# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THOMAS L. ROBINSON ..... Publisher
J. E. DOWD ..... General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH ..... Executive Editor
WILLIAM M. REDDIG ..... Editor

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## A Risk With The Tax Cut

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S veto message on the $4.8 billion income tax reduction bill offered nothing new and was quickly overridden by Congress.

The President merely repeats himself, advancing all the objections which he raised to the $4 billion tax cut which he vetoed last year. Most of those objections have either been met in the new measure or have been rendered less valid by the changed conditions of 1948.

Mr. Truman's case for a veto rests entirely on his contention that the tax cut will produce a deficit and will not leave enough for reduction of our large public debt. Congress holds that the surplus will be much larger this year than has been estimated by the Administration and the Federal income will cover the tax relief, all our essential commitments, and payment on the debt. The Congressional leaders were right in 1947 when they said that the present tax rate would yield a surplus larger than their proposed tax cut while the Administration argued it would produce a deficit.

Although there is good reason to believe that the President's estimate on the surplus is again too low, we clearly are taking a chance on a deficit and no debt payment with this tax reduction. Congress is notoriously eager to slash taxes and authorize expenditures just before an election. It already has indicated it will support new preparedness measures which will add several billions to the budget, now put at $39,700,000,000 by the Administration.

Mr. Truman repeats his 1947 statement that the Republican-sponsored tax cut will be inflationary, as it will be if there is no corresponding reduction in Government spending. However, the slash in revenue should have the effect of forcing some Government economizing that would not otherwise be had. There is reason to hope that the relief provided individuals will be greater than the price rise caused by the increased buying power from this bill. Some of the added income will go into savings.

The President fails to answer the contention that this tax cut will stimulate production, saying only that "neither funds nor profit incentive are lacking for investment and business enterprise at the present tax rate."

He indulges in a bit of campaign demagogy when he calls the measure inequitable and points out that nearly 40 per cent goes to individuals with incomes over $5,000 a year and cuts estate and gift taxes by $250 million a year for "only about 12,000 of the most wealthy families." The feature of this bill is that it grants the larger share of relief to the low-income groups and corrects some of the inequity in the present confiscatory rates on moderate and large incomes. Even Senator Pepper admitted during the debate on the bill that there should be a rule against the Government taking more than half of a man's income. That goal has not yet been attained and it is distressing to hear the President still playing the old "soak the rich" tune.

## A Limit To Federal Aid

SENATOR BYRD unfortunately is right when he protests against the Taft bill which authorizes the spending of $300 million in Federal aid to the nation's grade and high schools each year.

"Never in our history has there been a more unpropitious time for the Federal Government to enter into a long-range proposition such as is proposed in the pending legislation," the Virginia Senator asserted when the bill was passed Thursday by the Senate, 55 to 22.

There was never a day when the soundness of the Byrd stand on Federal economy was more evident. On this same day a Senate-House conference committee approved $6,098,000,000 for the European Recovery program. Congress is preparing to authorize more billions for military preparedness. The Federal budget is rising swiftly toward the figure of $50 billion a year. These vast expenditures will bring a new wave of inflation and make the danger of national bankruptcy very large indeed.

There was never a time when America needed to do more for schools, for housing, for public health but it is sheer folly to think that the Federal Government can undertake programs to meet all these needs at the same time it is laboring under an enormous public debt left by the last war, spending billions to stabilize the world and fight off Communism, and paying for a swollen bureaucracy. America will never be able to solve its pressing domestic problems unless it first wins the world fight against revolution and war and puts its own financial house in order. That's a long-range operation in which the Federal Government must concentrate all its energies.

Beyond all that, the Taft program for Federal aid offers no real solution to the education problem. At the best, it represents only stop-gap aid. At the worst, it is a palliative which will defer the day of permanent solution and create other serious problems in government. It is another large step in the direction of shifting state and local responsibility and authority to Washington, further weakening states' rights, increasing the costs and power of Big Government.

## Dangerous Days In Berlin

IN BERLIN, the United States, Britain and France apparently have suffered a serious setback in the "cold war." If the Russians succeed in their announced intention of squeezing the Western powers out of the old German capital, they will have delivered a heavy blow to our whole position and prestige in Europe.

Action started by the Russian order setting up rigid inspection of American, British and French railway trains bound for Berlin, which lies inside the Soviet Zone of occupation. The Western allies refused to submit to inspection and canceled train movements from their zones into the German capital. America's commander in Germany then ordered American planes to carry passengers and freight into Berlin to the U. S.-controlled Tempelhof Airdrome.

