

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

10th Anniversary Year

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CIVIL RIGHTS: A TIME FOR COMPROMISE

RALPH MCILL, Editor of *The Atlanta Constitution*, and other Southern observers not known to be mossbacks, advocates the use of a "compromise" as the only workable solution for the anticipated civil rights furor in Congress next year.

Mr. Truman says flatly he expects to push the civil rights proposals voted in his message to Congress last January. With fresh backing from the people, the President will not likely stop-pedal this issue—notwithstanding what some Southerners tell each other about his real feelings.

If Southern Congressmen go to Washington bristling for a fight—a sort of last stand via the filibuster—they can expect little better than an ignominious defeat. The stoutest malcontents of the American people favor at least some of the reforms endorsed by the President, and the Southern minority, if it wants to have its influence felt at all, must recognize the reality of offering a constructive compromise when the bargaining gets under way.

In the first place, the South should take another realistic look at the four controversial sections of the President's civil rights message. (Note that he pointedly refrained from favoring all the recommendations of his Civil Rights Commission.)

1. **Poll Tax:** Some Southern states (North Carolina included) have already dispensed with this creaky prerequisite for voting, and reasonable people everywhere favor its speedy abolition. The poll tax was raised by the Southern wing of the constitutionality of Federal legislation. Southern Congressmen say it ought to be done, if at all, by a Constitutional amendment since the Constitution does not say that the states, not the Federal Government, have the power to establish voting qualifications. But a majority of Congressmen believe Congress does have the power to legislate. The Supreme Court may have to decide the argument. In the meantime, the poll tax issue is definitely an issue for bargaining: its repeal has little impact on the fundamental controversy involving the states' right to determine the franchise. If it had abolished poll taxes several decades ago.

2. **Anti-lynching:** Again the problem of compromise. Again the Federal Government reserve for itself "police power" which was not specifically granted it by the Constitution? Some observers suggest that a compromise can surmount this hurdle. It is the states which have the sovereign power in matters connected with justice, but the law, at the same time, provide for Federal intervention.

MOSCOW'S HOLLOW GESTURE

BERLIN today is the globe in miniature. In that city the people of the world can see the division of the world and see it clearly. The events through which this clarity has been achieved are not in themselves of great importance. They appear to be the result of a Berlin bickering, of the world which these events portend is of vital importance.

Here, for the record, are the events: On Monday the Russian representatives in the United Nations accepted without hesitation the Brumaglia plan. The Brumaglia plan (devised by the retiring president of the U. N. Assembly) would set up a neutral commission of experts to investigate the future of the disputed phases of American-Russian negotiations over the Berlin crisis.

It would leave to neutral nations the decisions concerning the disputed currency situation and the blockade. Russia accepted immediately, but it was just a gesture. Russia never has and, apparently, never will allow its policy to be formed by other nations. The United States, Britain and France—aware that Russia will not shoot cracks with anyone's die but its own—did not leap immediately to the Brumaglia bait.

The Western Powers knew on Monday that the Soviet Union had accepted the plan. They were then planning a negation of the Brumaglia plan in Berlin. The Western Powers knew that Russia wanted no solution to the Berlin device. Aggravation of the Berlin crisis was the future will dispense with the trifling detail of presenting bits, a symbol of Soviet strength, and a red herring to divert Western attention from obvious Communist gains in China and less obvious gains in such countries as France and Italy.

To keep the crisis alive, Russian Communists yesterday held an "election." The Communists chose a "mayor" for all Berlin. This "mayor"—one Friedrich Ebert said in the election set for Sunday by Berlin's city council (now sitting in the Western zone) null and void. Berlin will have a Communist mayor or no mayor, it will have Communist unity or no unity.

But while the authorities were busy with hand for negotiations, the other hand swung a heavy blow in Berlin. This surprised no one. Rather, it was expected by the Western powers as a sign of their reluctance to drop their guard by participating with an incoherent Russia in the Brumaglia plan. The West is neither pressed nor impressed by this Russian action. It elicits

when states failed to act with dispatch. Here again Southerners have an issue for bargaining. By joining the Congressional majority in shaping a constitutional bill, they might also assure their region of fairer consideration than it might get as a result of their purely negative opposition. And the Southerners are opposed to lynching.

3. **Segregation:** Before Southerners begin to see red, we should examine what President Truman actually said about this matter in his message to Congress. Here it is in full:

"The channels of interstate commerce should be open to all Americans on a basis of complete equality. The Supreme Court has recently declared unconstitutional state laws requiring segregation on public carriers in interstate travel; many regulations must not be allowed to replace unconstitutional state laws. I urge the Congress to prohibit discrimination and segregation in the use of interstate transportation facilities, by both public officers and the employees of private companies."

The President does not advocate the wholesale destruction of the South's pattern of segregation. He does call for the enforcement of what the Supreme Court has already ruled must be done in interstate commerce. No legislation is pending on this matter, but we should examine closely what the President has proposed to see how revolutionary it seems to the South. Mr. Truman does not mention segregation in local transportation, schools and public places. There is not nearly so much here to cause alarm as some Southerners have believed.

