THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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

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A Jolt For U. S. From Europe

IT IS to be hoped that Republican strategists have been watching the storm signals from Europe in recent days. Specifically, their undivided attention should be centered in the new Battle of Britain which rapidly is turning into the Battle of Europe between the forces headed by the United States and Soviet Russia.

This European news is of particular interest to the Republican command for its bearing on the foreign policy line which it will follow in the 1948 Presidential campaign. The trend of events abroad indicates the GOP will have to make large and difficult decisions in the near future, and may be forced to revise their calculations in a quick and dramatic way.

Thus far the Republicans have exhibited little enthusiasm for the Marshall Plan for European recovery and have given few indications that they intend to support it with the material and financial assistance that plainly is required. They have been putting off their decision until next year. They are waiting for a House Committee to make an on-the-scene study of conditions in Europe this Summer and report back to Congress. They are waiting for the State Department to complete its inventory of European needs and its plans for America's part in the recovery program. They think that some time in 1948, probably at a special session of Congress, will be soon enough to make up their minds that we can and will do the necessary.

Meanwhile, the European nations are heading into a crisis which seems likely to require spectacular U. S. intervention in a matter of months and on a scale that would in effect put the Marshall program in operation long before 1948, provided of course that the Republicans can be shaken out of the illusion that we do not have to commit ourselves to an enormous undertaking if we just keep waiting.

Competent observers say the crisis will come to a head in October and strike with full effect in November and December. They say that there will be a British economic collapse this Winter, and probably also a French collapse, unless the United States goes to the rescue. Signs that the crisis already is far advanced have been given in British action to reduce its army abroad, thereby increasing the occupation load on the United States; in reports of the severe shortage of dollar exchange; in accounts of faltering British industrial and coal production; in the failure to revive output from the Ruhr mines. It is said that Britain has only $200 million left from the American loan and this will be exhausted in two months. Unless it receives help or positive assurances of American help, it must use its gold reserves, tighten rations, reduce its buying in the United States.

This is the crisis on which the Soviet Union has counted, the economic collapse predicted by the Marxists. Only quick and decisive action by America seems capable of meeting it. Unless it is met, many observers say that the Battle of Europe will be lost to the Communists by default. They also say that American leadership and resources can meet the emergency. They seem confident that this will happen but the hour grows late for the majority party in America to signify it understands the situation.

Challenge To North Carolina

GOVERNOR CHERRY has moved swiftly to commit seven Rich Square men, charged with kidnaping in an attempted lynching, to the jurisdiction of Judge J. Paul Frizzelle. The judge, sitting as a magistrate, may recommit the case for grand jury action in another county. Failure of the Northampton grand jury to return a true bill was properly termed a "miscarriage of justice" by the Governor, and his prompt action will serve as an answer to outside critics who will be quick to interpret the grand jury decision as tacit approval of mob violence.

As the Governor pointed out, it is not the duty of the grand jury to pass on the facts, or on the innocence or guilt of the accused; the grand jury is required to determine if there is available evidence which should be heard. Since one of the accused seven has confessed, there obviously is evidence which should be placed before a petit jury.

Under the circumstances, however, it is not unusual that the grand jury should have freed the alleged kidnapers. Prior to the attempted lynching of Buddy Bush, numerous attacks by Negroes upon white women had occurred in the Rich Square area; racial feeling was high. Furthermore the seven accused men reputedly are members of Rich Square's "best families". It was, by all accounts, chiefly fear of local disapproval which prompted the Greenville jury to free the murderers of Willie Earle. There was no reason to believe Northampton jurors would have a more objective outlook; indeed, the Greensboro *Daily News* correspondent reported that "for weeks it had been apparent that the community expected" the release of the suspects.

North Carolina understands that Northampton's grand jury would have risked local anger and vengeance in returning a true bill; but it does not relax its insistence that justice be preserved in its courts. The state has an enviable record for maintaining harmonious race relationships through prevention of mob action. That record is more important than the local reputations of the citizens serving on a jury.

