

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

60th Anniversary Year

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1948

'O Come All Ye Faithful'

Marquis Childs

Another Perspective

A TIGHTER LAW ON 'GOOF BALLS'

ALONG the hot, dry south coast of Puerto Rico during summer season, the fibrous art around in the comparative cool of the evening and sip a concoction made of fermented cane juice which is affectionately known as conito, a deceptively mild molasses which doesn't begin to hint of the explosive content of the beverage.

In the desert mountain region of Mexico, the peonier tap the maguey plant, drain off the fluid, and put it aside until it ferments. Then they have a refreshment which they call pulque, but which is considerably closer to a liquid atomic bomb than a drink.

In North Carolina, long famed for its "smoke" from combining wood alcohol with some innocent soft drink, the newest fad has been the "goof ball" as a fast cheap way of going crazy by imbibing a small amount of some legal intoxicant and topping it off with a sleeping pill or some other derivative of barbituric acid.

All over the world men have put their heads to work to convert seemingly harmless, often beneficial, liquids or drugs to their own devilish purposes, and the tragic results run distressingly true to form. The fibrous straw waving his knife,

the peon starts waving his machete, and the Tar Heel starts waving his gun. Young Ray Aldridge of Gastonia, who battled it out with the cops the other Sunday afternoon, killing one of the officers and wounding five other people, said he had taken a "goof ball" after drinking beer and didn't recollect what happened thereafter.

It wasn't the first such incident, but it was the most spectacular, and drew the attention of the public to the fact that the N. C. laws governing the sale of such drugs obviously are too lax. The State Board of Pharmacy was under the impression that previous legislation covering the question, but discovered during the Aldridge investigation that the law does not include various derivatives of barbituric acid, sleeping tablets and the like, sold under different trade names.

The State Board has announced it will ask the next General Assembly to amend the act to eliminate such loopholes and require a doctor's prescription for the sale of any of the barbituric acid drugs and derivatives. The tighter law but not entirely ended this latest fad, but it will help, and the General Assembly should act without undue delay.

STATES RIGHTS—AND RESPONSIBILITIES

GEORGIA'S Herman Talmadge, who wears dark suits, smokes long cigars and speaks in a quiet voice, introduced, and succeeded in having passed, another lynch law, the Southern Governors' Conference in Savannah, Ga., last week. But it was so much like the familiar campaign speeches of his cousin, Strom Thurmond, that it scarcely seemed a ripple in the national press.

Word comes from Savannah that several Southern Governors, including those of North Carolina and Alabama, balked determinedly against reiterating what has been said many times before. Furthermore, there was sentiment expressed for a post office approach to the civil rights question—an attitude noticeably lacking in most former states of the Southern Confederacy.

The positive approach quietly mentioned in Savannah has as much merit as any. It would call on the Legislatures of the Southern states to make haste in abolishing the poll tax as a requirement for voting. It would ask them to strengthen anti-lynching laws. For years on end the South has asked the nation to let it handle its own affairs, but in some instances there has been little evidence that certain states in the South intend to handle them courageously.

These two issues—poll tax and lynching—make up a vital part of the legislation now pending in Congress which would spread a net of Federal control over the South. Yet many Southern states—whose leaders still the air against outside intervention—still require their citizens to pay a tax before voting and quietly turn their

backs when white men lynch black men. What can the South expect when it fails to tidy up its own house? It can expect lynch law, which seems to be on the verge of happening. Federal intervention. In the opinion of many Southerners the states of the former Confederacy could do few things more indicative of their desire to tidy up their own house than to vote to push State action on these two controversial issues. North Carolina, incidentally, outlawed the poll tax as a voting qualification in the early 'twenties, and many of the states recently. North Carolina's chief executive took strong action in hunting down perpetrators of lynch violence. Virginia's Legislature expects to consider revising its poll tax structure at its next session.

The case for states' rights, which has been argued brilliantly on constitutional grounds by such competent attorneys as Senator Stennis of Mississippi, falls on deaf ears when outside observers note that undemocratic practices like the poll tax still require the South's silent approval.

State legislative action would show this region's sincerity about its argument for State rights. It is a fact that the South does reveal—like it or not—that the South does not hide the race issue behind the golden shield of the states' rights principle. Up to this time outsiders have seen ample reason to make them believe such assertions.

United action by Southern Legislatures in January could give the South a sweeping moral victory and a strong argument point for the continuing validity of the states' rights cause.

SANTA IS A DISPLACED PERSON

WITH the attic off-limits because of the lady of the house stores there this time of the year and with the children in the closet dark plateaus of mystery, two would see that Saint Nick is still going strong hereabouts.

But in Berlin Mother doesn't much care whether you look in the attic or not. And neither do the kids. In Berlin, where the house that is too cold because there is not enough fuel to heat it. Kris Kringle, for Berliners this year, is just another displaced person.

Perhaps the kids (of which there is much) is not the only reason young Hans and Friedrich will have a skimpy Christmas morning. The air lift can carry only so much; most of the space in the planes will have to be devoted to food and fuel. Toys from Frankfurt and goodies from Bremen aren't necessities—not even on Christmas morning.

