THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

60th Anniversary Year

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WILLIAM M. REDDIO ..... Editor

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1948

Editors Explore North Carolina

BEGINNING tomorrow, more than 400 newspaper editors and publishers from 44 states start out from Pinehurst on a six-day tour of North Carolina. They have been attending sessions of the National Editorial Association's convention in Pinehurst since Wednesday and now are ready for the pure entertainment of their get-together.

This somewhat strenuous tour for the visiting newspapermen was arranged by the North Carolina Press Association under the direction of its imaginative and indefatigable secretary, Miss Beatrice Cobb, editor and publisher of the *Morganton News-Herald*. She and her assistants devised an extensive itinerary and an elaborate sightseeing program in the knowledge that there is nothing an editor or a publisher enjoys more than nosing around to observe how people in other towns are living, what they've got and how they treat editors and publishers.

The National Editorial Association is composed largely of owners and editors of weekly and semi-weekly newspapers in the towns and smaller cities of America. From them, North Carolina knows that it will obtain an expert and appreciative appraisal. They come from communities of the type that flourish in North Carolina, a state of many small towns and no overgrown cities. They are men and women who take a particular and an authoritative interest in the movement for decentralization of industry and diversification which North Carolina is encouraging. They are indeed students of community development and the six-day tour will be for them something of an excursion through a national laboratory in this field.

To be quite frank, North Carolina is inordinately proud of its land, its possessions and its people, and it is pleased to show off before a distinguished company of visitors, but the underlying purpose of the trip is to promote a wider appreciation of our assets and potentials, a better understanding of our problems and greater co-operation between the towns and states of America.

We want the editors to tell their people back home of the glorious vacationland in the mountains of Western North Carolina and on the far-famed strands of our Atlantic beach resorts. We hope they will write of the change, hope and progress that have been brought by the development of textile mills in Carolina communities. We would like to have them tell of our great forests, our timber industries and furniture factories, our great cotton and tobacco fields, our industrial expansion and our growing cities in the Piedmont, our power developments, our fine highways, our fight for better schools and better public services, and our record for progressive government and harmonious relations. The list of interesting and significant things is endless.

We want the editors and publishers to fill their notebooks with Tar Heel data and lore, not simply to advertise North Carolina but primarily because we believe that the true story of the Old North State will inspire national pride and hope, and thus benefit everyone.

Above all, we want the editors to have a good time as they tour this bright and favored part of our America. We are confident that that wish will be fulfilled and we are honored to be their hosts.

The Criminal Land-Robbers

IN mankind's struggle to provide food for growing population, research laboratories are the only answer, but most of the $600,000,000 spent annually on research is allotted to institutions in the North and East, the Southern Association of Science & Industry was told at its annual convention in Miami.

"From now out," said Dr. Malcolm Ross, of the University of Miami, "the earth's four billion arable acres must support the world's population, which at present numbers two billion, two hundred and fifty million.

"Every twenty-four hours in our country erosion carries away the equivalent of 200 forty-acre farms. The stripped hills and low living standards are there to warn us, but they seem as remote from our steel green slopes as the sterile valleys of the moon. It is hard to feel the hunger of distant people or to think in world statistics."

In the last seven years, Dr. Ross said, 250,000 workers quit farms in the Southeast, and the South is faced with the immediate problem of keeping its people at home and adding processing value to its agricultural products for employment. This requires research, he declared.

The professor's facts are facets of a hundred-faced stone of contention which various groups in the South like to toss back and forth from one lap to another. As pessimistic as he seems, we are like the backwoods farmer who answered advice from the agricultural agent by saying shucks, he knew how to be progressive and have a model farm, but it was just too much trouble. We are making some progress where the obstacles are not too difficult and profits are easy.

In the Piedmont row crops are no longer the kings they were. Mechanical cultivation of flatlands, especially in the Southwest, is making less advantageous the family-operated farming of comparatively small plots with mules. Such small-scale row-cropping probably will continue here for at least another generation, but it will eventually disappear. This will not mean, even in our fondest hopes, such cessation of erosion as to restore our streams from mud and topsoil carriers to the pristine clarity they had before we stripped the land, but soil conservation practices are spreading and we can hope that our red hills will never become as sterile as those of China.

