

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROSEBROW, Publisher
R. E. DOWD, General Manager
R. S. ORFFERTY, Executive Editor
C. A. MCKENRY, Editor

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THE RALEIGH CONFERENCE

(Editorial Correspondence)
RALIGH—Since there has never been any question about North Carolina's study loyalty to the Democratic Party of Jefferson, Jackson, Wilson and Roosevelt, Saturday's political row will not put James P. Byrnes' executive staff and elevated effort to align this State squarely behind the Democratic Fair Deal Party of Harry S. Truman.

1. To nip any incipient Discretionary which might tend to spring up in North Carolina as a result of six Congressional battles over the Civil Rights Program and James P. Byrnes' executive staff for governor of South Carolina;
2. To keep North Carolina's leadership but troublesome Republicans in their place;
3. To read an object lesson to other Southern States by brooking out for local inspection a long list of national dignitaries, not a few of whom are numerous Tar Heels who have been rewarded with high places for their state's loyalty to the party.
4. To null the paternalistic Fair Deal to a State which has demonstrated a disconcerting tendency to look after its own powdering without calling on Washington for help.
5. To strengthen the authority of the present state party rulers.

SATURDAY'S program fell into several distinct categories. First, there was a morning "regional" meeting in the hall of the House of Representatives. The "regional" designation was a misnomer. No regional topics were discussed, nor was there any substantial regional representation. Attendance was small, since most of the North Carolinians in the city appeared more interested in the plotting and planning of state affairs going on in hotel rooms and lobbies.

Those who stayed away, however, missed two very fine addresses on topics of interest to everyone. Secretary of the Army Gordon Gray told in some detail of the progress being made in uniting our defense program. Under Secretary of State James Webb rattled off a listenable explanation of some main foreign affairs programs. They also missed the spectacle of a person wearing the gavel by Big Jim Polson of Alabama.

When time for the luncheon came around, the gathering left bi-partisanship behind and turned to Democratic politics. These of the speakers had been announced until the previous evening, and Raleigh newspapermen appeared to be as surprised as anyone else that they were to hear a Republican Party official, the Political Action Committee's C. T. Anderson, secretary of the Railway Labor Political League, give brief but creditable talks, explaining why organized labor finds the Democratic Party the most dependable ally.

P. H. BATTE OF THE OBSERVER
P. H. BATTE, general manager of *The Charlotte Observer*, had not worked in this community less than twenty years when death came early yesterday. And it is a measure of the man's caliber, that in such a short time, he had so thoroughly integrated himself with the affairs of the community and the newspaper he managed.

afternoon session of the conference. Once again Democratic Party affairs were the order of the day. With Governor Sid McMath of Arkansas as the keynote, the delegates heard in order Mrs. Charles W. Byrnes, vice chairman of the national committee; Mrs. Dorothy Vredenburg, secretary of the national committee; Wilson Gilmore, national Young Democratic president; William F. Boyle, chairman of the national committee; Leon Keyserling, acting chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors; Assistant Secretary of Labor John Gibson; Director of the Budget Frank Pace; and Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan.

Without exception, these speakers sought understanding and support for various phases of the Fair Deal program. They had to say had been said many times before. And since the audience was still lacking substantial representation from local North Carolina politicians and the general public, it rather resembled a mutual admiration society in operation.

Then, came the Jefferson-Jackson dinner, for which Tar Heels had clipped in 350 a plate. Over-enthusiastic officials had sold more tickets than there were waters, and a few tempers were ruffled. But within the big dining room of the Sir Walter Hotel peace and harmony reigned under the benign influence of Vice-President Alben Barkley whose defense of the Democratic Party's historical achievements was the most convincing exhibition of the day.

YESTERDAY, after the milling crowds in hotel lobbies had begun to disperse, speakers tried to add up the accomplishments of the conference, and to relate them to the North Carolina scene. As far as the affinity between the state and national parties is concerned, the event had obviously been tightened. The ties had been strengthened his grasp on the influential post by his display of personal favor with the Administration.

Since the coup in which control of State party affairs passed to these three gentlemen happened within the past two years, this solidifying of their influence comes at a propitious time. It has implications reaching beyond the upcoming races for the U. S. Senate and the 1951 General Assembly.

From the regional and national standpoint, the results of the conference are not so clear. Undoubtedly it will be of some benefit to the party to be able to point with pride at North Carolina as a model of proper political behavior by a Southern State. The fact that the most controversial regional subjects were skillfully avoided will be lost to many causal observers, while the fostered impression of harmony will stick.

These conclusions, of course, are the most important question of all: whether North Carolina and other Southern states will, in the long run, benefit to the fullest by holding tightly to the one-party system and by stamping out, by persuasion and compulsion, such militant opposition as they have had within the Democratic Party.



People's Platform

Let's Be Tax Conscious

CHARLOTTE
LARGE number of people who operate automobiles and other motor vehicles do not know how much tax they pay on each gallon of gasoline they buy. This situation is as startling as it is alarming, nevertheless it is true, as evidenced by the numerous inquiries made of the various sources available for this information for income tax purposes.

Total tax per gallon 87 1/2¢
Gasoline tax 35¢
State gasoline tax 1.00¢
Federal excise tax 75¢

'O Smitten Orb'

CHARLES HILL
IT'S ALWAYS refreshing to see an American opinion columnist. I refer to Mr. W. W. Wood's column entitled "China's Dark Day." However, his analysis of why China is a Communist

BOO YOURSELF!

COUNTY FILIBUSTER THREATS

Americans For Democratic Action Make Political Stir

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
NO POLITICAL organization in the country has been so active in much more than 20 years as Americans for Democratic Action. One proof of its interest has been the fact that party leaders have said that what they are doing is something like the political party of the year.

The Republicans are assuming that ADA merely one wing—the labor-laborite wing—of the Democratic Party. That is an assumption which is not shared by many members of ADA and some of the leaders who like to think that they are not hitched to any party but are a free force on behalf of causes and ideas.

Just now ADA is holding the annual series of Roosevelt memorial dinners in eighteen cities. The announcement that the dinners are "Freedom of Inquiry in a Free Society." But there also will be some practical policies to which the speeches and in the conferences before and after the official meetings.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
PROBABLY 90 per cent of the Treasury Dept's vast army of hard-working underpaid revenue agents are housed in the lower States.

'Squel Letter'
IN NEW YORK'S third internal revenue collection district in February, 1948, an informant's letter was received stating that the "squel" letter was being sent to the IRS by the New York City office.

Call To Christianity

CHARLOTTE
EDITORS, THE NEWS: In THIS modern age we do not hear much about Hell and Eternal Punishment. But God's Holy Word declares it. If Jesus Christ and all who are in Him are in us, we are in Him, and we are in God.

Miss Vs. Chambers

DALLAS
ALGER HISS has been convicted. And the chief issue is whether he is guilty or not. He is a man of high position and high reputation. He is a man of high intellect and high character.

Smooth Workers

NEW YORK
JOHN GALAGHO and Anthony Viscuso—organised a partnership in collecting from near income-tax payers.

Tax 'Fixes' Move On Down Theadder

WASHINGTON
THE NEW YORK office of the Treasury Dept's vast army of hard-working underpaid revenue agents are housed in the lower States.

Special Favor
IN JANUARY, 1948, Geney ordered an investigation of Charles Hovine, doing business as the Star Refrigeration

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Air Travel Nowadays Nearly At The Pleasure Category

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK
ABOUT four years ago I started to fly. I had read in the airlines a highly personal battle, and I think won. The gat of the aeroplane was kind of strange in that it was a method of transportation with such comfort and ease as to make it a pleasure to fly.

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