THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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'Do You Notice A Kind Of List?'

Let Us Go On Bended Knees . . .

SOUTHERNERS who have been studying the budgetary chips flying out from under the blade of the GOP meataxe are seriously disturbed. They have a right to be. In the name of economy a good many Federal services of the first importance to the South are being seriously curtailed and others are certain to follow.

Two notable examples have cropped up in the past few days. The school lunch program has been slashed to the tune of several million dollars for each of the Southern states. One of the last of the straight humanitarian measures of the New Deal, this has always been a project dear to the hearts of Southern Congressmen; it was saved during the 79th Congress largely by their votes, and it provided one of the few instances when a majority of the Southerners deserted the coalition to vote with their own party. There was good reason for this, of course. The school lunch program was set up on a national basis, but its greatest benefit was to the poverty-stricken schools of the rural South where it helped provide a balanced diet for thousands of children who would not otherwise have known it.

But the other objective of GOP economy poses a far more serious threat to the South. Capital observers report that tremendous pressures are building for a wholesale reduction in appropriations for the Soil Conservation Service. Here again, this is a national program that is of primary interest to the South, where erosion has posed the greatest threat. Through its program of education and actual construction work, the Conservation Service has reclaimed millions of acres of Southern farm land, and checked the deterioration of additional millions. But, impressive as this has been, Dr. Hugh Bennett, the distinguished Tar Heel who heads the Service, insists that the job has only begun. Any major curtailment of the current program, he believes, will not only reduce the opportunity for further improvement, but will also quickly nullify many of the gains made in the past.

The threat to the Soil Conservation Service strikes at the heart of the entire economy of the South. If we fail to protect our land—our greatest resource, next to the people—we shall soon drift back into the regional poverty from which we are just now emerging.

Under the administrations of Franklin Roosevelt the South was labeled the nation's number one economic problem. This hurt the South's pride, but at least it justified the national effort to bring the region abreast of the other sections of the United States. The theory that the South must prosper if the nation as a whole is to prosper is now being abandoned. And the reasons, of course, are primarily political.

The South may protest the sabotage of those Federal programs of which she is a primary beneficiary, but she must do so humbly. It is her own fault that she is now cast in the role of supplicant. She may beg the Republicans who control the 80th Congress to spare her, but she cannot demand their assistance as a right. For the GOP owes the South exactly nothing.

It is perfectly natural for the Republicans to swing their axe at appropriations that mean little to their own constituents. They are following a natural law of politics, as are those Southern Democrats who talk economy but also demand soil conservation and school lunches. In theory a Congressman may be expected to think in terms of the national welfare; in fact his first obligation is to those who elected him.

Here again we are paying, and paying heavily, for the archaic one-party system the South still maintains. Our eggs are in one basket; when the Democrats go out of power the entire region loses its voice in national affairs. In the case of school lunches, soil conservation, and a dozen other Federal services of the first importance to the South, we can only hope that the Republicans will act as statesmen, rising above partisan politics to protect the interests of their natural enemies. It's a pretty thin hope.

Joseph & Stewart Alsop

The Two-Headed Calf

WASHINGTON.

THE formation of a third political party in the next eighteen months is now a positive probability. That is the chief result of Henry Agard Wallace's apocalyptic barnstorming tour across the United States. The Wallace trip has added the final necessary ingredient — acute inflamation of the Wallace ego—which is necessary to a third party venture headed by Wallace.

The skimpy reports in most newspapers have not sufficiently emphasized the great crowds that have turned out to see and hear Wallace all along his route. The crowds have everywhere been organized, of course, by the Communist Party and the extreme left labor groups. Equally obviously, besides a large element of sincerely troubled, wooly-minded people, the crowds have included many who went along in the spirit of yokels gaping at a two-headed calf at a county fair. But to Wallace and his entourage, crowds are crowds. Their applause has indubitably sapped Wallace's remaining will to resist, whatever he may say about it.

PARTY PROJECT

Therefore Wallace can be counted upon to yield to the intoxicating temptation, if the Communists, fellow-travelers and fellow wanderers who now surround him really press him to raise the third party standard. The formation of a third party, as soon as circumstances should be favorable, has been a conspicuous feature of the American Communist line since the war. Working out this equation, the only uncertain factor is seen to be whether the Communist high command considers that the time has come to put its plan into effect.

