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THOMAS L. ROBINSON.....Publisher
J. E. DOWD.....General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH.....Executive Editor
G. A. McKNIGHT.....Editor

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THE TEST OF OUR DEFENSE PROGRAM

IN HIS nationwide broadcast Wednesday night, Secretary of State Dean Acheson gave us a yardstick for measuring the adequacy our defense program. Said Secretary Acheson:

"There is only one test of whether our defense preparations are adequate: that is to measure them against a sober calculation of the danger which faces us. So measured, the defense efforts of the United States and other free nations are inadequate."

What is the danger that faces us?

1. Currently the threat posed by Chinese forces of at least half a million men, with other hundreds of thousands in reserve, is the most immediate danger. Do we have in the Far East the men and material to stop a full-scale Chinese offensive in Korea, or to block a Chinese invasion of Indo-China or Burma? The answer is no.

2. Not an immediate threat but potentially the most serious danger at all is the presence in Eastern Europe of scores of Russian divisions, equipped with tanks and supported by hundreds of planes. Could we stop the Russians short of the Channel and the Mediterranean if they chose to march tomorrow? The answer once again is no.

3. What could we do if Russia should march into Scandinavia, or move into the Near East to grab the vital oil of that area? Nothing.

4. And finally, are we prepared to meet the threat of long-range Russian atomic bomb attacks against our large cities and our military establishments? We fear that answer is no as well.

Many months ago Mr. Acheson was calling for a greater defense program, emphasizing that agreements with Russia meant nothing unless they reflected "situations of strength" on the part of the free nations. But President Truman and Secretary of Defense Johnson blithely coasted along with the ill-famed "economy" program, assuring one and all that we were stronger than ever before and that everything would turn out all right.

Secretary Acheson has often explained that any diplomatic policy that reaches beyond our military ability to back it up is a dangerous policy. Now he has laid down a useful rule for determining what degree of preparedness is necessary. Unless the American people are willing to bear the sacrifices that will be called for in meeting the danger, we will surely lose many more military engagements, and perhaps lose the war if and when it comes.

MR. ATTLEE'S VISIT

THE impending arrival of the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Clement Attlee, should remind us every one of an important aspect of the tragic state of world affairs: that the U. S. is not alone in its fight against the expansionist plans of the Soviet Union.

The fact that we are not alone has two meanings.

It means, first, that we have the moral and military support of such nations as Great Britain and France, that they are our allies.

But it also means that we must consider these nations in mapping our diplomatic and military strategy in the war against Communism.

The second meaning is the more important at this time, for we are likely to forget that it is Great Britain and France who will suffer first if the leaders of the world Communist military forces decide on war.

It is the English and French civilians who will, once again, suffer the anguish of war. Their homes will be destroyed, their backyards will become battlefields, their lives will be lost.

We cannot overemphasize our responsibility to the other anti-Communist nations of the world. Their security and their freedom, their very lives are in our hands; the cloak of responsibility is not a comfortable one, but it is one that world events has put immovably about our shoulders.

ATLANTA SHOWS THE WAY

THE Korean War and the U. S. defense program may cause delays in the nationwide urban redevelopment program envisioned by the 81st Congress. But the uncertainty hasn't bothered at least one Southern city—Atlanta.

Last week-end the Atlanta Housing Authority announced plans for a multi-million dollar project to clear out and redevelop some 180 blocks of slum areas. In place of the slums there will be new industrial and commercial areas, new white and Negro housing, schools, streets, and other public facilities.

Atlanta got off to a fast start as soon as Congress approved $500,000,000 in urban redevelopment funds. First that city asked for and got a reservation of $2,700,000 (Charlotte reserved $747,000). Then the Metropolitan Planning Commission and the City Planning Commission spent a year studying the general areas for development. Now the request has been made for $300,000 for a more detailed study of the spots chosen for the first redevelopment efforts. Atlanta expects to be among the first cities to use the new Federal funds.

