THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THERE'S CREDIT ENOUGH FOR ALL

EVERYONE concerned—the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, the Duke Power Co., the mayors of six North and South Carolina cities, and Federal-State conciliators—deserves the appreciation of the people for working out amicably a method of appointing a fact-finding group to study and report on the issues in the bus controversy.

Of all the solutions which had been advanced, the one finally adopted appears to be the best. The six mayors represent the public interest in the communities which would be affected by a bus strike. The drivers and mechanics are residents of those communities, and the company has franchises in those communities. Certainly the mayors will consider all three—the public patrons, the driver-mechanics, and the company—in selecting the three fact-finders.

There were moments during the special meeting here Saturday when it appeared that quibbling over details might block an agreement on the main objective—a complete and impartial compilation of the facts. Fortunately the opposing parties put aside minor differences, and gave first consideration to the welfare of the people.

All of the hurdles in this controversy have not yet been cleared. The selection of the fact-finders is a difficult job in itself. They must be men of great ability, whose integrity is above reproach, if their report and recommendations are to have weight with the union, the company, and the people.

The mayors are fully competent to make a wise selection without our advice. We would merely offer the suggestion, free of charge, that the chairman should represent the public, that one member should be a qualified accounting and business management expert, and that the other should be an authority on the problems and needs of the working man.

DOUBLE-HEADER AT THE ARMORY

THE two jampacked shows by a singing cowboy and his troupe at the Armory-Auditorium Sunday showed vividly the need for larger and better accommodations for such events in Charlotte.

The Armory-Auditorium was overcrowded. Firemen and policemen were on hand, and presumably the legal fire and safety regulations were not violated. But it was still crowded beyond comfortable capacity.

Numerous children wandered around the hall and finally settled on the floor in the aisles. Rapid and orderly exit from the building in an emergency would have been impossible under such circumstances.

Furthermore, a bad crush developed in one part of the hall during the first show intermission. Hundreds of persons who had squeezed through to the concession stand started back for their seats and met hundreds of others trying to reach the stand. Traffic came to a standstill, and those in the rear echelons began shoving. Several small children, caught in the middle, were in danger of being trampled or suffocated until a few adults put manners aside, grabbed the children, and literally blasted an exit.

Also, the temperature regulation and ventilation was bad. The air became heated, humid, and stale. The smoke from cigarettes, pipes, and cigars made it even worse.

The acoustics were faulty. In order that those in the far corners of the hall could hear, the public address system was set so loud that it split the eardrums of those nearer the stage.

And finally, the inadequate rest room facilities were sorely overtaxed.

There is little doubt that a goodly number of votes for a larger auditorium and/or coliseum were made Sunday, votes which will help carry the cause if and when the project is put before the people.

The quality of the Autry show was the only good thing about Sunday's double-header at the Armory-Auditorium.

WHO SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH?

IF YOU TAKE a look around at some of the specimens of *homo sapiens* who now make up the human race you might think it's not such a bad idea to start all over again with ten bright, healthy people to repopulate the earth in the event of a hydrogen bomb chain reaction.

But once you accept the inevitable fact that you are probably not among the ten brightest, healthiest folks in the country the prospect becomes not so cheerful.

Editor Ralph McGill of the *Atlanta Constitution* has launched a think campaign down in Georgia (see his column elsewhere on this page) and right now we imagine more than a few Atlantans are making mental lists of people we should stash away to get everything started again.

Of course the pick-ten game isn't practical. Chances are that these persons—important and able persons—would be the first to go since they would probably be in the places where things happen. A deadly series of atomic explosions would probably leave only the weak, the old or the cowardly—rejects hiding out from responsibility.

So playing pick-ten will be a matter of theory; but it's a good exercise.

Not only does it bring about a more proper appreciation of our outstanding humans, but it might cause you to think about the terrible possibility that things atomic might really reach such a desperate state.

If that happens—who?

A MILDLY RIDICULOUS FAD

OF COURSE, a lady's hair is her own, to do with as she will. If it is her wont, we would not stop her from shaving it off or dying it green. But, just to go on record, we think most of these new "cap" hairdos are about as attractive on women as cockleburrs on a spaniel.

Like most things in which fashion has a hand, the "cap" is mildly ridiculous. Some woman with a small face cut her hair that way and, strangely enough, it looked pretty good. And then someone with a fat face wanted to be chic and chopped *her* locks and before you could say "beauty parlor" enough hair had been shorn from the ladies of the nation to stuff every ottoman in Turkey.

