

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## ABOUT-FACE IN ROWAN

THERE will be, we suppose, many explanations from ABC advocates and Drys alike for the rather surprising turn of events in Rowan County. The fact that a county which rejected the ABC system by a comfortable margin of 2,435 votes in 1947 turned right around and voted for the same system last Saturday by a majority of 1,147 certainly calls for explaining, especially in view of the other Dry victories in North Carolina recently.

But whatever the reason, it is clear that there has been a change of opinion in Rowan County in two years. The total number of votes cast on Saturday was 14,565—only 154 more votes than were cast in 1947.

It was significant that the trend away from Prohibition was evident in the dry county areas as well as in the cities of Salisbury, Kannapolis and Spencer. The 1948 vote in the county boxes showed a plurality for the Prohibitionists; Saturday their plurality shrank to 397, and five county boxes which voted dry in 1947 completely reversed their vote. The Prohibition losses in the county boxes were proportionately greater than the ABC advantages gained in the city of Salisbury where they piled up a plurality of 1,144 as compared to the 1947 plurality of 1,331.

In every box, rural and urban, the control advocates registered gains.

In the absence of expert analysis, all we can do is assume that the good people of

Rowan County decided finally that Prohibition doesn't prohibit the sale, transportation and consumption of alcoholic beverages and that they would give up the ABC system as a try as a better method of handling the alcoholic problem.

If they were right, they will be mindful of this admonition by the Salisbury Post in a front page editorial:

"In realization of these virtues we feel sure that the 'pro' and 'anti' groups defined during the campaign just past will quickly drop their differences and seek to contribute jointly to attainment of the objectives which all have sought since the vote was taken. Now that a new way has been selected, a new enthusiasm and a new fortitude is deserved in bringing the objective into realization."

"When ABC stores begin operation they will be required by law to devote ten per cent of their profits in this County to law enforcement and temperance... There is no reason why Rowan County should not become a model law enforcement unit for the nation."

The Rowan decision was in the best local opinion tradition. Other counties prefer to retain Prohibition, and under our system they have the privilege of doing so. Those counties which have to grapple with a flourishing bootlegging industry, with its assorted crime and vice enterprises, are free to try another system. This is as it should be, for it is entirely likely that North Carolina, by this slow and tortuous prospect, will one day emerge with a balance which will make more people content—Prohibitionists and control advocates alike—than an all-or-nothing or all-dry state would do.

## J. C. B. EHRLINGHAUS

It is unhappy true that we are rarely able to view in the immediate present the works of public leaders and have any real comprehension of their significance. We have to wait for the perspective of history.

Former Governor J. C. B. Ehrlinghaus is a case in point.

Five incoming Governors have faced greater problems than those which met Ehrlinghaus when he took the oath of office in January, 1933. North Carolina, like the rest of the nation, was in the depths of the greatest depression in history. State revenue was down. There was a budgetary deficit of \$15 million. Roads were closing. The bottom had fallen out of prices for the state's main agricultural products, tobacco and cotton. On all sides there was economic disaster.

It was a time for greatness, and Ehrlinghaus responded. He was not the dramatic, impelling leadership of a Franklin D. Roosevelt, who inherited the national depression at the same time, but in some respects he met the challenge fully as well. By economizing wherever possible and doing out State funds judiciously, he kept all essential State services including the public

schools operating. He ordered the tobacco markets to close pending a stabilization of prices. And he urged successfully the passage of "a last resort" of the sales tax which he saw as an emergency measure but which still remains on the books. When he left office the deficit had become a surplus.

There were other accomplishments during his four years in office—if the job of keeping the State on an even keel weren't enough. During the last two years of the Ehrlinghaus administration when 6,000 miles of REA lines were laid in the entire U. S., 4,000 of them were built in North Carolina. He called the Legislature into special session in December, 1935, to adopt the State unemployment compensation law. And during his administration, the people of North Carolina got reductions in utility rates adding up to \$14 million annually.

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## CURTAINS FOR ATLANTIC'S GAMBLING

WE have never quite understood—why anyone in his right mind would throw away money in slot machines, "one-armed bandits," or what have you when everybody knows the chances are against the operators to return a good deal less than is paid in.

Apparently, however, they still flourish on the quiet in various private clubs and establishments under the questionable theory that people who can afford to belong to private clubs are not subject to the law.