Charlotte's situation is somewhat different. The North Carolina General Assembly has not yet passed an enabling act authorizing cities in this state to participate in the redevelopment program. Such a measure has been prepared by the N. C. League of Municipalities and the State Real Estate Board, and will be presented to the 1951 session. It should pass easily.

Not until the law is on the books can the Charlotte Urban Redevelopment Commission move in the direction Atlanta has chosen. When that time comes, Charlotte, like Atlanta, must not hesitate because of the uncertain international situation, but must move ahead swiftly to present the City Council with a detailed project.

FOR AN ADOPTED TAR HEEL

LET US all pause for a minute today to nod to a man who took the lace off poetry. We mean Carl Sandburg, whose *Collected Poems* were published last month.

Having your *Collected Poems* published is, for a poet, almost as good as being listed among the ten best dressed women of the year is for an editor of a woman's fashion magazine.

We're happy to see that happen to Mr. Sandburg, who thinks enough of us to live in our state.

Mr. Sandburg has written some excellent poetry in addition to the lines about the "hog butcher" quoted everywhere. Some of it is beautiful, like the lines in *Our Prayer of Thanks:*

For the gladness here where the sun is
shining at evening on the weeds of the
river.
Our prayer of thanks
For the laughter of children who tumble
barefooted and bareheaded in the Summer
grass.

Some of it is rather angry and not at all what we have expected poetry to be:

"I tell you the past is a bucket of ashes."
"Time is a sandpile we run our fingers in."

And some of it is plainly-spoken wisdom:

"Death sends a radiogram every day:
When I want you I'll drop in—
And then one day he comes with a master-
key and lets himself in and says: We'll
go now.
It's time somebody collected Sandburg.

From The Durham Herald

GOP FUTURE IS NOT SO DARK

A STORY Rep. Hamilton C. Jones told in the course of the recent election campaign acquires new pertinence in the light of the Charlotte Congressman's fairly close call (the hestest his able, active Republican opponent by just 3,000 votes.)

According to Jones, he was touring the mountain counties of Mitchell and Avery, where Republicans grow thick as rhododendron. He had the name of one Democrat in Avery's Plumtree section, and went to call on him. This fellow suspicious-like, kept his foot in the door while Jones explained his mission. Then he promised his support. But, he added sadly, the Democrats had recently lost 25 per cent of their strength in the township.

"How's that?" Jones inquired.

"They was four of us," the Plumtree man explained, "but one of the boys up and died."

There are plenty of Republicans in North Carolina. In fact, there are plenty all through the South. Some of them, of course, call themselves Democrats.

Take Pinellas County, down in Florida, for instance. That county has more than 50,000 registered Democrats, only 14,000 registered Republicans. Nevertheless, at the last election, every Republican candidate for county office save one was elected. The explanation? The Republicans put up the best men they could find, and campaigned vigorously; the Democrats drifted along with mediocrities. . .

The moral in Ham Jones' near defeat and in the Pinellas County affair is one and the same: if the South's Republicans abandon defeatism, persuade their best men to enter the fray, and hit hard all along the line, the era of the "solid South" will soon be at an end. For the issues this country is now debating cut so deep that party labels are fast becoming meaningless. And their impact on the individual voter is so great that his traditional loyalties carry little weight.

From West Virginia comes a story of a couple with 17 children getting a divorce. Apparently they just couldn't get along together, but you can't say they didn't try.—*Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.*

The Burning Fuse

Free Nations Must Mobilize Quickly To Avert Disaster

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

WE HAVE COME to the end, or very nearly to the end, of the dark road of the post-war years. Perhaps the best symbol of how much has ended was the President's response to the first news of the fearful disaster in Korea. The always cheerful Truman, also so confident of peace, who had always said he would see Stalin in the White House and nowhere else, now actually proposed that he cross the ocean, meet with the Soviet dictator, and "lay it on the line."