Precisely in this connection, the Wallace barnstorming tour has produced another important result. Both the White House and the Republicans have had observers posted on the Wallace trail. And they have been sending back to Washington big-eyed estimates of the cash Wallace has raised. In Chicago, for example, 28,000 people came to his meeting, and what is more laid money on the line for this dubious privilege.

SIGNAL AWAITED

At the same time, the Wallace barnstorming has given a powerful impetus to PCA recruiting. For months, the Communist Party directive has made the PCA the chief front group. The major energy of the Communist leadership and rank and file has gone into building a skeleton PCA right across the country. The puzzled, the confused, the seekers after Utopia who have cheered Wallace, are now everywhere being transformed into the flesh on these PCA party-line bones. In short, the leader, the financing, and much of the local machinery of a third party are already in existence. It only remains to give the signal, and a third party will come into full-fledged being.

A third party will not poll a large vote, and will elect no one. Its effect will be, very simply, to encourage the Republicans to nominate a highly conservative, even isolationist candidate, and to elect any candidate the Republicans nominate by cutting Democratic strength in key states. But that will offend neither the Communists nor Wallace. The Communists want the next President to be, if possible, a Republican isolationist of the Robert R. McCormick stripe, in order to neutralize this country in world affairs. As for Wallace, he is sure that any Republican administration will usher in a great depression, and that a great depression will be his great opportunity. "My time," he has said more than once, "is 1952."

TRUMAN'S TASK

Least this forecast seem too positive, it must be repeated that the Communist high command has the final decision as to whether the third party will be launched—and as far as is known, the decision is not made yet. One more point only needs to be added. After making all due discounts, Wallace's response from the country has been impressive. It does not, however, betoken anything but confusion—confusion as to the facts of the world situation, confusion as to what to do about it. The real lesson of the Wallace tour, in short, is that President Truman and the other national leaders still have an immense job ahead, both in explaining to the country how matters stand, and in putting forward a positive, constructive program to bring prosperity and peace to a troubled world.

People's Platform

A Question Of Class?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

WHY I shall vote for the ABC stores.

Perhaps there is not a social club with a fixed place of assemblage in our city or within its environs that does not furnish conveniences for the use of intoxicating liquors or allow its members and their guests to bring in and use intoxicants for beverage purposes; and I am informed by reputable and reliable citizens who say they know of their own knowledge that intoxicating liquors can be readily obtained at any hotel in this, the Queen City of the South.

What incentive or encouragement have the servants had at all these places mentioned, or at the innumerable other places in our city not mentioned, during the life of legal prohibition, to respect prohibition?

Or what incentive or encouragement have the ignorant, the helpless and the poor had during the same period to obey our prohibition laws in such an atmosphere of open assassination of the one and only proper purpose of prohibition, by the intelligent, the wealthy, and the well-to-do, constituting the ruling classes, who procured and have kept in force (but not enforced) our prohibition laws all these years, but with such loopholes, exceptions and provisos therein that they, themselves, could continue the use of intoxicating beverages in their comfortable homes, their fashionable clubs and elsewhere?

The visible and invisible answers to such inquiries, begotten by the conduct and attitude of the upper classes as above reflected, are our liquor-soaked city, full of bootleggers and perhaps as many consumers of intoxicants as if we had open saloons, but divided generally into two classes: first, the white collared club class, composed of prosperous, higher-privileged, intelligent and influential people, who can easily afford the highest costs of the best brands of intoxicants under prohibition, and many of whom usually vote dry and drink wet; and second, the under-privileged, the ignorant, the helpless and the poor, who are at the mercy of the bootleggers, both as to the quality and the price of their intoxicants, and therefore, many of them often resort to making intoxicants themselves, or drinking substitutes, some of which often prove to be poisonous.

Like the control of the use of the public highways, the control of the sale or use of intoxicating liquors is ultimately a governmental function, and, in any government based upon the principle of the Church and State, each fundamental question in regard to either the public highways or intoxicating liquors should be solved only upon an economic and social basis; and no other element entering into the solution of any such question only obscures the vision of the voter and begets trouble or confusion.

No one has ever yet been legislated out of hell or into heaven. "The kingdom of God is within you," and all the power of Congress and the several states can neither put that "kingdom" in, nor take it out of any individual.

