THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

66th Anniversary Year

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PREREQUISITE FOR A DYNASTY

EMPLOYING a clever combination of circumlocution and euphemism, Governor Herman Talmadge stood before the Georgia Legislature this week to outline a plan to abolish the present registration list and require a complete new registration.

"My administration will not sponsor any so-called subterfuge' legislation," he said. "What we do in these two particulars must be fair and honest and constitutionally sound so as to withstand attack in any court.

"We must restore the elective franchise . . . to people who do their own thinking and voting in accordance with their own convictions and judgment."

What he was really asking was the approval of a new scheme which will (1) help him build a tight, self-perpetuating political dynasty by (2) disfranchising large blocs of voters, including the 150,000 Negroes now on the books.

His henchman, Speaker Fred Hand, was less evasive last month when he said the plan was frankly aimed at barring 80 per cent of Georgia Negroes from voting.

"A good educational qualification will cut out 80 per cent of this ignorant bloc vote in Georgia. I like to think of it that way instead of going into this color angle. Under this plan it will no longer be a menace. It will fix things where we can handle it," he said.

The Georgia scheme is much like Alabama's Boswell amendment requiring registrants to understand and explain the U. S. Constitution to the satisfaction of county registrars. A three-man Federal Court has recently ruled the Boswell amendment unconstitutional.

The Talmadge proposal has stirred up some opposition within the state. *The Columbus Ledger* recently described it as being "lifted directly from Josef Goebbels' preachments", and added, "Whatever its outcome, the proposal is morally wrong if it bases qualifications on the shade of a man's epidermis."

The Georgia League of Women Voters has also condemned the plan as a "smoke-screen to wipe out the entire registration list . . . There is further fear that if this be done, the new requirements might be administered to keep the voters' list small. Any such wholesale re-registering could also create a situation whereby those constantly active in politics might pack the voters' list with their followers."

But possibly the strongest denunciations have come from without Georgia. Tarleton Collier, writing in *The Louisville Courier-Journal* said flatly that, "A campaign to seize and hold the state for a political dynasty is under way in Georgia . . . the essence of which is disfranchisement, narrowing the vote base and rearranging the process, the better for manipulation."

It's a neat little scheme, all right. By doing away completely with the present registration lists, it would nullify the progress the state has made since 1942, a period in which the number of qualified voters has grown from 500,000 to over 1,000,000. Then, using the county unit system by which one-fifth of the population in 103 poor, rural counties can out-vote the other four-fifths, it would have county election officials decide on the qualifications of voters before permitting them to re-register. It would be extremely easy for these county courthouse rings to see that voters who follow the Talmadge line would dominate.

"You will notice," the Governor said, "that I have not used the word 'education' in discussing voter qualifications. There are many people in our state who are not able to read and write, but who do possess a degree of wisdom and common sense necessary to understand the duties and obligations of citizenship."

Enough to understand, we might add, that the best way to guarantee the perpetuating of a "wool hat" dynasty is to do like 'Ole Gene's son wants them to do, even if it violates the law of the land in letter and in spirit.

YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

IT IS A rare thing to find a public official who possesses a complete knowledge of his field, a limitless enthusiasm for his work, and the personality, zeal and oratorical suavity to sell his job to the public in quite the generous measure Charlotte found in its retiring superintendent of the Park & Recreation Commission, Arthur H. Jones.

As a matter of fact, a good many of Mr. Jones' friends often told him he had missed his calling, that he should have been a salesman. And with good reason, for in the year he has held the post he has accomplished a near miracle in making the whole picture of public recreation come to life with such vigor that the passage of a forthcoming bond issue is probable, if not virtually certain.

Mr. Jones has done it by an intensive public relations program in which he himself figured prominently as a speaker, and by a smooth and efficient job of administering such facilities as the city does have. Working in close cooperation with the Commission, Mr. Jones and his staff supervised an expansion of the recreation program within the limitations of a slender budget which (1) produced a net profit of $30,000 from the stadium, after modernizing it and rebuilding the turf, (2) took over the administration of Freedom Park, (3) started community sings and band concerts, (4) began developing the new Midwood Park, (5) started construction of a community recreation center on Hawthorne Lane, (6) initiated a play-at-home program during the polio epidemic, (7) co-operated in the promotion of citywide Halloween parties, (8) established a department of park engineering and an index of park properties, and (9) designed and acquired markers for all playground areas.

It is an impressive record of accomplishment and a tribute to the capabilities and energy of the superintendent, staff members, and Commission members.