The "it" referred to was of course the atomic bomb. The choice between peace and war. And if our mad folly had not left us with nothing but the atomic bomb to "lay on the line," the President's advisers might not have labored so hard to dissuade him from his project.

'IRON DECADE'

The episode, which may be denied but is undeniably authentic, means that we in America must look back upon the roaring '20s, and the hopeful '30s, and the victorious 40s, and say "good-bye to all that." It means that we are entering an iron decade, perhaps an iron half-century, in which all our accustomed pleasures, from television to partisanship, from juke boxes to self-delusion, must be sacrificed to the stern requirements of independence and survival.

Anyone who doubts this needs only to consider the broad tendencies already manifested in the anguished meetings of the National Security Council. Although the President was dissuaded from doing the job the simple way, it is deeply significant, for instance, that the early drafts of Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson's solemn speech to the nation actually contained something very like a conditional declaration of war with the scope of the war left undefined.

We have now asked the Chinese in somewhat milder language to "come to their senses." But there are few reasons to hope that they will do so. Their contempt for the United Nations was sufficiently displayed in Ambassador Wu Hsiu-chan's first outburst at Lake Success. Their obedience to the Kremlin was revealed in Wu's faithful parrotting of all Vishinsky's favorite phrases. And their long advance planning and preparation was indicated by the mere size of the Chinese military trap into which Gen. MacArthur has walked.

In these circumstances, it is worth recalling a report from Tokyo that appeared in this space some weeks ago, stating the Chinese would not intervene in Korea "unless the Kremlin actively desired to plunge the world into a third great war." At that time, the American experts were unanimously convinced the Kremlin would take no such risk. Yet the experts were wrong. And the fact that the Acheson speech was softened in its later drafts does not diminish the danger.

The reason for this is, in part, the same reason why the masters of the Kremlin have propelled their Chinese puppets across the Korean frontier. Nothing could be more dangerous or damaging, than for the United States to become involved in a costly struggle with the Chinese people, whose country does not even offer profitable targets for our only major weapon, the atomic bomb, whose divisions outnumber ours by a ratio of twenty to one. Until three days ago, you would not have found a single high official in Washington who did not prefer a showdown with Moscow to a war with China.

FUTURE UNKNOWN

At this instant, when the enemy's response is unknown, when the degree of defection among our allies cannot be forecast, there is no way to read the future. The broad Administration attitudes to each of the major alternatives, surrender, limited war with China and showdown with Moscow, can be discerned as suggested, yet all is now dark and doubtful to make it possible to guess whether the alternative that is most or least favored today will in the end be chosen. Only one fact is clear.

This is the fact that the world struggle has moved into a whole new phase, even if this new phase does not include open world war. Mobilization of the United States has already been decided upon, and only awaits the outcome of the debate at Lake Success. If time is granted to us before war comes, that time will now be used for an effort to build strength in the free world going far beyond anything that has been discussed or imagined before this moment. We are paying today for our failure to begin that effort long ago. Whatever happens, nothing must stand in the way of that effort now.

News From The Capital

Slear Appointment A Wise Move

By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News Special Writer

WILLIS SMITH made both a politically astute and happy last-minute selection when he named John K. Slear of Charlotte as his Congressional secretary.

The greying, soft-spoken Slear first began gathering his Washington acumen when Smith was cutting his political teeth in the North Carolina State Legislature two decades ago.

Since then, the 59-year-old Pennsylvania-born Tar Heel has become dean of the Tar Heel secretarial group in point of service, and a widely recognized power behind the throne.

Friends say he is as foxy as he is friendly. Representative Ham Jones, whom he served for the past two terms, knew this perhaps better than anyone.

Although Slear managed three successful Congressional campaigns against the present 10th District Representative, Jones always let it be known that Slear had a job with him if he ever got to Washington.

Jones never regretted the decision, and says his secretary taught him more about Washington than anyone else.

Slear deserves credit for masterminding Jones' career here, and will be a sore loss from the Congressman's point of view. From the beginning, Slear realized that Jones could be vulnerable, chiefly if opposed by a veteran.

