THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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ALIBI FOR PREJUDICE

EVEN if you take the most charitable view of Mrs. Watles Waring, and assume that she is a woman of intellectual honesty and good intentions, you cannot but regret the potential harm that may result from her outbursts.

She made the newspapers several weeks ago with an address before the Charleston Negro Young Women's Christian Association in which she described Southern whites as "full of pride and complacency, introverted, morally weak and low."

Last week-end, interviewed on a national radio program, she went further and (1) urged intermarriage of whites and Negroes, (2) charged that South Carolina is a "replica of Russia," and among other things (3) damned the Southern press for having "sunk below the level of the people."

She added that the South needs a "shock treatment", and that she proposes to continue her campaign.

Mrs. Waring is quite understandably nettled about being ostracized by Charleston society. She admitted that no white person had crossed the threshold of their Charleston home since her husband ruled in 1948 that Negroes have the right to vote in S. C. Democratic primaries.

She would get a good deal more public sympathy, however, if she showed herself a bigger person, capable of ignoring such a slight instead of becoming bitter about it. And she could do the cause of civil rights more good if she would not embarrass by her intemperate language and extreme views the sincere members of both races who are working progressively toward greater justice for all human beings.

When Judge Waring made his historic ruling, there was resentment among South Carolina whites, of course. But it was accepted as inevitable, and public opinion began to readjust to it steadily, if painfully. There is a grave danger now that Mrs. Waring's one-woman campaign has given those same small-minded Southerners she dislikes so enthusiastically a new alibi for their prejudices, and a new excuse to attack her husband's eminently fair dictum.

STRONG DELEGATION NEEDED

FOR many years the eastern counties of North Carolina have had a voice in General Assembly affairs out of proportion to their population and tax contributions. They have done this by choosing able legislators and sending them back to Raleigh term after term.

Although the General Assembly's seniority rules are not so rigid as those in the U. S. Congress, for example, this combination of ability and long experience has enabled eastern representatives to influence strongly the character of legislation.

There has never been the same community of interest among Piedmont and western North Carolina counties. Raleigh seems farther away than Washington, and the events which take place there do not get the same attention as they do in eastern Carolina.

We are not quite sure why this is true, unless it be that it is easier to weld a minority interest together than a majority interest. And we mention the subject merely by way of introducing a few comments on the local legislative situation.

So far, Mecklenburg has three strong candidates in the field. Harvey Morris has announced for the State Senator job, and James B. Vogler and Robert Lassiter Jr. have said they would seek two of the four House seats. All of these men have a rich background of General Assembly experience which should serve them well if they win their primary battles.

There has been speculation about other candidates, and several of the persons mentioned are men of ability.

The General Assembly assignment is not a pleasurable one. The work is hard and the pay is a mere pittance. But it offers a great opportunity for valuable service to County and State, and it is the hope of this newspaper that Mecklenburg County voters will have an opportunity to choose from a full slate of qualified candidates the strongest possible delegation.

THE HEART—A DOUBLE SYMBOL

THIS is quite a day for that plump, pointed symbol: the heart. For centuries now lovers have observed this date, Feb. 14, as an occasion for expressing their affection with Valentines. Valentines—from massive, lacy creations designed for sweethearts to the butcher-paper jokers for folks too reserved to go in for excessive sentiment—will find their way into almost every home today.

It was wise of the American Heart Association to choose this week for the big push in its February campaign to raise $6,000,000. The money will be used to help needy heart patients and for research toward new techniques for treating heart disease.

Perhaps the millions of hearts that will be seen by people all over the nation will call to their attention the tremendous importance of that vital organ.

Heart diseases are responsible for one of every three deaths in the U. S.; rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease lay waste the youth of the nation.

Scientists don't yet know the underlying causes of the diseases, but new drugs and new surgical procedures are being put to use in that field. The program of research and education devised by the American Heart Association promises much toward prevention and cure within the lifetime of many of us.

This program can be continued only if public support for research and expanded cardiac programs in all communities is forthcoming.

You may save your own life by contributing to the campaign during this National Heart Week.

MOTIVATION OF THE TIMES

NO ONE at Wheaton College in Illinois has been able to explain why 1,500 students called a halt to classes and apparently everything else in order to "testify" at an evangelical meeting in the school's chapel.

No one has been able to explain how the spontaneous mass confession which began Feb. 8 continued for more than 24 hours with student after student rising to his feet to confess his sins.