Hair "stylists" were cleaning up but their perch in the catbird seat was to be short-lived; soon, after the shears had eaten their way through several million red, black, brown or blonde manes, milady would have no hair to be prettied up for parties.

The real winners (and probably instigators!) in this rush to the clippers were the clothes people, fashion designers. It stood to reason that she couldn't wear the same clothes with a "cap" that she wore when her hair tumbled prettily about her ears and rested on her shoulders. Ergo, new clothes.

Well, it's nice that somebody is enjoying the fad. Neither the women who are adopting the "cap" nor the men who have to look at them seem to be happy about it.

From The Greensboro Daily News

A FREEMAN'S RIGHT

KERR SCOTT, visiting Seventh District Highway offices at Albemarle, made an observation which in our way of thinking was his most pertinent since becoming Governor of North Carolina. Seeing no spittoons in the new quarters of the state's roadbuilders he said:

"It would be a shame for a delegation of farmers to come here on business and have no place to spit."

How did our public officials arrive at the conclusion that if they provided a place for cigarette butts—half of them marked with lipstick—they have observed the amenities or made their reception rooms safe for democracy?

There are still enough decent, substantial citizens in North Carolina who enjoy chewing tobacco to call for public provision for their comfort. Some men think (or think they think), when chain-smoking; others realize they cannot really digest a knotty problem without bringing to bear a bit of mastication.

"Phut!" and "Zing!" often help properly to punctuate debate of the sort for which plain people go into a huddle.

It doesn't make sense for the Highway Commission and/or its employees to get above their raising. It's the right of a North Carolinian sitting on a jury, listing his taxes or listening to discussions affecting his life, liberty or pursuit of happiness to have a place to spit.

A public office without a spittoon had betrayed a public trust.

Pome In Which An Off-Hand Remark Concerning the Second Month Of the Year Is Recorded:

I like February—
But not very.—*Atlantic Journal.*

Show us the woman who has the leisure to investigate that doesn't have something wrong with her nerves. — *Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.*

Every once in a while the radio reminds us of a wonderful race track built for a bunch of lousy worthless nags.—*Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.*

All other unions contemplating strikes should act in concert, so as to give the nation its nasty medicine all in one dose.—*New Orleans States.*

Nobody is as unhappy as a homely girl with a beautiful mother.—*Dallas (Tex.) Morning News.*

H-For-Hysteria Bomb

Ralph McGill

Survival Of The Fittest

(In The Atlanta Constitution)

IF WE were faced with certain destruction from a hydrogen and atomic bombing here in America, what 10 persons would you select to be saved in a specially prepared cavern far beneath the earth's surface where the fiery death would sear and rage?

A gentleman with a cave out in the Missouri Ozarks, which he wishes to exploit for publicity and tourist purposes—and maybe even to lease out to fearful men—has engaged a publicity office in New York which informs me I have been selected as one of several judges to name my choice of the 10 to be preserved to get the country going again—and to work with those who may be saved elsewhere on the earth. It is a publicity stunt, but an intriguing one.

The first reaction obtained was:

"In addition to me, what nine others are you talking about?"

But the stunt presumes one may not name his family, relatives, friends or associates. They are out. With that understood, one confronts the task. What 10 persons would assure us of having enough know-how, philosophy, intellect, wisdom and so on to rebuild a shattered country nearer to our heart's desire?

We must also assume that books would be saved. That is why I have always insisted that reading and understanding our own language is the most important subject in our schools. If a man or woman can read with understanding there are available books, pamphlets and studies on almost all subjects from which a person—able to read and understand—could learn to do almost anything needed.

THEREFORE, I don't think we would need any preachers, priests, religious leaders. The Book would survive and it IS all Christian religion. We would not need any newspapermen, lawyers, real estate dealers, insurance men and so on. (This is a rough proposition.) It is necessary, too, I think, to lay down another rule. Some of the selections will of necessity have to be symbolic, in that some of the men important to such a problem would be of advanced age. I would prefer to choose some younger man equally skilled in each field. But, not knowing such, known names must serve as the symbol of what is needed.

I am quite sure that later on other names will come to me—but it was possible for me to get off a first start. Certainly, Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard, would be one. He has a marvelous grasp of the needs and processes of education. He could build a better system of public and private school education than we now possess. He is a teacher. He is one of the great scientists, with physics his field. He also is a thinker. We have too few thinkers.

Next—without at all seeking to name them in any order of importance, but only as they come to mind—I would put down Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service. He, or someone equally skilled, would be necessary to confront the tortured earth. Then I think we should have a man of ideas in creating mechanical tools, engines and so on. I would name Charles F. (Boss) Kettering, the genius of invention and engineering, in Detroit.