Down at Atlantic Beach (Morehead City's play area), the slot machine business was recently in violation of the law. A couple of visiting Miami newspaper reporters started asking questions about the wide-open play and found themselves suddenly hauled off to jail for being too nosy. They were soon released, and their story to the world. And now we have a full-

blown account of the flourishing Atlantic Beach gambling enterprise in the Raleigh News & Observer which sent one of its reporters down to a thorough job.

He told the story, all right, with plenty of names and other details. And he found many of the rumors we have heard in Raleigh's newspaper's story hit the paper's machines suddenly and mysteriously disappeared.

Now the State has moved in with its SBI organization. And Carteret County citizens are stirred up and demanding better law enforcement.

It looks as if the gambling at Atlantic Beach will be a poor sort of business for the next few weeks—just as it ought to be. And the people who have been the hopes of Carteret's citizens that the jail in activities will become a permanent one.

From The Greensboro Daily News

## A WORTHWHILE INVITATION

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has been invited to the Asheville Fair in September. Well, if it's a fair he wants to attend, we are confident he would enjoy the Randolph version more than he did the Great State Fair last year—and we hope Jonathan Daniels will write him a better speech than the one he made on the occasion of the President's appearance at Raleigh.

If we had any idea he would accept the suggestion of a longtime admirer of Asheville and its fair, we would tell him to leave the Hoover-car with Jonathan and fetch Herbert Hoover himself.

That would make a great hit. Randolph fairs are even more pleased with the Hoover report than is President Truman. They aren't as proud of having voted against Al Smith as they once were; but so far they haven't openly expressed any regret at having helped to stop the Dilettante movement in North Carolina before it could make any tracks hereabouts.

There are still odds of Democrats in and around Asheville of the sort Harry Truman likes to meet—Democrats in whom there is neither variegated nor shadow of turning but who take their politics straight in fair weather and foul.

Of course, if he needs a bit of before-and-after dinner-bourgeois talk to well-seek it with him unless he's willing to take

pot-luck with a Republican—which would be safe enough, for contrary to some election-year rumors, we have the Randolph Republicans do not pin Democrats; they just like the laid out of them every now and then.

And since September is a terrific early for chow, the invitation came he will be rather large for barbecue, we trust that dyed-in-the-wool, blown-in-the-bottle, double-riveted Republican Bill Hasty is doubled to prepare a chicken stew.

If the President will turn himself loose on a washpot of that, he'll not only come back again but will be tempted to hang around Asheville like Grant hung around Richmond.

The Guilford County Commissioners raise the budget and cut the tax rate. First thing you know they are going to arrive at perpetual motion yet. — Shelby (N. C.) Daily Star.

A machine has been invented to tell sun bathers when they have got too much sun. But if the sun bathers won't listen to it, Howard McGrath, newly designated attorney general, will have to play "Hushhush, Lane."

Young McGrath, a budding politician, was in the parade, got to know how to play the game.

Little gal with coat of tan may be wearing a can. — Delia (Texas) Morning News.

O. K., Now It's Your Baby

Joseph Alsop

## The War Threat



## Parliamentary Snarls

## The Week In Congress

THE House passed an Anti-Poll Tax bill last week, but the appropriations log-jam lightened its effect. The bill, which would prohibit any federal agency from collecting a poll tax, was passed by a vote of 317-197.

House Southerners tried to block the Anti-Poll Tax measure by a filibuster of sorts. They didn't succeed, but their maneuvers resulted in nine roll calls and more than a day's delay before the advocates finally shoved through the legislation.

The bill, which would outlaw payment of a poll tax as a requirement for voting in a primary or general election for Federal officeholders, now goes to the Senate, as it has done on four previous occasions. The outlook is about as pessimistic as usual for passage there.

## ECA FUND MIXUP

The Senate was so successful, either in untangling itself from a parliamentary mess which developed July 27 and 28 on the Foreign Aid Appropriations bill, which includes funds for ECA.

The Senate developed over some committee amendments which some Senators thought were legislation in an appropriations bill. This is against the rules. The question of whether or not an amendment was germane also arose.

After several roll calls and some snarling back and forth, Vice-President Barkley finally ruled July 28 that the Senate had decided to send the measure back to the House.

## GERMANS TO WHAT?

Odd situations developed during the markup. After voting that a committee amendment was germane, the Senate and Chair agreed it was unnecessary to vote on the amendment. On another vote, Majority Leader Scott W. Lucas (D, Ill.) balked against the Vice-President.

