"Try Some Other Planet"

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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COMMUNISM AND EDUCATION

WITH the House Un-American Activities Committee, or at least a majority of that committee, on the defensive after the national outcry over its request to examine college text books and supplementary reading matter, there is a temporary lull in the battle for academic freedom. It might be wise to take these moments of quiet to examine what the furor is all about.

Honest and sincere people, both educators and laymen, have agreed that it is not in the best interest of our democracy to permit full-fledged members of the Communist Party to teach in our public schools and higher institutions of learning. The committee of top-flight educators who recently advanced that considered opinion reasoned soundly that a bonafide Communist has no academic freedom, that he surrendered his intellectual honesty when he joined the party.

But the educators said there is a vast difference between a *teaching Communist* and *teaching Communism*. U. S. young people should be taught objectively about all forms of government, good and bad, in order that they might better realize just how sound the American form is.

They issued their report in the face of a constantly growing national concern over the infiltration of Communists into education. It is an understandable concern which is not limited to education, but which reflects our national groping and seeking for a sane, logical way of life in this strange cold-war era.

It is a concern which has brought forth the worst and the best in us.

The worst:

N. C. Superintendent of Public Instruction Clyde Erwin's statement that "there also should be a 'stern discipline' for students who subscribe to Communist doctrines", a loose, unprincipled blast which does not discriminate between Communistic theory and Politburo practice.

The report of an Illinois legislative committee which would expel from any tax-supported or tax-exempt institution any student who refuses to say whether he is a Communist or whether he will fight on the side of the U. S. in a war with Russia; survey textbooks and required reading material and eliminate any which "advocate theories and doctrines of Communism or other subversive doctrine"; dismiss professors who refuse to resign from Communist or Communist front groups; investigate all new campus groups to see whether their membership includes persons who have been members of "questionable groups"; and deny tax exemption "to any school which allows Communist-front professors to teach or which allows Communist front groups to flourish under faculty sponsorship."

The best:

The reply of Chancellor Robert B. House of the University of North Carolina to the House Un-American Activities Committee regarding the type of books the University has: the only reason the University does not have every book printed is because "we don't have the money to buy them."

The answer by Harvard University to an alumnus who wanted Harvard to "take practical steps to see that Communists and other disloyal teachers are eliminated from the faculties." Replied the University:

"There will be no harrassment of professors for engaging in open and legal meetings. There will be no apparatus of inquiry and 'closer watch'. The harm done by the effort necessary to discover even a single clandestine Party Member would outweigh any possible benefit."

There is reason to believe that the furor is beginning to die down, that the resounding and virtually unanimous protest against an "academic inquisition" from all thinking Americans has put on the defensive those who would take advantage of our cold-war uncertainty to indulge in scholastic witch hunts which could easily jeopardize, and perhaps destroy altogether, the unfettered inquiry and search for truth which is the very foundation of our democratic educational system.

Let us hope so. Let us hope that the House Un-American Activities Committee, in a left-handed way, has so thoroughly aroused us to the danger of those who would make our schools conform to any brand of dogma, be it Right or be it Left, that we will not again be tempted to toss away one of our most precious posessions in a burst of indiscriminate hysteria.

MR. JOHNSON SPEAKS OUT

SECRETARY of Defense Louis Johnson laid down two general principles in his major address this week which are reassuring to those of us who have been appalled at recent disclosures of inter-service rivalry and squabbling yet, at the same time, fully aware that some good can come from public airing of defense squabbles.

1. The decision on which service to emphasize at any given time, said Mr. Johnson, rests with the joint chiefs of staff, whom "I shall not knowingly repudiate . . . unless convinced their views are in conflict with other considerations."

2. "To those who contend that each service must be the sole arbiter of its own needs, I would reply that this nation can no longer tolerate the autonomous conduct of any service. The unaudited conduct of its affairs by any single service is an open invitation to spendthrift defense."

In any attempt to change radically our national defense establishment in order to promote efficiency, cut costs, and better prepare ourselves for any military eventuality, we must consider the opinions of the experts. No body of civilians, however well-informed, can intelligently decide matters which are beyond their ken.

