THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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

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WIRE-TAPPING FICTION

FOR some years now, a debate over the legality of wire-tapping as a means of gathering evidence has raged. On the one side are those who believe that wire-tapping, properly restrained, should be used in certain types of investigation. On the other side are those who contend that it is an illegal invasion of privacy and should not be countenanced in any circumstances.

One of the defenders of wire-tapping is that it was authorized by President Roosevelt in 1941. The *Washington Post*, after checking the record, finds that is pure fiction.

The *Post* quotes a letter to President Truman from Charles O. Blaisdell, president, Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, Inc.:

"In recent weeks the FBI has been criticized for the use of wire taps in the conduct of espionage investigations. Many of these critics have left the erroneous impression with the general public that the FBI has been engaged in the unauthorized use of wire taps. That is not a fact. The Attorney General of the United States has very recently stated that the FBI uses wire taps in national defense and kidnaping cases and then only upon his authorization. This policy was approved by the late President Roosevelt in 1941 and has been followed consistently by the Attorneys General since that time.

The *Post* calls this a "gross distortion" of Mr. Roosevelt's intent. What happened in 1941 was that Thomas H. Eliot, then a member of Congress, solicited Mr. Roosevelt's views on a House bill to legalize wire-tapping by an employee of any executive department having investigatory functions. The President replied:

"I have read the bill and I have no hesitation in saying that it goes entirely too far. . . . The use of wire tapping to aid law-enforcement officers raises squarely the most delicate problem in the field of democratic statesmanship. It is more than desirable, it is necessary, that criminals be detected and prosecuted as vigilantly as possible. It is more necessary that the citizens of a democracy be protected in their rights of privacy from unwarranted snooping. As an instrument for oppression of free citizens, I can think of none worse than indiscriminate wire tapping . . .

There is, however, one field in which, given the conditions in the world today, wire-tapping is very much in the public interest. . . . I have no compunction in saying that wiretapping should be used against those persons, not citizens of the United States, and those few citizens who are traitors to their country, who today are engaged in espionage or sabotage against the United States . . . There is only one domestic crime which ought possibly to be included; that is kidnaping."

That is merely an endorsement of a proposed law; it is not, by any means, an endorsement of illegal wire-tapping. Congress refused to pass the law, and to this day has declined to authorize wire-tapping. Until Congress does so, the practice is utterly illegal and extremely dangerous, no matter what the Attorney-General of the United States thinks about it.

CHARLOTTE GETS ANOTHER INDUSTRY

CHARLOTTE and North Carolina will gain another important industry this Fall when the nationally-known Kroehler Manufacturing Co. establishes a plant here for the manufacture of furniture.

The coming of Kroehler means an impressive addition to Charlotte's importance as an industrial center and will add to North Carolina's paramount position as the national leader in the manufacture of furniture.

Charlotte was selected by Kroehler as the location of its southern production plant after comparing its advantages with those offered by other cities in the Carolinas and the Southeast. The Kroehler firm is one of the world's largest furniture manufacturers and its product is distributed on a national scale. It has three plants now operating in Illinois, two in Canada, one in New York, one in Texas, one in California and one in Ohio.

A modern plant to be built here will offer steady employment to about 200 skilled furniture craftsmen. The plant's product and pay roll will be of substantial importance in the economic life of the community.

North Carolina's steady progress as an industrial state is reflected in recent statistics showing that it ranks first in the Nation in furniture manufacturing; first in the Southeast in total industrial production and thirteenth among all the states in industrial production.

The Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in attracting Kroehler's interest to Charlotte and did a first-rate job in selling the furniture manufacturer on the City's advantages.

Chamber of Commerce statistics show that fourteen major industrial concerns have located new plants here within the past year or greatly expanded the operation of existing plants. All of which indicates Charlotte's steadily-growing importance as a business and industrial metropolis.

ON BANNING OF BOOKS

THERE were two reassuring things about Charlotte Library Director Hoyt Galvin's statement on book-banning.

In the first place, said Mr. Galvin, the library doesn't ban any book because of its controversial content. Sometimes books are not bought because they are poorly written, or because they are profiteering schemes.

In the second place, the library is not annoyed by self-appointed watchdogs or censors who ask that certain books be banned. One request was received last year from the Progressive Party that Peter Symonds' *The Red Sepulchre* not be purchased. Mr. Galvin hadn't heard of the book, but promptly went out and bought a copy and put it on the shelf.