The eyes of the nation are upon us. Tar Heels should thus hail the action of their Governor in removing the case to a jurisdiction where justice, based on full consideration of the evidence, may eventually be rendered untainted by local passions and prejudice.

Too Many Bums On W. Trade

THE bums on W. Trade Street have been attracting unfavorable attention. Warm nights of July and August have brought them out in increasing numbers and heightened their natural restiveness. They collect on the north side of the first three blocks on West Trade, doubtless being drawn by the beer halls and pool rooms in that neighborhood, and perhaps also by the older buildings along that way. Buildings mellowed by time are known to cast friendlier shadows for bums.

Occasional passersby, who have homes to go to and business to carry on, have been startled to observe the size and character of the nightly congregation. Many women, our investigation shows, take the other side of the street to avoid running the gantlet. No incidents of molestation have been reported, but the lonely nocturnal pedestrian grows nervous in this company of strange and lost men.

Among the more active members of this society, the amusements consist of staring, leering, grumbling, argumentation, loud talk and cursing — the things that bums usually do. Many of them are drunk and there are, of course, some spirited differences regarding issues of the day and personal rights. A Saturday night seldom passes without an earnest scuffle. Panhandlers are numerous and many of the men are drifters who do not live in Charlotte but apparently are attracted here because the police do not bother them.

Something must be done.

This is said with some regret because there is only one way to handle the problem, and that is to force the bums to move on. Such action solves the question for pedestrians, business men and residents but it doesn't ease the bum's problem. In a civilized society, it seems that some provision could be made for these unhappy misfits who are always with us, but no progress along this line has been made in 20 centuries.

One western city we know tried the experiment of setting aside an older part of the city for its derelicts. This had the effect of attracting more of them and before long another section, closer to the uptown, had to be reserved for them. The bum spirit is infectious and this city eventually found that many normally sedate citizens were behaving oddly in the evening. The experiment finally was abandoned with the conclusion that the bum is just as happy moving on as he is when cluttering up the sidewalk.

We are sorry, men, but you will have to break it up.

Another Voice

Public I. Q. Slipping

OUR intelligence as a nation, it seems is slipping. The Population Reference Bureau, which keeps a grim little check on such things, concludes from a survey that if larger and larger families "in the low ranges of scholarly achievement are causing our average intelligence to decline at the rate of two I.Q. (intelligence quotient) points in every generation, it would not take more than a few decades before the majority of the American people would have no higher I. Q. than the dull and backward."

This is, of course, highly depressing. Yet it is hardly a revelation. Not many years ago there were expressions of horror at the statistical fact that each Harvard graduate averaged only about 1 1-4 of a child or thereabouts) while the graduate of P.S. 108 was often the father of five.

And this is, of course, a kind of eugenic snobbery which ought not to go unchallenged. Granted that the "lowest third of our people" in certain categories of alleged inborn intelligence "has about twice as large families as the highest third," what of it?

The hard, cruel measuring rod of heredity is not always accurate. Genius has arisen with frequency from the humblest of origins. We are glad that the Population Reference Bureau, which is a useful and well meaning agency, gets some comeuppance in a retort from the American Council on Education: "Human intelligence never has been developed to its fullest among the great masses of the people. No way has been found accurately to measure the ultimate capabilities of the human mind."

But the way, obviously, to develop these capabilities which are inherent in every normal person is to broaden and to improve the scope of educational opportunity. Jack, the dull boy, is not always born that way.—*Asheville Citizen.*

Bottom Of The Barrel

People's Platform

Timely Advice On Budget

OXFORD

Editors, THE NEWS:

IT is the duty of those serving the people in public place to closely limit public expenditures to the actual needs of the Government economically administered, because this bounds the right of the Government to exact tribute from the earnings of labor or the property of the citizen, and because public extravagance begets extravagance among the people. We should never be ashamed of the simplicity and prudential economies which are best suited to the operation of a republican form of government, and most compatible with the morals of the American people. Those who are selected for a limited time to manage public affairs still are of the people, and may do much by their example to encourage, consistently with the dignity of their official functions, that plain way of life, which among their fellow-citizens, aids integrity and promotes thrift and prosperity."