* * *

THEN we would certainly need doctors. I think in this field we would need a man who was experienced in diagnosis and public health. I would put down here Dr. James Paulin, of Atlanta. He could teach diagnosis, practice and surgery. (Naming him reveals me to be a generous person. He is my severest critic insofar as my waistline is concerned. I would depend on him to develop the Haucks, the Colvins, the Equens, the Bartholomews, the Graves, the McRaes, and others here of that quality.)

My next man would be a man experienced in tool making and production of same, a foreman of some plant. I would assume he would have a background of work in many fields and would have come up from the ranks. My sixth man would be a manager—one able to create new jobs, build plants and supply the necessary managerial skill.

That's all my specialists. I would then name two young men and two young women, all four of whom would have to be recent—within the last five years—graduates of vocational high schools and who have won health and intelligence awards from their 4-H, Future Farmer and Home Maker organizations. They could already be married or be willing to marry before entering the cave to wait out the chaos and fire on the top side of earth. With them I would send the great books of the world.

With that sort of setup, always remembering I would substitute younger men for the older ones, if of equal skill, I would bet on these 10 bringing back a better United States than the one we have. I would lean heaviest on the 4-H and Future Farmer champions in health and school grades.

Peoples Platform

Innocent 'Til Proved Guilty

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE writer takes exception to the letter of N. J. McGuinn in THE NEWS of March 3 about Mr. Hicks.

Not being a member of any union it would be unfair to question my motives in disagreeing entirely with Mr. McGuinn and coming to the defense of Mr. Hicks.

After all, none of us to date have anything to base opinions on in this particular case, other than what the newspapers have published.

Therefore, in the spirit of Christian charity, and I believe in accordance with the law of the land, wouldn't it be wise to wait the day of decision by constituted authorities regarding the guilt or innocence of Mr. Hicks before castigating him to the point of insisting that he be removed from the public office he holds, etc., as suggested by Mr. McGuinn?

Surely none can appoint himself as judge and jury in a case of this nature, and I hope that the City Fathers in their usually well demonstrated good judgments, will refrain from any unwise action regarding Mr. Hicks until such time as he has had his day in court and been proven either innocent or guilty of the offense charged to him.

—HENRY J. MERNICK.

Note Of Thanks

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

CHARLOTTE LODGE 1113, Loyal Order of Moose, at its regular meeting Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1950, unanimously adopted a resolution:

"Be it resolved that this lodge have entered upon its minutes, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1950, its sincere thanks and appreciation to The Charlotte News and its editorial staff for the courtesies and co-operation extended to us during the opening celebration and dedication and prior thereto."

—F. E. GOODWIN,
Secretary.

'Substantial Gains' Appear To Be Substantial Losses

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

AMONG other gassy generalities, Defense Secretary Louis Johnson made the statement in his New York speech last week that "the United States is now making substantial gains towards the achievement of its goal of peace through strength." Leave aside other areas in which Johnson is weakening American strength. Consider the air alone.

The blunt truth is that, according to the judgment of the most competent aviation authorities in this country, the United States is now being provided with less than half the strength necessary, not to win a war, but to "prevent the loss of a war at the outset of hostilities." This means simply that despite smarmy assurances to the contrary, Johnsonian "economies" are now inviting nothing less than defeat in war. Moreover, the evidence clearly suggests that Johnson's subordinates know it.

Some days before his New York speech, Johnson held an anonymous press conference, in which he claimed that a "program of expansion" had "brought the nation's offensive air arm up to the equivalent of the seventy groups" recommended by the Finletter Commission. In his signed report to Congress on his "economy" program he sharply reduced this claim. He asserted that the Air Force now has the "equivalent of fifty two and one-half groups."

Contrast these Johnsonian assertions with the testimony of Air Secretary Stuart Symington and his aides in secret session before the House Appropriations Committee. Symington (obviously with the Soviet atom bomb in mind) warned that the 70-group program envisaged in the Finletter report might well be too low. He then stated flatly, directly contradicting Johnson's claims, that the Air Force now has, not seventy, or fifty-two and one-half, but "forty three or forty-four" modern groups.

DELIBERATE DECEPTION?

It is only possible to conclude that Johnson has been attempting to deceive the American people on the vital subject of air strength in being. Yet this is by no means all Johnson is doing. An Air Force — and the nation it must protect — stands or falls by the rate at which obsolescent planes are replaced by new, modern types. "We know," Symington testified, "that we cannot maintain a forty-eight-group program from the standpoint of modern airplanes under the present amount of money being allocated for procurement."