What prompted the director's statement was a rumor that the library had banned Paul Blanshard's highly controversial book *American Freedom and Catholic Power*, a consistent best-seller despite the fact that many newspapers and other publications have refrained from accepting reviews and advertisements about it.

The Library has three copies of Mr. Blanshard's book. It also has many books which are just as strongly pro-Catholic as Mr. Blanshard's book is anti-Catholic.

That is as it should be. We can think of few things more insidious, and about which we would protest more resolutely, than the exercise of book censorship by responsible library officials because of controversial ideas or opinions found between the covers.

CORTISONE AND ACTH

WALDEMAR KAEMPFFERT, the well-informed science editor of *The New York Times*, deplored in his weekly column Sunday the confusion caused by the opposite pronouncements by two respected medical sources on the advisability of using cortisone and ACTH (adreno-corticotropic hormone) in treating arthritis and rheumatism.

The sources:

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation, which believes that the two new drugs should be used in treating the diseases and that the side effects will not be a problem when a little more is known about cortisone and ACTH.

The Council on Pharmacy of the American Medical Association, which has condemned the use of cortisone and ACTH because of such side effects as swelling, rounding faces, abnormal hair growth, the production of irreversible diabetes, rashes, the raising of blood pressure and mental damage.

Who is right?

Both sources should know what they are talking about, but they can't both be right.

Meanwhile, the public is in the middle.

It is not an immediate problem for the public, because the rare drugs are not available for general use. But if and when they do become generally available, there will be more than a little concern among arthritics and sufferers from rheumatism.

Their question will be a difficult one to answer: should they allow themselves to be treated with cortisone and ACTH because they are suffering and can imagine no more painful condition than their present one.

Or will they reject the drugs upon the advice of the AMA's Council on Pharmacy.

When, at the meeting last Summer of the International Congress for Rheumatic Diseases, doctors presented a glowing picture of the miracles worked by the two drugs, many sufferers from rheumatism and arthritis looked forward to immediate relief or cure.

At that time there were many warnings from many sources that complete tests with the two drugs had not been made. There were warnings that side effects might completely rule out use of the drugs. It appears that these warnings were correct, that arthritics and rheumatics must curb their enthusiasm for the moment, at least.

The public, of course, will await eagerly a settlement of the dispute between the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation and the AMA's Council on Pharmacy.

Said the late Senator Borah of Idaho: "I shall contend that the Southern people have met the race problem and dealt with it with greater patience, greater intelligence and greater success than any people in recorded history dealing with a problem of similar nature."—*Anderson (S. C.) Independent.*

Don't get the idea that you suffer for the sake of your opinions. You don't. You merely suffer from making yourself as offensive as possible in expressing them.—*Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.*

The question before the Americans is whether George Johnsmith can spend his wages as well as a bureaucratic government can spend them for him.—*Charleston (S. C.) News & Courier.*

The scion of a family is often a fellow with distinguished forebears who himself has not amounted to much.—*Elizabethtown (Ky.) News.*

'To The Rear, March!'

Lion And Lamb Buddy-Buddy In Election Reform Campaign

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE CONSTITUTIONAL amendment to reform the nation's antiquated electoral system has produced some of the strangest alliances in recent political history. The lion and the lamb lying down together have nothing on the strange companions who are teamed up on one side or the other of the issue.

Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. of Massachusetts is chief advocate of the admendment that would divide the electoral vote of each state in proportion to the number of votes cast for the two major parties. Under the present system all the electoral votes of a state go to the candidate who gets a majority of the popular vote even though that majority may be a mere dozen votes out of several million cast.

IS IT EQUITABLE?

On the surface, at least, this looks like an equitable and desirable reform. The sponsorship of Lodge would weigh heavily in its favor, since the Senator from Massachusetts has proved his courage in standing up against timid and reactionary leaders in his party. When the amendment was before the Senate, nineteen Republicans voted for the amendment, the total vote being 64 and 27. Twenty-four Republicans voted against it.

In the House the sponsor of the amendment is Rep. Ed Gossett of Texas who has always taken a narrowly reactionary view, particularly on any issue involving race or color. In urging all Southerners to crusade for the amendment, Gossett is quite frank in stating that the goal is to end "irresponsible control and domination by small organized minority groups within the large pivotal states." He names these groups as Negroes, "the radical wing of organized labor" and "with all due deference to our many fine Jewish citizens, they constitute a third group."

Sharply opposed to the amendment is Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio. He has sent a letter to each member of the House urging its defeat. Lodge has written to all House members appealing for favorable action.

