RAILBIRD BISHER

Straying off the base paths, Sports Writer Furman Bisher is in Goshen, N. Y. for harness racing's biggest week. Today's report from our railbird is about Rodney's big race at Good Time Track. Turn to the sports section.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ *Final*

ESTABLISHED 1888

Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1948

28 Pages—Price Five Cents

President Issues New Blast At Record Of Congress

SOVIET BLOCKS MOVE TO HEAR TEACHER

Truman Trails In Nation-Wide Survey

Dewey Leading Field In Opinion Poll

By ELMO ROPER

NEW YORK.—It is clear now that if the Democrats are to have any hopes of winning in November, they will have to find some way to seize the initiative in the Presidential campaign. The results of the latest "Fortune" survey—begun the week after the Democratic Convention—show that Harry Truman has a long, uphill fight ahead of him.

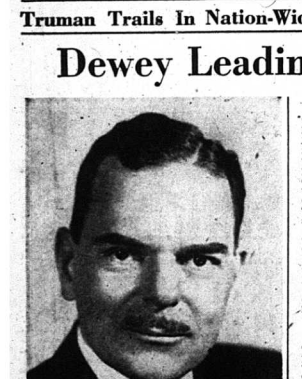
"Fortune" asked a cross-section of the voters who will go to the polls next Nov. 2:

If the election were being held today, which candidate for President do you think you'd vote for: President Truman, Governor Dewey, Henry Wallace, or whom?

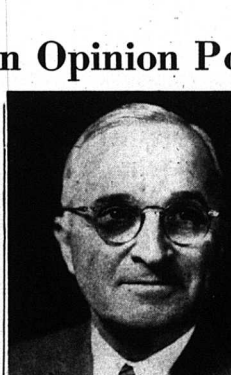
	Total Voters
	p. c.
Truman	31.0
Dewey	46.3
Wallace	3.0
Thomas (volunteered)	.2
Other candidates (volunteered)	2.4
Express no opinion	16.6

Today's results place President Truman at the same low point which he has consistently maintained over the last three months. A comparison of the standings of the three principal candidates in surveys taken

See POLL SHOWS on page 2-A



GOVERNOR DEWEY . . . Setting Fast Pace



PRESIDENT TRUMAN . . . Lags by Lengths

'Boxscore' On Special Session Is Handed Out

Truman Pushes Campaign Fight

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman's campaign-issue case against Congress underwent a further build-up today. The White House issued a "boxscore" on the recent special session. It cited Mr. Truman's recommendations and what Congres did about them. Mostly Congress said "no."

This followed the addition to the cabinet of Maurice J. Tobin, former governor of Massachusetts, as Secretary of Labor. He is counted on by Democratic Party aides to help corral the labor vote in November.

The new "boxscore" on Congress was issued by Presidential Press Secretary Charles G. Ross. Prior to the special session Ross issued a similar tally sheet carrying Mr. Truman's nine general recommendations.

INFLATION HEADS LIST

Today's listing was described as a "summary of action by the Congress on the President's recommendations to the special session." Mr. Truman's anti-inflation program headed the list.

Under this heading, the summary asserts that the House Ways & Means Committee held no hearings on an excess profits tax and permitted no Administration witnesses to testify.

Consumer credit controls, it continued, were enacted, "but for a shorter period than recommended" while bank credit controls were "enacted in part."

Administration witnesses were not permitted to testify on a proposal to regulate speculation in commodities, it went on.

The Senate committee cut hearings short on a request for authority for allocation and inventory controls and the House committee "refused to hear the Administration case," the summary said.

Administration witnesses, it continued, were not permitted to testify on strengthened rent control and the House committee refused to hear the Administration case on authority to ration, and the Senate committee "cut hearings short." The same was true, the White House said, on the request for authority for price controls.

Senator J. Howard McGrath, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, issued a statement asking Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, the Republican Presidential nominee, to "stop hiding behind generalities and catchphrase criticism and take a positive stand on campaign issues."

"Governor Dewey says the Democratic Party stands for 'easy remedies and quack solutions' to our economic problems," McGrath said. "What is Governor Dewey's program?"

Mr. Truman talked today with Mrs. India Edwards, chairman of the women's division of the Democratic National Committee. She told the President there was no defeatist attitude among the party's women.

But some other Democrats, meanwhile, fired new broadsides against a Truman legislative program which they branded as oppressive.

Gov. J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina told a cheering States' Rights Party launching in Houston last night that the Truman's civil rights program "calls for a police state in this country."

