THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT

TODAY in Raleigh, a special commission to study the relationship of city streets to the State highway system will hold its first meeting.

It will be the duty of the Commission to determine whether there is any public (State) responsibility for city streets not now a part of the highway system and, if so, to make recommendations to the Governor on a method of allocating highway funds to such streets in the future.

The Commission has an opportunity to render a great service to the people of the state, and will certainly do so if it is able to avoid the city-vs.-rural arguments which always seem to crop up when the subject is mentioned.

The Commission must keep in mind that North Carolina is made up of both cities and rural areas, that the two are interdependent, that both are valuable resources of the state, that both are populated by Tar Heels who contribute their proportionate share to the State Government and deserve consideration in the allocation of State funds and services.

It has been the fashion recently in North Carolina to criticize the city dwellers, and to preach that the cities would be nothing without the surrounding rural areas to support them. Yet any careful study of the balance between the two, such as that made by the N. C. Resources Use Commission in 1948, will prove very definitely that is or should be, and will be content to accept the judgment of the Commission which is made up of members from both rural and urban areas.

THE NEWS believes that there is an imbalance in the State's method of allocating road funds which favors rural dwellers over urban dwellers. Yet we are not prepared to say just what the proper balance the cities are of great importance to the rural areas.

At the very heart of its deliberations will be a careful definition of city streets. While it is undoubtedly true that city streets, because of their curbs, storm sewers and generally greater width and more permanent construction, are complete utilities in themselves and that the movement of traffic is just one of their functions, nevertheless they do move traffic, whether the vehicles belong to urban residents or to visitors from the rural areas. And since urban residents pay the same gasoline and license taxes, they are, we believe, entitled to some measure of financial assistance from the State Government in building and keeping up city streets.

Furthermore, the efficient movement of traffic through North Carolina cities is very much the concern of the State Highway Commission. What will it accomplish if the State builds a huge network of roads between cities and then forces travelers to fight their way through narrow, congested city streets, bringing about long and needless delays and causing great inconvenience in other respects?

It would seem that a logical and fair method of allocating funds on an annual per mile basis, one rate applicable to State highways inside cities and a much lower rate applicable to paved streets which meet State specifications, could be worked out. Such is the practice in Virginia and it is apparently working well.

In any event, THE NEWS looks forward with interest to the activity of the new Commission and wishes it well in its important assignment.

VENGEANCE AT WORK

IT is good that the House Committee on Un-American Activities has decided to delay any investigation of the conduct of the Alger Hiss perjury trial until after the second trial is held. Nothing could have been more ill-advised, or further removed from the traditional justice of the American legal system, than hasty, impetuous action by a group of vengeful, prejudiced Congressmen at this time.

It is perfectly clear from the comments of Committee members Nixon and Velde and others including Rep. E. E. Cox of Georgia that their criticism of Judge Samuel Kaufman stems from their bitter disappointment that Hiss was not convicted.

From the very first of this expose of a shoddy relationship between Whittaker Chambers and Alger Hiss, some members of the committee have shown strong prejudice against Hiss. They believed him guilty, with proof or without proof. And now they have clearly shown that they are unwilling to accept the American principle that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty.

One very bad aspect of the attacks on Judge Kaufman is that he cannot answer back, because of its possible effect on the outcome of the second trial. Thus he is, for the moment, defenseless against the charges of his accusers.

Former Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, who is now president of the New York City Bar Association, made this observation:

"It would be a blow to the independence of the judiciary and to the sound administration of justice if a judge were to be investigated by a committee of Congress whenever the committee did not like the rulings made by the judge or did not agree with the outcome of the case tried by him."

Says the *Christian Science Monitor:*

"One cannot but reflect, were all this to happen under a totalitarian regime, how little chance a defendant would have of facing Government prosecution a second time as still, presumably, an innocent man."

To which the *Greensboro Daily News* adds:

"And one cannot help reflecting that, if Messrs. Nixon and Velde had their way, there would be no second trials because the Government would always convict on the first one, as it does in Russia."

The *Louisville Courier-Journal* sums it up this way:

"Hiss must be tried again. This fact makes the impropriety of the Congressmen fairly cry out to be challenged. What they have done is an incitement to prejudice, a venture in intimidation, which next time could tilt the balance. They might be shocked to be told that what they protest against Judge Kaufman is in essence no different from what the Communists are saying about Judge Harold Medina in another forum."

We have often observed that the House Committee on Un-American Activities can render a real service to the nation. But as long as the Congress permits it, or any of its members, to run roughshod over the traditions of American justice, it will offer as great a threat to our democracy as the sinister influences it is supposedly trying to root out.