Taft is convinced, as he said in his letter, that in a national election that was at all close a Republican would not have a chance. This is because of the one-party system that exists in the South where, because of that system, Southern electoral votes have a far greater weight proportionately than Northern electoral votes. Taft led the opposition in the Senate.

Ranged alongside Taft in opposition is former Rep. Charles M. LaFollette of Indiana who is now national director of Americans for Democratic Action. ADA is, of course, loathed by conservative Republicans who appear to have started an organized campaign to discredit it.

SOUTHERN MARGIN

Citing recent election results, LaFollette contends that on the basis of present voting strength in the country, "twelve or thirteen Southern states would produce five to six times greater proportions of margins of victory for the Democratic Party than all the rest of the states together." This, he and the ADA director see it, would tend to give the power within the party to the Southern delegations, thereby freezing reaction in control.

In the 1948 election, LaFollette points out, Truman won 100 out of his total margin of 114 electoral votes in five Northern and Western states, California, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio and Wisconsin. Under the proposed amendment these states, where the popular vote was close, would have given him a margin of only 11 electoral votes. But in Georgia with its twelve electoral votes, Truman would have received a margin of 5.1 votes.

Lodge replies that the Lodge-Gossett amendment would spur the development of a second and opposition party in the South. In the long pull this might be true and certainly the only healthy political system is a two-party system.

But, as Taft points out, it would be a lengthy process if it occurred at all in view of the concentration of power that would accrue to a Southern oligarchy. And Taft is not thinking of elections 25 years from now. Understandably, he has his eye on 1952. A few more defeats for the Republicans and the party may pass out altogether.

Among the 67 who voted for the amendment in the Senate were most of those who consider themselves progressive and liberal, including Sen. Hubert Humphrey, national chairman of ADA. The chances seem to be slightly against its adoption in the House.

Undoubtedly something should be done about the outmoded electoral college, but maybe this particular remedy is not the right one. Sen. Homer Ferguson has an amendment which abolishes the electoral college, retains the present unit-rule system and, as an added safeguard, provides for a combined House-Senate vote for President in case no candidate gets a majority. That may be a less risky means of wiping out that quaint and rickety antique, the electoral college.

People's Platform

Mayor Hopes For Bus Settlement

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

MAY I express to you my very great appreciation for the comments made in an editorial in your paper this week complimenting me on our success in postponing the threatened bus strike.

Frankly, I am being given credit for having accomplished something that I was not entirely responsible for. Mr. John Shaw and Mr. Yates Heafner arranged all the details of this meeting, and I was fortunate enough to come in at the critical moment, and we were successful in persuading those concerned to go along for ten days.

I am very hopeful that the Union will accept our proposal, and that we will work out something that will be agreeable to all parties so that there will be no interruption of the bus service.

—VICTOR SHAW

Disapproves Of HST

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I AM sure the Missionary Baptists of America of which I am one cannot be proud of our little swearing President with his swagger and poker games. Every good Baptist should feel humiliated and ashamed of him.

It's a far cry between what the Baptists of this country stand for and the profanity, gambling, and drinking of this former Baptist Deacon. The good people of America better wake up and fight his Socialist Welfare State, before we find our liberties gone. May God save us from the fate that has befallen Great Britain.

—PARKS A. YANDLE.

Says Hicks Should Resign

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I FAIL to note any mention of whether Mr. Hicks of the Park and Recreation Board has resigned from said board or plans to resign from same, since his preliminary trial in the "bombing" incident of the WBT tower.

This is an important post in the City Government and should not be held even for a day by anyone under indictment for a crime of any nature, therefore, I suggest that you use your good influence to see that the City Council takes action in this matter to protect our City's interest, as large sums of money are being spent of the taxpayer's money by this board and regardless of Mr. Hicks' union affiliations he has no right to remain in a public office even if only under indictment and if convicted should be punished to the full extent of the law.

—N. J. McGUINN

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

Just Me

(Smithfield Herald)

This happened to Fuller Rice about 27 years ago, but it's worth repeating.

Fuller was in the second grade then, and the teacher had instructed each child to learn a Bible verse. Fuller's mother was patient in teaching her son this verse: "Be not afraid, it is I."

The youngster knew it well when he went to bed that night. He knew it the next morning. But when teacher called on him to recite, out came:

"Don't be scared, 'taint nobody but me."

* * *

Nobody Was Neglected

(Smithfield Herald)

Mrs. Jimmy Blow of Smithfield never signs her complete name. It's Daphne Elaine Swandora Dardenella Proctor Blow.