His solution? He steered Jones through backroom strategy meetings to a seat on the Veterans Affairs Committee. Here, Jones could look out especially for the interests of the ex-serviceman.

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SLEAR not only knows his way around the Capitol, but is also a master politician in his own quiet way. He has never been seriously tempted to run for public office although urged often. He has so many friends in the 10th District that his election wouldn't be a problem.

On the Hill, he has made his mark in a different type of politics. For the past seven years, he has been president of the North Carolina State Society. He has headed other groups ranging from the N. C. Democratic Club to the Democratic Secretary's Club.

His friends are legion and date back to the first World War when he spent eighteen months in France as an Air Corps lieutenant.

His present career was probably shaped in his college days. Slear married Julia McNinch of Charlotte, the sister of his college roommate.

His bride's father was Samuel S. McNinch, and her uncle, Frank McNinch. Both were mayors of Charlotte.

In the early days, politics fascinated Slear and he helped in local campaigns and box work. His managing of Maj. A. L. Bojanikle's successful campaign in Mecklenburg in 1936 led to his first Washington job.

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HE stayed as secretary to the Major until the redistricting after the 1940 census. Slear didn't want to move his home, so he carried on with the new district Congressman, Cameron Morrison, in 1942.

In 1946 he resigned to go with Bob Doughton, chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee. Slear and Doughton today are intimate friends, a relationship that even includes visits after church on Sunday. Slear, incidentally, is an active Methodist layman.

Few people realize that Doughton had made up his mind not to run again in 1946. His wife had died and his health was poor. The 87-year-old Congressman who first came here in the days of President Taft was looking for a restful respite on the farm. Doughton was later prevailed upon to change his mind. But this was after Slear was committed to Jones.

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HOUSE secretaries look to Senate jobs as a big promotion. Slear's appointment probably carries a salary little under $10,000, and worth every cent of it to Smith.

The new Senator has only to look to his predecessor for confirmation of this fact.

Frank Graham inherited an able staff from Senator Broughton, yet one inexperienced in the ways of the Hill. When he arrived here, he accepted the fact, and did little to change it. Both struggled along, and with great effort managed to get things done. But it was with great effort.

Slear is highly regarded by the press. He always little outward emotion, other than a twinkling of the eye and a shy smile. He is slow to anger or even indicate the actual trend of his thoughts.

Most of all, he is a gentleman and a diplomat. He sat on the news of his appointment—only the explosion of even close friends—until The Charlotte News broke the story. However, he then jumped to the telephone and called the Hill newshounds so everyone would get an even break.

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THE sweating of Willis Smith couldn't have been in a more informal setting. The Senate met in the cramped old Supreme Court chamber in the Capitol. Gavel-pounding by the presiding officer failed to maintain order. Members were too busy milling around extending and receiving congratulations and condolences prompted by the election returns.

Barkley, at one point, wearied of pounding his gavel, and said he could not hear what was going on. The chamber has no sound apparatus.

The House situation was about the same degree of confusion. It is temporarily housed in the hearing room of the Ways & Means Committee pending the completion of the $5,500,000 renovation of both chambers.

House members shouted one-minute speeches into microphones with apparently little effect.

Apparently everyone was glad to be back even the lame duckiers.

Campos' Factotum Is Hero Of Puerto Rico's Comic Revolt

By ROBERT C. RUARK

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

THE SERMON for today concerns the barber, the siege, the radio announcer, the garbage can and the Hero of the Dirty Towel. It is also a postscript on the radio assinations, revolution which threatened the lives of both President Truman and President Manuel Marin of this island.

Pedro Albizu Campos, the fomenter of the unrising, had a very good barber named Vidal Santiago. Vidal was a brave man, who believed strongly in the anti-American principles of Albizu Campos, the man who masterminded the attempted assassination.