In the final analysis, military men must decide the technical and professional details of military matters. And Mr. Johnson's pledge that the joint chiefs of staff will have final say, except in broad matters of public interest and public policy, is a guarantee that our military establishment will not be turned over to rule by self-appointed Congressional "experts."

At the same time, he will not permit any service to audit its own affairs, make up its own budgets, set its own policies for spending without supervision. The Hoover Commission report on the National Defense Establishment uncovered glaring examples of monetary waste in the various branches of the service. A closer check-rein on their spending by the Secretary of Defense will help eliminate non-essentials.

Mr. Johnson has not been too impressive so far, but he gains considerable stature with his latest sally.

JAMES M GODARD

THE resignation of Dean James M. Godard of Queens College is more than a loss to that institution, if it so happens that his new work requires him eventually to leave Charlotte, it will also be a great loss to the whole community.

Jim Godard is a man of many talents and of many interests. Unlike many educators who so frequently seclude themselves on a college campus and remain in its refined and rarified atmosphere, he has given generously of his time and ability to many worthwhile community activities. Examples: consulting psychologist of the Mental Hygiene Clinic, Protestant co-chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, president of the Kiwanis and Executive Clubs.

He has also held many positions of honor and trust in various professional organizations.

For thirteen years Jim Godard has been one of the pillars around which an ever-growing and ever-improving Queens College has developed. Likeable, friendly, progressive, energetic, patient—he has been an ideal Dean. Queens will miss him greatly.

It is some consolation that his new position as executive secretary of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools will afford him an opportunity to continue his fine service in behalf of education.

We note that it is planned to keep the office of the Association in Charlotte for the next year. We hope that will be a permanent arrangement—especially if Jim Godard is office manager.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

KEEPING BABY QUIET

ONE reads with interest of the marvelous new machines and techniques developed in the field of medicine, as reported at the American Medical Association's convention at Atlantic City.

A new medical camera technique, for example, photographs the blood stream of infants as an aid in diagnosis of congenital heart disease. An X-ray camera is capable of making a series of exposures in rapid succession on a large film, 77 feet long and 9 1-2 inches wide.

One problem faced by the specialists in this field was how to keep the children quiet during the exposure of the films. "Originally we thought it was necessary to give them a light ether injection," said doctors of Washington University School of Medicine, department of radiology, "but with more experience we have learned that infants can be kept quiet by giving them a little sugar water in a bottle. . . ."

Yes, sir, as we continue to develop new equipment and techniques, there is no telling what important incidental discoveries we may make about babies.

Aside from the time an editor spends grieving over the mistakes he makes, the rest of the time is spent rejoicing over those he doesn't make.—*Pittsburg (Texas) Gazette.*

At 20 a boy thinks his parents are dumb; at 30 he's surprised to find how much they have learned in ten years. — *Greenville (Tenn.) Sun.*

Hoover Commission Reports

Labor And Commerce

(Tenth in a series of articles explaining the reports of the Hoover Commission on reorganizing the Federal Government.)

THE Department of Labor still has as many top officials as other Government departments with a hundred times its expenditures and number of employees. But in the past ten years a distrustful Congress has steadily stripped away its powers and functions. The U. S. Employment Service went to the Federal Security Agency in 1939, the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the Justice Department in 1940, the Children's Bureau (except labor functions) to the Federal Security Agency in 1946, and the department's conciliation activities to an independent Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in 1947.

As a result, the Commission observes with notable restraint, "the department has lost much of its significance." The Commission believes that Governmental efficiency would be fostered if that significance were restored by transferring to the department a number of labor services now lodged elsewhere. Among them are the Federal Security Agency's Bureau of Employees' Compensation (workmen's compensation for Federal employees and certain others) and its Bureau of Employment Security (Federal-state employment service and unemployment compensation). The department would also take over enforcement of labor standards in Government contracts from the contracting departments and agencies.