The foregoing is an excerpt from the inaugural address of Grover Cleveland delivered on March 4, 1885—a deliverance of 62 years ago, but containing much wholesome advice for all time. True, the functions of the Federal government have been vastly expanded, but honest and economical administration of those functions has not expanded. On the contrary, it has contracted and in almost inverse ratio. As the over-all burden of the citizen increases the cost of government should progressively decrease or the burden will soon become unbearable.

Of course, I do not relish the idea of being considered an anachronism (something born out of time), but this matter of living beyond our governmental income or deficit financing is getting on my nerves. For I know that the day of settlement is coming just as surely as night follows day. We are currently, and rightfully so, expressing great concern over the financial condition of England, but her per capita indebtedness is far less than ours. Sure, we owe each other, but that does not make us any less debtors nor does it make us immune to the laws of finance.

Now, I wish to remind you as forcibly as I can that the philosophy we have employed during the past decade and a half is nothing new. More than 50 years ago Germany had its social security with its old-age pensions, unemployment compensation, et ceteras. We studied the same some forty years ago at the University of North Carolina but what does social security mean to the German people today? Nothing more than a sickening memory of governmental broken promises. Let you say Germany went down by reason of external violence? Yes, but external violence is but one of the many causes of governmental downfalls. National bankruptcy is a much more frequent cause. We should now cease to demand of the Federal government any additional commitments until it gets its finances in order by a balanced budget and debt payments.

—JOHN W. HESTER.

Keeping The Sabbath

HAMLET

Editors, THE NEWS:

I have sent the following open letter to R. Gregg Cherry, governor of North Carolina, and invite you to publish it in your newspaper:

DEAR GOVERNOR CHERRY: This open letter is addressed to you with the fervent hope it may instigate a movement throughout our state that will permeate the responsible officials of this state and spread throughout our nation.

As a professed follower of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, it is evident that you are not happy in the realization that our Sabbath is fast becoming the day for entertaining the public and holding conferences that do not pertain to the glory of God.

As Chief Executive of this Commonwealth, you may not be clothed with authority to command the observance of the Sabbath. However, your attitude towards these things most certainly would have a moral influence upon all our citizenship.

You and I recognize that by sitting by and allowing golf tournaments, baseball games, air exhibits and other amusements on the Sabbath for profit of the promoters, and the holding of commercial conferences for convenience of the participants on the Sabbath encourages Sabbath desecration. We may have no legal means of preventing such desecrations, but if we publicly condemn such, our moral influence will begin to have marked effect upon the entire citizenship and especially those who profess allegiance to Christ.

The power of the press is a recognized influence for good or bad. Most of these Sunday amusements are promoted by publicity through the press and radio and I am persuaded that both these means of promotion could be used to discourage them and to build up a statewide sentiment favoring a Sabbath day of rest and worship.

What is your reaction?

—J. E. McLAUCHLIN.

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. But a letter must be signed although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Taxpayers Foot Bill For Airline Lobbies

WASHINGTON

SENATOR BREWSTER'S War Investigating Committee has performed a healthy service in showing how Howard Hughes' aide spent $5,083 entertaining Elliott Roosevelt. This is something the public is entitled to know about.

However, the public is also entitled to know about all the lavish entertainment poured out by other big airplane companies—when that entertainment was deducted from the taxpayers' money. And if you take the $5,083 spent on Elliott Roosevelt and stack it alongside what the taxpayer shelled out for "entertainment" by Pan-American Airways, it makes Elliott's entertainment look like chicken-feed.

For instance, here is the expense account of Pan-American's senior vice-president, Robert G. Thach, as noted in an official report of the Civil Aeronautics Board: "Meals for himself and others, $10,208.30 in 1938."