The whole subject of defense is technical and difficult, which is one reason why Johnson's deceptions have escaped detection for so long. The most accurate way of estimating replacement rates — and hence our strength in the air — is in terms of air-frame weight, the weight of aircraft annually delivered to the Air Force. Figures are dull, but the figures quoted below are worth pondering.

The Finletter report, to which Johnson referred, recommended a minimum annual delivery to the Air Force of fifty-six million pounds of airframe weight by the end of 1949. The curve was to continue upward until the United States had a fully ready Air Force, by 1952, this being the too optimistic estimate of the date when the Soviet Union would begin quantity stockpiling of atomic weapons.

The lowest estimate of needed annual airframe weight was given by the joint Congressional aviation board, whose work paralleled that of the Finletter commission. After hearing the country's leading aviation authorities, this board devised what was called "Plan B". Plan B was the rock-bottom minimum recommendation for American air strength. It was frankly designed, not to permit the capacity of strong defense or continuing retaliation, but to provide just sufficient strength "to prevent the loss of a war upon the outset of hostilities."

Plan B called for annual procurement of 45 million pounds of airframe weight for the Air Force. Now consider the Johnsonian "economy" program. For fiscal 1950, deliveries of airframe weight to the Air Force were permitted, not of fifty-six million pounds, but of 23.5 million pounds. Moreover, in the Johnsonian budget for 1951, projected deliveries are to be actually reduced by more than two million pounds, back close to the 1947 level of twenty-one million pounds.

What this means is quite obvious. Behind all Johnson's windy assurances that "we are alert to the dangers of our times," and are "girding our loins accordingly," there is not strength but weakness. We are not headed for "peace through strength." Instead, if the best aviation experts in the country are to be trusted, we are headed straight for disaster, straight to "the loss of a war upon the outset of hostilities."

Best Teachers Help Pupils With 'Learning By Doing'

By HENRY C. MCFADYEN

ALBEMARLE

EVERY parent knows that there comes a time in the life of a child when you have to let him begin to bathe himself. Every parent also knows that for the first year or so he will not do a particularly good job of it. However, he will eventually master this important skill.

This is what school folks call "learning by doing." Books have been written about it, and wherever you find a top-notch teacher you will usually discover that in a hundred different ways she is letting the pupil teach himself. If there is anything that distinguishes the child from the grown-up, it is that the child has to be doing something all the time. When you are grown you look forward to the time at the close of the day when you can stop doing things. The child must be using his brain or his body all the time. It is a wise teacher who knows how to harness this urge and use it in the class room.

The primary grades are especially full of doing. The little folks stand at easels and draw colorful, sprawling pictures to show the experiences they have had. They act out little stories they are reading in their books. They set up a store in the corner and buy and sell. A thoughtless person might be critical and say they are spending all their time playing. The teacher knows, however, that it is this through play that children learn. They play a game with a big clock face, and thus learn to tell time. They play a game with red and green lights, and learn how to cross the street safely.

QUESTION OF APPLICATION

It is easy to see that in activities like these children are learning by doing. The same is true in a home economics class where a girl is sewing on a blouse or in a shop class where a boy is gluing up the pieces of a footstool. But how can the principle of learning by doing be applied in English or history classes?

In this type of class it is all too easy for a teacher to get in the habit of doing all the talking. The higher you go in school, the worse this tendency becomes, until in college the most common method of teaching is the lecture method. In these classes the professor stands up and talks an hour, while the students rapidly take notes or sleep. A really brilliant teacher can get by with this, but nobody else. In my opinion the lecture method is the poorest of all ways of teaching.

I once watched a teacher presenting some poetry to a class of high school seniors. It was plain that the teacher loved the poetry herself and that she understood it. Those are two conditions of good teaching—enthusiasm and knowledge. But the class was dead. The students sat with glazed eyes, just serving time until the bell rang.

Where that teacher failed, I think, was that she did all the interpreting of the poetry herself. The class was composed of young men and women 18 and 19 years old, quite capable of having some ideas of their own on what the poetry meant. Not once, however, did the teacher give them a chance to express any such ideas. She was telling them what the poetry meant. I think she should have been asking them what it meant to them. She was missing a wonderful chance to let them learn by doing.

Where teachers consistently give their pupils the chance to use their hands for working and their brains for something besides listening, they are going to get this kind of response. "We had a lot of fun, but we learned a lot too."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Truman Tells Need For Education Aid

WASHINGTON

IN a recent conference with Congressional "Big Four" leaders, the President made it bluntly clear that he expected them to finish passage of the Federal aid-to-education bill, which already has passed the Senate.