And there's a little story behind her name—that is, names. It seems that when the stork paid a visit on Mrs. Blow's mother, she had four close friends and didn't want to slight three of them by naming her daughter for the fourth. So she compromised and gave the baby all four names.

Now if Mrs. Blow should become tired of being called by one name, she has three others to choose from. So far she has settled for Dardenella.

* * *

'Petroleum' Insurance

(Moore County News)

A few weeks ago I took care of two of our officers by paying them a compliment. Last week I polished another up until his buttons fairly shine and bristle. This week I have handled the highway "petroleums" with such grace that they cannot suspect me of not being on their team. I was going home Thursday carrying my week's share of sweet potatoes with me. A wisecrack fellow couldn't sell for a mental two cents a front foot, quipped at me: "What on earth are you thinking of? Or are you a fugitive from justice?" What a question. Of course, I'm not a fugitive from justice! However, I might be and I ain't taking no fool chances.

* * *

The 'Berry' Train

(Fuquay Springs Independent)

In the 1870's the little branch train from Greensboro to Winston-Salem was known as the "berry train" from the fact that at regular intervals the train would slow down to take on the sacks of dried blackberries deposited by the country people whose sole means of making a living was picking and drying blackberries.

The trade in dried fruit, wholesale and retail, was the leading industry in Winston previous to the opening of tobacco warehouses and factories. One firm alone, that of Frohl and Stockton, cleared as much as $50,000 yearly on the sale of dried fruit.

* * *

It's Love, Love, Love

(Twin City Sentinel)

For the benefit of those who feel they might be falling in love, Dr. Julian Lake, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, enumerated some of the symptoms in his sermon.

"You get stardust in your eyes," the minister said, "and funny little things run up and down your spine."

Toping it all, however, the minister said that "you feel an itching that you just can't scratch."

Sander Case: Mercy Killing Or Just Over-Dramatization?

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

I FLUSHED a covey of doctors the other day to ask them about this mercy-killing in New Hampshire and found them generally unperturbed about Dr. Herman Sander, who injected air into his cancer patient's bloodstream.

"That much air wouldn't kill anybody," one said. "All of us, at one time or other, have accidentally shoved a few air bubbles into a patient. I don't know what he expected to gain by it, but my idea would be that Sander is guilty of nothing but showing off."

This coincides with the quote of the Chicago surgeon, Dr. Julius L. Spivak, who says he wrote Dr. Sander that he did not believe an injection of 40 cubic centimeters of air would prove fatal.

DIED OF CANCER

"What the woman died of was cancer, pure and simple," one of my consultants said. "The air thing is beside the point. To my way of thinking, she died of cancer even if he'd finished her off with a club. But technically, there still wasn't enough air to kill anybody who wasn't in the process of dying of something else."

I have been told by other physicians that it is a common practice to leave a pentiful supply of opiates or barbiturates within easy reach of patients who are in the last, painful stages of incurable disease, and that the notation of cause of death is routine.

What puzzles the doctors I talked to is why Dr. Sander would make his entry in the chart much later, unless he had some obscure personal reason for drawing attention to himself. This view, which my friends tell me most of their colleagues share, would tend to deflate the general hoopla which has been made of the Sander case.

If correct, Dr. Sander's offense is not a mercy killing or any other kind of killing, so much as an overdramatization of medical discretion in the treatment of a case.

It even would lead to a fresh definition of just what is mercy killing. A person in the last hours of incurable cancer can almost be said to be legally dead of natural causes, and has generally been heavily drugged for weeks and even months to lessen pain.

In the case of relatives of mine, both of whom died of the disease, it would have been difficult for an autopsy to hit on any special cause of death, since destruction of vital organs and wastage of body had been so thorough.

The recently acquitted Carol Paight shot her incurably ill father, also in the last stages of the disease, and that must certainly be called killing, since it is a proven fact over many years that a person who shoots somebody in the head with a gun has a definite object in mind. Carol Ann was no physician and had no connection with the patient save that of filial sentiment.

Willful extermination of a blind patient, a paralytic patient, victim of leprosy or chronic hives would certainly fall under the heading of mercy killing. But the Sander case, as a cause celebre, seems a little fuzzy around the edge, since, to the mind of many an MD it lacks the necessary clear-cut issue of whether the deed was really a calculated mercy killing.