Generally speaking, the average citizen of this republic has never yet failed to obey our laws, and, if need be, make the supreme sacrifice to uphold them, when properly led by precept and example; and that ultimate instinct of law and order naturally residing in the human soul is the basis of any democracy, and therefore, anything that impairs or destroys the normal use of that instinct in the same or a greater degree impairs or destroys democracy, and that is the fundamental reason why I shall vote for the ABC stores. What we have now tends to destroy democracy.

Who would fight for the miserable mess we call "prohibition" here in Mecklenburg in spite of the fact that all the efforts of "the United States and the several states" to enforce the provisions of the Eighteenth Amendment, the only unqualified prohibition we have ever had against "the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes, not only failed, but resulted in so much racketeering, gangsterism, disrespect for and violation of law in general that that amendment was repealed by the 21st Amendment, which became effective Dec 5, 1933, since which our adjoining South Carolina counties of York and Lancaster have established or allowed liquor stores or distributing companies of intoxicants which are now making millions of dollars each year out of our citizens in Mecklenburg, and mainly through bootleggers.

Ultimately the issue for us to determine on June 14 is not the coverage or increase (if that be probable) of the use of intoxicating beverages, but whether the control of the liquor business shall be openly regulated and conducted under law, by responsible and reliable citizens, and the public get the benefit of the profits arising therefrom, or remain under the control of the chiseler, the cheat and racketeer, who operates through bootleggers, and much of the profits used to carry or corrupt elections and evade the law.

Between a lawful and an unlawful way to get the same thing, most individuals will get it lawfully, and the lawful way always begets not only self-respect, but a respect for law and order, which is at present at a very low level, and I believe the institution of the ABC stores will greatly restore and build up respect for law and order, and thereby strengthen the basis of democracy.

—THADDEUS A. ADAMS.

Shut-In's Day

SPARTANBURG

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE first Sunday in June (June 1, 1947) is National Shut-In's Day and the public is invited and expected to visit relatives, friends, veterans and others who are confined to homes, hospitals, etc., on this day. We have no organization, officers, rules or meeting place. No gifts expected unless they be home-grown flowers or reading matter. We hope to have Congress make the date official. We request the pastors of all churches to announce the day at Sunday morning services.

I have been a shut-in here in the Black Hospital for the past eighteen years.

—S. CRAIG LITTLE.

Samuel Grafton

Obscuring The Issues

NEW YORK

IT may be time to trot out that useful word "obscurantism" again. "Obscurantism" is when a politician gets you to look, popeyed, at an unreal issue so that you won't notice a real one.

One leading obscurantist maneuver today centers around President Truman's request for $25,000,000 for ferreting out Communists in Federal service. The sum named is formidable, but does not of itself indicate that there are a lot of Communists working for the Government. It means only that Mr. Truman wants to do a careful job, with elaborate safeguards against what could be hideous injustice. By gently stretching the meanings involved, however, opposition commentators and politicians are able to make it appear that there must be twenty-five million dollars' worth of Communists in the Government, or the Government to need all of twenty-five millions to get rid of them.

HOLIDAY FROM LOGIC

The purge is somewhat obscurantist, to begin with, for no case is proved as to immediate and pressing necessity for it. But when the opposition, doubling backward, uses the purge itself as proof of the need for it (something only the result can show) then it is really enjoying a wilful holiday from logic.

Mr Thomas E. Dewey joined in the game the other day, devoting a political speech in New York City to snorting and snickering, and making neat little jokes about the "$25,000,000 spraying with DDT" and getting the expected neat little applause. It would have been a more effective speech if the people of the state had not been waiting for him to say, in detail, what he thinks of the impending labor bill, or about the current housing collapse. Since he remained mum on these questions, as is his custom, it is fair to say that he used the purge issue for an obscurantist purpose; it helped him pass the evening.

RELIEF ISSUE

Another obscurantist issue revolves around the fuss being made in New York City over so-called "luxury relief." The issue is local, but has national meanings; it has come out that 37 relief families have been housed in hotels for want of other quarters, most of them only for a week or so, only three for longer periods. Wow! So much noise is being made about the thing that you could almost walk on the billows of sound. Conservatives are screaming, the State is investigating, and the impression is getting around that every hostelry in town must, on pain of relief clients, arrogantly ordering champagne suppers via room service.