Mr. Jones had planned to stay on the job until the bond election could be held, but a ruling by bond attorneys that the vote would have to be delayed until Summer made it impossible for him to do so. There is every reason to believe that the momentum he generated will continue in force until such a time as the people have a chance to express themselves on this important question.

In choosing a successor for Mr. Jones, the Commission wisely selected a man with the same background in local, regional and national recreation. R. Foster Blaisdell comes to Charlotte with a splendid record of personal and professional achievement, and the City may be sure that under his guidance the recreation program will continue to develop and grow.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SOLICITOR

NOW THAT the Mecklenburg County grand jury has indicted Magistrate J. S. Turner for extortion, malfeasance in office, and failure to make his reports properly, we may expect the whole story of his midnight "kangaroo court" to be brought out into the open and given a needed airing.

The first grand jury report on Magistrate Turner told in some detail of his burst of activity late last Fall when, in a period of six weeks, he tried 70 defendants in gambling cases, all of them Negroes, and found them all guilty when he didn't have legal jurisdiction over gambling in the first place.

But the report failed to answer one question: Was this a scheme to collect fees? Or was Magistrate Turner simply ignorant of the fact that he does not have jurisdiction over gambling?

If the latter proves true, we won't be at all surprised. For the loose, inefficient system we have in North Carolina whereby magistrates are created in wholesale lots, either by gubernatorial appointment or by that strange legal loophole, the Omnibus Bill, which is rushed through the General Assembly each session, is a pretty good guarantee that, in the process, we will get a lot of magistrates who haven't the foggiest idea what their powers are, how they should conduct themselves in office, or even what their *raison d'etre* is.

Without any desire to make Magistrate Turner a "guinea pig" in diagnosing a statewide ailment, we nevertheless hope that Solicitor Whitener will take advantage of this opportunity to expose the glaring faults of this archaic, cumbersome, and faulty system.

GEORGIA JUSTICE

SINCERE Southerners who loathe lynching but who oppose the principle of a Federal anti-lynch law will have a hard time explaining away the strange brand of justice meted out in Georgia courts.

It took but 25 minutes for an all-white Toombs County jury to acquit a white man of the murder of Negro Robert Mallard, even though he had been positively identified by the slain man's widow. The defense won its case by resorting to a legal trick which apparently is legitimate in Georgia; two of the jurors were called as character witnesses for the defendant, and testified in his behalf. They also said they would not believe the widow even under oath.

That was that. The case went to the jury, and the quick acquittal resulted.

All the facts are not at hand, and it may be that the State, in its preliminary questioning of the jurors, failed to find out whether they knew the defendant and had preconceived ideas about the case. Even if this is true, it would merely strengthen the general impression that some Southern states are not too anxious to win lynching cases anyway.

Robert Mallard lies murdered at the hands of a band of white men who waylaid him on a lonely country road in the middle of the night and shot him down. The case is closed as far as Georgia is concerned; but the racial hatred and intolerance, and the contempt for law and order which spawned the Mallard crime is still with us and will remain with us until the South, which yells so loudly about states' rights, becomes equally concerned about the rights of its individual citizens.

Tick-Tock Tick-Tock

Marquis Childs

Party In Exile

WASHINGTON

THE Republican Party is like a Balkan Government-in-exile. It has been out of power so long that a whole series of claimants have developed their separate and special claims.

On the outermost edge are the royalty and aristocracy that were driven out first. Nothing that has happened has changed their views one iota. They fully intend some day to impose the crown and the scepter.

The Republicans in this classification are both male and female. The prize specimens are the hillbilly ladies who appear on the platform wearing more orchids between the neck and what might be called the waist than anyone had hitherto believed possible.

The male type of Republican royalty is well illustrated by Sen. Homer E. Capehart of Indiana. Indiana, interestingly enough, has produced another good specimen in Rep. Charles A. Halleck. John Taber of New York, who might at first seem to belong to this same rank, occupies a lonely, lofty place as the venerable archduke of the colony of exiles.

These men are now saying exactly what they have been saying for the past sixteen years—stop Government spending. Their immediate target is President Truman's budget calling for expenditure in the coming fiscal year of $41,900,000,000.

THE PARROTS

But it is not enough merely to parrot the word economy. To win acceptance, the critic must be able to say where and how cuts should be made. The major fault of Halleck, Taber & Co. was that during their brief return to the Promised Land from 1946 to 1949 they used the crude meat-axe technique on budget requests.

Any economy was good so long as money was saved. Thus they pared a slice off the State Department budget for the current year and did a great deal of minor damage to effect a negligible saving.