Now and then during the long stream of confessions the students called a halt, opened the windows to air the chapel and sang hymns. Even the teachers at the liberal arts college chipped in.

The school has a graduate theology college but it is not a "Bible College"—and the students who came to the confession weren't all theology students.

To a nation accustomed to think of its college crowd as party-trotters in fast convertibles, the Wheaton story is puzzling.

Actually, Wheaton's miracle isn't unusual, except for the form it took.

Was there ever a time when man had so little to attach himself to? Was there ever a time when man seemed to have aroused more fury from the elements of the earth? Was there ever a time when the firm haven of religion was more attractive to the mass of the people?

The Wheaton students felt the uncertainty of their lives, of our lives. Though only a few of them care to explain their motivation, they were all moved by a clearly definable motive: the need for faith in a benevolent superior being in an age of uncertainty.

From The Louisville Courier-Journal

AN ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

THAT the University of North Carolina is getting a new president is of importance far beyond the borders of that state. Under the dynamic leadership of Frank P. Graham since 1930 the university has become a source and guardian of liberalism and freedom throughout the South. Its effect has been felt everywhere in the nation and its vital role has given it unique position in its region.

Before his appointment to the United States Senate by Governor Kerr Scott last March, Dr. Graham had established himself as more than a college president. Personally small and usually mild-mannered, he had made himself the burning conscience of North Carolina. On matters touching racial conflict, free speech, labor's rights, everybody knew where he stood. And in a state of many conservative industrial interests his candid opinions often touched off sparks.

Now succeeding him is 40-year-old Gordon Gray, who comes from a family of Reynolds tobacco fortune. Although Gordon Gray's antecedents suggest little similarity with Dr. Graham's academic forebears, he has wanted an academic career for a long time. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina the year Dr. Graham became its president, and one may guess that he feels both pride and challenge as he takes his new job. After a career as a newspaper publisher in Winston-Salem, as a soldier (he enlisted as a private in 1942, left the Army a captain) and as Assistant Secretary and later Secretary of the Army, he is going back home to North Carolina.

He has seen the meaning of Dr. Graham's impact on the South. If he is able to exert the same kind of force, and yet retain the goodwill of North Carolina financial powers who sometimes frowned on Dr. Graham, Gordon Gray stands before an opportunity which might be the envy of many another man who has wished to serve his country.

"Let's Watch The Little Guys, Just For Laughs'

National Defense Suffers From Johnson's Economies

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

IT IS A grave act to charge a high official with deliberately misinforming the nation. But it is graver still for the nation to be grossly and persistently misled about vital matters, as we are now being misled by Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson's misrepresentations. The time has come to call a spade a spade. Johnson has not been telling the truth about the national defense.

NAVY HIT WORST

As between the services, the Navy is, of course, the heaviest sufferer from Johnsonian "economy." Taking the 1948 strength as the base, and the new budget as the comparison, the fleets at sea are being reduced from eighteen cruisers to thirteen; from eight heavy carriers to six; from five light and escort carriers to three; from 155 destroyers to 140; from seventy-nine submarines to seventy, and from 439 other active ships to 414. Naval manpower is being drastically cut, and the strength of the Marine Corps, never noted for its overhead, is being reduced by nearly the equivalent of a division, down to 72,000 men.

In the air, the Navy's attack carrier groups are being cut from fourteen to nine, with further weakening of the fighting strength of each group. Anti-submarine escort carrier squadrons are being cut from eight to seven with similar inner weakening. Patrol squadrons, also vital for anti-submarine work, are being cut from thirty to twenty. And the Marine air arm has been chopped down from twenty-three fighter squadrons to twelve. Overall, Naval and Marine aircraft in commission have been reduced by more than 1,000.

Nor is this the worst. Johnson has also taken his axe to the vital replacement of obsolescent and obsolete aircraft. The 1951 budget will give the Navy only about 60 per cent of the new planes which are needed to keep even the shrunken Naval and Marine air arms continuously provided with fully modern types. If this reduced replacement rate is maintained, as Johnson plans, Navy and Marine air strength will not merely suffer as it has suffered already. It will also be further crippled by the equipment of a large proportion of its groups and squadrons with planes unfit for modern war.

The case of the Air Force is less dramatic, but hardly less grave. As everyone knows, all competent authorities, including the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have established an Air Force of seventy groups as the minimum needed to provide adequate offensive striking power, reasonable air support for our ground armies, and minimum air defense. Working toward this goal, the Air Force has activated (but not equipped) more than fifty-four groups. Then came the cutback to forty-eight groups. The fifteen activated heavy-bomber groups were maintained. But tactical groups, including light bomber and fighter, were reduced from thirty-two to twenty-seven, and troop-carrier groups were cut from seven to six.