As each of us is our brother's keeper and as we should ask not for whom the bell tolls, so should each of us be a custodian of the land. This is a vital matter.

As we look over what we have, we should regard gullies and bare banks of soil as crimes against our children. It is encouraging to see so many tracts of otherwise useless soil planted in clover or pines to keep them from washing away, but there still are too many sores of erosion spotting the countryside.

Who owns these sores? Whether he is a neighbor or a nebulous corporation, he should be called to account. To strip or farm out any part of the earth's surface and then leave it to wash away, when small effort could start it toward recovery, is a crime against oneself and future generations.

Are Bald Heads Wiser?

IN the midst of our preoccupations with atomic energy, world government proposals and how many billions to spend on the Air Force, it might be well to pause and consider a claim made by Noah J. Parsons, of Stamping Ground, Ky., in the Louisville *Courier-Journal*.

"Crazy bald-headed men are scarcer than hen's teeth," declares Mr. Parsons. "I never knew but one bald-headed man to go crazy, and he wore a toupee. It was debatable whether he went crazy and bought the toupee, or went crazy by wearing it.

"Bald-headed men are noted for coolheadedness and affability. They are not nervous or excitable, nor do they become distracted over troubles. Bald-headed men invariably have a high sense of humor and a fancy selection of funny stories."

Thomas B. Prather, of Somerset, Ky., disagrees. "I cannot speak for other towns in the state," he wrote, "but there are some bald-headed men in this city who are crazy."

From The Raleigh News & Observer

Thus the debate rages. And it is an issue on which this newspaper feels it should have a fearless and unequivocal opinion. We take the side of the bald.

Men with little or no hair on the tops of their heads usually are more steadfast and level-headed than those with locks, curly or uncurly. They can, by the nature of what goes on under their scalps, be progressive in a conservative way or conservative in a progressive way. We do not volunteer for the job, but we would risk a small wager that if a count were made of bald heads in booby hatches, the proportion there would be much smaller than the proportion at large.

One of the reasons for this doubtless is the fact that men who have become bald are no longer able to delude themselves in thinking they are devastating to the ladies, and when a man reconciles himself on this score he has made the first important step to a higher level of sane thinking.

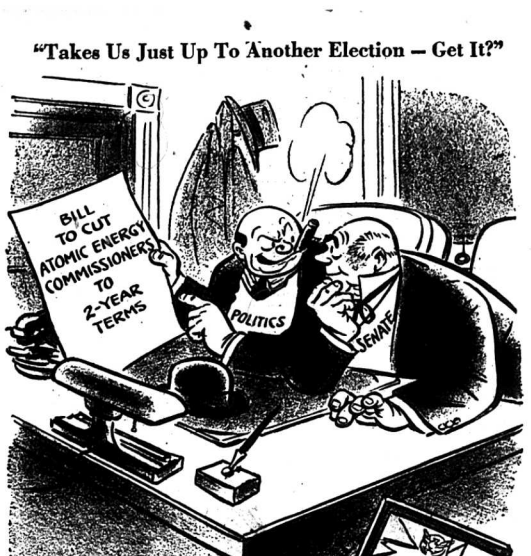
They Are Twins

THE State Supreme Court granted a new trial to a Negro because of the exclusion of Negroes from juries, on the same day it upheld the segregation law respecting transportation facilities.

The coincidence was a fortunate one. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that in the eyes of the law segregation and equal treatment are twins. Whatever its justification (or lack of it) on other grounds, segregation is justifiable legally only when not accompanied by discrimination.

Both friends and foes of segregation have given too little attention to the requirement of equal facilities as an accompaniment to segregation. Those who espouse segregation assume a responsibility to provide equal treatment. That treatment should be provided voluntarily. If it is not, the courts, both State and Federal, will enforce it as they have demonstrated time and time again. Those who seek abolition of segregation can only ask for it, but they can demand and obtain equal treatment under the law. Much of the energy expended in denouncing and defending the law as it is could be more profitably employed in efforts to see to it that the accompanying requirement of equal treatment is fulfilled.