Thurmond and his running mate, Gov. Fielding L. Wright of Mississippi, lashed out at the Administration and the National Democratic Party in their formal speeches accepting nomination on the States' Rights ticket.

Fourth Conference

Western Envoys Again See Molotov

By THOMAS P. WHITNEY

MOSCOW — (AP) — The envoys of the United States, Britain and France conferred with Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov for almost three hours today.

"We are still without any conclusions," U. S. Ambassador Walter Bedell Smith said after leaving the Kremlin.

It was the fourth time in eleven days the envoys of the U. S., Britain and France had met with Molotov in an effort to solve the Russian blockade of Berlin and see if a basis could be established for West-East talks on other differences.

END NOT SIGHTED

No signs appeared that the talks are coming to an end in the near future. Such rigid secrecy has been imposed that there is almost no reliable information here on the trend.

Smith, suffering from a cold, appeared tired. He has been working intensely at the embassy on the diplomatic impasse.

He was in excellent spirits this evening, however. He joked with reporters who awaited his return from the Molotov meeting. Then he climbed the stairway to his third floor office. There he conferred with the embassy staff, and with British Envoy Frank Roberts and French Ambassador Yves Chataigneau, who were with him at the Kremlin.

Communications will be sent to Washington, London and Paris later tonight.

The Diplomats last talked to Molotov Monday. It is known that the Russians at that time presented their views. It is logical to suppose the Western envoys presented today their governments' reactions.

(A diplomatic informant in London said today that the West "can be expected to ask" Prime Minister Stalin to intervene personally in the Berlin stalemate if the talks with Molotov fail. The informant, who has been following the Moscow exchanges from the inside, said that up until yesterday there had been no sign of softening in the Western powers' line).

New York Court Order Is Protested By Russia

Another Brought To Washington

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Russia today blocked a move to get from the Soviet consulate in New York City a Russian school teacher whom Congressional spy probers want to question.

But a second Russian teacher was brought here from New York and this afternoon presumably was talking in secret with members of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Russian Ambassador Alexander S. Panyushkin sent to the State Department a protest against a New York State court order directing the Soviet Consul General to produce Mrs. Oksana Kosenkina in court there at 9:30 A. M. (EST).

WIRE TO DEWEY

The Department telegraphed Gov. Thomas E. Dewey asking that further court action be held up while the Department studied the case.

Justice Dickstein reserved decision on his next move. Soviet Consul Yakov M. Lomakin did not comply with the order.

Chairman Thomas (R-N.J.) of the House committee announced that Michael Ivanovich Samarin, the other Russian teacher, has come here from the New York area for questioning by the House group.

Mrs. Kosenkina has been secluded in the Soviet Consulate since last week when Lomakin says he "rescued" her from a White Russian (Anti-Communist) retreat at Valley Cottage, N. Y.

Mrs. Kosenkina and Samarin are both former teachers in a school the Soviet operated for Russians who are in the United States because of connections with the United Nations.

Thomas's announcement that Samarin has been brought here capped a committee session with some other highlights:

1. An announcement that "preliminary steps" have been taken looking to prosecution of some spy hearings witnesses on charges of perjury — lying under oath.

2. A wrangling two-hour questioning of Charles Kramer and Abraham George Silverman. Both men have been named by Elizabeth T. Bentley, who says she was courier for a wartime Communist spy ring, as Government workers who gave her information.

DENY SPYING

Kramer and Silverman both refused to say whether they are or have been Communists or whether they know Miss Bentley. They denied espionage.

Kramer now does research work for Henry A. Wallace's Progressive party. Silverman said he is unemployed.

On the perjury move, Thomas said George Morris Fay, United States attorney for the District of Columbia, has obtained a transcript of all hearings in the committee's current investigation of an alleged espionage ring. Thomas said Fay is "particularly interested in the perjury angle."

Several committee members have demanded that the Justice Department institute perjury proceedings. They said testimony has been so conflicting that it was obvious some one was deliberately lying.

Rep. Mundt (R-SD) told reporters that Soviet agents suggested a trip to Moscow for Miss Bentley when they began to suspect her loyalty to Communism.

Mundt said the invitation came after the Soviet Government awarded Miss Bentley a medal in 1945 for spy work. According to her story, she had then turned against Communism and was secretly reporting to the FBI.

Mundt said he did not know whether the Russian purpose was to get her to Moscow and do away with her, or simply to test her.