REPLACEMENTS CUT

The Air Force retains as many planes as it had in 1949. But the Air Force, like the Naval Air Arm, is not being permitted to keep its group continuously provided with modern aircraft. For this purpose, more than $1,700,000,000 was requested when the budget was being prepared. The figure allowed under the Johnsonian "economy" program is $1,300,000,000.

This means that the Air Force replacement rate has been cut approximately 25 per cent below what is thought necessary to keep the forty-eight authorized air groups fully ready for modern war. We may officially continue to possess an Air Force of forty-eight groups. But it is calculated that somewhere between ten and fifteen of these groups will have only obsolete weapons by 1955.

In the Army alone, genuine economies have been made without cuts in combat strength. By the firm insistence of Secretary of the Army Gordon Gray, the fighting units of the ground forces remain what they were. Even so, with our ground force strength stationary, and our naval and air power being continuously impaired, our net loss of strength is already very great. And the loss will be far greater still if this process goes on.

This Johnson has repeatedly denied. One must take one's choice, therefore, between two views: either the Secretary of Defense is too personally incompetent to recognize a cut in "combat capabilities" when he makes it, or he stands convicted of untruth in detail, as charged. Unfortunately, besides this untruth in detail, Johnson is also guilty of larger and more damaging misrepresentations. Which must be examined in a subsequent report.

People's Platform

A Vote For Senator Graham

CHAPEL HILL

Editors, THE NEWS:

ONE of the finest things that could have happened has happened. "Cup Bob", former Senator Robert Rice Reynolds, has decided to run against Frank Porter Graham, former president of the University of North Carolina and now United States Senator. This gives the people of our state the chance to show their approval of Senator Graham and his liberal Democratic views.

Mr. Reynolds was not a great credit to our state when he was in the Senate and today he would actually be a handicap to North Carolina and to the nation. Isolationism has no place in America in an atomic age. We cannot ourselves of our responsibility as a world power by saying to ourselves that as far as we are concerned the rest of the world is non-existent. The goal for which we must strive is one world and that to be united.

Senator Graham in his wisdom in saying that though he approved of civil rights he could not consent to civil rights acts which included force. I think he was wise in saying this; however, I don't agree with him. In my opinion, the Federal Government has no right to pass any civil rights legislation. This is the right of the individual states and should not be tampered with. However, I can think of no one with whom I would completely agree on everything. Such is just not human nature.

A letter in the Feb. 8 issue of THE NEWS states that Mr. Reynolds "is a brilliant man, a good mixer, and a born orator." To this I will agree wholeheartedly. One thing, however, is missing. This is the desire and ability to serve the people of North Carolina and the nation without a desire for personal gain. The interests of the people should always come first with a public servant. This is true with Frank Graham and has always been true.

When Senator Broughton died, there was much talk of who our next Senator would be. Many prominent persons were mentioned. There was little thought, however, of Frank Graham. Then Governor Scott, as is his usual way, surprised everyone by appointing Dr. Graham. The people's governor had given considerable time and thought to who should be appointed and finally appointed a person of whom the entire nation could be proud.

We supported Kerr Scott in his campaign for governor and we will support Frank Graham in his campaign for the United States Senate. When I say "we," I mean a majority of the people in North Carolina.

Again, I say that Mr. Reynolds is doing a fine thing. He is giving the people a chance to show by a state-wide vote, that North Carolina is a progressive and forward looking state in the best Southern tradition. He is giving the people a chance to completely repudiate his antiquated and out dated way of thinking.

There are many things for which I am thankful and proud. First of all, I am proud to be a Christian. This is the greatest thing that anyone can be. I am proud and thankful that I am an American, a North Carolinian, a Southerner, a Democrat, and, a supporter of Frank Porter Graham for the United States Senate. Frank Graham and Clyde Hoey are great men and outstanding Senators. It is my sincere hope, prayer, and belief that when the elections of this year are over, Clyde Hoey and Frank Graham will still be in the United States Senate a credit to North Carolina, the South, and the Nation.

—BOBBY PACE.

Acheson Formula Scored

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

DEAN ACHESON'S "Peace through Strength" formula is such an historical absurdity that it can gain supporters only from the blind, and the intellectually bankrupt. And to label dissenters "subversives" for any length of time (and it isn't certain that we have any length of time) will destroy a correctly good word through subverting its meaning.

