THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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QUIBBLING OVER DETAILS

IT WILL BE especially tragic if the proposed fact-finding report on the Duke-BRT bus dispute is blocked at this late stage by petty disagreement over procedural matters.

Much has been accomplished in the past week's truce. The company and the union have generally agreed on all provisions of the fact-finding proposal except the method of appointing the panel members.

Mayor Shaw's original suggestion was that the chairmen of the N. C. Public Utilities Commission and the S. C. Public Service Commission each appoint one board member. The two board members would, in turn, select the third member.

This proposal was accepted by the company. It was rejected by the union.

The union suggested, in turn, that the Governors of North and South Carolina appoint one member each, and that U. S. Mediator Cyrus Ching appoint the third.

The company rejected the union proposal. It suggested still another possibility: that Mayor Shaw appoint all three members after conferring with the chairmen of the two utilities commissions, the two governors, and U. S. mediation officials.

The union rejected this plan, too, and announced it would stand by its suggestion that Governor Scott, Governor Thurmond, and Mr. Ching select the panel.

To the people of the six Carolina cities who may be sorely inconvenienced by a bus strike, this quibbling over a procedural matter is petty and picayunish. The people are not concerned with the union's apparent fear that the utilities chairmen might be pro-company, or with the company's apparent fear that the two governors, one interested in a S. C. Senatorship for himself and the other interested in a N. C. Senatorship for another man, might be pro-labor.

The people want to know the facts in this dispute, all of them.

After all, facts are facts. If they are accurate, they are incontrovertible. If they are inaccurate, they can be challenged and disproved. Since both parties to the dispute will have full opportunity to challenge the board's report, and since they have not bound themselves to accept it, this backing and filling is unimportant to the main issue.

Perhaps the mayors who are meeting in Charlotte today will unite behind one of the three suggestions, or come up with an entirely new one. We hope so, for it is utterly unsupportable that a breakdown in these negotiations should occur over such a minor detail.

THE COAL STRIKE ENDS

AFTER many months of playing the ostrich, President Truman looked about him yesterday and suddenly realized that the coal strike had reached a point of danger, imperiling the health and safety of the nation and jeopardizing the authority and prestige of the Federal Government itself.

Mr. Truman belatedly moved into action, canceled his other appointments, and called for an immediate report on contract negotiations.

Then he sent a message to Capitol Hill, asking authority for Federal seizure of the mines as a last effort to get the mines back into operation.

That did the trick. In the span of a few hours, John L. Lewis and representatives of more than half the soft coal producers suddenly became "able and willing" to negotiate a contract. The producers gave up some ground; Mr. Lewis surrendered some objectives. And a worried nation heard with great relief that mining would probably be resumed on Monday.

What brought things to a head in a hurry was the unanticipated decision by Judge Keech Thursday that the UMW and its officers were not guilty of contempt of court, because the Justice Department had failed to prove its case.

The Administration and the Congress had been relying upon a verdict of guilt, hoping that heavy fines and assessments on the union treasury might be an effective way to get production under way again. When that weapon fell from his hands, President Truman started casting about for another.

Whether seizure would have improved the atmosphere for sincere collective bargaining is a matter of speculation now. There is every reason to believe that the Taft-Hartley injunction threat was a deterrent to any agreement, in that it stiffened the resistance of the producers and angered the miners. And there is reason to believe that seizure and government-fixed wages would have stiffened the will of the miners and angered the producers.

In any event, the agreement on contract terms, welcome as it is, simply puts off until some future date a national decision on a basic issue. That issue hinges upon the right of a man to keep proprietorship over his job, even though he is "not willing" to work at it for weeks and months at a time. It also hinges upon that man's right to prevent other men who do want to work from doing so.

This strike has made mockery of labor union responsibility.

The UMW members have flouted the authority of their own national officials, and of the national government.

They have laughed at contract obligations by shutting down those independent mines whose owners had already signed up new contracts on terms dictated by Mr. Lewis.

They have organized riot and goon squads to stop production at non-union mines.

