the eyes of these illicit dealers who are nothing more than the spawn of the Eighteenth Amendment.

Many individuals in both wet and dry counties drink excessively and cause manifold suffering to themselves, their families and fellow citizens. Every responsible person is gravely concerned over the tragic headlines caused by the behavior of these maladjusted people. However, no sensible man who discovered his house was infested with termites would seek a solution by building a wall around his dwelling because the destructive forces within would be unaffected. The "ostrich" policy of the prohibitionist advocates "wall building" as he feels secure as long as the harmful germs are not visible. Years ago the prohibitionists snowed the same poor understanding of human nature by securing passage of the Eighteenth Amendment which failed in its intended purpose and resulted in the greatest era of organized crime the nation ever had.

The desired temperance will come only when every individual can be educated to understand the responsibilities and penalties attached to guzzling liquor. Some will require medical attention. Others will have to be assisted to a more livable economic level. Certainly everyone will have to be indoctrinated in the Christian way of life for a Christian conscience will regulate a man's actions much better than a man-made law.

We need a direct approach to the trouble, namely, the heart and mind of the individual. Until this can be accomplished all votes cast will, in effect, favor liquor for those who want it. The only difference is that the drys will vote to retain the bootlegger and his excellent delivery service while the wets are willing to walk to the ABC store.

—L. T. FYE.

Mother's Day

JONESTOWN, MISS.

Editors, THE NEWS:

IT was like breezes of pure, fresh air and radiant sunshine wafted into a stifling atmosphere pregnated with fear, doubt, suspicion and engendering hate, to hear at the close of the day, Mother's Day, as we all had our families around us after attending church services, together, to hear those well trained, clear, modulated voices coming over the Nation's radio in unison prayer to the greatest of all mothers, Mary the Mother of God, and mother of mankind.

Surely many joined on their knees in praise and thanksgiving for chanelizing the greatest power, the power of prayer, united family prayer. Who could resist that sweet, pure voice of the little child, Margaret O'Brien, as she brought to a close this fine program? May we have many more of these to ease aching hearts, soothe and heal wounds and bring us all back to the fundamentals of life: pure, united and holy families.

—MARGARET M. HOOD

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.

Stewart Alsop

Master World Plan

WASHINGTON

IF THE "Truman Doctrine" of containing Soviet political imperialism is to succeed, it must be followed to its logical conclusion. And if it is to be followed to its logical conclusion, the United States must have some new technique of implementing it financially. One reason why this is so may be sensed from the remark of one experienced British diplomat in the Middle East. The American government had made a hard choice in the Greek-Turkish aid policy, but the only possible choice. "But," he added, "what a way to do a job!"

No doubt in the back of his mind was the startling contrast between the British financial approach to the Greek problem and the new American approach. So quietly was it done that only after the Greek crisis came to a head did it become known that since the end of the war, counting all expenditures, the British had poured into Greece the fantastic total of $760,000,000 in the pound-sterling equivalent. Thus it is not surprising that the British, very few of whom have ever really grasped how the American political system actually works, were genuinely surprised and shocked to find that a request for one-third of this amount from the American Congress was accompanied by an enormous hullabaloo and that the policy of aid to Greece was made to seem hardly less than a declaration of war on the Soviet Union.

BASIC WEAKNESS

This British reaction is interesting only in that it serves to demonstrate the basic weakness inherent in the present technique of implementing American economic foreign policy. The British themselves, as their leading economists in Greece were willing to admit, made a vast miscalculation in handling their economic policy in Greece; they attempted unsuccessfully to buy time in installments, and without any master plan, against an overall world settlement. The United States cannot afford to make the same mistake on a world scale.

For it is obvious that what is true of Greece and Turkey is likewise true in many other parts of the world; in Korea, in China, in the Middle East as a whole, possibly in Italy and France. If the "Truman Doctrine" is to work it must be applied, according to a well thought-out master plan, in these and other parts of the world. But no master plan is possible if there is to be piecemeal approach. And above all, world peace will hardly survive a long series of Greek crises, with the Congress being bludgeoned and frightened every six months or so into sticking a costly finger into some new hole in the dike.

LIMITED INSTRUMENTS

Yet no instrumentality now exists for pursuing any other course. The chief financial instruments are the Export-Import Bank and the World Bank. One is American, the other international (although as the biggest investor in the World Bank the American influence there is evidently preponderant). Aside from the fact that neither institute has much left in the kitty, both suffer from the same limitation. For a reasonable certainty of the return of money lent is a requirement for both.

Thus the operations of the Export-Import Bank and of the World Bank must necessarily be concerningly good financial risks. Yet the areas of the world most closely threatened by Soviet political imperialism are precisely those which are bad financial risks. The United States is thus in the position of having committed itself to a policy and of having at the same time no way to make this policy work.

CRISIS UNDERLINED

Two recent developments underline the urgency of the crisis which threatens the Western World. One is the growing monetary crisis described in a recent report in this space. The other is the mounting evidence that the Communist Party line is about to make one of its historic shifts. The real meaning of the French crisis is that there is now a strong likelihood that in those countries where their hold over labor movements is tight, the Communists may soon discard their policy of off-again-on-again collaboration with governments of which they form a part, and use their power in the labor movements to reduce the slowly recovering national economies to chaos.