The Senate passed a good part of their working time July 29 both in committee and on the floor drafting a formula for proceeding with the measure, during the course of which they acknowledged that he had made an "illogical ruling." The overall outlook appeared to be that when action was completed the Senate would be a little more liberal with ECA funds than the House, but not give the administration all it wanted.

On another angle of the foreign aid field, President Truman sent Congress his request for \$140,000,000 for the South Dakota's Sen. Karl Mundt and his staff to travel to Europe on a fact-finding mission. He and the State Department both declared bluntly that the money is needed to protect the U. S. and its allies against a new war.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee promptly opened hearings, but Congressmen generally were skeptical of the broad scope of the mission and proposed that it be reduced to some way.

## FOREIGN POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Meanwhile, two resolutions on foreign policy were introduced by a large group of Senators. One called for a study of the situation in Europe, the other a federal union among Atlantic nations. The other would seek eventual transformation of the United Nations into a world federation.

Those who have long watched the Washington run of the South Dakota's Sen. Karl Mundt and his staff, the best proposal yet to avoid inside lobbying and keep the little administration machine out of the picture.

It is well proposed to establish a Government information bureau to give businessmen all data regarding the Government's foreign policy.

If properly organized, this could be a great boon to all business. The average firm cannot afford to employ a specialist representative to sit in Washington, explore lines of business, and then report back to the firm.

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Other floor action included: (1) a ruling by Speaker Sam Rayburn that no resolution authorizing extension of Congress beyond July 31 is necessary because "a state of war still exists." (2) Passage by both chambers of legislation creating 27 new federal judgeships. (3) Approval by both chambers, but with differences, of legislation to provide Stogap funds for federal agencies while the appropriations log jam continues. (4) Approval by Senate of a compromise version of Defense Unification bill, as drafted by conferees. (5) Approval by both chambers of a bill to provide federal funds to fight the grasshopper infestation in some areas of the nation—about the amount still must be decided. (6) A series of roll calls in the Senate in favor of funds for various federal agencies.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

The monopoly issue highlighted developments in committees, with two groups hearing evidence on this subject. Coal operators told the Senate Banking Committee that "labor conspires to threaten their industry. They particularly were critical of the three-day work week set up by United Mine Workers. Meanwhile, the House Judiciary Committee approved a bill to amend the Clayton Anti-Trust Act so as to forbid mergers through acquisition by one firm of the assets of another. Also, a Judiciary Subcommittee heard witnesses make suggestions for tightening up loopholes in laws concerning monopolies.

Other committee developments included: (1) House Armed Services Subcommittee heard down on sales of personal items and household equipment by military post exchanges; (2) House and Senate Finance Committees approved a bill to authorize \$100 million in advances to states and other non-federal agencies for better housing; (3) House and Senate Banking & Currency Committee opened hearings on a new omnibus housing bill designed to cover phases of problems not already dealt with; (4) advocates of aid to education bill tried to work out a way to get bill out of House Committee; (5) House Commerce Subcommittee approved a Senate-passed measure to provide \$35 million for better housing; (6) House and Senate Finance Committee approved a bill to provide \$100 million for better housing; (7) House and Senate Banking & Currency Committee opened hearings on a new omnibus housing bill designed to cover phases of problems not already dealt with; (8) advocates of aid to education bill tried to work out a way to get bill out of House Committee; (9) House Commerce Subcommittee approved a Senate-passed measure to provide \$35 million for better housing; (10) House and Senate Finance Committee approved a bill to provide \$100 million for better housing.

Approval by House Labor Committee of permanent FEPC bill.

Now and then we wonder why this people ever have to go through the middle of a narrow doorway. — Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal.

We are willing for the dear women to have the last word if only they would let us know when they have spoken it. — Pittsburg (Tex.) Gazette.

The man forced to wear a coat that sweaters down, must have anything on the woman who wears a wide skirt. — Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

Most grating stranger I ever encountered: A grinning meadow-lark in a paper, jawed under a hat, and saying apologetically, "Lady, the news ain't worth a nickel tonight, but I don't make it. I just sit it." — Beatrice B. McCuller, in Eastern-Centinel Messenger.

Downing, unfamiliar with politics, passed it on to Howard McGrath.

That was McGrath's big political start. He ran for state attorney general, then for governor, and while serving as governor he was elected to Congress. He was then Justice Dept. Truman had first offered this office — which presents Government cases to the Supreme Court — to Gov. Harry Hopkins.