They have destroyed property, committed assault and mayhem, and generally violated the regular criminal laws of the land.

And while they were doing all this, many thousands of other workers were laid off their jobs, and many millions of innocent Americans were beginning to experience acute discomfort and hardship.

This great coal strike, which has lasted intermittently since last July, has sounded the death knell for the Taft-Hartley Act. Mr. Truman's repeated denunciation of the law encouraged the UMW members to ignore the injunction, and when he was finally forced to use Taft-Hartley, it was totally ineffectual.

The President has accomplished, by propaganda and by delay, what he could not accomplish by legislation — he has destroyed Taft - Hartley. He may get the thanks of labor for that deed, but his political stock has dropped sharply with the rest of the people who now find themselves without protection from violent, irresponsible strikes which endanger the national health, safety, and welfare.

COME NOW, GOVERNOR SCOTT

GOVERNOR SCOTT must be getting a large charge (if we may borrow that expression from the teen-ager) out of his running tiff with the Utilities Commission. If it were not so, he would hardly return to the topic so often.

The battle has been going on for some weeks now. It started when the Chief Executive hinted that the Commissioners weren't being as aggressive as they might in squeezing more rural telephones and electric lines out of the utility companies.

The Commissioners, through Chairman Winborne, snapped back that the utilities might be able to sell more stock and bonds to pay for this expansion if Mr. Scott would quit threatening and lambasting them.

"Alibis", retorted His Excellency, and charged in again. "The Commission has just been taking the word of the telephone companies, and not doing anything . . . The Commission has just been acting like a high school debating society with me."

Then, at a ceremony in Raleigh this week when Harry Westcott was sworn in to replace Robert Grady Johnson as a member of the Commission, the Governor really cut loose in his best Haw River dialect:

"It burns my soul to see you dragging your feet on this thing," he told the stunned Commissioners, adding that "You owe it to the people and to yourselves to turn in your resignations if you feel you cannot deliver."

The Governor's propensity for tongue-lashings is too well known to need mentioning here. What is unusual about this particular russling-out is that four of the present five Commissioners have been appointed or reappointed by Mr. Scott. They are his own boys, so to speak, and presumably beholden to him.

We can understand his irritation at "obstructionist" tactics by loyal Charlie Johnson supporters in the General Assembly and elsewhere in non-appointive State offices. But if his own appointees have been a flop, shouldn't the Governor hold himself partly to blame?

From The Greenville (Miss.) Delta Democrat-Times

HOW COME AN AA CHAPTER?

JUST to toss a few more coals on the already smouldering fire, we'd like to ask for an honest answer to a question which plagues us. We don't understand how it is that Greenville has a chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This, it seems to us, is silly.

Everyone knows that Greenville is located in dry Mississippi, in a dry state. There is no liquor. No liquor, therefore there can hardly be alcoholics. How come the local chapter?

Maybe it is that all the alcoholics have moved into Greenville from other states. That would provide part of the answer except that it seems to us that if they presently live in a dry state, there would be no need for the AA chapter. After all, there is no temptation in our desert.

But only last Sunday, a Dallas speaker talked to a large group in Greenville, all interested in a problem of alcoholism. We just don't understand why all the interest in a problem that couldn't possibly apply to our region.

'Stand Up Like An Elephant'

News From The Capital

Smith Seen As Potent Candidate

By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News Special Writer

WASHINGTON

THERE are already two Smiths in the Senate and three Jones boys in the House. And some Tar Heel strategists already are predicting further confusion, now that another Mr. Smith may be going to Washington.

Willis Smith's entry in the Senate race is the most potent threat to date for Senator Graham's seat although many here feel his candidacy will take more votes from Reynolds than from the incumbent.

His chief assets, sages say, is his middle-of-the-road conservatism. His drawbacks include lack of definite "group" backing, his absence from active politics for nineteen years and his comparative newness as a state figure.

All agree that a second primary is almost certain.