TELEVISION IS HERE

TONIGHT at the Armory-Auditorium hundreds of Charlotteans will get a look at a miracle. Or, at least, something pretty close to a miracle. Television, they call it.

Of course, television isn't really miraculous. A good electronics engineer could explain the basic working of it to you in ten or fifteen minutes. But for those whose comprehension stumbles over frequencies and cathode rays and similar esoterica, television is like the genii Aladdin conjured up.

Fortunately, however, one need only comprehend the dials on the face of the glowing gadgets and never mind the inner workings.

Electronics aside, there are some large questions connected with the new medium of communication. Its potentialities in the field of education, for instance, are enormous. While the youthful television industry has not yet attempted a broad educational program, it is inevitable that one will be developed in the future. And who can say what great effect it may have on the nation's I. Q. once a mass audience has been developed?

And, as the new industry achieves maturity, it will bring into the home the best entertainment available. This may solve the long-standing problem of the centralization of the arts in New York City. Those who cannot or will not make the trip to the Metropolis will be able to see on video the best talent Broadway has to offer.

Commentary on the bright new field could—and will—continue indefinitely, for it has opened new horizons to the arts and promises to rank with radio, the telephone, the automobile and the airplane as a major factor in twentieth century civilization.

Those of us in the Charlotte area, the first section of the Carolinas to receive scheduled television programs, commend forward-looking WBTV, which will transmit the programs, and look ahead with pleasure to a new experience.

SCOTT'S NEW CAMPAIGN

NO one off the pay roll list of the State Government will quarrel with Governor Kerr Scott over his drive to eliminate "small leaks" and "petty graft."

There is no evidence that there is now, or has been in recent years, any extensive pilfering of the public treasury in North Carolina. Our record in that respect is eminently good.

But the Governor himself cited two or three practices, each minor in scope but costly if multiplied many times.

For instance, he has ordered the Highway Commission to restrict after-hour use of State vehicles to those employees who are subject to emergency call. He has also discontinued the practice whereby State employees paid on a per diem basis get free meals at State prison establishments.

The Governor announced that the State Bureau of Investigation is probing other petty graft, and he has asked all department heads to be on the alert to stop any such practices.

This is one Scott campaign which will have the wholehearted support of all the people of the State. Carried out with sufficient vigor, it will mean a savings of many thousands of dollars each year, dollars which can be put to better use for the benefit of all the people of the state.

People's Platform

Truman's Market Predictions

CONCORD

Editors, THE NEWS:

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has entered into enough financial plans to make a more able financier green with envy, so speaks this full-time market analyst. This analyst is disturbed with the disastrous effect upon the traders who are driven into the markets as President Truman shows the way. President Truman has suggested some good ideas, among them point four, which need his guidance. Certainly he is a good man to head a Democrat government!

About two years ago when Drew Pearson declared his own predictions on our President's business were more than 80 per cent accurate, President Truman declared the percentage was too high. The President's staff supplied a figure under 50 per cent, somewhere below chance. Nobody has figured President Truman's own score on his own predictions, but some are very outstanding in market traders' thoughts.

In January the President declared that the Government would go into the steel business if they did not soon catch up on their reputedly big backlogs. U. S. Steel stock peaked up to $78 and traded heavily. Then the steel industry was operating at 103 per cent capacity, whereas now the backlogs have disappeared and the industry is operating under 80 per cent. U. S. Steel stock on the old share basis is now selling for less than $66. Many men were primed into their purchases by no man less than our President. Please remember paper losses are real losses if the stockholder must sell.

Again this year, in early March, President Truman asked for controls over metals, especially lead, which he said was going higher. Within a week lead fell from 21 1/2 cents to 19 1/2 cents. Lead is now selling for 12 cents.

Several weeks ago President Truman asked for more controls over commodities. He indicated that the commodities markets were ripe for the bear raiders. In other words we can expect greatly lower wheat prices now that the big crop is coming in. But even yet since he spoke the wheat market has not had the big decline about which he speaks.

If President Truman had personally transacted his own business upon these positions, he would again be as bankrupt as he was in his haberdashery. Even so, President Truman is today in the markets. Many business men act upon the President's own words. A non-trader would think that the business men would wise up to the President's forecasting, but they run out of money before they ever learn. With the broad coverage his position as our President commands, he can continue his fortune telling.

And so President Truman skips merrily along doling out his words of cheer. This year his advice forced people to buy stocks, which went lower, and sell commodities, which went higher. These positions form a wrong hedge.

—EDWARD N. SELTZER.