The Commission's most controversial recommendation was that the Labor Department also take over the independent Selective Service Administration. Because Congress was debating a national labor policy that would affect them all, the Commission refrained from any suggestion about placement of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service the National Mediation Board, and the National Labor Relations Board.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

When it examined Chairman Hoover's former Cabinet domain, the Commission found that the most urgent need was for consolidating the Government's scattered transportation services.

It took a proud look at the vast U. S. transportation system: 227,000 of railways; 1,500,000 miles of surfaced roads for 40 million motor vehicles; 100,000 miles of domestic and 179,000 miles of international air routes; 6,000 airports; 27,000 miles of improved inland waterways; 5,000 ocean-going vessels; 142,000 miles of gas and oil pipelanes.

The U. S. Government has done much to develop this arterial system of the nation's body economic. In the past 30 years it has spent $30 billion, and in fiscal 1949 will spend at least $1.2 billion more, on such services as: (1) subsidies for early railway construction, loans to financially distressed railroads, guidance in reorganization; (2) dredging of rivers and harbors, construction of canals; (3) subsidies to, and actual operation of, much of the international merchant marine, and a multitude of aids to navigation; (4) subsidies to airlines, provision of airways, airfields, and other aids; (5) grants-in-aid for highway construction; (6) research in all of these fields.

But nowhere in the Government is anyone empowered or obligated to look at the transportation system as a whole, to study all phases of the nation's growing, changing transportation needs, to determine whether the Government's billion a year is being spent in the best public interest. The Department of Commerce was originally intended to do this. But as new forms of transportation developed, the job has been haphazardly parceled out among a great many different departments and agencies, most of them concerned with only one phase or segment of the system. Result: wasteful duplication, lack of unified planning for the nation's needs in peace and war.

Some of the Government's executive transportation services have been delegated to such independent regulatory agencies as the Interstate Commerce and U. S. Maritime Commissions. The Hoover Commission finds it absurd that a single agency should thus be called on to act as both: (1) umpire and (2) member or manager of the team.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE Interstate Commission, Maritime Commission, and Civil Aeronautics Board should keep their present regulatory functions. But their operations and promotional activities should be transferred to the Department of Commerce. Transferred entire should be the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (independent), the Public Roads Administration (Federal Works Agency), the Office of Defense Transportation (Executive Office of the President), the Coast Guard (Treasury Department), and possibly some marine functions of the Bureau of Customs (Treasury Department).

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People's Platform

Viewed From Afar

CLOVER, S. C.

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE two-hundred inch diameter reflector telescope of Palomar Mountain near San Diego, Calif., is probably the largest one that will ever be constructed. This one is too large for viewing the stars and is only used to photograph the distant planets, some too distant for the eyes to see.

It brings the moon within 26 miles of the earth.

They are planning to photograph Mars to see if there really are any canals on it. The dome and housing for this telescope is the height of an eleven-story building. It cost six million dollars, which was furnished by the Rockefeller Foundation. Some of the astronomers claim that a lot of the stars are gas. One of the largest is a hundred million miles in diameter. Our earth, too, was once a globe of gas, and after millions of years finally solidified, condensed and crystallized into minerals, rock and earth.

Creation of worlds may be going on all the time out in the distant immensity of space, but sometime in the future we may be able to penetrate space even further by some invention that will reach farther than any telescope or radar.

—R. R. HARPER.

Commissioner Replies

GREENSBORO

Editors, THE NEWS:

THANK you for the editorial headed "Streets and Roads", which appeared in your paper of June 15. It will also appreciate any other information you may have from time to time relating to this subject, as well as the names of individuals, organizations, or others who have studied this matter and who might contribute information for the use of the State Municipal Roads Commission.

—J. A. DOGGETT,
Member of State Municipal Roads Commission.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

MacArthur, Bradley In Backstage Fight

WASHINGTON

AN important, backstage battle has broken out between two of the nation's highest ranking generals—Douglas MacArthur and Chief of Staff Omar Bradley.