Senator Graham spent the week lining up political strategy in the state. Senator Hoey is following the ancient tradition of declining to be quoted on his views about prospective candidates. "I'm just happy that I haven't any opposition," he said, adding thoughtfully, "yet".

* * *

IT LOOKS as if Senator Graham and Senator Hoey will split down the line on the DP issues now before Congress. Hoey is inclined toward the bill reported out of the committee, because of its "screening" provisions. He denies it is discriminatory toward any minority, too.

* * *

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the House Atomic Energy Committee, Rep. Carl Durham closely paralleled the thinking of President Truman and top State Department officials in his view that there is no prospect now that Russia and the Western powers could agree on a system of armament controls and international inspection of atomic plants (including H-bomb factories). His widely-quoted talk was before the North Carolina Democratic Club here. . . . It was, of course, directly in conflict with the thoughts of Committee Chairman Senator McMahon (D-Conn.) who hasn't given up hope for some international atomic agreement with Russia. . . . Chairman Doughton of the House Ways & Means Committee stirred up a bit of smoke last week in a hearing on whether low-priced cigarettes should pay less tax than standard brands. Doughton told the tobacco men: "If you want to cut into the business of the big cigarette makers you have to make a better cigarette" to which one manufacturer replied: "We are making a good cigarette, as good as any" and challenged anyone to tell one brand from another with a blindfold test. No one took him on. . . . North Carolina Grange Master Harry B. Caldwell issued a statement read before the hearing, contending that ". . . a uniform tax on cigarettes does not discriminate against any brand". . . . Any FEPC filibuster will have to be conducted without the aid of Southern Senators Pepper (Fla.), Kefauver (Tenn.) and Graham. They are being excluded from current strategy meetings.

* * *

HOUSE passage of the voluntary FEPC bill has completely changed the once dim prospect of invoking Senate cloture against a filibuster. It's now a Republican bill, one that would win votes with scores who were reluctant in the past to pledge their cloture votes to call the Administration's compulsory bill.

The so-called Wherry cloture rule adopted last session by an alignment of Republicans and Southerners requires the votes of 64 Senators to shut off debate on any issue.

If the Republicans can deliver as many as 36 votes for cloture, the Democrats need only produce a majority of their 54. Even Senator Hoey, one of the anti-FEPC leaders, admits that the measure will pass if it comes to a vote. But he doesn't think it will.

* * *

THE North Carolina House delegation is breathing a sigh of relief—collectively—with the passage of the FEPC bill. They were all against it in the final analysis, of course. But it will give our bedraggled Congressmen a little more peace on Wednesdays from here on in.

Washington's birthday topped a series of harrowing Wednesdays. The Tar Heel delegation let it be known previously that the FEPC would be passed only over their dead bodies. It almost was. The light on the Capitol—which burns as long as Congress is in session—didn't blink out until 3:30 A.M. the next day.

On the floor at noon, Wednesday and voting shortly after 3 A. M. the next day were Representatives Bonner (1st District), Kerr (2nd), Barden (3rd), Cooley (4th), Durham (5th), Carlyle (7th), Deane (8th), Doughton (9th), and Jones (10th).

It was another Calendar Wednesday, the only day of the week under the rules that the FEPC bill had a chance of being considered. And it was another day of delaying tactics—the most favorite device being a point of no quorum.

The silver-tongued reading clerk, George Maurer, was lucky if he got through the 435 names in 25 minutes, and the Representatives were kept busy as many as a dozen times each Wednesday, loping back and forth through the concrete tunnel between the office buildings and the Capitol, like firemen answering the clanging quorum bells. They would stick their heads in the chamber, yell "here", return to their offices and no sooner get settled comfortably when the bells would sound and the subterranean marathon was on again.

But this Wednesday was different. During the afternoon, long lines of the spectators backed down two flights of stairs waiting for seats. At midnight, virtually every seat was still filled, the audience evidently enjoying the shenanigans more than a downtown movie. And despite the long hours, members kept their humor to a degree not usually found in such situations. In fact, some had fortified themselves for the rattling battle with something more than solid food, and at least two were escorted from the chamber when their condition became too apparent.