Perhaps the kids in Berlin are wise enough to wonder what manner of men these Russians and Americans are that

they would keep Santa out of Berlin. Well, what kind are we? They deserve an answer.

Can we tell them they can't have Christmas because their parents once decided to conquer the world? Can we explain that the necessities of a new cold war preclude a celebration of the birth of Christ? Or can we tell them that the result of the Russian, and let it go at that?

Perhaps it is "all the fault of the Russians." But Christmas, more than anything else, should be removed from nationalistic considerations. In these times of the Chinese children, hungry and harried between armies, for England's "austerity," for turmoil in Italy, plain in France, is not solely Russia's, nor ours—it is the responsibility of all mankind.

We can tell Berlin's children that they will have no Christmas because men are selfish and suspicious, because nations are greedy and because humanity is still the same fallible humanity. They will hear but, being children, they will not understand.

From The Durham Herald

THE ALCOHOLISM PROBLEM

THE Commonwealth of Virginia seems to be beating the nation in doing almost anything about the problem of alcoholism. There the matter has been abandoned properly as a disease.

This year Virginia is spending \$100,000 from its general fund to maintain in-patient and out-patient clinics at the Medical College of Virginia Hospital in Richmond, to establish other clinics around the state, and to provide money for research, preventive and educational measures.

Twelve other States in the Union in varying degree have tackled the problem through their State Legislatures. Mark it down that North Carolina is not in Alabama, Connecticut, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wisconsin.

The legislation provided for these states is also exceedingly varied. But all of the concern evidences that some has recognized the problem of alcoholism as a social problem, and in these times states something material is being done.

Some of the States are attempting to investigate causes of alcoholism. Others are studying methods of treatment. Still others are surveying facilities for treatment and rehabilitation, even establishing programs for such rehabilitation. In some states isolated clinics and hospitals for the special treatment of alcoholics have been put into operation. In almost all of these states programs of education emphasizing alcoholism as a disease have been promoted.

North Carolina, proud of its progressive approach to the problem, needs to alert itself to the needs. There are many local communities, Durham for example, where such programs might be started by recognized agencies. From these could grow the urge on the part of the entire state to assume its responsibility. Here is another item for the coming General Assembly.



People's Platform

Good Times At Barium Springs

Editor, The News:

EVERYBODY knows that Dec. 25 is a big day anywhere where a lot of children are congregated. It is just that much bigger day. Well, many things have happened at Barium Springs recently that Dec. 25 will have to be a super day to match them.

To begin with on the night of Dec. 16 the boys at Davidson threw a party for 175 Barium Springs children. The fraternalities and the non-fraternalities groups were in on this. The buses took off from Barium about 7 o'clock in the evening and they landed at Davidson about 30 minutes later. There the different groups were met by boys who escorted the young people to the fraternity houses wherever they were to be entertained. We have endeavored to find out just what happened but we are answered by so many "Oh my's" and "Such a good time," that we know that the children who went to Davidson for this party had a superlatively good time, and nothing that happened in the entire year has created as much enthusiasm as that particular party.

The other big event at Barium was the "Give To Christmas" tree which took place on the night of Dec. 17. This "Give To Christmas" tree is just an hour of illumination. It takes place in the big dining room at Barium and the neighborhood joins in the celebration. A rather light supper is dispensed on the tree. Just before the Christmas carols and any other music that strikes their fancy everybody makes an offering and hangs a decoration on the tree. Last year before Christmas the recipient of the contribution has been discussed and decided upon. This year the offering was for the Home Mission enterprise in Ashe and Wilkes County under the direction of the Rev. W. M. Luke.

Many children are all familiar with the excellent work done there and we know of Mr. Luke's ability to make a dollar do a whole lot of work.

The amount contributed this year is the largest ever—\$153.46. A lot of this money was earned by the students at Davidson. Taking the leaves off the caninus made everything look neater; the cows at the dairy barn enjoyed the work; the chickens used for bedding there, and maybe they managed to produce a few extra gallons of milk to help with the occasion.

The Christmas tree this year with all its decorations will stay in the dining room through the holidays. The tree is decorated with lights and ornaments as much enjoyment out of the things that are given to us because we started things off by giving to others.

These two events, the Davidson party and the "Give To Christmas" tree, insured the holidays season at Barium Springs.

J. B. JOHNSTON, Superintendent.

Magazines Benefit From Subsidy

Editor, The News:

IHAVE noted your editorial in your anniversary issue: "End Postal Subsidies."

In the main, newspapers do not profit from present intervention of postal laws or from what estate lobby.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Editor, The News:

DRAW PEARSON, the ex-Congressman from Baltimore, revisited his old Washington haunts the other day and in the course of things called on President Truman.

Maverick first knew Truman when the latter was a young man. He was a newspaperman from Missouri. Last week he talked to the President in the same blunt way that he has in the past.

"Mr. President," said Maury, "you're a big shot now. You used to feel sorry for yourself, but you've been re-elected. Now you're a great administrator. Now you're being sorry for yourself, we want you to be sorry for us."

"Maury," replied the President, "I'm just an humble man."