Actually, there is a story here. It is a story of a housing shortage, of rising rental rates, of overburdened case workers dizzily seeking shortcuts. To reduce all this to the luxury issue, and to try to handle it by forbidding relief clients to live in hotels, is obscurantism; it is like putting a city-wide fire on an anti-smoke ordinance.

SAD SPECTACLE

With real problems blossoming, problems of inflation and recession, it is a little sad to see so many operators urging the public to focus on the alleged existence of twenty-five million dollars' worth of Communists on the public payroll, or on the sinful existence of a new cafe society of relief clients.

The stock market droops, prices are churning in disarray, and meanwhile the shrill cry of the distractor is heard in the land, calling, "Here's a hot one" — meaning, of course, one that has nothing to do with anything, however ominous a shadow it can be made, in skilled fingers, to cast upon the wall.

Another Voice

Heat And Higher Education

IT WAS doubtless the neat if not the humidity which caused the fireworks at the meeting in Raleigh of the trustees of the Greater University of North Carolina, whereat some trustees started a quarrel over Poet Randall Jarrell and tried to take a second look at E. C. T. C.'s Dennis Cooke.

Some of the trustees thought at first blush that Chancellor Jackson had unwisely gone over the heads of their executive committee by raiding E. C. T. C. for Dr. Cooke and by bodaciously introducing into the Woman's College faculty a man who not only had the rhythmic name of Randall Jarrell but who was a self-confessed poet and a former (though possibly reformed) literary editor of *The Nation*. However, after President Graham explained that Dr. Cooke was not kidnaped or shanghaied but had moved of his own will and accord, and after Chancellor Jackson had explained that he had had to bypass the executive committee because time was of the essence in the problem of securing two distinguished faculty members, and after Mrs. Laura Cone had suggested that the executive committee was habitually stronger on talk than on research, the meeting settled down and approved the controversial pair.

Perhaps the most signal contribution of the meeting to the peace and dignity of the state was the postponement of a scheduled bout between Battling Cameron Morrison of Mecklenburg and Kid Clarence Stone of Stoneville who had arranged an extramural Armadeddon under rules laid down by the esteemed Marquis of Queensbury. That they finally met, not at their fateful rendezvous, but at lunch is to be cited as an example of progress in the South.

But the next time the trustees meet in Raleigh in the Summer we hope that they see to it that the air-conditioning system of their forum is in good working order in advance.—*Greensboro Daily News.*

Add criticism of the literary trend: A proposal up in Congress would permit the mailing of manuscripts as third-class matter.

A new glue is described as the strongest yet, and the thing now is to pick a factory site where no one lives downwind for seven miles.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Vandenberg Ribbed By 'Radical' GOPers

WASHINGTON

IF Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan weren't blessed with a wholesome sense of humor, some of the ribbing he has been getting from GOP colleagues about his foreign-policy "collaboration" might cause him to forget his dignity as No. 1 Senator.

Vandenberg gets the needle coming and going, both on and off the floor. But he takes it in stride.

Recently, the Chicago Tribune published a below-the-belt cartoon, depicting Van as a "Benedict Arnold" to his party. With high lit grouped George Aiken of Vermont, Charles Tobey of New Hampshire, and Wayne Morse of Oregon, all hard-hitting, independent Republicans.

"Some people think, Van," remarked Aiken, after the cartoon was first published, "that the worst knock that cartoon gave you was to associate you with Tobey, Morse and me."

Later Vandenberg was passing Aiken, Tobey and Morse all seated together in the Senate cloakroom. The trio chorused:

"Come over and sit down with us, Van. This is where you belong."

"We Republicans have got to stick together," added Morse, cheerily.

With a hearty laugh, Van sat down with the rebels. Aiken then told the Michigan Senator of a letter he had received from a Vermont constituent denouncing Vandenberg and himself as "radicals." Vandenberg seemed disturbed.

"But don't let it worry you," grinned Aiken. "Once in a while I get a letter calling Bob Taft a radical, too."

Patents For Next War

IN the hurly-burly of Congress a lot of things slip by that some newspapers don't catch and the public doesn't know about. But sometimes they affect the life of the nation for years to come.

One such vote occurred in the Senate recently. It affected the future control of patents from Government-paid scientific development.

Control of vital patents is one reason why the American people walked part of the time during the war, instead of having ample tires. Standard Oil of New Jersey had conspired with the Germans before the war to withhold precious patents on synthetic rubber.