Another Voice

Lynching At The Bar

YESTERDAY, in the state City of Greenville, S. C., Southern justice, inspired by Southern officials, from Gov. Strom Thurmond down, backed by influential white sentiment, brought to the bar thirty-one white men accused of taking part in the lynching of a Negro. The jailer who unlocked the cell door last February and delivered Willie Earle into the hands of a mob had been unable to recognize any member. This inability is traditional. But police officials were more successful. They have confessions of one sort or another from twenty-six of the accused.

Willie Earle was accused of an evil crime. If guilty, he had robbed and stabbed to death a Greenville taxi driver, but the mob, as is the way with mobs, did not know he was guilty. They did not give him a hearing. Now, with the backing of a strong portion of South Carolina opinion, they themselves face due process of law. Whatever the outcome of the case, this is a red-letter day in the South Carolina courts. —*New York Times.*

Giving 17 billions to Russia, as Hank urges, could leave us a little short elsewhere. Perhaps, though, the Hottentot will settle for a single-dip cone.

While combing the basement for empties to return, don't overlook any boxcars. The railroads would dearly love to have these back, for refills.

We have known old-timers in the business who could knock out a Sunday piece on "What Strange Fate Pursues Owners of the Hope Diamond?" while thinking of something else.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Stassen Finds Soviet Plants Reconverted

WASHINGTON

WORLD traveler Harold Stassen talked off the record to about 60 freshman Republican Congressmen at the Army-Navy Club last week.

Only one question hurled at Stassen went unanswered. It was asked by young Claude Blakewell of Missouri:

"What do you think your chances are for winning the Republican nomination next year?"

Immediately Congressman-at-large William Stratton of Illinois interposed a point of order which was upheld by Chairman Abe McGregor Goth of Idaho.

Most of the evening was spent in a review of Stassen's trip abroad.

"The Russian people hope to see things work out peacefully," Stassen reported. "And I'm not so sure their Government doesn't feel the same way. One thing I did while I was there was try to inspect the plants which I understood had been vital in supplying the Russian Army during the war. Most of them are today converted to peacetime production.

"For instance, the huge tank plant in the Urals, which made one of the finest production records of all Russian plants during the war, is now turning out oil drilling equipment. Another plant I saw is today rolling steel for industrial equipment—during the war it was working on finished war goods."

The Russians, Stassen said, are concentrating on building up the industrial facilities which will eventually enable them to raise their standards of living. And "they are working at it with good spirit."

The ex-Minnesota governor insisted that the Russians feel friendly toward Americans and do not believe inspired stories that the United States is unfriendly toward them.

Conditions in England and France will soon "settle down," Stassen went on, explaining that those countries will eventually emerge with governments of neither the extreme right nor the extreme left.

Stassen did not attack the Greek-Turkish loan, but did gripe about the way in which the issue was brought forth by President Truman.

"The bipartisan foreign policy can't survive dictation by one party," he commended. "Both parties must be in on the formulation of this policy as well as its implementation."

Stassen did insist that if we advance funds in the future for any foreign government, we must know in advance how those funds will be used.

"We can't just hand it over," he argued. "We've got to have something to say about how the money is to be spent. Just like a banker, we've got to know what's to be done with it."

Bad Potsdam Bargain

UNITED STATES foreign policy," Stassen told the GOP Congressmen, "must be more practical. We've got to remember that we're not always 100 per cent right. We've been wrong in the past and we will be again. Byrnes and Truman agreed to an impossibly foggy compact on reparations while they were in Potsdam, and we just can't escape all the blame in that situation. We must be firm, yes; but practical, rather than just tough."

Kentucky's freshman Congressman Thurston Morton asked Stassen how he'd have voted on the Hartley Labor Bill had he been a member of the House. Stassen replied that he had opposed it, and would have voted against it.

"There was a need for labor legislation, but that just went too far," Stassen said.

Rep Jack Javits, New York City Republican, asked whether Stassen favored a hands-off attitude or intelligent planning for possible future depressions.

"Of course, we cannot afford not to plan," Stassen replied. "Two important things have been in mind—we must maintain the strength and purchasing power of labor, and we must strengthen the anti-monopoly fight and the enforcement of the anti-trust laws."

When Javits asked how he would accomplish these objectives, Chairman Goff of Idaho stepped in to enforce the rule of the evening—only one question permitted a member.

Under The Dome

NBC was sore as blazes at Senator Taft when he debated the all-important labor bill with AFL boss Bill Green. Taft merely read an old speech delivered three weeks before and printed in the Congressional Record. Reason: Taft stumbled occasionally was because the print was so fine he could hardly read it. NBC had given him several thousand dollars' worth of time, presumably to tell the public something new. . . . Eugene Casey, Roosevelt's ex-aide, heard that several disabled veterans had been trying to buy Bob Allen's new book, "Our Fair City." So Casey, without telling anyone, ordered "Our Fair City" sent to 178 Army, Navy, and VA hospitals. . . . Ex-Gov. Charlie Edison of New Jersey, who is taking dance lessons at Arthur Murray's, told Murray he hoped that political engagements wouldn't interfere with his finishing the course. "Listen," advised Murray, two former pupils of mine ran unsuccessfully for President of the United States. Maybe if they had taken a few extra lessons they would have made the White House."