Is This Socialism?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

BACK of much of the demand for legislation to provide medical care for the general public is our revulsion at the thought that people in the United States now suffer needlessly and die prematurely because of their lack of money. That this can and does happen in a country that sends medical missionaries to other parts of the world and has spent, and is still spending billions to rehabilitate the citizens of other nations, is an accusing fact. Is it any wonder that many people refuse to accept the continuance of this condition as part of the price we must pay for freedom!

A short time ago, a child in Fayetteville needed an operation that might save his life. The publicity given the case resulted in money being donated to pay for the operation. Suppose no one had initiated or sponsored this publicity. The implication is clear; for the want of $500 the child would have died. In that case who would have been the child's executioners? Surely not you and I, who send "care" packages to Europe and tax ourselves to pay veterinarians to give medical care to livestock!

Another consideration supporting the demand for universal medical care is the free medical service given war veterans. Many people are reasoning, "If it be good for the veterans, why is it not good for non-veterans?" And are we treating the veteran right if we save or prolong his life while letting the non-veteran members of his family suffer, and possibly die, because of lack of medical care?

Personally, I don't want any "mass treatment" from any member of the medical profession. And I hope there never will be a time when I can't pick my doctor and make it to his interest to render the best service he has to give. Besides surgery, the service that is exclusively the doctor's is limited to diagnosis and the exercise of judgment based on knowledge and experience. In the exercise of these functions he is not aided by having to listen to patients, with self-curing and imaginary ailments, whose number no doubt would be greatly increased by the enactment of a law providing medical care for everybody.

I am glad that I don't have to live in Russia where adherence to the party line may be the price to pay for medical care. . . . Still, I can't help but think of the little Fayetteville boy who but for charity would have been denied the chance to live; and of the thousands of unknown unfortunates who die every year because of lack of medical care. Would it be socialistic to have a Federal Health Department provided with sufficient tax money to give the best medical service available for all who cannot obtain it for themselves?

—LEWIS AYER SMITH.

FIRE WHISTLE

What happened to the fire whistle Friday? They didn't blow it so the people would know it was time to eat? B. P. Frensley of Box 892 called up to report that the fire whistle never did blow Friday, and he waited until twenty minutes after 12 before he ate because of it. Isn't that awful? Here the city has been disturbing the peace for lo these many years by blowing the whistle every day for lunch, and all of a sudden it is stopped. On Friday. Without warning. It's enough to give a body ulcers.—Carlsbad (N. M.) Current-Argus.

Marquis Childs

Opportunity Unheard

WASHINGTON

IN predicting business the safest course is to stick to the obvious probabilities. Hence the following:

Prediction No. 1: Congress at this session will not approve an appropriation for arms to help Western Europe. The Truman Administration will, in fact, be lucky to get approval for continuation of the present program of assistance to Greece and Turkey, which is now tied into an aid-to-Europe package, with perhaps a limited authorization to send surplus war material to Europe.

Prediction No. 2: As a result of this failure, the enthusiasm in Western Europe for the North Atlantic pact will continue to dwindle and the chances of the pact becoming a true bulwark of peace and security will have been reduced by half at a conservative estimate.

The members of the American delegation to the recent Foreign Ministers' Conference in Paris were all agreed that as the result of a firm and positive American policy the Soviet Union was for the first time on the defensive. What is happening in Congress now may reverse that condition and once again give the initiative to the bosses of Soviet Communism who have never abandoned for a moment their determination to master the world.

They prefer, of course, to master it through ideological penetration and infiltration by fifth columns. But failing that, and they have been slipping in recent months, they are prepared to take over a defenseless European continent by force of arms. At their convenience, and in the face of the confusion and the sense of being alone and deserted of the democratic forces in Western Europe, they will combine the two techniques.

The tendency of those who have planned and worked and hoped for a decisive, constructive policy in Europe must be a kind of angry despair. The natural impulse would be to strike out at an obvious villain who can be shown to have pulled the props out from under those carefully laid plans.

Sen. Robert A. Taft offers himself as an obvious candidate. But he is not well cast as a villain.

Instead of anger his extraordinary speech on the pact must produce, even in those who have given so much to preparing a plan and a policy, an infinite sadness. With all his integrity, his earnestness, his capacity for hard work, he comes out with a complete and cheerful refusal to face the meaning of the present-day world. In one sentence at the beginning of his speech he said it:

"We are, of course, interested in the welfare of the rest of the world because we are a humane nation."

In this view everything that we have done is a generous gesture for the welfare of alien peoples whose sad plight touches us. It wholly ignores the tremendous self-interest of the United States in preserving all that can be preserved of the Western world.