After this royalty and aristocracy, who go on repeating the happy slogans of the past, comes another circle of claimants. They might be compared to the agrarian reformers who also have been long in exile from the Kingdom of Graustark.

These exiles—a splendid example is Sen. Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire — are by comparison uncompromising realists. They always have understood that it would not be possible to go back to Graustark with the archduke and the ladies of the court and all their orchids.

RETURN TO POWER

They favor moderate, reasonable reforms that would, first, make a return to power conceivable, and, second, make it possible to govern once they were in power. Meanwhile, of course, the world does not stand still and the position of these moderates tends to recede further and further into the past.

The split in the Republican Party is deeper than most people realize. The division among Republicans in the Senate was not a true reflection, since the opposition necessarily focused on the outward symbol of authority. That symbol, Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, has shown in his housing, education and other bills an enlightened conservatism not so different from the Tobey-Lodge-Aiken faction.

The real split is with the extremists who believe that Taft is a radical, including suspiciously toward Socialism. These extremists include many of the minor nobility of the party-in-exile who pay the bills. Therefore, their shrill voices are heard more frequently than any others.

That is a hazard at this moment when the power of the Truman Democrats is being so broadly consolidated. Constructive criticism, and not a mere yammering of the old shibboleths, is vital.

James Marlowe

Cold War Costs U. S. Dearly

WASHINGTON

YOU get a startling view of the deadly struggle with Russia in President Truman's figures. He gave them, ice-cold, to Congress this week: The cost of paying the Government's expenses another year.

He asked for almost $42 billion and more than half of it, about $21 billion, is for national defense and foreign aid. Lift the edges of those figures, look behind them, and you can see a picture; past, present and future.

THE PAST

After the war there was an enormous need in this country for everything from new trolley cars to new toasters. Economists called it the pent-up demand from the war. It was big enough to keep the country prosperous for some years.

In time—if we had nothing else to worry about, such as Communism—that would run up with a demand. Then would come the very serious problem of leveling off, or trying to keep people employed and the country from sliding into depression.

This leveling off—if there had been nothing else to worry about—might have gotten under way about 1948 and given us a chance to try to get back to normal. But—

The leveling off didn't have a chance to start. Communism had become a threat to all Europe and to us. So we had to start pouring money, resources, and manpower into national defense and foreign aid.

Our military efforts alone diverted between one million and two-and-a-half million workers from the civilian labor force. And the bill for national defense and foreign aid for the year now ending came to about $19 billion.

THE PRESENT

For the coming year Mr. Truman is asking about $21 billion for national defense and foreign aid. Without that, Government costs would be about $21 billion. The difference there undoubtedly would have meant a big saving in taxes for you. But there's something else:

About ten per cent of what we produce here is going into national defense or foreign aid.

All this is keeping the country from reaching a natural level, the leveling-off period mentioned above. And that's delaying the answer to the critical question: How will we do when, and if, the leveling starts?

But there is something else: Because of the money, resources, and work going into national defense and foreign aid, we're living in a bit of pumped up prosperity. And—how long can this keep up? How long can we afford to pour into military power and foreign aid the wealth which otherwise would be used for the benefit of this country at home?

THE FUTURE

We may wind up in war with Russia. If we do, the costs will be gigantic. If we won such a war, no one now can predict what kind of shape we ourselves would be in at the end.

We may have to keep up this defense-aid program for year. That would be duck soup for the Russians. The more they can keep us indefinitely on a jittery edge, with the present kind of huge artificial spending, the more they can hope we will eventually crack up. They might win then, without war.

But how would it be if Russia backed up tomorrow, or pretended to, and we started to level off?

What would happen to our economy if we were suddenly able to cut down to a dribble our defense spending? Would it mean a business drop? Or wide unemployment? Or even start a depression?

That raises a sober picture and maybe everything will turn out just dandy, but maybe it won't. Just remember that the struggle with Russia, even without shooting, is vast, bitter, and with no letup or mercy in sight.

Joseph Alsop

The Missing Keystone

PARIS

IF FRANCE means anything—and France, in fact, sums up the inner tragedy of our times—the keystone is still missing in the arch of the future that America is seeking to build. For any French recovery, if French recovery occurs at all, will always be temporary and febrile, until the Frenchman in the street again enjoys some sense of security. And as long as Frenchmen believe that Soviet armies can march at will "as far as Brest", as one hears it put over and over again, no sense of security can exist in France.