Another subcommittee of the House group is in the process of being set up. It is supposed to go to Canada to see about getting a statement from Igor Gouzenko, or to arrange for him to come to Washington.

Condition Still Critical

Ruth Is Reported Slightly Better

NEW YORK — (AP) — Babe Ruth, baseball's mightiest slugger of all time, rallied slightly today but doctors described his condition as still critical.

The 53-year-old former New York Yankee star, ailing for two years, entered a hospital here last June. He suffered a relapse yesterday after developing a cold.

A bulletin issued from the hospital at 8:31 A. M. today by Dr. Hayes Martin, said:

"Babe Ruth rallied this morning. His pulse is stronger. Condition improved, although still critical."

Visitors to the home run king's bedside today included his wife, Mrs. Claire Ruth; his daughter, Mrs. Richard Flanders of North Conway, N. H.; his sister, Mrs. Wilbur Moberly of Baltimore, and James P. Chapman, personal friend and Ford Motor Co. public relations director.

When Mrs. Ruth left the hospital she said with an obvious tone of relief "he's feeling better."

"The Babe recognized me, smilingly," said Chapman as he left the hospital.

A reporter asked Chapman if he had talked with Ruth.

"I talked to him, but he didn't speak—he just smiled. He smiled when I called him Herm."

"Herm" is short for Herman, the Babe's middle name. His full name is George Herman Ruth.

The Memorial Hospital Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases said Ruth was suffering from "pulmonary complications." Today's reported improvement followed slight rally last night. Early today, the hospital had reported no change.

Only members of Ruth's immediate family and a long-time friend, Paul Carey, treasurer of the Babe Ruth Foundation, were permitted in the hospital room yesterday.

After a visit last night, Carey said Ruth was "holding his own—definitely."

"He recognized us and spoke to us," Carey added. "He's thoroughly conscious and they are giving him a little nourishment, but let's not kid ourselves. The Babe is a very sick man."

Dance

HAMLET — A dance tomorrow night under the auspices of the Hamlet Post of the American Legion Auxiliary will be held at the Legion hut on Spring Street. Proceeds will go to civic projects sponsored by the auxiliary.

Bank Robbed Of $562,000

By BEN F. MEYER

HAVANA, Cuba —(AP)— Cuban police today sought a polite band of robbers who strolled into a midtown Havana bank yesterday and sauntered out again with $562,000 in cash.

All airports, ships and trains are being watched for the smooth-working bandits who herded eighteen persons into a rear room of a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada just after the 3 P. M. closing time, then locked the bank's vault and cashier's cage without being molested.

The robbery was executed by eight or ten men led by one dressed in a policeman's uniform. Although they were armed with pistols and machineguns, not a shot was fired.

As the group entered the bank, the uniformed leader politely told the door guard in Spanish:

"These gentlemen are coming in with me—and so are you. Kindly take a place right behind me, and don't try to draw your gun or the gentleman behind me will shoot you full of holes."

They then ordered Branch Manager Esteban Juncadella, thirteen other employees, a bank guard and three customers into the rear room.

Several of the gang escorted the manager into the vault. One warned him:

"Don't be nervous, but don't try any funny business either or we'll kill you."

Juncadella said he did not recognize any of the bandits.

The manager said a preliminary check indicated the thieves took a total of $562,000 in U. S. Dollars and Cuban pesos. The peso has the same value as the dollar. He said $365,000 was taken from the vault and the balance from the cashier's window. All of it was in bills of $100, $500 and $1,000 denomination, both Cuban and American.

A bank spokesman said the entire loss was covered by insurance. Police said the bank had no alarm system.

The robbers left behind 40,000 one peso bills, apparently because of the bulk and $115,000 in other small denomination bills. Evidently they overlooked $15,000 in 500 peso bills.

Kentucky Bank Robbed Of Cash

KEVIL, Ky. —(AP)— Three men robbed the Kevil Bank of all its cash at 11:15 A. M. (CST) today, bank officials reported. No immediate estimate was made of the amount of money taken.

The same bank was robbed of $11,500 by three men on June 30, 1947. They have not been apprehended.

Today's robbers were described as "well dressed." They entered the bank and forced two assistant cashiers, Mrs. Linda Hook and John Miller, into the vault, then took all the money in the safe and cash drawer.

The men fled in a car, firing several shots as they left town. Kevil, in extreme western Kentucky, is about halfway between Paducah, Ky., and Cairo, Ill.