Although most members think the bill—even in its "voluntary" form is bad—they are glad that they will be able to get some office work done on future Wednesdays.

* * *

SENATOR GRAHAM has been booked for a Meet The Press radio hookup this month. There are eight mail deliveries a day to Congressional offices. . . . The balance of power in Representative Doughton's 25-man Ways & Means Committee can be shifted if three Democrats vote with the Republicans which makes for much back-stage planning. . . . The House is once again agitating for a toy subway car line in the west side has. Representatives complain they have to walk three city blocks to their hall, and say they will settle for a moving stairway. . . . Senator Graham is the shortest Senator in Congress. . . . Spencer Love's backing of Graham is both a moral and financial booster. . . . Senator Hoey was visibly relieved when the Foreign Affairs Committee took over the task of investigating the Reds in the State Department. He said Chairman Tom Connally was very reluctant, but was finally talked into it.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Truman Told Of Desire For Good Will

(ED. NOTE—Drew Pearson's column today is another in the series of letters he has written to Washington leaders on the American people's desire for leadership toward peace. Today's letter is to President Truman.)

WASHINGTON

HONORABLE HARRY S. TRUMAN,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mr. President:

While you and I may not agree on some things, we do, I think, agree heartily on the nation's desire and need for peace. And I personally have a very high regard for your sincerity and devotion to that cause.

In that connection I believe you will be interested in a letter which I received from a stevedore in Philadelphia shortly after a visit to that city in connection with the departure of the first ship carrying the American Legion's Tide of Toys to Europe. The letter, signed by Francis A. Mock of 3525 S. Front St., Philadelphia, follows:

"Today I worked on a ship loading toys for tots, or Tide of Toys as the program is called. After loading 12,000 cases of CARE we proceeded to load the toys. I want to take my hat off to the American Legion for sponsoring this program. There is a lot of thought behind it, and you could almost feel it as I did today.

"During my lunch hour, I strolled around the various piles and looked at the names of the towns and cities of the United States that were represented there. Big towns and little towns all alike. You know it made me feel good to look at those various piles of toys. A pile would measure about 40 ft. x 30 ft. by 10 to 12 ft. high. Some were marked England, some Italy, some Germany, others Czechoslovakia, Belgium, France. It was a great feeling to know that the people who sent these toys were Americans, possibly your next door neighbor.

But can you rest assured that cargo wasn't even considered for that purpose. Take my word for that. Every case handled was treated as though it was their own personal property, and we were proud of the privilege of handling them.

"You know when the American Legion and other veteran organizations were organized the cry went up that the vets were organized so they could ride a perpetual gravy train, paid for by the Government, and playing upon the sympathy of the public for their part in the last and first World Wars; or perhaps they were out for some personal glory, or for sponsoring a bonus, or other reasons.

"However, this effort belies Communist rumors. It looks like a step forward. I only hope that some people in Government have the same trend of thought and have as much faith in America as the originator of this idea for amity among nations.

"I could go on for ages about career men in key Government positions who know little about what is going on in the world today. In closing I want you to know that all the effort you are putting on this behalf isn't going to be forgotten. And perhaps the future holds the solution, and let's hope that we can get our nations and the various others to get together and have lasting peace.

"Sincerely yours, Francis A. Mock."

Legionnaires' Great Job

I THOUGHT you would be interested in reading this letter. Mr. President, because it so eloquently expresses how thousands of Americans feel regarding our individual efforts for peace. They are willing to do anything in their power to improve good will if it will prevent another war.

The great job of the American Legion in its "Tide of Toys" is an illustration. The Legionnaires got busy one day after Christmas, when most people wanted to rest and enjoy the holiday season. And they put countless hours of effort into the herculean job of collecting toys for the children who can be our best friends—or the enemy soldiers—of tomorrow.

I could cite many other examples. You would be surprised at the number of American towns which have adopted European towns, not only to help feed and rebuild them, but to exchange citizens.