BATTLE OF BARBERSHOP

So it happened that when some of Albizu's radical boys shot up a cop office in a San Juan suburb, adjacent to Vidal's barbershop, the cops came, and so did the National Guard. Attention then was turned to Vidal's barbershop, which was known as a Nationalist hangout. Vidal resisted arrest, and unlimbered a good-size battle of the barbershop was joined.

An enterprising radio man named Luis Enrique Marrero, otherwise known as Vivi, then produced the most amazing journalistic feat of the season. Vivi, 27, had a portable transmitter. He also found a garbage can.

Using the garbage can as a shield, he crawled right up to the door of the barbershop. He got his transmitter working, and not only got on the air of his own station, WIAC, but hooked up with some 13 others. The battle progressed from 5:15 P.M. to 7:20 — more than two full hours.

Vidal, the barber, stood off a collection of several dozen police and National Guardsmen. The legend has it now that over 200 men tried to take the barbershop. Guns roared and bullets whistled, and the enterprising radioman collared all the color from his vantage point in the garbage can.

More Announcer Vivi performed an audience-participation feat that must go unchallenged for initiative. He would beckon a member of the besieging force and perform what amounted to call a "Jive Blow" in that tired old World War II.

"This is Sergeant Juan Rodrigues of Villa Palmeras," Vivi would say into his mike. "Say a few words to the audience, sergeant."

Sergeant Rodrigues would then say, "Hello, Maria. Hello, mama, hello, papa. It is a tough fight but I think we will win." Then Sergeant Rodrigues would reload his carbine and throw a few more shorts for the benefit of the radio listeners, at the beleaguered barber.

At one time, a smoke bomb was to be heaved into the barbershop, and the thrower was taking too much time. A tough cop said, discretly into Vivi's mike, for all the island to hear: "Come on, you so-and-such idiot, throw the this-and-that bomb."

Vivi's voice smoothly filled the aching void behind the profanity, "Senores y senoras," he said, "you must understand Sergeant Gomez' roughness of tongue. He is unduly excited by the battle, and we are rather close to the area of combat."

Several thousand people gathered to watch the battle of the barbershop. After two hours the barber quit. When they carted him out he owned some 27 separate wounds. He was sent to the hospital, where he is recovering today. He has asked God to forgive him, and repents his sins of Nationalism.

Quote, Unquote

The highway patrol placed a fellow in jail last week and he escaped by digging a hole through the brick wall. Town officers a short while later placed another arrest in jail and he went out the same hole. Maybe somebody better put a door over the hole.—**Collins (Miss.) News-Commercial.**

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Acheson Blames MacArthur's Bungling

WASHINGTON

IN A HIGHLY secret conference with the Senate and House Foreign Relations Committees, Secretary of State Dean Acheson warned that a third world war is "imminent", if not already in progress.

The Korean conflict might spread to Yugoslavia and possible trouble points in Europe and Asia "at any moment", Acheson declared.

Asked if there were still time to avoid another worldwide conflict, the Secretary of State replied that it could be avoided only by prompt and concerted action against the Russian-Chinese Communist entente by our friends in the United Nations.

He mentioned trade sanctions against the Chinese Communists as one possible solution.

But Acheson added that we must also get economic aid to Yugoslavia as quickly as possible to stiffen the back of that drought-hit nation against Russia.

"All I can say now is that the situation is dangerous—very dangerous," Acheson asserted.

Under questioning by the House committee, Acheson bluntly charged that the Korean crisis is due in large part to Gen. MacArthur's bungling military intelligence. He specifically mentioned that military intelligence officers had estimated that the Chinese army which invaded Korea would number at the most 60 or 65,000 troops, whereas the Chinese massed almost four times that number in the Korean offensive.

Acheson told the committee that this blunder might have been avoided if we had a strongly centralized and alert intelligence agency in Washington, instead of depending almost entirely on MacArthur's intelligence scouts.

Dewey And Acheson

IT'S BEEN a carefully hushed-up secret between the State Dept. and Albany, but last Summer, Gov. Dewey discussed with Secretary of State Acheson the idea of becoming American Ambassador to Great Britain.