Gets Degree

RUTHERFORDTON.—Prof. Laxton Hamrick, principal of Central High School here, received an M. A. Degree at the University of North Carolina Tuesday. He studied there this and last Summer.

Rebel Line Threatened

Greeks Preparing For Final Assault

By JUDSON O'QUINN

ATHENS — (AP) — The Greek army readied a final assault today on the last major guerrilla supply route from Albania.

Government troops paved the way for their final drive of the bitter campaign by capturing the mountaintop fortress of Alevitsa yesterday. The victory slashed communications of the Communist-led guerrillas in the Grammos mountains and eastern Macedonia. It also opened a year around supply base for the Greek army.

A general staff spokesman called the conquest of the four foot thick pillboxes on the 5,000-foot peak the greatest success of the Grammos campaign.

3-DAY BATTLE

The final victory came after a fierce three-day gun battle. The army used heavy artillery to knock out guerrilla guns.

A general staff spokesman said the guerrillas opened fire today on troops occupying Alevitsa from a height astride the Albanian border. At the same time press dispatches said Government troops have taken Mount Prophet Elias, in the Oxya region.

A staff spokesman said the army has captured 5,000-foot Paliostroungka height on the central front and attacked the town of Kalambaka in Thessaly. Reinforcements were rushed to help the nationals fighting in the city's suburbs.

The army repelled six Communist counterattacks on Vourinari in the southwest sector, a communique said.

The guerilla forces, led by Markos Vafiades, now are cut off from rebels in the Vitsi area, a general staff spokesman said. Capture of Alevitsa, he added, darkened Vafiades' hopes of holing up in the Graminos mountains for the Winter.

With the entire central sector of the Grammos mountain front blazing into action, Government forces also captured another height south of Alevitsa. Press reports said the army threw a fresh attack on the massive 5,500-foot peak of Pyrgos and also was fighting at Paliostroungka.

These reports indicated the army was advancing along the entire perimeter of the front.

King Paul signed a decree today adjourning Parliament until further notice. The postponement reportedly was to prevent a difficult situation which might arise as a result of a proposal by a number of members demanding that Parliament set up a special commission to investigate the question of army supplies.

The Government was said to consider this would prejudice national interests at the present time.

Albanians Reported Disarming Greek Rebels

LONDON — (AP) — Tanjug dispatch from Tirana today reported that Greek partisans fleeing into Albania before the Greek Army drive were being disarmed by the Albanians.

Tanjug is the official news agency of neighboring Yugoslavia.

"The Albanian Ministry of Home Affairs," said the dispatch, "issued a statement saying that a certain number of Greek partisans have crossed to Albania during the last few days. They have been disarmed and sent into the interior of Albania."

Red Forays Turned Back

By RICHARD KASISCHKE

BERLIN — (AP) — American and British military police turned back two Russian forays into their sectors of Berlin today.

Russian military police, augmented by German policemen from the Soviet sector, were attempting to arrest Germans in the Western sectors. The Russians said they were looking for black marketers. British and Americans said the Soviets also might be looking for Russian Army deserters, or might just have been engaging in "harrassing tactics."

The Americans at Kreuzberg turned back Soviet-controlled German policemen and Russian MP's who were trying to search houses across the border from their zones. The British, aided by Western sector German officers, stopped a similar sortie at Potsdamer platz.

PROTEST PRICES

In Frankfurt, about 20,000 German office and industrial workers angrily protested rising living costs at a mass meeting called by trades unions. One group attack an American soldier after overturning his jeep. It was the biggest and noisest demonstration in the American-zone city since the end of the war.

The Berlin newspaper Telegraf, operating under a British license, reported clothing factories and tailor shops in Soviet-occupied Mecklenburg were busy with orders for Russian military uniforms.

"It is reported that the uniforms are intended for new Soviet troops whose arrival is expected in Mecklenburg in the near future," said the Telegraf dispatch, from Schwerin.

There was no confirmation, nor was it clear whether any such fresh troops moved in would be replacements or additions to the occupation force.

The U. S. British and French military governments made one of their sharpest retaliations yesterday since the Russians blockaded Berlin. They froze all Russian-sponsored East marks accounts in Western banks. The Russian bank in Berlin previously had frozen accounts of firms in Western Berlin. They refused to release the funds unless the firms agreed to do business only in East Marks.

Rockingham Revival

ROCKINGHAM — Revival services at the Bethel Baptist Church will begin Sunday according to the pastor, the Rev. B. K. King. Services are to be conducted each night at 7:30 for one week.