4. **FEPC:** The Southerners, and persons from many other sections of the nation, will flatly balk—and with reason. A establishment of a commission which would dictate employment practices is repulsive since the Constitution does not say that the states, not the Federal Government, have the power to establish voting qualifications. But a majority of Congressmen believe Congress does have the power to legislate. The Supreme Court may have to decide the argument. In the meantime, the poll tax issue is definitely an issue for bargaining: its repeal has little impact on the fundamental controversy involving the states' right to determine the franchise. If it had abolished poll taxes several decades ago.

Clearly the time has come for that compromise. There will be many new Southern faces in the 81st Congress. Men like Senators Broughton of our state and Kefauver of Tennessee should raise their voices in behalf of a conciliatory attitude by the South. Without it, we may face complete defeat; with it there may be honorable methods for healing this great breach in the nation.

From all of us a feeling of rather helpless anger, of exasperation. Much of the world is "on edge." Nerves have been pulled taut for too many months. Too often Berlin has stizzled like the fuse of a powder keg, with which civilization and peace are resting. The world is weary of Berlin bickering, of Russian gestures.

In another time international intrigue would not have so tried the patience of persons half-way around the world. From Berlin in another time an illegal move on the checker-board of the world would not have inflamed the ulcer of the private citizen in North Carolina. But that time of insular complacency is past. The world is not engaged in the trading of survival of North Carolina's private citizen and his family depends on square dealing between the East and the West. It is time for Soviet Russia to learn that East and West are not engaged in the trading of horses but in dealing with events which will touch the lives of all the people of the world.

Confectioners have developed a new vitamin-fortified candy which they say may some day compete with meat. If it sells for less than a buck a pound, the competition ought to begin right now.—*Louisville (Ky.) Times*.

According to an Associated Press dispatch, hospitals of 50 years hence may make illness almost fun. That must mean that the medical science of the future will dispense with the trifling detail of presenting bits, a symbol of Soviet strength, and a red herring to divert Western attention from obvious Communist gains in China and less obvious gains in such countries as France and Italy.

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"Teacher's report cards harmful to a child's personality." When Dad was a boy it wasn't his personality that was hurt when his report was bad.—*Louisville (Ky.) Times*.

Worried About Heredity



People's Platform

Keeping Youngsters Out Of Alleys

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:
The story is told of a mission worker who, after visiting the slums of London, said to Adam and Eve, "I have seen the world, and I have seen the end of it." Silence greeted the question, "What did Adam and Eve hide?" Silence greeted the question, "What did Adam and Eve hide?" Silence greeted the question, "What did Adam and Eve hide?"

With Charlotte who boast of our fine homes, tempting lawns, and tree-lined streets might be surprised at the number of children who find their protection, their pleasure and their recreation "up an alley." There are blighted spots in our fair city, where, in the shadows of the city, there are hundreds of children, crowded youngsters with no place to go except "up an alley."

With the million dollars accruing from the bond sale and the income in tax funds for operations, our recreational leaders will blueprint a program that will spot these areas in all sections of the city and will carry out the plan to give our children the chance for open space, for exercise of their God-given "body" and "soul."

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right to play and for development into well rounded useful citizens of the morrow. Their hopes and dreams are the hopes and dreams of the future. Their stamp of approval on the bonds and tax monies, are to be the stamp of approval on the future. Their wholesome life that "cannot be lived up an alley."

—DR. W. L. HALBERSTADT,
Chairman, Charlotte Park & Recreation Commission.

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Marquis Childs

Weight Hangs Heavy

WASHINGTON

QUINCE President Truman: a number of his friends, including Marquis Childs, on him the necessity to bring into his Administration men with new ideas and new energy. Yet it is not so much the liberal Democrats who hoped, as the first election returns showed, that the President would, to achieve the Democratic program.

Behind their urging is the fear that unless positive, creative, constructive action is taken by the Truman Administration will fail to make good on the promises of the campaign. As was demonstrated in 1948, when the President had at least a nominally Democratic Congress, the President merely to send messages proposing this or that program.

One of the recent callers was Chester Bowles, who was elected Governor of Connecticut on a narrow majority although the state's electoral votes went in the Republican column. Bowles is a typical of the new forces in the Democratic Party that are certain to play a more active role in the future.

In partnership with William Brewster, Bowles is a powerful advertising firm. Bowles made a tidy fortune in the war, and now he is a partner in the war. The elected the 80th Congress with Republican majorities in both houses.

President Truman is 64 years old. After the age of 50 or 55, very few people are changed by the tides or their ways. The likelihood for change, either in personnel or in policy, is small. The likelihood for change, either in personnel or in policy, is small. The likelihood for change, either in personnel or in policy, is small.

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What Bowles resigned, his relationship with the White House was not too happy. He had been critical of the administration, and he was not too happy. He had been critical of the administration, and he was not too happy. He had been critical of the administration, and he was not too happy.

After that Spring he proposed to party consider drafting Gen. Eisenhower as a candidate in place of Cleveland. Bowles said he added that the Eisenhower draft should be conditional on an election by Eisenhower in 1952.

Views on major social and economic problems confronting the country.

FORGIVE AND FORGET