"Takes Us Just Up To Another Election — Get It?"



People's Platform

Let's Have A Century Of Peace

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE affairs of most every country in Europe take up most of the column space in our newspapers because of the mess the world is in and the people of this country are naturally anxious to know what really goes on. It is therefore expected that whatever is read in these newspapers are true enough facts. Yet when comparisons are made in many of these papers we find, particularly in the editorials, conflicting impressions.

Within the last year many influential newspapers, through their editors and columnists, analyzed the news in such a fashion that it seemed that just any day we would be at war with Russia. The news was so alarming that the people were on edge most of the time. Only later on could the people judge that most of it was fabricated news. Were the facts as presented we would have been at war with Russia for the past six months at least and perhaps in world war three by this time. Lucky for some of us who did not agree with most of the editors and columnists but had more faith in the editorials written in some newspapers which have editors and columnists who are more particular with their analysis. One of the reliable newspapers I found to be The Charlotte News and thanks to this paper, the people were more at ease and not as frightened. I am therefore taking this opportunity to thank the editor and some of these columnists who participate in giving first consideration to the public by relating the news in the most careful way.

In times like these where there is no certainty what the next day may bring regarding conditions in the world, it is very important to have newspapers who feel their first obligation to the public and present their editorials and columns in a most accurate way, so the public may be assured that nothing written will be misleading. I know that we can depend upon The Charlotte News to carry out its obligation to the people.

I am writing this because I hope to attract the attention of those editors and columnists who are guilty of stirring up the country unnecessarily and ask them for a change of heart, and some consideration of our youth. By writing their editorials and columns in a way to discourage future wars instead of encouraging war, they could do much toward giving our youth and the general public a vacation from war for at least a century. Would it be too much to expect the gentlemen of the press to do just this? We had two world wars within half a century. Therefore everybody is entitled to that relief from wars, and the press can put it over.

Let us remember that wars are declared by people, wars are ended by people, therefore wars can be prevented by people. With this thought in mind I appeal to all the gentlemen of the press to please change their points of view no matter how it hurts, for the sake of all the people and particularly for our youth as they surely deserve a break. Was there one family in the last war that was not affected? Definitely not, either near relatives or distant relatives of all the people were either hurt or killed and that is why I have chosen this time to appeal to all our publishers, editors and columnists to please get a change of heart before it is too late and begin a drive for peace. With sufficient pressure on your part you will reach the ears and hearts of our State Department, members of Congress and even the Administration and only then may we expect that peace will come.

Just lend the same space in your newspapers to peace as you do for inciting to war and the results will positively be peace. Remember also that our Constitution and the Bill of Rights promises to all the people peace, security and pursuit of happiness and let us give it to our youth just for at least one century and the gift to them will be yours.

—HENRY KALKSTEIN

Bias In The Taylor Case

CHAPEL HILL

Editors, THE NEWS:

IN YOUR Tuesday, May 4, editorials, you accused in Sen. Glen Taylor and Henry Wallace of hypocrisy in dramatizing the Birmingham incident in which Sen. Taylor was arrested ostensibly for disorderly conduct but in reality for disobeying an ordinance which manifestly contradicts our American Constitutional right of racial equality. Your frantic attempt to cover the deceitfulness of the race bias (a bias unfortunately not limited to one section of the country) reveals your own demagogical and opportunistic attitude with regard to the Third Party.

If you think that there is any organic separation or distinction between the forces that deliberately promote race bias, favor Taft-Hartley laws and Mundt bills and which add to the further intensification of the war hysteria in America, your ignorance is appalling. Your paper, up to recently, has been probably the most honest and liberal of our larger North Carolina papers. At first, you were a healthy counterpart to the vicious Big Business program of The ———. If now, however, in this time of real danger to honest, protesting people, you play the part of the people-baiting demagogues who oppose the Third Party and all the desperate needs it represents, you will have betrayed the role you earlier assumed.