"I'm depending on you to get a satisfactory bill through the House during this session," Truman told Speaker Sam Rayburn and Majority Leader John McCormack.

The President added that he wouldn't attempt to dictate the terms of the bill regarding such controversial questions as free bus transportation for parochial students.

"The Democratic Party," he said, "has promised aid for our schools and I am determined that we will make good on that promise. You bring me a bill down here and I'll sign it."

Briefing Public On A-War

A PLAN to form a chain of aircraft spotters across the United States has been drawn up in the National Defense Dept.

The idea is for the public to do less worrying and more preparing for possible atomic attack. To this end the general public will be briefed on how to escape danger and stop panic, while civilian minutemen will be trained in peace for possible duties in case of war.

One of these is a civilian aircraft warning net, stretching in an arc across 25 northern states from North Carolina to California cutting across the middle of Illinois, Ohio and Indiana. Civilian volunteers will be trained, then kept on a stand-by basis at key posts to scan the skies for enemy planes. This is necessary to supplement our radar screen which hasn't been completed yet and has certain blind spots, anyhow.

The Navy has also been assigned to work with civilian authorities in order to throw a dim-out switch down the Pacific Coast as an emergency, anti-submarine measure. A similar program will be worked out later for the Atlantic Coast.

Must Face Unpleasantness

THE plans being drafted include some unpleasant news, but military leaders believe they should be faced now.

In case of atomic attack, key civilians will be trained in each city to care for the dead and wounded and restore the city to emergency operation. Mobile units will also be trained to move into an atomic-blitzed city and aid local authorities. Biggest need will be a huge blood reservoir. Another problem concerns the present humanitarian concept of aiding most critical cases first. In mass destructions, it will be more important to concentrate on aiding those who have a better chance of surviving. This tragic problem is already under study by medical experts.

A huge national war game, testing military-civilian teamwork from coast-to-coast, is also proposed.

Senate Food Price Probe

THE inside story behind high food prices will be brought out into the open today by courtly, white-haired Sen. Guy Gillette, an Iowa dairy farmer whose subcommittee has been digging into skyrocketing prices of coffee, milk, bread, eggs, poultry and live stock.

Despite terrific pressure to stop this probe, Gillette will show that, while farmers' income is shrinking and consumers pay more, the middleman has been making more.

In January, 1949, for instance, the largest U. S. coffee importer, the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., paid 25 cents a pound for coffee, and sold it for 47 cents. Ten months later A & P paid 28 cents a pound, but charged 65 cents.

Another big buyer, General Foods, raised its retail price from 51 cents to 76 cents a pound, although it paid approximately the same import price as A. & P.

Many of the big importers are members of the Sugar & Coffee Exchange, which were investigated after World War I because of the hike in sugar prices. Gillette investigators figure a sugar probe is in the cards now, unless the Senate's coffee probe scares it off.

Capital News Capsules

JOHN L. LEWIS, vs. Phil Murray—The good old American spirit of free competition may be fine regarding some things but it was partly responsible for the coal crisis. Harry Moses of U. S. Steel's giant H. C. Frick Coal Co. put his finger on this when closed shop talks with Lewis broke down. Moses told Lewis a bigger wage increase than that given Phil Murray's CIO steelworkers. When rank-and-file union members see a boost going to a rival union, they demand the same thing whether union leaders want it or not.

Idaho Potatoes—Here are two interesting things about the potato surplus: 1—Idaho potatoes aren't glutting the market like Maine spuds. 2—Acreage quotas aren't going to limit the potato crop much. Farmers simply use more fertilizer. Idaho farmers have now increased their yield to 450 bushels per acre, whereas the national yield is 211 bushels. Thanks to fertilizer and insect sprays, however, the national average next year will be 240 bushels. Meanwhile, top Idaho spuds have been selling for $2.75 to $3.50 per bushel while Uncle Sam is paying a support price of around $2 for surpluses. So it's not in Idaho that potatoes have been piling up.

Hot War—It didn't leak out, but the cold war almost turned into a hot war last week. Yugoslav troops were on the verge of invading Albania, which would probably have precipitated a counter-attack by Russia. But U. S. Ambassador George Allen in Belgrade got wind of Yugoslavia's preparations, went to Marshal Tito and told him that, if Yugoslavia did invade Albania, the United States would be forced to denounce him before the United Nations. This cooled Tito off and he called off his troops.