Gen. Bradley wants to withdraw American forces from all the Pacific except Japan and Hawaii—even out of the Philippines. In case of war, Bradley argues that American forces caught in the Pacific outside Japan or Hawaii would be immediately sacrificed in another Bataan. Therefore, he wants all troops withdrawn to positions we can maintain.

Gen. MacArthur, on the other hand, wants American troops strung out around the Pacific to create spheres of influence to stem the spread of Communism. MacArthur is definitely opposed to withdrawing American troops from the Philippines and South Korea.

The name of his game has become so strong that mild-mannered Gen. Bradley has been forced to remind him that he, Bradley, not MacArthur, is the chief of staff.

Dan Tobin's Warning

DAN TOBIN, head of the powerful teamsters union, has sent a confidential letter to all teamsters' locals, cautioning them against strikes and urging a conciliatory policy toward employers.

Tobin, intimate friend of the late President Roosevelt and a long-time power in the AF of L, started his letter by saying that he was fearful of today's economic situation and cautioned his locals against pushing good employers for wage increases.

—Tobin commented at some length on the foolishness of the Ford strike at this time. He recognized that Walter Reuther, head of the United Auto Workers, was under compulsion from union membership, but said that Reuther would have been wiser to have ruled the situation with an iron hand and forbidden the strike.

Referring to his own union, Tobin was critical of the West Coast teamsters' strike and also of the teamsters in New York City. In the latter city bakery drivers had struck for an unwarranted increase, on the assumption that they had to eat bread so there must be bread deliveries. But with the strike many weeks old, consumers get along by buying from chain stores and independent bakeries, Tobin said.

Communist agitation inside labor unions also came in for criticism from the forthright teamsters boss. He said he had received reports of active Communist leadership in one teamsters' local—which he declined to name. An investigation was being made, Tobin said, and these agitators would be fired from the union whether they signed non-Communist affidavits or not.

Tobin also warned his teamsters that one trouble in union organizations was the inability and unwillingness of rank-and-file members to understand economic laws. He pointed out that while members of his union are unskilled, they receive annual returns higher than brick-layers, plasterers and skilled mechanics because of the fact that the latter suffer seasonal layoffs.

Thoughtful President

A GROUP of Four-H Club youngsters waited on the White House portico to see the President while Representatives Robert Sechrest and Earl T. Wagner were inside presenting him with a petition from the Ohio Congressional delegation to name George Rogers, an SEC attorney, to the Securities & Exchange Commission.

"I'm going to be photographed with those young people in the rose garden outside," said Truman.

"Don't let us detain you, Mr. President," urged Sechrest.

Just then a sudden cloudburst tattooed the windows of the President's office.

"Stick around," he told his callers. "If I take those kids out in the rain to be photographed, their fathers and mothers will be after me."

Marquis Childs

Atom In The Middle

NEW YORK

THE political decisions taken in Washington tend to seem more politically motivated when viewed from a little way off. A case in point is the extraordinary development in the investigation into the Atomic Energy Commission.

The investigation had proved to be a pretty empty business. Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, who initiated it with reckless general charges, was reduced to scratching up trivialities. It had dropped into the back nages of even those newspapers interested in smearing the civilian commission and Chairman David Lilienthal in particular.

In the face of all this Sen. Brien McMahon, chairman of the joint Senate-House committee on atomic energy, comes out with the proposal that his committee have the veto power over the supposedly independent commission. They would exercise this veto power by passing on any enterprise involving the expenditure of more than $1,000,000.

That is, in effect, a finding of guilty against Lilienthal. If Hickenlooper had been shrewd, he would have said, "Gentlemen, I see that I have made my case and I have nothing more to say."

The full implications of that veto have not been fully appreciated. I doubt that even Sen. McMahon, who has battled for civilian control, is entirely aware of what such a veto would mean.

It would put the atom right in the middle of politics. That is not my view alone. It is the view of those who have had most to do with the control of atomic energy at the international level.

Prophecy, as some recent events have shown, is a dangerous undertaking in matters political. But, in my opinion, if Congress takes up McMahon's suggestion and approves this veto power, the following would happen:

1. Lilienthal would resign as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the strong probability is that two or three other commissioners would leave.