Let me say further that the arrest of Sen. Taylor is a frightening indication, not only of race bias, but of the growing intimidation of liberal people all over America. Deliberately to overlook this danger to democratic expression is to lie in your teeth.

—W. A. McGIRT JR.

(Note: Liberal McGirt is mighty liberal with his hard words.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 500 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

Some day, somewhere, somehow a candidate for office is going to stoutly deny that he was "importuned by many friends" to offer himself for public service and frankly admit it was his own idea, probably arrived at when he leaned over that morning to tie his shoe laces and had a rush of blood to the head which he probably mistook for a bit of not-too-divine guidance.—Oklahoma City Daily Oklahoman.

Marquis Childs

Foreign Policy--I

WASHINGTON

BEFORE the 80th Congress winds up and goes home, one more piece of major foreign-policy legislation seems certain to be adopted. It will take the form of a resolution establishing the relationship between this country and the new Western European Union.

The final form of the resolution, which may be even broader in scope than this suggests, depends largely on one man. That man is Chairman Arthur H. Vandenburg of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. A master strategist, Vandenberg will follow his own sense of timing in maneuvering the all-important declaration of policy through Congress.

The President of the Senate is looking these days like the canary that swallowed the cat. He has an innocent, genial smile for all visitors. As in the past, every reference to his possible nomination for President is brushed aside good-naturedly.

ERP TRIUMPH

The Senator from Michigan has good reason to look pleased. The long, difficult business of the European Recovery Program ended in complete triumph. Paul Hoffman, who was Vandenberg's choice for recovery administrator, is demonstrating his capacity to put together an effective team to do the stupendous job.

Currently, in both Senate and House, there is a drive to make over the United Nations. This drive comes from two directions.

One source is the deep idealism of those, both in and out of Congress, who believe that the U. N. must be refashioned in such a way that the veto power is reduced or abolished and the sovereignty of world government affirmed, at least in part.

The idealists are willing to bring this about even though it should mean the withdrawal of the Soviet Union and its satellites. A second source of support for the drive to make over the U. N. is the fear and hostility of those who hope that such a move will force Russia out of the congress of nations.

No hard and fast line between these two groups can be drawn, so complicated are motives in this era of uncertainty. But when Secretary of State George C. Marshall appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, he addressed himself to both groups. In clear and forceful language, Marshall expressed his conviction that such a move would pave the way to war rather than peace. The end results of driving Russia out of the U. N. would be two rival alliances. The two alliances would almost inevitably move toward armed conflict.

What is more, although Marshall did not mention it, he is concerned that many Western European nations would decline to become part of an American alliance in the event of such a split. They would keep them from joining up on "our side."

VANDENBERG AGREES

Sen. Vandenberg is in general agreement with the views expressed by Marshall. The two have an excellent working relationship. It was cemented at the conference in Brazil last year when Marshall entrusted to Vandenberg the major back-stage negotiations. The Senator has deep sympathy with the Secretary of State for some of the pounding he has taken, unjustly in Vandenberg's belief.

The resolution that is finally voted upon on the Senate floor is likely to be close to Marshall's own thinking. It will be copper-riveted, just as was the ERP, to insure the acid test of acceptance.

Vandenberg also has a close working alliance with Chairman Charles A. Eaton of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Between the two is a strong mutual admiration and friendship.

As he proved when well-meaning but confused members of the House sought to dilute ERP, Eaton is no mean strategist. When the smoke of battle cleared away, the bill went to the House floor in almost the same form in which it had come from the Senate. Now 80 years old, Eaton has just won a hot primary contest in his home district in New Jersey.

In spite of the reeling and writhing of election-year politics, the foreign policy that has been shaped during the past six months is in large measure bi-partisan. In the day-to-day evolution of this policy, Vandenberg's skillful hand in engineering contributed more than did any other factor.

Therefore, whether he likes it or not, he looms large before the country in a year of critical decision. The Republican convention cannot ignore the man who has contributed so greatly to unity of purpose and the practical means for achieving that purpose.