Then there were the "make democracy live" letters—about seven million of them—that went to Italy during the Italian elections; and countless letters exchanged between Americans and Europeans, many of them following in the wake of the Friendship Train and the French Merci Train.

And there have been the spontaneous movement by scores of American college students to bring European and Asiatic students to this country together with the efforts by various Junior Chambers of Commerce to bring young businessmen over here.

The healthy thing about these various moves, I am sure you will agree, is that they are Government inspired, but are spontaneous gestures by individual Americans who not only believe in peace but are willing to go out and work at it.

There was a time when Americans sat back and said, "Let the diplomats do it." Now they're not content with that. They want to work at peace themselves.

The reason I am writing all this to you, Mr. President, is that you have a great untapped reservoir of strength among the American people, anxious to help you in any step that will bring about peace. And I am not sure you realize it.

I know how deeply you feel on this subject because you have expressed your views with conviction to various callers; and I know how deeply touched they were with your sincerity. But you may not realize that thousands of others not only share your concern, but are willing to do something about it.

It may be that they can be one means of penetrating the Iron Curtain, of making friends with the Russian people, and thus insuring permanent peace. I do not know. But I do know that this great reservoir of good will among the American people needs more information, more guidance, more leadership.

They are looking to you.

Respectfully and Sincerely Yours,
DREW PEARSON.

'Get Together' For Peace

YOU know stevedores and longshoremen are a cynical group and it takes a lot to make them proud of anything. Longshoremen are noted for their pilfering ability.

Timid State Dept. Goes To Bat With Senator McCarthy

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

IT IS POSSIBLE that Sen. Joseph McCarthy, the big, raw-boned pride and joy of the real estate lobby, has rendered the country a major service. Sen. McCarthy has charged that there are fifty-seven (or eighty-one, or more than 200) Communists in the State Dept. If so, and if he can prove it, he will of course deserve a vote of thanks for demonstrating that the State Dept. is riddled with potential spies.

The available evidence suggests, however, that Sen. McCarthy's service will be of a different sort. Responsible officials in the State Dept. are confident that in the forthcoming Senate investigation of his charges McCarthy will get his head so thoroughly washed that neither he nor any of his like-minded colleagues will soon again use this particular vote-catching technique.

THE BIG THREE

McCarthy has charged that there is a "big three" of Communist agents in the department. If the "big three" could be eliminated, he says, the back of espionage in the State Dept. might be broken. A check on the records of the "big three' suggests why the State Dept. is so confident that McCarthy will regret he ever brought the subject up in the first place.

One of the "big three" has already been publicly identified as John Carter Vincent, formerly chief of the Far Eastern division, and presently American Minister to Switzerland. One of the charges against Vincent, which McCarthy repeated on the Senate floor (although he did not name Vincent) is that papers for which Vincent was responsible reached the Kremlin before they reached their official destination. This story is attributed to a former general.

The State Dept. has in its files a report in which the former general categorically denies the story. Another report, repeated by McCarthy, is that Vincent was seen handing a secret paper to a Soviet espionage agent, for delivery to the Soviet embassy. The most exhaustive investigation, according to State Dept. officials, proved this report to be unadulterated hogwash.

Another of McCarthy's "big three" is a woman who once worked in the Voice of America program. McCarthy identified her (again not by name) as a "Communist courier." A careful cross-check by a number of Government security agencies led some time ago to the conclusion that this was vicious nonsense.

The woman in question has let it be known that she will sue McCarthy instantly if he mentions her name in connection with his charges, when he is off the Senate floor. What is more interesting is that she left the State Dept. in February two years ago — a fact which a simple telephone call to the State Dept. would have revealed, had Sen. McCarthy thought it worth the trouble.

The last of the "big three" is a young lawyer with a vaguely intellectual background (he is no doubt what Sen. McCarthy likes to call a "twisted intellectual") who is now working as a special assistant to an Assistant Secretary of State. According to McCarthy, he is known to have "contacted members of an espionage group," and to have brought active Communists into the State Dept. The lawyer did have close contact over a period of some months with a man, not in the government, who is probably a Communist. But this contact was maintained on orders from his superiors, and with their full knowledge.