Ten thousand dollars is a lot to spend for meals alone in one year. And Mr. Thach had other expenses that year which totaled $49,228.25. These he listed as "Laundry, sightseeing, deck chairs, club dues, doctors, nurses," and various other things. His bill for long-distance telephoning alone in 1938 was $10,334.25.

However, the year 1938 was not out of line with other years for Mr. Thach. The Civil Aeronautics Board, examining the accounts of Pan-American Airways, made this official and critical comment:

"When during a 30-month period, expense vouchers totaling $100,000, exclusive of salary, are approved for one officer (Thach) without investigation or inquiry by the company's chief accounting office, then such items would not be considered by the CAB in determining the 'need' of the carrier."

How The Public Pays

NEXT, in this case, refers to Pan-Am's need of air-mail subsidies. And the reason the CAB was examining Pan-American's accounts was that the amount of its mail subsidy is determined in part by its expenses of operation. And what the American taxpayer doesn't generally realize is that the cost of the expensive lobby conducted by Pan-American to influence Congress is largely paid for by the taxpayer himself through the air-mail subsidy. This is also true of other aviation companies, except that Pan-American has received far more of air-mail subsidies than any other company, and also conducts one of the most far-flung and expensive lobbies in the history of government.

For instance, Pan-American maintains three different offices in Washington, though it has no airline entering Washington. In addition, it has two secret hideaway spots in the capital—all connected with lobbying.

Pan Am's Airplane Junkets

THEN there are the special Pan-American facilities at the National Airport where two private planes are kept, the NC4000 and the 400W. It is these planes which have flown Senator Brewster on various trips—up to his home in Maine, and once to Hobe Sound, Florida, where Sam Pryor, vice-president of Pan-American, maintains his Winter home. Mr. Pryor, former Republican National Committeeman from Connecticut, is one of the ablest lobbyists in the capital and handles Pan-Am's most difficult jobs.

It is Senator Brewster who has been charged by Howard Hughes with investigating him because he refused to take Brewster's suggestion that Hughes' Trans World Airline amalgamate with Pan-American.

It was Senator Brewster who flew to Raleigh, N. C., last year to visit ailing Senator Bailey of North Carolina, then chairman of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, to urge his support of the "one company" idea for American airlines overseas. The "one company" plan is urged by Pan-American to fly all foreign routes, as against the American system of free competition, favored by other companies.

Incidentally, when Brewster flew to see Senator Bailey in Raleigh, Jack Frye, then president of Trans World Airline, learned of the flight; and, getting ex-Senator Bennett Clark out of bed in Kansas City, persuaded him to phone Senator Bailey long distance not to side with Brewster in favor of the "one company" bill.

Brewster's plane was delayed about fifteen minutes in reaching Raleigh, which permitted Clark's phone call to come through and persuade Bailey not to go along with Brewster. This was probably the reason why the "one company" bill never passed the 79th Congress.

It was also one of Pan-Am's special planes which carried A. F. Whitney of the railroad trainmen and Alvanley Johnston of the locomotive engineers on a trip from Cleveland last year at the time the two brotherhood leaders came out for the "one company" bill.

Pan Am's Tremendous Subsidy

THE reason all these special flights and extra expenses are important is that they help to determine the amount of air-mail subsidy paid by the Government to Pan-American Airways. It is estimated that Pan-American has received a total subsidy from the Government of more than $150,000,000. This does not include the $100,000,000 mail Pan-Am in connection with building special airports in Latin-America during the war.

The $150,000,000 figure compares with the $40,000,000 paid by the Government to Howard Hughes. And just as the money spent by Hughes to entertain Elliott Roosevelt is reported to have come out of Government funds, so also the cost of ornate lobbying offices, the $10,000 for meals for one Pan-Am vice-president, and the fees to high-priced lobbying attorneys—all go into expenses when it comes to figuring Pan-Am's air-mail subsidy.

Life In Soviet Union

Terror Is Masked

This is another of Paul W. Ward's articles in the series, "Life In The Soviet Union," reprinted from The Baltimore Sun.