The foregoing rather obvious statements have genuinely vital meaning for the United States. They mean, first, that the European Recovery Program will be likely to resemble the Berlin airlift until a sense of security has been recreated here. Like the air lift, the ERP keeps things ticking over. But people who think total disaster may occur the next morning are hardly likely to resume long-term investment and other habits of the normal economic life that ERP is seeking to restore.

Again, this desperate need for a sense of security here means that President Truman is blindly torpedoing his own program, by so sharply reducing the tempo of American rearmament. There are likely to be grave repercussions, when Europeans realize that the President's budget ceiling allows for 46 air groups instead of the much-advertised 70, and less than 700,000 men instead of more than 900,000 in the ground forces.

President Truman's action is all the more incomprehensible because it comes at a moment when the whole outlook is beginning to improve. Given the absence of any sense of security, the European Recovery Program, here brilliantly administered by Averill Harriman and David Bruce, has thus far accomplished all that could be reasonably hoped.

SENSE OF SECURITY

More important still, sound steps have already been taken, by President Truman himself among others, to re-create that sense of security which is so urgently needed. The President's personal contribution was an order, courageously given in October at the crisis of the political campaign, to release American supplies to place the three French divisions in Germany on a better fighting footing. The job was done in the usual unnecessary hole-and-corner manner. But the fact that these French divisions are using important quantities of maintenance and other equipment from us and have been promised further installments of tanks and the like has already significantly affected the thinking of the leaders of the French Government and armed services.

The President's decision (taken on the recommendation of Gen. Lucius D. Clay) is of course only a single incident in a much broader pattern. This is the pattern of Western European Union and the Atlantic Pact. The nations of Western Union, Britain, France, and the Benelux countries, have already agreed upon practical, extremely conservative plans for restoring Western Europe's powers of self-defense.

The plans go by stages. Very roughly speaking, the first stage is the creation of strength enough to defend the Rhine. The tragedy of our times, of course, is that these simple measures of military security should still be necessary, after two World Wars. But this fact must be faced. The fact also must be faced, moreover, that no ERP or Atlantic Pact or peace-time lend-lease or Western Union can ever make Western Europe secure without a strong America. This is the first of all essentials. We have started to build the arch of the future. We must provide the keystone at whatever cost.

People's Platform

Purchasing City Tags

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE following is a copy of a letter I have just mailed to City Manager Henry Yancey:

"I would like to call your attention to an inconvenience and offer a suggestion in the handling of the city licenses for automobiles. Today, I went to considerable trouble to go to the City Hall to pick up my vehicle tax license, only to learn that they were available at the Carolina Motor Club only. Due to past experiences, I have found it much better to secure my license plates by mail through Raleigh, and had hoped to pick up a city tag at the City Hall without having to wait in line at the Carolina Motor Club which is so often the case, during this busy license season.

"Why couldn't it be arranged to have city tags available at the City Hall as well as at the Carolina Motor Club for the convenience of those people who think of the City Hall as the place to get licenses, and give them the opportunity of buying them at that location, rather than causing them to be redirected to the Carolina Motor Club on S. Tryon St.? Also, I might add that it would save a good deal of time to persons whose time is valuable, to have city tags available through the mail.

"Will you please give these suggestions your considerate thought? And I hope that you can find a way of improving this situation as referred to above, thus eliminating the repetition of time lost which I experienced this year, and which others are also bound to experience."

—SIDNEY BUTZ.

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. — *Editors,* THE NEWS.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Webb Truman's Man In State Department

WASHINGTON

AT a White House press conference in 1946, newsmen, knowing a new Director of the Budget had just been selected, asked President Truman for his name. The President hesitated, fumbled on his desk for a piece of paper, picked it up and read the name:

"James E. Webb," he said.

It was obvious from Truman's hesitation that he had not known Webb before.

In the two years that have passed, however, Budget Director Webb has so won the confidence of Harry Truman that last week he was appointed to the No. 2 spot in American foreign affairs—Undersecretary of State.

As such, his job will be to oil the creaking State Department machine and fire some the diplomatic doodlers who have been piddling away the peace. He was picked personally by Truman for this job, and will run the State Department, leaving Acheson free to run foreign affairs.

Webb will be Truman's man. As such, there is of course, the risk of setting up more Sumner Welles-Cordell Hull-type friction. Webb, however, is easy to get along with, knows almost nothing about foreign affairs, but has had about as good an efficiency training in and out of Government as any young man in Washington.