The British later moved a freight train into Berlin, going through the blockade without incident, after it was discovered the Soviet decree was vague on inbound freight traffic. The Americans moved to dispatch a freight train carrying supplies for American troops stationed in Berlin.

Up to this point, the Soviets have seized the advantage in several ways. They are making propaganda capital out of their inspection order, asserting the Allies have been stripping Berlin of its industrial assets, arousing suspicions as to the nature of the Allied railway traffic which are strengthened by our refusal to submit to inspection. They apparently are operating within their legal rights, although violating the spirit of the agreement for four-power control of Berlin. They can and probably will make the land traffic restriction more stringent. They can, if they want, starve out the British, French and American forces stationed in Berlin as it does not appear that plane service can maintain an adequate flow of supplies.

America thus is placed in a deep dilemma. It is faced with the question of how it can remain in Berlin without taking military measures. If it uses force, it will be branded as the aggressor and add fresh fuel to the Communist propaganda against American imperialists and "warmongers." On the other hand, if the United States loses this siege, the Bolshevists will have complete possession of the rich Eastern portion of the reich, including its capital, which not only is the center of European transportation but the apple of the German eye. Any way we turn, we seem to be in a tough spot in Berlin.

*From The Asheville Citizen*

## In Which Virginia Reels

STRANGE alarums sound from the watch towers and ring across borders. Here, for example, is the erudite *Richmond Times-Dispatch* declaiming rather nervously:

> The ferment which has gripped Virginia has spread to the other Southern states. President Truman has stirred immense antagonism in all of them, and the Republicans may carry several. That could happen in North Carolina, for instance, where the GOP is far stronger than in Virginia already, and where a Truman candidacy might threw the state into the Republican column for the first time in twenty years.

Of course, we have heard the same dark rumors about Virginia, a state which also went off the reservation in 1928. But there is more substance in the Old Dominion ferment than in the sub-simmer which agitates Tar Heels. In that state Governor Tuck appears to have read the local Democracy clear out of the first two, or three, parties and into a fourth one. And for the life of us we cannot tie that to the recent aberrations of Harry Truman.

True, the Republican Party is strong in North Carolina. True, there is dissent. Some of it is being whipped up by outside misrepresentation of the Truman stand and by such twisting of facts as a *Wall Street Journal* story which tells how a "Charlotte public opinion poll . . . showed Senator Vandenberg leading . . . Wallace second." The truth is, of course, that General Eisenhower led that poll, a fact which is subject to entirely different interpretation.

North Carolina will ride the storm, and will not reel, because it has the good sense to ask itself about the overdrawn civil rights issue: "Where else would we go?" Perhaps that is because, for 40-odd years, it has encouraged a kind of democracy down home with which no one finds any glaring fault.

### The Match Goes On And On

*People's Platform*

## Beer And Bootlegging

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

RECENTLY your paper carried a report of speech made by the Mayor of Monroe in regard to the beer question. The writer took it on himself personally to write the Mayor about this issue and herewith is copy of letter:

Mayor J. Ray Shute
Monroe, N. C.
Dear Sir:

Your recent speech upholding the beer situation, carried by the Charlotte News, came to the writer's attention. Being a newspaper man, he is a clipping of same, just in case you wish to refer to same.

The writer realizes you probably don't care a snap what the outsiders think about the situation, or the insiders either, however, just to be fair and broad minded, how about reading this and reflect upon same for a brief moment?

Being a public servant, you, no doubt, realize that you are responsible for the welfare of many people, either directly or indirectly, and your thoughts and actions will affect the welfare of many. There are, no doubt, a number of things that could be used as arguments for beer and its public sale, yet when a moral issue is involved most of the arguments fade into insignificance.

The enclosed speech presents two arguments, or points for the legalized sale of beer, namely: Combating the bootlegger and the revenue derived from the sale of same. Both of these arguments are very familiar, and very threadbare. How can the legalized sale of beer drive the bootlegger out of business, when the beer patrons usually climax their visits to the beer parlor by a visit to some bootlegger for a pint or quart of something with a little more punch?

The case is just this—bootleggers are thriving, as it is, everybody knows it. Even the law enforcement officers know of their activities. City officials know of their activities, also most residents, good and bad, know about this awful business. Therefore, the presence or absence of beer does not lessen the number of termites that call themselves citizens, and live off the money that boys and girls should have in clothes and education, whose Fathers and some Mothers love a temporary pleasure more than their family.

Furthermore, if city officials would be honest, fearless and faithful to the trust they have been invested with, bootleggers could be stamped out in a year's time, or at least to such an extent that it would be a very undesirable business for even the lowest disreputable parasites.