The evidence has been contradictory to date, and in parts seems not untinged by personal malice. In any case, those of the medical profession I know seem remarkably unexcited about the whole matter.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Pearson, Vaughan Taken Over Hurdles

WASHINGTON

THE Circus Saints and Sinners in New York took good old Gen. Harry Vaughan over the hurdles the other day, and also included a few sideswipes at yours truly. In fact, they wrote a column, "Washington Merely-Go-Wrong by Phew Dreason." And in the spirit of good clean fun, I reproduce "Phew Drearson's" column forthwith and herewith below:

"It will be denied, but I have it on the best authority that there is a serious split in the White House family between President Truman and his military aide, Maj. Gen. Harry S. Vaughan. The cause of this cleavage is your correspondent, whose offer to apologize to Gen. Vaughan rocked official Washington yesterday.

"From sources that I have hitherto found to be absolutely reliable, I have learned that I offered to withdraw all I have said or written about Gen. Vaughan if President Truman will withdraw all he has written or said, especially said, about me.

"Last night a closed meeting was held at Blair House. Present were Truman, Vaughan, and others of the Missouri crowd. The President, who, at the time, was holding three aces and a joker (George Allen) insisted upon standing pat. Vaughan, according to my informant, tried to get the President to accept my apology, but the meeting broke up at midnight with the General apparently losing the decision and $42.60.

Secret Meetings

"I can now be disclosed that I have held several clandestine meetings with Gen. Vaughan, and that he has been largely successful in convincing me that no personal animosity was reflected in the President's apparent designation of me as an S. O. B. Vaughan, who is very familiar with the folklore of his native state, tells me that in Missouri the initials S. O. B. are generally accepted as meaning Sweet Old Bungler, as applied to one who, with good intentions in his heart, inadvertently does or says the wrong thing.

"While I am entirely willing to accept this interpretation, I felt that I was still justified in demanding an apology from the President, in view of the fact that these initials are in more enlightened circles of the country, associated with words that have an entirely different connotation, reflecting upon the birth or ancestry of the designee.

"Right here I want to say that I was not in the least disturbed when the President nominated me as an S. O. B. What did hurt me deeply was that the Senate was ready to unanimously confirm the appointment.

Guileless And Guiltless

"I HAVE never been sparing of criticism of people in public life, but I must admit, in all honesty, that I made a serious error of judgment in my campaign against the General, and I 'Vaughan' to take it all back as soon as the President removes the stigma he has stamped upon me. Gen Vaughan is a man of rare personal charm who gives freely—often too freely—of his friendship. Naturally there are those who take advantage of him for their own purposes. I have done some checking back and, when I receive Truman's apology, I intend to say that I have found the General blameless in every charge made against him thus far.

"Take that matter of the medal from Argentina. I accused Vaughan of shortsightedness, medal-mania and excessive vanity. I now find that he fully appreciates Argentina's enmity towards the U. S. A., and that in accepting the decoration he was only trying to cut down on their stockpile of strategic metal.

"His activities in the Tanforan racetrack and the molasses deals were solely to stimulate business that was being stifled by bureaucratic red tape. His friendship for John Maragon was noble and inspiring, and we all ought to bear in mind that Maragon has never been pointed out as a pro-Communist.

Graft Or Gratitude?

"THERE'S been a lot of loose talk about deep freeze units, perfumes, and such. Before you become prey to whispered innuendos I ask you to examine yourself in the light of the scriptural injunction 'Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.' During the war did you ever have to grease a sales manager in order to get supplies to keep you going? Before the war—and after—did you ever have to slip the price of a new suit to the purchasing agent of some concern with which you wanted to do business?

"Did you ever send your Congressman a box of cigars? Did he send 'em back? Is all the liquor in your cellar paid for or did some of it come from guys who you hardly knew but who wanted to do business with you? Maybe you know but that you may need someone some day, like Gen. Vaughan, to soften up your 'command performance' with the collector of Internal Revenue?

Five Per Cent Isn't Bad

"MOREOVER, it's about time we re-examined our attitude towards the so-called 'five-percenters.' The fact is that the Government needs certain supplies, that there are small businessmen who have the stuff for sale, and that the man who brings them together is performing a service to the Government and to the taxpayer. After all, booking agents get even more, so why should anybody kick at a reasonable figure like 5 per cent to keep the wheels of business turning, to make as many people satisfied as humanly possible, and to lighten the crushing burdens upon the President? He has been unfairly maligned (Vaughan, I mean) and as soon as I get Truman's apology I'm going to call a halt to it.

"Reactionaries and character assassins like Westbrook Winchell, Fulton Pegler, and Walter Lewis had better watch their step. The American people are getting fed up."