By PAUL W. WARD

IT might be understandable if an American, visiting Russia for the first time, expected to see the natives slinking about the streets, their faces pale with fright and their eyes alert for the clutching hands of Stalin's secret police. The repressive activities of the secret police have been well advertised beyond the Soviet frontiers by the "purge" trials and similar events.

To such an American, therefore, it would come as a surprise to find in the streets of Moscow no such overt evidence that the Soviet populace is terrorized. Muscovites shuffle about with quite as much the air of being free persons as do Americans in Baltimore, New York or Washington. If they do not smile and laugh so much as Americans it is perhaps because life is harder for them and they are preoccupied with the difficulties of transport, of finding food and clothing, and of living four or more to a room.

The visiting foreigner's surprise mounts as he notes that in the Soviet Union it is the motorist who bawls out the traffic cop, rather than vice versa. This is to be explained no doubt by the fact that in Russia only big shots have cars at their disposal.

FIFTY FOR PATROLMEN

There is no such easy explanation, however, for the behavior of pedestrians toward the ordinary patrolmen, who are called militiamen. One begins to pity these blue-uniformed fellows after seeing how rudely, how scornfully they are treated by the Russian man or woman in the street. The many engaged in black-market deals scarcely bother to conceal their merchandise—be it ration coupons or pats of butter—from the hovering cops.

Even among Russians who tell you Marshal Zhukov's portrait has been removed from the Red Army Museum because he was "too friendly toward Americans," there is no apparent fear of consorting with foreigners. The ordinary rank-and-file Russian has a friendly curiosity where foreigners are concerned. There is no difficulty in getting him to talk.

The difficulty is of another kind. Whether he speaks some English or has to be addressed through an interpreter, it is hard to talk with him in mutually understandable terms. He knows little or nothing of Western ideas and institutions. He is hard put to explain Soviet ideas and institutions because he knows no others. The ordinary Russian's willingness to talk—about anything except politics—and his cordiality toward foreigners—especially Americans, whom he considers sheroka natura (good natured) like himself—create, however, a deceptive atmosphere. They do not, in actuality, belie the existence of police terror.

Therein lies one of the resemblances between prewar German and postwar Russia. Just as it was customary for American tourists in Germany in 1936 to miss any sign of either anti-Semitism or Gestapo activity there, so it is easy to visit Moscow these days without being aware of the M.V.D.'s shadow. It must be looked for, but the search need not be rigorous.

It begins to show itself when contact is made with Russians who have managed to climb a few rungs up the Communist ladder of privilege. Unlike the bulk of their compatriots, they have something to lose beside their chains.

I recall one exceedingly convivial member of the Soviet intelligentsia who insisted on dining at a restaurant "where I am not known." I recall another who took some of us to a birthday party in his own flat and who paused at the entrance to the apartment house to beg: "Please make no noise going up the stairs. And don't speak English!"

Then there was the minor Government official, a technical consultant, who hoped to go to America. He offered us complimentary tickets to the circus, and eagerly accepted in return an invitation to lunch at the Hotel Moskva, where the British, French and American delegates to the Big Four meeting were quartered. He was frightened away when he found its portals closed by Soviet police to any Russian not accompanied by a foreigner. Moreover, he refused to accept the requisite escort, saying:

"If there is a rule barring Russians—and I do not know what it is—I had better stay away entirely lest there be a scandal in my ministry."

BLACK CAPS

The Stalin regime, although it made Moscow put on its best bib and tucker for the benefit of the visiting diplomats and journalists, did not suspend the conference's duration the secret-police activities which are its most repugnant attribute. The M.V.D. boys in their black caps continued their swoops by night.

In the early weeks of the conference at least two women who had been working for foreigners were made to disappear in this fashion.

Marquis Childs

Red Air Force Day

WASHINGTON

THEY had an Air Force Day in the Soviet Union recently which by a coincidence, fell close to the day on which we in this country paraded our air power. Pravda beautifully proclaimed that Russia had pioneered the theory of jet propulsion and hinted that the Soviet Union was far in the lead in the new super-speed aircraft.