U. S. 'Voice' Is Jammed

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Evidence of deliberate Soviet jamming of "Voice of America" broadcasts to Russia was reported today by State Department officials.

They said that reports reaching Washington from radio monitors in Europe indicate the interference is originating well inside Russia.

Several months ago the United States protested to Moscow against the howls and squeals that were being heard in American broadcasts to the Far East. But today's was the first report of what appears to be Russian jamming of radio waves on the European side of the Soviet Union.

Officials here said the Government has made no protest about the new situation because of a decision to handle the matter quietly and informally. They expressed hope for an agreement to avert a contest in which the United States and the Soviet Union each would try to ruin the other's broadcasts.

Information about the interference — which officials described as more like "heckling" than outright jamming — became known here as it was learned that the State Department has projected a huge expansion of its "Voice of America" operations.

Ten new languages are to be added, including Ukrainian.

The Ukrainian broadcasts will be the first beamed to the Soviet Union in any language other than Russian. The Ukraine is one of the most nationalistic of the Soviet states.

The other nine languages in which the Department plans to undertake new programs by Oct. 1 are Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Portuguese, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and Dutch. They will raise the total number of languages used by the Voice of America to 32.

Meteor Shower Is Due Tonight

NEW YORK —(AP)— The annual shower of Perseid meteors is expected to be visible, beginning tonight, and for the next few nights.

Robert R. Coles, of the Hayden Planetarium, says that as many as 50 "shooting stars" may be counted during a single hour, if cloud conditions are favorable.

Each Summer, in the earth's cycle around the sun, it passes through the orbit of the Perseid meteors, thousands of which are caught annually in the earth's gravitation and plunged earthward.

They are extremely small and burn out high in the earth's atmosphere.

And How About The Phantom Auto, Anyway?

Murder Mystery Puzzles Police: Where's The Body?

By TOM FESPERMAN
Charlotte News Staff Writer

The Mecklenburg County police had a fantastic murder case on their hands today—maybe.

They scratched their heads over a mystery story that had these puzzling angles:

Nobody knew where the body was.

Nobody knew whose body it was — if there was a body at all.

There was no clear motive.

And there was a phantom automobile capable of traveling continuously for 31 hours without even stopping for gas.

Louis Blane Hutchins, who lives between Spindale and Rutherfordton, told the details of the great mystery.

He came into the police station Tuesday to report on it. Police listened, took notes. They tried to check facts. They wrote long reports.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

And they wondered where to begin sleuthing.

Here are the high spots of the Hutchins story:

He said he hitched a ride in Forest City Monday morning. He wanted to go down the road and get a job in a State highway work gang.

He and a young Negro hitch-hiker got a lift in a car with three Negroes. The young Negro told the driver he'd like a ride to Ellenboro.

But the car kept going. It entered Shelby. The young Negro reach for the door, as if he were ready to jump.

CONKED ON HEAD

One of the three Negroes in the front seat of the car grabbed a crank off the floor, turned, and conked the young hitch-hiker on the head.

The boy went down. His conked head rested on the back of the seat. He didn't move.

Here Hutchins quoted the assailant: "That will keep you quiet."

According to Hutchins, it did, indeed. His story continued:

The car kept going. It moved along dirt roads and highways, winding through Cleveland County.

It moved and moved. The car —with the body still in the back seat, apparently—rolled on with the sun, and into the night, and on toward the Tuesday dawn.

And it rolled on Tuesday, too.

Finally the car, with the three Negroes still in the front seat, crossed the river on Wilkinson Blvd. and entered Mecklenburg County.

It stopped. Two of the Negroes accompanied Hutchins into the woods—he said. Then one returned to the car, presumably to help get rid of the body. The other stood guard over Hutchins—he said.

But finally he broke away and ran through the woods to the highway.

The car was gone. So were the Negroes. And there was no body in sight.

Hutchins turned up at the Belmont police station. Then he told his story to Mecklenburg police.

Police said they told Hutchins several details of his story didn't "jibe." But he stuck to the report.

Yesterday Shelby police talked to the man, too. And his story was the same.

To make the mystery deeper, police up - country checked around.

But nobody was missing anybody.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and continued warm and humid this afternoon, tonight, and Friday with widely scatered afternoon or evening thundershowers.

Temperature at 2 P. M. today...87
High and low last 24 hours.....87-70
Sunset, today.....7:15
Sunrise tomorrow.....5:41

More Weather Data on page 12-A