"This is," says the Dean, "no time for self-recriminations." Can we then, on or off our self-recriminations at will like, say, turning on or off a spigot? And can any American of humane persuasion be consistent-clear, when by nationality and generation he is so closely identified with the two most heinous and reprehensible acts of inhumanity in the annals of mankind. I am talking about the two atom bombs that were dropped on cities that were full of people—cities that were full of big people, and little people—children, babies, old women, old men—parents, grandparents and, doubtless, great-grandparents.

Whether we reproach ourselves or not, history will reproach us. And we bid fair to reread it, reproach us no. We can remember, grimly, in the holocaust that appears in the offing, that it was our choice and we elected to drop the first one.

Our reason? To save the lives of American soldiers . . . to shorten the war. "Peace through Strength!" We stopped a war, we saved the lives of American soldiers, and . . . we established a precedent. The Supreme Court . . . in this case Harry S. Truman—established that all indeed is fair in war, if not love, involving as the nation concerned is genuinely and conscientiously but trying to shorten the war, and save the lives of its nationals.

Strength is relative. In the approaching cataclysm, there will be two great nations who will be doing all in their respective power to shorten the war so that save the lives of the precious nationals. From what I have read in the newspapers and the science columns, there never has before ever been such a war-shortener as the Hydrogen- or H-bomb. "Peace through Strength?" As Winchell say, "Hmmmph!"

—A. E. BASSETT.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Parents Can Help Children To Learn How To Read

By HENRY C. MCFADYEN

ALBEMARLE

THOUGH SHE has a good many other aims, the first grade teacher would probably agree that her main job is to teach her little folks to read. Certainly that is the principal thing the parents expect the first grade teacher to do. Reading is just about the most important skill in our modern life, and the foundation for it must be laid properly.

One child may walk before he is a year old, while another waits until he is nearer two. Both are perfectly normal. Nobody thinks "Don't the cake pretty?" His reply to that will be simply, "Yes" or maybe "Uh huh." Ask him, "What did Tommy's birthday cake look like?" To reply to that he will have to talk in sentences.

In the third place, you should help your youngster to build up his large talking vocabulary as he can. The more words he uses in his talking, the easier it is going to be for him to read. Do this by talking to him about all kinds of things. Always answer his questions about what words mean. When he asks a hat something is, give him the adult word for it. There is no point in trying to simplify it. Tell him the machine is a "projector." Don't tell him it is a thing to make pictures on the wall.

My last suggestion is more difficult to carry out, but you ought to do the best you can to help your child speak clearly. This is a big order, and bubble gum has not made your task any easier. However, if you set a good example yourself and stay after your child consistently, maybe by the time he is ready to read he will be able to tell people his name so they can get it the first time.

A second thing you can do is to give your child plenty of practice in speaking simple English sentences. Do this by asking him to tell you what he did at the birthday party or tell you about the movie he saw with his big brother. Ask questions that will have to be answered in complete sentences. Don't ask, "Was the cake pretty?" His reply to that will be simply, "Yes" or maybe "Uh huh." Ask him, "What did Tommy's birthday cake look like?" To reply to that he will have to talk in sentences.

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NORMAL VARIATION

Actually there is as much variation in the time children are ready to read as in the times that they are ready to walk or talk. The problem of the wide range of ability among children faces the teacher the first day the children enter school.

Assuming, however, that your first-grade child has a normal six-year old mind and good eyesight (and most children do), what can you do at home that will make his reading come easier for him? I would like to suggest several things you can do.

Give your child as many real-life experiences as you can. I do mean that you have to take him out to see the Grand Canyon. Just everyday experiences like buying stamps at the post office, watching how a telegram is sent, seeing a broadcast on the local radio station, helping to plant the garden, and that sort of thing. Most of the story material in the first grade is about such simple experiences that children may have. If your child has actually seen or done the things that he is reading about, then he will read with real understanding.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Gambler Tries To Recall Miami Official

WASHINGTON

OF ALL the great metropolitan vacker joints dotting the USA, none, perhaps, furnishes easier picking for the gambling fraternity than Southern California and the coast spending coast of the Eastern United States—Florida. And no place in Florida has become a more lush spotting ground for the vacker than the strip of castles-on-the-sand called Miami Beach.