In short, State Dept. officials are convinced that, unless McCarthy has new information up his sleeve, his charges can be publicly shown to be arrant nonsense, as regards not only the "big three" but the whole McCarthy list. Moreover, the State Dept., usually so timid where Congress is concerned, is now prepared to go over to the offensive in the McCarthy matter. The department will have the full backing of the President, who is infuriated. Truman has now reversed himself and agreed that complete files on McCarthy's charges should be shown to the Foreign Relations sub-committee appointed to investigate them. This will be done at a special meeting in the White House, in order to explode the charges once and for all.

The issue of internal security in these times is a deadly serious issue, as the Hiss trial and the Fuchs episode have clearly revealed. But blanket charges like McCarthy's serve to obscure this issue, to destroy morale in the government, and thus in fact to serve the interests of the Communists.

Warfare Goes From Soldier's Hands To Those Of Magician

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

THE CHEERY NEWS that the H-bomb can be rigged to create a cloud of deadly dandruff which would wipe out all the world fetches us wistfully backward to Sabatini, the swasher of literary buckles. Mr. Sabatini died not long ago, probably as much from despair as any old age. It is difficult to peddle the Cloak-and-Dagger in a brave new world where the kiddies get toy cyclotrons and Geiger counters for Christmas.

I daresay Capt. Blood, Scaramouche or the Sea Hawk would be a bit bewildered, and highly impotent, in our times. These creations of Sabatini's pen lived in an age where a man had to be a man to be a warrior. Combat was highly personalized business, and a man who could not use sword very rarely wore one.

The measure of a man was his muscle, his personal resourcefulness, and his skill with a pistol or a cutlass. Single combat was the keystone of forts and even in naval action, the payoff was when you slung the grapples into your enemy's ship and the crews swarmed aboard, to hack gleefully at each other. The dismal business of sinking a rival by radar has taken a deal of personal exhilaration from sea-fighting.

GOOD OLD DAYS

I recall that when the dashing Peter Blood delicately picked a competitor with his frog-sticker, he would rearrange the ruffles at his wrist and saunter off to dally with a damsel for a few months. There was a night of feasting and wassail between combats, with plenty of sun and fresh sea-air and dicing to leaven the hardships of piracy. They called this piracy, then, and the penalty was hanging, but it seems highly civilized in retrospect, when compared to our own standards of uneasy peace.

Oh, I suppose when Blood's boys or the Sea Hawk's men sacked a town, a few civilians got bruised and a few maidens ravished, but it was small-scale bruising and ravishing—nothing even to compare with the mischief our own boys liberated a city in the last peace-promotion. Even a modern imitation of a band of Arab pirates on an open city can scarcely rival the horrors of the morrow, as noted by the myopic men with the bulging brains and the chicken-breasts.

This is what strikes me wrong about obliteration. The men who man the atomic-bomb generally could not defeat a husky Girl Scout in hand-to-hand conflict, or sharpen a pencil without inflicting severe bodily harm to themselves. It is difficult to imagine one of today's atom-couplers swinging in the rigging or laying about him with a cutlass. The men who command our doom would have largely been left home with the women on Blood's day, or slain as valueless by the Hawk's corsairs.

Men have always fought, and always will, and the innocent bystander gets hurt in the process, but at least in the olden days the commander rode the lead chariot and exposed his chest to arrows. If there was undue cruelty it was conscious cruelty, and affected relatively small segments of the population.

Bloody and useless as ancient conflict was, it seems relatively civilized when compared with today's calm contemplation of setting fire to and-or poisoning the universe, either on purpose or by accident.

I suppose I am just an old fuddy-duddy, but war seemed to have been exciting, dangerous sport, when it was waged by man against man. The new version is as dull as dishwater, if rather more deadly, since it has passed from the soldier's hands into caves of the magicians.