A similar control of patents was one reason why we couldn't ship enough planes to the Philippines to help General MacArthur after Pearl Harbor. The Aluminum Corp. of America had a deal with the Germans to bottle up the use of magnesium in this country—and magnesium is vital to airplane manufacture.

Immediately after World War I there was considerable discussion of German patents and the importance of not letting Germany get a monopoly on war processes. Then, gradually, the public forgot, and ten years later certain big companies arranged monopoly pools with Germany by which vital processes—such as synthetic rubber—were withheld from use.

So today it is important that the public doesn't forget a second time, and that history doesn't repeat.

Atomic Patent Owner

TO illustrate how important scientific patents are, perhaps the most potentially wealthy man in the USA is Dr. Leo Szilard, the Hungarian-born scientist who made some of the basic discoveries on atomic energy. He has turned use of these patents over to the United States, but if he wanted to profit from them he could make millions.

Certain U. S. corporations, however, have not been so public-spirited. During the war the U. S. Government spent the huge sum of two billion dollars on scientific research (not including atomic research) and about one-half of this will go to the permanent profit of big corporations.

Several companies received $5,000,000 or more from the Government for research. They were: American Telephone & Telegraph, Victor Emanuel's Aviation Corp. and his Republic Steel, Bell Aircraft, Boeing, Chrysler, General Electric, Curtiss-Wright, Douglas Aircraft, duPont, Eastman Kodak, General Motors, Goodyear, Grumman Aircraft, Lockheed Aircraft, Northrop Aircraft, United Aircraft, RCA, U. S. Steel, Standard Oil of New Jersey, and Westinghouse.

Of the first 12,000 research contracts written by the War Department, only 37 provided that the public generally should benefit from the research results. The others permitted the companies to keep the benefits of their research for their exclusive use after the war, even though they were using the taxpayers' money to pay for the research.

The Navy followed the same general policy, as did the office of Scientific Research & Development under Dr. Vannevar Bush.

Last year, this question of whether the Government owned the result of research paid for by Government funds, arose when the Senate passed the Kilgore Bill creating a National Science Foundation. Despite a lobby led by the National Association of Manufacturers, the bill, as passed by the Senate, declared that where the Government provided funds for research, the results of that research belonged to the public.

But this year, when the National Science Bill came up again, it was revamped by Republican Senator Alexander Smith of New Jersey, who struck out the provision that research patents paid for by Government funds should belong to the Government.

Democratic Senator Kilgore of West Virginia, however, tried to put the provision back in again; and the vote on his amendment is important. He lost, 28 to 50, with all but two Republicans voting against him. However, that is 50 who voted for big-business control of Government-financed patents apparently did not realize was that people's memories are short, and the same thing that happened after World War I can happen after World War II. In other words, if control of Government-financed patents remains in the hands of corporations, those corporations once again may withhold information from the public, or even share them with a foreign country.

Because of the importance of this vote, here is the rollcall of the 50 who voted for corporation control of Government-financed research, in favor of Republicans:

Baldwin, Conn.; Ball, Minn.; Brewster, Me.; Bricker, O.; Bridges, N. H.; Brooks, Ill.; Bushfield, S. D.; Butler, Neb.; Cain, Wash.; Capper, Kans.; Cooper, Ky.; Cordon, Ore.; Donnell, Mo.; Dworshak, Ida.; Eaton, Mont.; Ellender, La., (Dem.); Ferguson, Mich.; Gurney, S. D.; Hawkes, N. J.; Hickenlooper, Ia.; Hoey, N. C. (Dem.); Holland, Fla. Dem.); Ives, N. Y.; Jenner, Ind.; Johnson, Colo. (Dem.); Kem, Mo.; Knowland, Calif.; Lodge, Mass.; McCarthy, Wis.; Magnuson, Wash. (Dem.); Malone, Nev.; Martin, Pa.; Millikin, Colo.; Moore, Okla.; O'Daniel, Tex. (Dem.); Reed, Kans; Revercomb, W. Va.; Robertson, Wyo.; Saltonstall, Mass.; Smith, N. J.; Taft, O. Thye, Minn.; Vandenberg, Mich.; Watkins, Utah; Wherry, Neb.; White, Me.; Wiley, Wis.; Williams, Del.; Young, N. D.