Second, the idea that people have to drink slop, get drunk, create irregular impulses and passions in order to provide funds for the successful operation of our government is about the craziest and most stupid thing that was ever rammed down poor, unthinking people's throats.

Because of drink there is more crime! Because of crime there is a need for more officers, hospitals, insane asylums, jails, etc., and because of this there is more need for revenue, therefore, we have to drink more to provide more revenue and then we have to expand more to handle the consequences. Now any thinking person can see that is just propaganda and the devil must have been the originator of such untruths.

Third, you offer the good, straight thinking people a sort of a clean up program. This program is offered only after the people begin to get stirred and demand action. Why do city officials always wait, to clean up, until people have to rise up and demand action?

—A. H. JOHNSON.

### German Needs A Comb

WUPPERTAL-VO.

Editors, THE NEWS:

WOULD you do me the favor of printing the following letter in your paper? I had many friends in your friendly city, but lost their addresses through the war. I lived in Stanley, N. C., from 1927-1930.

A comb is an absolutely necessary utility; even more so than a toothbrush. My comb is a very good old boy, but he is so old that he has lost quite a number of his "teeth," so many that I must aim very carefully while parting my hair.

Here in Germany, you have no possibility to buy anything, whether to eat, to wear, not even a comb. So I take this opportunity to ask one of your many readers if one will be kind enough to send me a comb. He would make me as well as my wife very happy.

ERIK HECKING

Wuppertal-Vo., v.d. Goltzstr. 26
North German Rhine Province
British Zone
Germany

*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.*

## Quote, Unquote

The census bureau figures the population of the United States will keep on growing until after 1975 but will be on the decline by the year 2000. That's a long time to wait for a vacant house.—Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.

Heard Over The Coffee Cups—"They tell me that she only plays gin-rummy for the gin that's in it." —Greenville (Miss.) Delta Democrat-Times.

More wheelbarrows were shipped from factories during the past twelve months than in any like period in our history. Doubtless getting ready for the toughest election since 1916.—Nashville Tennessean.

There is a lot of talk now about the "profitless prosperity" that is being experienced but some of those who are doing it either have forgotten or never have known what it really was to be without either profits or prosperity.—Lexington Herald.

*Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round*

## U. S. Patriots Seek To Lift Iron Curtain

WASHINGTON

SECRETARY of the Treasury Snyder and A. P. Giannini, the big California banker, held a super-secret dinner in Palm Beach, Fla., recently. They hired a private room of a small Italian restaurant for the confab—probably to discuss the date Snyder will resign as Secretary of the Treasury and join the Giannini bank. . . . Friends of Jim Farley say he would no longer be satisfied with No. 2 place on the Democratic ticket, is now out to be President. . . . Sad commentary on the current prestige of the White House: Sam Rosenman says the report that he was taking a job as counsel to President Truman has done him "incalculable injury." The report isn't true. . . . Senator "Pass-the-Biscuits Pappy" O'Daniel has dropped to an all-time low in Texas popularity according to recent polls. Only seven per cent of Texas voters are for him. Ex-Governor Coke Stevenson and Congressman Lyndon Johnson, the latter not yet an announced candidate for the Senate, run first in popularity.

### Lifting The Iron Curtain

YESTERDAY I suggested that Secretary Marshall might make one last, straight-from-the-heart Sermon-on-the-Mount appeal to Russia that if it means what it says about peace it should raise the Iron Curtain and let the American and Russian people get acquainted. If that appeal failed then there wouldn't be any argument about going ahead with rearmament.

On top of this idea I have been trying to figure out just what individual citizens could do to win friends both behind and on this side of the Iron Curtain. For if you can win friends among people you make it awfully hard for dictators to start war. That's one big reason dictators keep their people in ignorance—so as to make it easy to start war.

Of course, General Marshall is probably the only man who could make a world-wide appeal to the Russian people—and to others around the Iron Curtain. But quite a few patriotic Americans have been doing more than their part in sending democracy messages to Italy. Walter Lemmon of World Wide Broadcasting has been doing a whale of a job beaming radio messages to Italy. Mrs. Francesca Lodge, wife of the Connecticut Congressman, has worked night and day translating these messages, and scores of people have cooperated.

In a democracy you don't leave everything to the Government. In a democracy, in fact, the people are usually ahead of their Government.

So perhaps individual citizens could amplify this technique of winning friends. Perhaps via the radio we could get the people of Russia and other countries talking—not about Miss Hush or The Walking Man, but about peace and democracy.