"No, you're not," countered the President. "You're a big shot, and you've got to do something for us, the people. You've got to give us a great administration. Now you're being sorry for yourself, we want you to be sorry for us."

"For God's sake, Maury," mused the President. "Truman just got to give us a great administration. Now you're being sorry for yourself, we want you to be sorry for us."

That was all Maverick could get out of Mr. Truman about the military men who play such an important part in the administration.

Real Estate Lobby's Latest Move

Editor, The News:

IAM sure was the real intent of Congress more than 100 years ago when they enacted laws making it unlawful for a member of Congress to be carried in private conveyance over any post route. See my monograph: "The American Postoffice," printed as Senate Doc. 542 (1910).

True, I believe papers are yet carried by mail free of charge, but free delivery service now so disreputable country lines that few, if any publishers could afford to separate their mailboxes so as to get such allowance. Your bulk deliveries which go to the country are usually delivered by your own trucks, which is clearly warranted under the law.

This practice, however, does not obtain with respect to the vast tonnage of the great magazines. They enter their publications as mail-matter of the second class, and send out by mail their single copy or subscription portion, highly expensive to the postal service, as it has to be handled many times before reaches the subscriber, while their heavy bulk output is delivered to dealers through the means of private express, or other private means, and at a rate of charge less than postal rates. This is all in plain violation of the intent of Congress as originally contemplated and results in a subsidy for the great magazines, while at the same time it is an unfair advantage in their favor as against the smaller magazines not having a "newspaper demand."

Much the same situation exists as respects a considerable volume of parcel post mail. Here, as with the large tonnage of magazines, there is a massive, unhandled portion of some 100 or more magazines, publishers, express competition takes the less expensive-to-handle portion of such mailable matter as mail with postage rates, leaving the more expensive to the postal service. These items and this permissive practice undoubtedly accounts for much of the half-billion postal deficit.

An examination of the debates and reports upon the subject of private competition in the carriage of mailable matter, which were extensive some 100 years ago, clearly shows that it was the intention of Congress to give the Post Office the right of carriage of mailable matter over post routes with certain minor exceptions. They were to be carried in the "mail" by means of "letter or packet." An early Postmaster General, asked that "packets" be limited to four pounds, which was done and remained until the passage of the Parcel Post Act in 1912. The Post Office is a constitutional agency, and it is the duty of Congress as Congress shall feel. Within those limits we should not permit its rightful revenues to be siphoned off to the advantage of big business.

NATHAN BOONE WILLIAMS.

Quote, Unquote

A local couple were slightly embarrassed a few nights ago while they were entertaining at dinner. Suddenly a voice was heard from a five-year-old upstart. "Mommy, the electric light is on in the bathroom. Shall I turn it on?"—FERNANDA (F.A.) News-Letter.

Speaking of all-purpose animals, a Savannah policeman staged holdups at night and then tried to catch himself next day—Memphis (F.A.) News-Letter.

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WASHINGTON

THE human drama of the House Un-American Activities Committee, which is now in session, is a tragedy of our time—the tragedy of the lost ideal in desperate search of certainty.

To understand the terms of this drama, a great deal depends, of course, on the angle from which one views it.

To many, and this would include most if not all the members of the House Un-American Activities Committee, the institution is a tragedy. It is but another step in proving the existence of a widespread Communist plot within the government. These same people link that plot directly to the New Deal.

Hiss, therefore, becomes a paragon of virtue. Those on the Un-American Activities Committee, the Dept. of Justice of trying to suppress the case believe the motive was to attack the New Deal in the person of Hiss.

THE NEW DEALER

Hiss had a quality which is ordinarily meant by the phrase New Dealer Out of Harvard Law School, but in view of the fact that he was in his class, he became a law clerk to the late Justice Charles E. Hughes.

Holmes. That was the accolade of the liberal young man out of Harvard. He was taken over by the great Holmes who was then, in 1930, nearing the end of his career.

For these three decades, Hiss was with one of the big law firms in Washington, D. C., and he was active in the government agency or another.

This brilliant and attractive young

man, who might very easily have been making \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year with one of the large firms of corporation lawyers, was devoted to the public good. That was how most of his friends and associates saw him and how they continued to see him even after his testimony last Summer flattered on the quest of office relationship with Whitaker Chambers.

They received the news of his indictment with shock and genuine grief. That is the perspective from which this drama is being viewed.

Most of Hiss' former associates are from the institution of the government since the policy-making personnel of the Roosevelt New Deal has been scattered. Some are on the edge of government, working with research groups and foundations or labor organizations. Still others are making five and six figure annual incomes in Washington-New York law firms.

RETRAYAL OF IDEAL

To these people, if the charges against Hiss are sustained in court, will have been the betrayal of an ideal which they cherished. The betrayal will be all the more bitter because Hiss was one of many Hiss stood as a symbol of the new idealism of the Roosevelt New Deal. He was one of the new architects of the program of moderate reform by that phrase.

For these taken over by the people there is only one possible explanation why someone would do such a thing. But Hiss might have done such a thing. The secret state documents that he was now showing affinity with the Chamberlain policy of appeasing Germany which was in that time served with one government agency or another.

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