Samuel Grafton

Foreign Policy--II

NEW YORK

SOMEBODY ought to break the news gently to a number of our Congressmen that they can't get rid of the veto power, not by revising the Charter of the United Nations, nor by any other means. The veto power is a fact of life. It does not exist because it is in the Charter; it is in the Charter because it exists, as a fact of life.

It was good to see Secretary of State Marshall oppose some of the eager beavers who want us to demand that Russia give up her veto power, and, if she won't, to form a new United Nations without her. For even that drastic procedure would not dispose of the veto power. It would continue to exist, in the form of Russian arms and Russian sovereignty, only it would be transformed into a permanent and automatic veto.

FLAW WITHOUT HOUSE

Paradoxically, a too hasty drive to keep the United Nations but get rid of the veto is bound to end with keeping the veto and getting rid of the United Nations. We'd lose what we want to keep, and keep what we want to lose; we'd have the flaw, without the house.

The only way to diminish the importance of the veto power is to build a structure of peace along side it big enough to dwarf it. It cannot be lopped off; it has to be outgrown. What we need, as Secretary Marshall said, is more of the substance of harmony in the world, and less fretting about the forms of things

It may take 25 years, or 50, of careful negotiation and development to produce a situation in which the veto can be forgotten. Why shouldn't it? Who told us that we were born with gold stars on our foreheads, to indicate that we were going to be able to make peace in a day?

The demand for instant abolition of the veto is a kind of empty gesturism, transparent and futile, for it transforms the possibility that we may someday outgrow the veto into the assertion that it shall be with us always. It turns a sometimes into a never, and a maybe into a no.

AMERICAN IMPATIENCE

Perhaps, in some cases, the roots of this impatience lie in American idealism itself. We started out with the idea that we could make peace in ten minutes, in a world in which it still takes a Sumner to make an onion. When this hope was frustrated, it may perhaps have been the same emotion, inverted, that came out as the feeling that there must now be a showdown in the next ten minutes. Either heaven or hell, but right away. "Do it now!" in other words.

But I wonder if there really is a mandate in this country to press forward relentlessly toward such a grim crisis as is implied in the Charter revision plan. Men in government may be deluding themselves that there is a public command behind them to be impatient. My own feeling is that the great majority of Americans would become an exploratory conference between America and Russia much more happily than they would welcome an American demarche such as would make a showdown inevitable.

I keep thinking about that woman in Tennessee who has just awakened after sleeping for twelve years, and of how her relatives don't read the foreign news stories to her, because they figure the world is too upside-down to be displaced all at once to one who has been out of it for a time. It seems to me the mandate is to make it less upside-down, instead of to plunge forward into new continents of incredibility,

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Data On Arab-Nazi Intrigue Suppressed

WASHINGTON

ONE of the richest war prizes captured from the Germans was a series of Nazi documents on Hitler's secret deals. These gave a gold mine of information on Nazi intrigue all over the world and should help the American people to avoid war in the future.

Many of these documents have now been made public. But significantly, highly incriminating German secrets pertaining to the Arabs so far have not. They are especially enlightening today in view of the Palestine crisis and the Arab claim that America's world sympathy.

British diplomats, this columnist is informed, were bitter when they first learned of Arab-Nazi intrigue at a time when the British were fighting with their backs to the wall near Suez. But despite British resentment, the texts of the Nazi messages have not been made public, even though captured at the expense of Anglo-American blood.

British diplomats have admitted that pressure from Washington is the reason for suppressing these documents. The U. S. Defense Department—which means Forrestal—plus American oil are not anxious to embarrass the Arab leaders. That apparently is why the American public does not know that King Farouk of Egypt furnished war secrets to Field Marshal Rommel when the British had their backs to the wall in Egypt.

It also remains a top secret that King Farouk corresponded with Hitler during the war and that Rachid el Gailani, former Minister-President of Iraq, received bribes from the Nazis, and that King Ibn Saud also dickered with Hitler.