### Wrist Watches And Democracy

WHEN Russian troops got into Berlin, they were dazzled even by Hitler's disrupted and shoddy civilization. They bought watches by the bushel, pilfered everything they found in the way of sorts of material things. This was a new world. They never knew such things existed. They had heard only Moscow's propaganda that Communism produced the best of all things and for the first time they began to have their doubts.

That's why there have been so many Red Army desertions in occupied Europe.

Remembering this, I have been thinking it might be a good idea to beam a radio program to Russia and other semi-Iron Curtain countries, offering 100 wrist watches as prizes for the best letters on how to bring about a democratic peace with the USA—on how to make peace and democracy live.

For the chance to get a wrist watch thousands of Russians and other Europeans would keep their ears glued to the radio day and night. Not only would they do some special thinking about peace and democracy but incidentally they would hear a lot more of the State Department's propaganda broadcasts. Most important of all, they would do some thing about friendship with the United States.

Maybe I'm wrong, but somehow I think the idea might work. At any rate you can't beat something with nothing. You can't lick phony ideas except by getting better ideas to take their place. And we can't sit watching the world drift toward war without doing something about it.

Perhaps we could stage a quick trial of the idea in Italy where democracy is fighting a vital front-line battle, then later warm up to a longer radio barrage to the Russian people on how to make democracy live.

### Soap Won Friends

DURING the war we spent millions dropping pamphlets, soap, and tea bags with messages attached in order to win people behind the enemy lines. This is modern warfare. It saves a lot of lives.

Today we are spending billions to draft men, build airplane carriers, prepare for another war. But we spend almost nothing on trying to head off that war—on softening the potential enemy, on winning over its people.

American ideas are the most ingenious and resourceful people in the world. We are also supposed to be the greatest salesmen. And if we can't sell democracy better than the Russians can sell Communism there's something wrong with us.

Several centuries ago, men fought with swords and lances. They had to be within striking distance. Later they fought a little farther apart with muskets and cannon. Then field artillery was able to increase the range, until now the airplane and rocket have carried warfare across oceans and continents.

However, the range must be increased even farther. It must be increased to 5,000 miles or more, by radio, letter or courier to undermine the ability of dictators to make war. Actually, the strategy of the future has got to be a campaign to prevent war.

You can call it commercial if you want to, but we've got to apply modern American techniques to the business of selling peace.

*Joseph & Stewart Alsop*

## A Red's Journey

WASHINGTON.

IN THE background of the Trieste incident, a curious figure has now begun to loom up with some importance. Some time prior to the American, British and French proposal to return Trieste to Italy, the Italian Communist deputy, Pajetta, journeyed to Belgrade and Moscow. With Longo and Secchia, Pajetta belongs to the so-called "shadow leadership" of the Italian Communists, much closer to Moscow than the official chiefs, including even Palmiro Togliatti. His mission in Yugoslavia and Russia was to arrange a gesture of Soviet generosity toward Italy.

Since Pajetta went to the headquarters of Marshal Tito, as well as to the Kremlin, it was suspected that this gesture might be a promise to transfer Trieste to an Italy under Communist leadership. The suspicion at least helped to stimulate the American, British and French governments to take immediately the step which the local situation in Trieste had already rendered desirable. And the extremely weak and embarrassed response of the Soviets and Yugoslavs is taken as indicating that the suspicion was correct.

**WILL ARMS BE USED?**

Nor is this Signor Pajetta's only significance. If the Soviets still desire to make a gesture toward Italy, they can wave Italian reparations on behalf of themselves and their satellites. They can also send wheat shipments just prior to the voting. On the other hand, they may prefer force to gestures. If the Kremlin's decision is to meet an unfavorable ballot in Italy by precipitating civil war, Signor Pajetta is the man who has carried the orders back to Rome. There is some fear that the orders include the use of force, since Pajetta's partner in the Italian Communist shadow leadership, Luigi Longo, has already menaced Italy with Communist resort to arms.

Meanwhile, it is also worth reporting that Rome, Washington, London and Paris are no longer enveloped in quite the pall of impenetrable gloom which fear of the Italian elections was generating two or three weeks ago. At Rome, Premier Alcide de Gasperi is talking with firm confidence, both to his own people and to foreign observers.

Not long ago, French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault returned to Paris from a meeting with de Gasperi and the Italian Foreign Minister, Count Sforza, in Italy. Bidault had previously been the most alarmed of all the Western leaders and the strongest in pressing for quick action on Trieste. De Gasperi's assurance and mastery of the situation deeply impressed and greatly encouraged him. And Bidault's encouragement, reported in the other capitals by the usual diplomatic round-robin, has had much to do with the more cheerful atmosphere here and in London.