But it is too late to look for villains. It is a futile exercise. The time has come to say that under our government of divided powers rapid and responsible action through the recurring phases of a prolonged crisis may be impossible.

Think back to that moment now three and a half months ago when the Foreign Ministers of Western Europe stood under the fierce lights of the television cameras to sign the pact. Each minister had come to that decision after a long and painful travail, realizing the grave risk he was taking for his country. Each minister as a member of his government and a leader in the majority party in that government had worked out the essential political agreement and understanding.

The exception was our own Secretary of State, Dean Acheson. As a functionary of the executive branch of the government he had directed the preparatory steps leading up to that scene. When he was asked by the Foreign Ministers, as he was asked, if it was certain to be approved — and implemented — he could not give a definite answer.

While Acheson might have taken Senate and House foreign relations committees more nearly into his confidence, there are definite limits on that kind of co-operation. The Secretary of State was in the role of the timid bride whose cake baked in secret may be rejected by the petulant bridegroom.

It is a well-nigh intolerable condition. If it continues, and it shows every likelihood of continuing, then the chances are that the opportunity and the responsibility confronting this country will be thrown away as they were thrown away after World War 1.

James Marlow

Turn Back Pages

WASHINGTON

ONCE more in a deeply serious moment of its history the nation holds its breath as two giants, the steelworkers and the steel industry, get braced for struggle.

Turn back the pages of the history book a moment . . .

It was a cold, gray, snowy day, the striking steelworkers set up their picket lines and began their endless, slow, shuffling, circling around.

They had built small fires near their line of march around the gates of the steel mills at Pittsburgh. Every once in a while a picket dropped out of line to warm his hands and bones by a fire.

The day was Jan. 21, 1946. It was the first day, the start, of the big postwar steel strike. I was there and saw it begin. The whole nation was watching.

At the time, I wrote that this might be the start of a tragic chapter in American history, for America at that moment was trying to reconvert to peace.

BASIC STEEL

Steel was then, and is now, the heart and backbone of the American economy. Steel was basic, it was needed everywhere to get the country going on the high road to great peacetime prosperity.

But a steel strike, if it lasted long, could push the whole economy into a stumbling, staggering downhill gait and for a very simple reason that anyone could understand:

Since steel was basic in all kinds of industries — building, autos, washing machines, any number of industries — they'd have to shut down for lack of steel if the strike was long.

And that would have meant spreading unemployment at a time when it was vital for the country to get people into jobs, to swing over smoothly from war to peace.

In short, a long steel strike would have crushed recovery in a thousand ways.

The strike lasted a month, not long enough to throw the whole country out of whack. The men went back into the mills and American prosperity began its climb to the highest peak in history.

Now, once more, the nation is faced with a giant steel strike and once more the danger comes at a moment which might be critical, for now the American economy has begun to slide down hill.

Only two days ago President Truman and his Council of Economic Advisers reported that the economy is slipping, that unemployment has increased to around 4,000,000, or double what it was a year ago.

Further, the economists look for things to get worse before they get better. They seem to think they will get better if—

There's more business investment, more business expansion, more employment, which means more people with money to spend.

But a steel strike, coming at such a serious time, would have just the opposite effect.

The strikers alone would mean about another 1,000,000 unemployed. If the strike comes, and lasts long, thousands upon thousands of other men will be thrown into idleness when their companies, which depend on steel, shut down because they can't get it.

If this should happen soon, or in the next couple of months, there's no telling what damage might be done the nation.

Because of its vital seriousness, President Truman has stepped into the tangle, asking that there be no strike for at least 60 days. He asked the CIO steelworkers and the big steel companies to keep everything going at least that long.

The daddy of the whole steel industry, U. S. Steel Corp., rejected the plea. It told Mr. Truman he ought to use the weapons he has under the law to flatly prevent a strike for at least 80 days.

So the bitter antagonism between steelworkers and steel owners deepened.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Chiang Criticism Suddenly Toned Down

WASHINGTON

SIX State Dept. stenographers were kept busy last week retyping and toning down the American white paper on China. Hastily censored out were allegations labeling certain relatives of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek as crooks.

Inside reason for these sudden changes was a long and continuing argument between Secretary of State Acheson and Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson. For three months Johnson had been building a bonfire under the State Dept. urging it to support Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang.

Johnson is a personal friend and former attorney for Dr. H. H. Kung, brother-in-law of the Generalissimo and reputedly one of the world's wealthiest men. At Cabinet meetings, at super-secret meetings of the National Security Council, Johnson constantly, continually needled Acheson.

For a long time there was no result. In fact, when Acheson returned from the Paris conference the other day he ordered his staff to work out a new blueprint for American-Chinese relations which was to be strongly anti-Chiang.