However, this column has been able to obtain copies of some of the secret Arab-Nazi correspondence. Here is one letter dated March 24, 1943, in which King Farouk of Egypt informed Ambassador Ettel that he was "still hoping for an Axis victory." The letter from Ambassador Ettel to Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop follows:

"Secret State Matter

"Berlin, March 24, 1943

"Ambassador Ettel:

"The confidential agent who transmitted a message from the Reich to King Farouk, has in the meantime, returned from Egypt. During his stay he had two lengthy conversations with King Farouk. In these conversations the King gratefully acknowledged the security measures which the Reich had taken for his person and the manner in which this delicate question had been handled. King Farouk instructed the confidential agent to convey the King's gratitude to the Foreign Minister of the Reich.

"The King also informed the confidential agent that, as in the past, he was still hoping for an Axis victory. Specifically, the King declared that the rumors which were being circulated about a rapprochement between him and the democracies were nothing else but a matter of political expedience and shrewdness, necessary for the then prevailing circumstances. The King also expressed his thanks for the dilatory way in which the matter of Prince Mansur's departure from Istanbul had been handled. Under the present circumstances, the King no longer objected to the Prince going to Italy or Germany.

"Finally, the King instructed the confidential agent to convey his best wishes to the Mufti of Jerusalem and to all those who work with him for the success and the victory of the Axis.

"Submitted to the Foreign Minister of the Reich.
Sgd. Ettel"

Real Estate Lobby

FOR sheer effrontery, last week's battle over the Cain housing bill—a half-baked measure to guarantee the profits of private builders, while ignoring the vital need for low-cost public housing and slum clearance—ups anything the real estate lobby has pulled in recent times

Sen. Harry P. Cain, Republican, of Washington, elected as an out-and-out real estate champion, certainly lived up to the expectation of his sponsors. He waited until Sens. Ralph Flanders of Vermont, John Sparkman of Alabama, Bob Taft of Ohio and other proponents of public housing were absent from town before asking Senate approval of the real estate bonanza.

Meantime, House leaders were keeping their own chamber in recess, standing by to pass the bill once the Senate had acted. Meantime, also, sitting big as life on the Senate floor were those tireless pals of the real estate lobby, Reps. Jesse Wolcott of Michigan and Ralph Gamble of New York. House Majority Leader Charles Halleck of Indiana also sat eagerly on a sofa at the edge of the Senate floor.

These three musketeers occasionally huddled with young Sen. Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin, another friend of the lobby.

However, when alert Sens. William Fulbright of Arkansas, Democrat, and Irving Ives of New York, Republican, finally blocked action until foes of the legislation could be present to vote, Halleck's face blazed with anger.

As he left the Senate, muttering with rage, a Senator called after him: "Well, I guess you boys took a licking."

Halleck turned, rubbed his nose like a prize-fighter, and "Yeah, maybe we did, but just wait!" barked the Hoosier Congressman.

NOTE—House leaders plan to block the Taft-Ellender-Wagner low-cost housing bill in Rep. Jesse Wolcott's Banking & Currency Committee. Although it passed the Senate, the bill is already gathering dust in Wolcott's pigeonhole.

Under The Dome

DETROIT police questioned former United Auto Workers Union President R. J. Thomas for two hours last week on the shooting of Walter Deuther. Nothing developed. Thomas and Reuther were rivals for the auto workers' presidency. Reuther himself has been slow talking to the police. . . . Democratic Chairman Howard McGrath has asked George Allen, Truman's former court jester, to replace Dave Sullivan as treasurer and finance director of the Democratic National Committee. If Allen takes the job it will put one insurance firm in control of the finances of both political parties. Allen's insurance business partner, James S. Kemper, is treasurer of the Republican party. He also heads Lumbermen's Insurance plus a dozen other companies and is one of the most isolationist members of the GOP. . . . President Truman has told friends he plans to appoint ex-Rep. Ray McKeogh of Chicago chairman of the Maritime Commission—if he can get Vice-Adm. William W. Smith, a Republican, to resign. . . . Lee Pressman, ex-CIO general counsel, may become the third-party candidate for Congress from Brooklyn.