This last may be no idle boast. It is a suspicion which top U. S. Air Force officers have long held.

On Moscow's Air Force Day, the public was told for the first time about new types of jet planes developed, so it was claimed in Pravda, by Russian designers. The belief in informed quarters here is that the real credit must go to German designers and technicians who were taken as part of the spoils of war.

While the formal unveiling of the new Russian jet models took place only the other day, our own military planners have known for some time about certain of the more spectacular Soviet achievements. Most startling and most hush-hush of all is a jet bomber with a range of 800 miles. This is believed to exceed anything yet developed in this country. It may even be an advance over the U. S. jet types that are still in the experimental construction stage.

APPROPRIATION HIKED

For the coming fiscal year, Congress appropriated funds for 1,700 planes for both the Navy and the Army Air Forces. This was a considerable advance over the amount requested by the Bureau of the Budget. For aviation research, Congress granted $145,000,000 for the AAF and $75,000,000 for the Navy, which were the amounts requested in the budget.

This must be compared, however, with the minimum set in 1945 by the Air Co-ordinating Committee. The committee, made up of representatives of all Government departments with an interest in aviation, found that to maintain an aircraft industry sufficient for national security a minimum of 3,000 planes a year should be manufactured.

Moreover, this was the minimum after the war should be secured throughout the world and some degree of disarmament achieved. Anyone who thinks we have arrived at that state today had better see a good psychiatrist.

The gap between 1,700 planes and 3,000 is a big one. The figure of 3,000 presupposed research and development on new types which would keep us abreast, which would put quick production of those types in the event of a war. Plainly, then, the Administration would have to ask, and Congress would have to grant, nearly twice the amount made available for the current year.

DESPERATE LACK

This was precisely the desperate lack we faced after Pearl Harbor. Experimental construction and research lagged in the late 30's. If one can look through the irrelevances and absurdities of the current Senate investigation, that is the tremendously important fact which comes out—in spite, one might almost say, of those who are conducting the investigation.

In American aircraft plants, experimental models of jet bombers are being built and they are undergoing tests. A number of types are being produced, which is costly, but from the point of view of eventual mass production it is highly desirable.

The new super-sonic planes get into the Buck Rogers range. Bell Aircraft is constructing the X-S1 and the X-S2. The X-S1 has been flown experimentally. It is a small piloted plane carried in a B-29 bomber and launched at 30,000 feet.

EXPERIMENTAL TOOL

The X-S1 carries rockets as offensive weapons. Its flying time is so short, however, that it must still be considered as merely a tool for experiment.

All this has the quality of a newsreel that is somehow familiar. In the pre-1939 days, the Russians paraded planes and massed masses of troops through Red Square. The weapons grow more destructive while must fear, suspicion and hatred stay the same.

Senator Soaper Says:

ANOTHER war, thinks Lippmann, could only be between ourselves and Russia. Hooray! We are through with those exhausting double-headers.

A tree doctor, missing in the Midwest, turns up after ten days with no explanation. Sitting up, we presume, on a sick friend.

In Virginia an ex-Congressman drove 50 miles without realizing that his wife was not in the car, and if this is not the perfect wife it is a reasonable facsimile.

Today's question in popular biology: Just how long can a Blossom Queen-elect of 1947 hold her breath?

If that Congressional committee cares, our favorite among known Hollywood reds is Miss Lucille Ball in technicolor.

The word is around that Britain will swap secrets for food from Russia, and if the deal is stale gossip for a dab of caviar on cold toast, nothing could be fairer.

In the field of wanted inventions, the U. S. Navy announces it is seeking the perfect crank. We had always supposed it was only necessary to retire an Admiral.

A brain specialist who has studied ex-pugs suggests a simple operation to cure the slaphappy. Why?

Social climbing, mating and good times are the psychological drives that bring girls to college, says an Ohio State U. prof. Worse of all a having nothing to show for the four years but an education.