At that time, Truman's chances of being re-elected were considered nil. However, Gov. Hopkins accepted the offer of the second round, and left the Senator to take it. From there, he went on to the Senate, now the Cabinet member, he declined the solicitor generalship, he would never be here it is today.

Bitter Byrd Battle

ONE of the most important primary elections of the year takes in Virginia today. It is important to the possibility that, following the death of Boss Hiss in Jersey and Tammany by FDR, the election will be the downfall of another machine — that of Sen. Harry E. Byrd.

So serious is the fight that Byrd's colleague in the Senate, Robert Byrd, has been called to the aid of the "Byrd Machine." He is afraid that eventually he might go down with it.

Byrd's candidate for governor, John S. Battle, has the distinction of co-authoring last year's bill to deprive President Truman of his right to call for the electoral college to elect him the popular vote. Three Democrats are in the gubernatorial race against him.

How dangerous the Byrd force are is indicated by their efforts to take one of the candidates, Remmie Arnold, out of the race. A pro-speech manufacturer, Arnold has just started in politics. He was the only one who was merely complaint about bad government but should do something to help it.

After speaking in Rocky Mount, Va. not long ago, Arnold dropped in at a restaurant, there met State Treasurer Jesse Dillon and Brady Arnold, both ardent Byrd henchmen.

WASHINGTON

THERE is only one set of facts for the Congress to bear in mind in connection with the military aid program for Europe. About a year and a half ago, the American Joint Chiefs of Staff adopted 1952-53 as the planning year for the military aid program. The Joint Chiefs were then in a mood to be ready for the Soviet Union to wage aggressive war. And the British Chiefs, with a different perspective, were then in a mood to be ready for the Soviet Union to wage aggressive war. And the French Chiefs, with a different perspective, were then in a mood to be ready for the Soviet Union to wage aggressive war.

It is easy for the significance of this set of facts to be lost. It was, between the printed page and the eye. But the meaning of these two sets of facts is very clear. The British and American chiefs agree that the Kremlin will be prepared to plunge the world into a third great war within three or six years, unless the Western powers have, in the meanwhile, acquired the means to deter attack.

In part the dates above given were chosen by the American and British chiefs of staff as a result of expert study of the Soviet program to solve the problem of energy. This fact alone makes a more realistic picture of the Soviet program of atomic research and development. It is a program which has grown up around the idea of the "American miracle" of so-called "atomic secrets."

The truth is that we have no atomic secrets which cannot be covered, sooner or later, by the Soviet Union. It is a program which has grown up around the idea of the "American miracle" of so-called "atomic secrets."

But it is crucial to note these dates of 1952-53 and 1954-55 were not chosen by the American and British chiefs with nothing in view but the Soviet atomic development effort. The main reason for the main consideration was the broad, intensive effort of Soviet rearmament in all fields.

Marquis Childs

## Government By Crony

WASHINGTON

IN the wake of the nomination of Justice Chief Justice Vinson to the Supreme Court, considerable dismay is felt in the labor-liberal circles. The reaction in this situation is not surprising.

Part one of ground and apprehension. The reasons for the gloom derive from examination that they are likely to get, since Clark's nomination by the Senate is almost a certainty. Any controversy over the appointment will be stirred up by the conservative forces of the liberal side.

To begin with, liberals critical of the nomination of Vinson to the Supreme Court, first, the Truman administration's record in the court itself. They believe that Chief Justice Fred Vinson had more than enough to do with the individual outside the White House in influencing the choice.

Second, a report of the pattern of Government by Crony. Little or no animus toward Clark enters into this. The pattern of Government by Crony is elevated to the highest level of the individual. But it does undoubtedly do the individual. But it does undoubtedly do the individual. But it does undoubtedly do the individual.

Clark looks the lead of Vinson. It appears likely that a new majority will be formed over the new minority. The core of the minority will be Justice Black. The core of the majority will be Justice Vinson. The core of the majority will be Justice Vinson. The core of the majority will be Justice Vinson.

A number of highly significant civil rights cases are bound to come before the Court in the next few years. The decisions handed down in those cases will be a powerful factor in determining the future of this democracy. And Vinson's leadership will be a powerful factor in determining the future of this democracy.

It would be folly to predict the course of any individual case he has decided. But it is not folly to predict the course of any individual case he has decided. But it is not folly to predict the course of any individual case he has decided.

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