2. President Truman would find it difficult, if not impossible, to persuade a civilian of stature to take the vacated chairmanship.

The crowd out to "get Lilienthal" might rejoice at this outcome. But I believe their rejoicing would be very temporary. The political control exercised through such a veto would inevitably retard atomic development. Those who know say that under such circumstances the United States very quickly would lose its present lead.

Pressure groups working through the Senate-House committee would interfere in every decision taken by the commission. This is not just theory. A recent example shows how such pressures are brought to bear and what the consequences are.

The Atomic Energy Commission had decided to build a natural-gas pipe line to the great Oak Ridge, Tenn., atomic project. The decision had been taken after weighing all factors—cost, acceptability of supply, security and dependability of the fuel supply. The best technical brains available had passed on it.

But then certain pressure groups began to turn on the heat. The railroads, the coal miners, the coal owners all came down on the Congressional committee. They didn't want a gas pipe line to Oak Ridge; they wanted coal used at Oak Ridge.

The joint Senate-House committee named a subcommittee to look into the proposed pipeline. That subcommittee disapproved it and was supported by the full committee.

Nevertheless the AEC is going ahead with the pipe line. One reason is the fact that the commission has what is believed to be an irrevocable contract with the company that would build the line and furnish the gas.

If this kind of interference is possible, and it would be possible under the veto advocated by McMahon, then there would be no orderly operation of the vast atomic energy project with its billion-dollar budget. Politics would dictate vital decisions.

Sen. McMahon, who has in the past shown such a sense of responsibility, would not be likely to say, "Look, why doesn't my state of Connecticut get more of these atomic plants we need then up there." But politicians with less understanding of what is at issue might well say just that.

An independent commission is bound to make mistakes in any undertaking so large. But if able and good men are chosen, they must be allowed to make their own mistakes, since their independence and their ability will insure a satisfactory over-all result. A political veto would nullify their independence and circumvent their ability.

Stewart Alsop

The Fighting Chance

SAIGON, Indo-China

THE French cannot reconquer this country. French colonial power cannot be restored here, not with all the jet planes in the world. The French know it. Therefore what the French now plan here is simply a holding operation, an attempt to buy time.

For the West, the French holding operation will have an obvious value. It will postpone the chain reaction which the loss of Indo-China to the Communists, following immediately on the heels of the loss of China, would almost certainly produce throughout Southeast Asia. But postponement is not enough.

The French plan to create what they call a "redoubt," a center of military power, across the neaxfist coastal route of infiltration by the Chinese Communists. To this end, they mean to root out Ho Chi-Minh's guerrillas from a quadrilateral area bounded by Langson, Monkay, Hanoi and Haiphong. This redoubt will not seal the Indo-Chinese borders. In the mountainous thick jungle of the interior, that is impossible. But, by cutting off the coastal route, the redoubt will confine contact across the borders to jungle trails. It will thus be difficult for the Chinese Communists to deliver any decisive aid to their Indo-Chinese comrades.

The ultimate purpose of this holding operation is to allow time for the organization of an independent Viet Nam government and army under the titular and possibly temporal leadership of the former Emperor, Bao Dai. This government and army will then have the task of doing what the French cannot do—reducing Ho Chi-Minh's following to a hard Communist core and establishing a truly independent Indo-China.

There are those here who believe this French plan is nonsense. Bao Dai is a rather pathetic French stooge, as the argument runs. He can never attract the essential nationalist support. The French Army and colonial services are determined to sabotage an independent Viet Nam government in any case. For these reasons it is said that the last and only hope, here as in China, is an attempt to promote the spontaneous growth of a Communist-free third force. This argument is now being presented to the State Dept., as the same argument was made about China.

Before coming to the Orient, this reporter suspected that the new post-war Asiatic nationalism was largely a Western phenomenon, articulated by a handful of intellectuals. It is nothing of the sort. It is a deep and universal force. Already