Although Gov. Dewey's office refuses to discuss the matter, what happened was this. Early in the Summer and before Dewey changed his mind about running for re-election, he asked for a meeting with Acheson. He specified that the meeting should be neither in the State Dept. nor in the Roosevelt Hotel, Dewey's New York City headquarters; so the two met in the home of Roger Straus, president of the American Smelting & Refining Co., whom Dewey had planned to make Secretary of Commerce if elected in 1948.

Dewey, long an admirer of Acheson, explained that he was becoming more and more worried about the bipartisan foreign policy which he felt was rapidly falling to pieces since the illness of Sen. Vandenberg. He said he would like to do something to help.

Dewey and Vandenberg have been quite friendly since 1944 and while the Michigan Senator's health was good he was in frequent telephone communication with the New York Governor. In fact, it was through Dewey that Vandenberg came to know and respect Dewey's foreign counselor, John Foster Dulles, now adviser to the State Dept.

Ambassador Dewey

DEWEY explained to Acheson, therefore, that with Vandenberg ill, he, Dewey, as titular leader of the Republican Party, felt responsibility for foreign policy and that he would like to do his part toward re-establishing the bipartisanship which had now gone to pot.

Acheson expressed his appreciation. And out of their conversation grew the idea that Dewey would become Ambassador to the Court of St. James, top diplomatic spot in the world, then, after acquiring experience in London, he would return here to steer bipartisan foreign policy back on an even keel.

The Secretary of State made no actual promise of the London Ambassadorship to Dewey. But he indicated he would talk things over at the White House and let him know.

Later Dewey decided to run for a third term and the idea went up in smoke. However, the man who helped persuade Dewey to run for Governor again, the Chase Bank, Winthrop Aldrich, also knew of Dewey's foreign-policy plans, and out of this came the appointment of Walter Gifford, former head of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., to the post Dewey wanted—an appointment which has had all the politicians puzzled.

What most people don't know is that Acheson, despite the Red label pinned on him by Republican Senators, is a long been Washington attorney for J. P. Morgan and the various Wall Street interests. He has also known Winthrop Aldrich and the Rockefeller group which dominates the Chase Bank.

Therefore, when Dewey reneged on his budding ambassadorial career he and his New York banking friends told Acheson and Walter Gifford instead. That was how Truman happened to appoint a big money-raiser for Dewey to the most coveted of all diplomatic posts.

NOTE—Though Dewey wanted to promote the bipartisan foreign policy for the third time, Acheson and Gifford's appointment was sold to Truman with the understanding he would swing GOP support. It didn't work out that way at all. Gifford, on the contrary, helped Dewey spent all day on the television vehemently denouncing his friend Acheson's foreign policy in China. It helped him clinch the election.

Baffled Harry Truman

THE Dewey-Gifford maneuvering for the London Embassy now explains why President Truman was so baffled when he called in James Bruce, of National Dairy Products, and asked Bruce to relieve him of an earlier commitment for the London Embassy.

"A terrible thing has happened, Jim" Mr. Truman told Bruce. "The truth is, I've been outmaneuvered. It's a terrible thing to ask you, but I think I've got to ask you to release me from my commitment."

"You're in charge of foreign policy Mr. President" replied Bruce. "It's your responsibility, and the most important one you have. If you've found a better man for this job, that's enough for me."

"No, that isn't exactly it," replied the President. "They have handed me someone I don't know. He's a fellow who's president of the telephone company."

"You mean William Harrison?" asked Bruce.

"No, I kind of forget the name," replied Mr. Truman.

"Could it be Scotchmen Behn?" said Bruce, referring to the head of International Telephone & Telegraph.

"No," replied the President.

"Well, is it Walter Gifford?

"Yes," said Mr. Truman. "That's it."

"This is something that's got out of my control," concluded the President.

He never explained that Dewey had been considered for the ambassadorship, but that apparently was what was in the back of his mind.