It began when a truck ran into a car near Raleigh, N. C., 26 years ago, killing the secretary of North Carolina's Congressman Edward Pou, then chairman of the Rules Committee. Pou, looking for a new secretary, turned to young Jim Webb, then a flier in the Marines, got him discharged and brought him to Washington.

Max Gardner Finds Webb

ONE year later, another North Carolinian, the late ex-Governor Max Gardner, came to Washington to set up a law firm. Max was looking for a man with Washington know-how to join his firm, and at six o'clock one morning sat up in bed to tell his law partner, Fred Morrison, that Jim Webb was the man.

"Don't you think you'd better talk to Congressman Pou before you take away his secretary?" suggested Morrison.

"No," replied Max, who came from Western North Carolina, "I understand these Eastern North Carolinians. They pay a man $2,500 a year and want to keep him for life. I'm going to talk to Jimmy first."

He did—with the result that young Webb joined the Gardner law firm.

A year or so later, after Jim Farley had canceled the air mail contracts, the Gardner law firm represented the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce, including Sperry Gyroscope, which brought Webb in contact with another North Carolinian, Tom Morgan, head of Sperry.

Morgan, an Eastern North Carolinian, decided to do what Max Gardner had done to Congressman Pou. He coaxed Jimmy Webb as his assistant. For the next seven years therefore, Webb worked as an executive of Sperry Gyroscope, until in 1943 he relinned the Marines.

Webb got out of the Marines in 1945, by which time his old friend Max Gardner had been appointed Undersecretary of the Treasury, and Max persuaded Webb to return to Government as his assistant. Later Max sold Webb to Truman as the best man to handle the intricate job of Director of the Budget. Truman acted on the recommendation without meeting Webb—and that was why he fumbled on his desk and didn't know Webb's name.

NOTE—As Undersecretary of State, Webb's policies will be on the conservative side. As Director of the Budget, he put Universal Military Training ahead of aid to education. And, despite President Truman's vigorous election campaign for health and social welfare Webb recently chopped every cent for health out of the Alaskan budget.

'More Democrats Born'—Truman

INAUGURAL Committee Chairman Melvin Hildreth was telling the President about the huge demand for tickets for the inaugural ceremonies.

"Never in history has an inauguration stimulated such tremendous popular support and enthusiasm" said Hildreth. "The people are as enthusiastic now as they were the day after your election."

"The answer may be, Mel," grinned Truman, "that there are a lot more Democrats than there used to be."

Labor-Farm-Business Conference

ALBERT GOSS, Master of the National Grange had some interesting advice for President Truman when he called at the White House the other day.

"The time has come, Mr. President," said Goss, "for business, labor and agriculture to quit thumbing their noses at each other if we are to survive these trying times of mounting debt and threats of war. The leaders of all three groups must sit down around the table and start pulling together as a team to keep our democratic system functioning."

Truman said he thought the idea of a conference among business, labor and farm leaders was a good one, and promised to think it over.

Merry-Go-Round

AT 7 A. M. on Inaugural Day, President Truman will breakfast with the little group of men he commanded in World War I—Battery D, 129th Field Artillery. They will breakfast at the Mayflower Hotel on Missouri ham, and the high point of the occasion will be when Capt. Truman calls the roll of his wartime comrades. . . . Madame Chiang Kai-Shek has about completed a deal to purchase a huge, 30-room mansion and estate near Charlottesville, Virginia. It will cost $175,000—enough to feed a lot of Chinese coolies.

. . . Young Congressman Bennett of Florida is introducing a bill whereby the Federal Government would reimburse the states for all schools erected for Negroes and Indians. . . . All three services will get equal billing in the President's inaugural parade—thanks to Army Chief of Staff Omar Nelson Bradley. Invited to ride at the head of the parade as marshal, Bradley accepted the honor. But he privately got on the phone and asked Chief of Naval Operations Louis Denfield and Air Force Chief of Staff Hoyt Vandenberg to ride with him. . . . Both the CIO and AFL have teamed up in a petition, asking the Justice Department, Treasury Department and the Senate to investigate Senator Homer Ferguson in his home state. The charges are based upon facts first published in the Washington Merry-Go-Round. . . . President Truman wants his White House Chief of Staff, Adm. William Leahy, to write a book telling the inside story behind the wartime Big Three conferences. . . . Maine's GOP Senator Owen Brewster, who frequently takes to the air himself, is now championing the Navy cause in a magazine article, called: "The Navy Takes To The Air." Writing for the Aero Digest, Brewster chooses sides in the Navy-Air Force controversy, refers to their bitter squabble over appropriations as a "healthy struggle for funds."