There Joe Adonis, partner of Frankie Costello, who in turn is a partner of Meyer Lansky, the good friend of President Truman's military attache, General Vaughan, runs the roulette wheels of the famed Colonial Inn. There also a county sheriff has been known to get a campaign contribution of $20,000 to elect him to an office that pays only $7,500. And there also the swank hotels receive up to $125,000 annually merely for the lease of their bookmaking concession.

And today in Miami Beach one of the most interesting political moves in the USA is taking place—a move by gamblers and others to recall a Miami Beach city councilman, Melvin Richard, who favors enforcement of the law regarding gambling.

Melvin Richard was elected to the City Council with the help of the man who now is seeking to recall him, one Harry Plisaner. This is the most interesting phase of the picture. For the Miami Beach jesson in bizarre government would seem to indicate that the gambling kings looked ahead months in advance and planted their man alongside the future councilman who later would help to run the city.

Gamblers Look Ahead

AT ANY RATE, well before Melvin Richard began running for office, Harry Plisaner made himself his political advisor and later his virtual campaign manager.

"We spent so much time together that my wife once inquired whether I was married to her or to him," says Councilman Richard. And the only thing they really roared about during the campaign was Richard's anxiety to know where the campaign funds were coming from.

Plisaner, however, brushed him off. Furthermore, Plisaner did not disclose his own checkered career, and Councilman Richard did not know, among other things, that Harry Plisaner's record in Springfield, Mass., showed that on Sept. 21, 1933, he was twice fined $75 for promoting a lottery, and that on June 10, 1936, the convictions were sustained.

He also did not know that after Springfield became uncomfortable Plisaner moved to Baltimore, where he was indicted on Jan. 24, 1938 for operating a gambling device; with another indictment on June 20 1942. In both cases he managed to escape a guilty verdict, though meanwhile he conducted three pinball machine setups near Ft. Meade, Md., during the heyday of the war years.

'Open City' For Gamblers

ALL this, Councilman Richard did not know. But he did become suspicious when, immediately after election, Plisaner wanted to appoint a friend as manager of the Seaview Golf Course, where a bookmaking operation had been conducted.

After the campaign also Plisaner changed his tune about law enforcement.

"He told me," says Councilman Richard, "that this strict enforcement policy, which I had espoused during my campaign, made excellent campaign material, but that if I would give it some thought, I would realize that it was ridiculous to carry out such a program. He told me that with the money and power behind the gambling interests, even if I were able to prevent them from operating, which he doubted, the best I could get out of it would be my removal from office by recall.

"He told me I had to be practical and meet this problem sensibly, that if I refused, I would find myself worse off than prior to my election, and that I went along I would find myself an important political figure."

Councilman Richard, however, refused to go along; and there was a temporary break with his former campaign manager. Finally Plisaner came back, this time with a proposition that they open the city to punchboards.

$750,000 For Punchboards

HE told me," says Richard; "that he had engineered a deal whereby the exclusive operation of punchboards would be given to four men. He emphasized that he would be one of the four. He told me that I need not become involved in any fashion, that I would never have to discuss the matter with anyone else, that I would not have to sign any papers, and that I would receive one-fifth of the net income through legitimate channels.

"He described these legitimate channels as fees for legal work, purchases or sales of real estate and other methods which could be devised.

"He told me that the net income from the exclusive punchboard operation was estimated at about $750,000 per year. He told me that the punchboards would be distributed in all drugstores and other retail stores, in hotels and night clubs.

"He said that in consideration for my gaining the benefit of this income of approximately $200,000 a year, I would have to consent to the maintenance of a 'liberal policy' in the City of Miami Beach. He told me that the S & G syndicate, the most powerful gambling group in the city, would then open and commence operations as in years past.

"He said that I would be permitted to level vicious attacks at the S & G syndicate and other gambling interests at Council meetings," continued Councilman Richard, "but that I was never to discuss the matter with the city manager or the chief of police privately.

Fake Gambling Raids

I WOULD ride with the chief of police and several police officers in a squad car on certain occasions and we would raid certain innocuous appearing locations. He assured me these raids would be highly dramatic, and there would be glowing newspaper reports and that the public would be satisfied that I was bending every effort to keep my campaign promises."

Councilman Richard, however, refused to co-operate. He told Plisaner that it was "the greatest thing" he had ever heard, and that he considered Plisaner "insane." Almost immediately the recall of Richard as city councilman was started. Plisaner himself even had the nerve to file the first petition of 47 names asking for Richard's removal.

Other names are being added to the petition every day, and in a short time the world will know whether the underworld will run the City of Miami Beach, Fla., or whether it is possible for a clean city councilman to buck these powerful and invisible forces.