It is also felt that the proposal to return Trieste to the Italians has been even more effective than those who made it dared to hope. Milan, for example, is probably the most completely Communist-controlled of the big Italian cities. Yet soon after the Trieste offer, Communist demonstrations in Milan had to be protected from the angry populace by the Italian police. Again, de Gasperi, who was formerly received in stony silence, has recently been loudly cheered in working class districts. There have also been several significant, though not decisive desertions from the Communist-bought Nenni Socialists, to the independent group headed by Giuseppe Saragat and Ivan Matteo Lombardo.

**ON DEBIT SIDE**

Such is the credit side of the ledger. On the debit side, unfortunately, there are also a number of items to be noted. First, the bumbling incompetence of the United States Maritime Commission has wound up the plan to give Italy 29 American ships in such a hopeless tangle of red tape that delivery cannot be promptly effected.

Second, the Communists are continuing their campaign with extraordinary vigor and lack of scruple. In southern Italy, for example, where the Trieste business had less effect than in the North, a new tactic is being used to win over the ignorant peasantry. A Communist, ostentatiously dressed in uniform and wearing an official air, visits a peasant family to ask how much more land, how many more pigs, etc., the family needs. The needs, of course, are generously stated. The Communist takes careful notes, and goes away promising that the pigs, acres and all will be delivered when the Communists are in control at Rome. Third, and last, the likelihood of gestures by Moscow and Belgrade continues to exist, and is perhaps greater than ever.

In short, while it is possible to be encouraged, it is no time to become complacent about the Italian situation. De Gasperi's danger is not merely a heavy Communist and fought-Socialist vote on April 18. It is also an increase in the neo-Fascist vote of the extreme Right, which would render it impossible to form a government. And it is the civil war which Signor Pajetta may well have brought back orders to start. If the Italian crisis is peacefully surmounted, everyone can breathe more easily. But the peace will be won only before the storm unless the Western powers, led by us, make themselves strong.

*Samuel Grafton*

## Matter Of Definition

NEW YORK

**CRISIS:** A word much used by statesmen, commentators, newsreel voices, etc., to describe the condition of affairs between ourselves and Russia. "Democracy girds its loins in crisis," sings the disembodied electronic voice of our times; a it also is, say, of a shipment of arms to Turkey. But there is another sort of crisis which rarely gets italic described, and that is the crisis in the souls of those who wonder whether we—and the world—are doing the right thing, and whether another try at negotiation should not be made. Western man is indeed in crisis, but part of it is the crisis within himself. It is made up, among other elements, of doubt as to whether tough speeches are an altogether valid way of meeting mankind's greatest emergency, and of a feeling of concern as to whether Mr. Truman's method really represents the best that the accumulated wisdom of the ages can contribute to solving our problems. This inner crisis manifests itself in a sick feeling at the contemplation of what has happened in three years, and in doubt as to whether either side (including Russia, but also, definitely, including us) is entirely free of blame. But it is hard to make a bulletin of this kind of crisis in a news broadcast or to throw it on the newsreel screen. You cannot show a man staring at himself in his shaving mirror and tell the audience that this is a photo of democracy in crisis—and so it is the other kind of crisis that sits for its picture, and gets the publicity.

**NON-APPEASER:** A man who, when challenged by one of the big noises at a dinner party, nervously agrees that why yes, of course, he too wants a showdown, right away, at any cost.

**HUMILITY:** The ability to see oneself in proper perspective. For example we feel that ours is an extremely stable society, compared with the fluid and boiling nations of Western Europe, and so ours is. But some wonders what would happen if we, this year, had for some reason to write a new constitution for ourselves, starting from scratch. Would we solve our basic problems, such as those concerning who is to vote, what rights racial minorities are to enjoy, what labor can do or can't do, in a peaceful few days of discussion? Or would bitter quarrels perhaps develop, with these subjects thrown open, and with men very much like our present public figures trying to solve them? Come to think of it, some of the interchanges between the President and certain Southern political leaders sound as angry as anything coming over the cables.

**THE END OF AN ERA:** A sad little phrase, used in commenting on the passing of a familiar well-liked condition of life, as, for example, the disappearance of the corner beer and free liver for the cat at the butcher's or, more recently, the termination of that simple period in which there were only two factions in the Democratic Party.

**THE FAMILY IN A CHANGING WORLD:** A popular topic of writers and lecturers. They never run dry, because there is always new material to discuss in this field, as for example, recent developments in law and government policy which are going to allow a man to split his income with his wife for tax purposes, but will compel him to do without the company of his son, whose services will be required elsewhere.