Acheson Outvoted

THAT blueprint was placed before the National Security Council last week. After a vigorous debate the vote went against Acheson—about 5 to 1. Those voting no were Johnson, the Treasury Dept., and heads of the armed services. They favored continued support for Chiang Kai-Shek's regime no matter how graft-ridden.

Swinging the decision against Acheson were two factors:

1. A statement by Mao Tse-Tung, leader of Red China, that he was a Moscow-loving Communist;

2. First indications that Chinese Reds planned rough treatment for American personnel, as later proved by the beating up of U. S. Vice Consul William Olive.

Instead of Acheson's proposed hands-off policy, the joint chiefs of staff recommended a ring of defenses around Red China. This ring will consist of the Japan-Formosa-Philippines Island chain, plus Siam, Burma, India and one small part of South China where Chiang Kai-Shek will be defended to the last ditch.

Gen. MacArthur has cabled his vigorous support of this general idea—which, incidentally, will cost a large and so far unestimated amount of money.

Pegler Probe

YOUNG Congressman Jack Kennedy of Boston was elected as a fighting, aggressive champion of labor. He is also the son of Joseph P. Kennedy, ex-Ambassador to London, an admirer of Columnist Westbrook Pegler.

And when Pegler called labor leaders "despots, criminals and Communists" at a Congressional hearing, young Kennedy resigned from the subcommittee, after first protesting the manner in which Chairman Andrew Jacobs of Indianapolis was grilling Pegler.

"Why don't you let somebody else ask some questions?" asked Kennedy. "Rep. Sims (S.C.) would like to ask a few."

"You've got your ideas and I've got mine," shot back Jacobs. "You'll get your turn after I get through."

Blazing mad, Kennedy left the committee rostrum and took a seat in the front row of spectators. After chatting briefly with an acquaintance, he went back on the rostrum and announced: "I'm getting off the subcommittee."

"That's okay with me," replied Jacobs.

New York Politics

FORMER Gov. Herbert Lehman and New York Boss Ed Flynn have been playing cat-and-mouse over who will run for Bob Wagner's Senate seat.

They held two secret huddles last week, during which Flynn tried to get Lehman to announce his candidacy for the Senate immediately. Flynn didn't say so but, if Lehman announced right away, the way would be clear for Flynn's friend, Brooklyn Borough President John Cashmore, to be Democratic candidate for Mayor of the world's largest city.

Lehman, however, knows he'll have a tough fight to win the Senate seat in November, so he wants a strong candidate on the ticket with him for mayor—and not John Cashmore. That is why he refused to announce until assured who his running mate will be.

Merry-Go-Round

WONDER what's become of Elizabeth Bentley, the buxom, confessed female spy who started all the fuss over Alger Hiss. During the Hiss trial she was strangely absent. Nothing left of her in Washington except a hotel bill for $500, for which conscientious Congressman Wood of the Un-American Activities Committee wants special authority from Congress in order to settle. . . . Chip Robert, ex-Democratic treasurer, and Sam Pryor, ex-Republican treasurer, got together the other day. They admitted that in the old days they sometimes compared notes. If one bigwig gave to the Republicans, Sam tipped off Chip and Chip collected for the Democrats—and vice versa. . . . Chip, incidentally, has a date to go leopard shooting in Ceylon Sept. 15. He can leave Washington on a Thursday, spend the week-end shooting Indian leopards and get back by Monday. . . . Ex-Congresswoman Georgia Lusk of New Mexico will soon be appointed to the new war claims commission. . . . Alert Congressman Furcolo of Massachusetts has urged President Truman to revamp future espionage trials. Truman has accepted Furcolo's suggestion.

SENATE office scramble—John Foster Dulles' arrival in the Senate has started a scramble for offices. Twenty-five Senators are planning to trade offices—just to make room for the new Senator from New York. What happened is that under the seniority system, Dulles is low man on the totem pole and not entitled to the choice office vacated by Sen. Wagner. Next in line is Sen. O'Mahoney of Wyoming. But if he moves into Wagner's office, Sen. Chavez of New Mexico is entitled to shift to O'Mahoney's office. And so on down the seniority ladder. Meanwhile, Sen. Ives of New York is trying to talk colleagues out of this wholesale moving since Dulles will be in the Senate only a few months anyway.

Ambassador Leighton Stuart has warned all American diplomats in China to be on their best behavior in dealing with the Communists. Stuart believes the Communists' action in jailing and beating U. S. Vice Consul Olive in Shanghai is just the first step in a campaign to brand all American diplomats as spies.