THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1950

FIGHTING IN THE DARK

YESTERDAY the first American troops marched into the deserted village of Hyesanjin on the Yalu River without firing a shot. The Chinese Communists and the North Korean Reds, in their mysterious ways, had simply pulled out.

Elsewhere along the front, other UN units were slogging their way through snow and sleet and bitter Winter weather toward the border. They had very slight opposition, and could only speculate on the truth of rumors of strong Chinese formations at the eastern and western extremes of the border.

Allied intelligence in the Far East has always been inadequate, but it has seemed unusually deficient throughout the whole Korean affair. The original invasion was not expected. We completely underestimated North Korea's strength. We failed to anticipate the quick folding up of enemy resistance after the Inchon landings. We did not expect Chinese intervention, and were not prepared for the first powerful counter-offensive by the Chinese Reds. And then, having regained our balance, we did not foresee their subsequent withdrawal.

The lack of accurate and adequate information about the enemy severely impedes the military campaign. It also hamstrings our diplomats who are trying to solve the enigma of Communist China.

And it is hard to understand. If there is any place in the world where we should now have a good intelligence network it is in Korea. We have, or should have, the services of thousands of South Korean anti-Communists who would not be handicapped by a different physical appearance, a different culture, and a different language in carrying out espionage activities in the area held by the enemy.

Admittedly, the Iron Curtain is difficult to penetrate anywhere—in Eastern Europe or along the Yalu River. But we cannot expect to win diplomatic and military victories if we are forever working in the dark.

THE SOUTH AND ITS FUTURE

THE SOUTH is economically better off now than it has ever been in its history—but no Southern state has a per capita income equal to the national average; the South is still the most economically backward area in the nation.

Why? The War Between the States, of course, is one answer. But for how long will we continue to beat this "good horse"? For how long will we continue to accept it as natural that people in Ohio or Washington or Pennsylvania should have a higher per capita income than people in North Carolina or Georgia?

How long? So long as we neglect the natural benefits our region offers.

How long? So long as we are content to ship our raw materials northward for processing.

How long? So long as we ignore the advice of scientists that here—in North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee or Georgia or Florida—there are immense opportunities for industrial accomplishment.

We have been ignoring the advice of Southern experts. A clear example is the case of the Southern Association of Science and Industry.

On Peachtree Road in Atlanta stands the central office of the Association, staffed by three people who are kept busy transmitting to industrialists and other interested persons the information concerning regional opportunities turned up by Southern scientists in the course of their work.

This budget for the Association—since it was founded in 1941—has been no higher than $15,00 for any one year.

The Association has done its job—a non-profit, non-political job—as best it could, profiting from the regional interest of such persons as Paul Chapman, dean of the University of Georgia, who is now president of the Association; of such persons as Homer M. Pace, vice-president of the South Carolina Power Co.; of such persons as Stewart J. Lloyd of the University of Alabama, M. P. Etheredge, director of the Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory and dozens of others who have served in executive posts without payment.

Despite its shoestring operation, the Southern Association of Science and Industry has accomplished a great deal. Evidence of its value can be found in almost every industry.

The Association, after nine years of existence, has decided that it can best serve the South by expanding. It has never before asked the public-at-large for money; it has never asked the Federal Government for money, though several such organizations elsewhere have been taken over by the State. It has offered the services to industry on the annual basis of $25 for regular membership and $100 to $500 for sustaining membership. There is evidence that industry has gotten its money's worth.

What the Association is seeking now is, of course, increased industrial membership, but—more than that—the Association wants to ally itself with the individuals interested in Southern economic progress. As much as it wants individual membership dues of $5 annually, it wants to stimulate interest in the possibilities of the South among Southerners themselves. Dues include a subscription to the Association's "Journal of Southern Research".

It is not often that THE NEWS endorses fund-raising campaigns outside the immediate area; but past knowledge of the activity of the Association and recent knowledge of its financial difficulties convinces us that the Southern Association of Science and Industry deserves the support of all of us who know the South's industrial possibilities and all of us who hope that they can become realities.

UNEXPECTED RESULT

THE Congressional farm bloc that has jockeyed the farm price support program into such a ridiculous position might profitably take a look at the first returns in the potato marketing elections.

Potato farmers are voting whether to continue marketing agreements, which entitle them to price supports. The results so far are somewhat surprising. Of the first nine state elections, seven resulted in a complete rejection of the price supports. Farmers in one other state failed to turn in the necessary two-thirds majority. Only in New Jersey did the issue carry.

The Prentice-Hall newsletter explains the phenomenon this way:

> Why are potato farmers rejecting Government subsidy? Says the American Farm Bureau Federation: They are voting against Government regimentation." Confirms a high Agriculture Department official: "Fear of Government regimentation is certainly the No. 1 cause."

It may be that simple, but we doubt it. We suspect, rather, that the potato farmers have seen the handwriting on the wall. To mix a metaphor, having ridden a good horse to death, they're abandoning it in mid-stream .

If they are fearful of regimentation, then bully. We could use a little more fear of regimentation these days.

From The Christian Science Monitor

UNFAIR TO PARENTS

AMERICA does not have very many parents who beat their children or willingly deprive them of food. In fact, the average American parent, or any other parent, is a pretty "soft touch" where his children are concerned—so much so that to exploit that concern is to take an unfair advantage.

The current advertising campaign of the American Television Dealers and Manufacturers on the air and in newspapers is, in our judgment, we regret to say, a few feet outside the foul line in this respect.

It is true that television has a great deal to be proud of in the programs it offers of entertainment, culture, and information. It has a good ground on which to publicize the solid values of this influence in the lives of children or adults.

But it is a different matter to quote a popular child guidance expert to the effect that it is "practically impossible for boys and girls to 'hold their own'" without access to television. Or to rub in the "humiliation" of a seven-year-old at asking to see shows on a neighbor's set or feeling left out of his schoolmates' conversation.

The radio commercials quote child psychologists as saying, "It is wrong to deny your child television," and a judge talking about "millions" of "unhappy, depressed" youngsters.

The fact that well over 7,000,000 television sets have been purchased in the United States is indication that American families are joining the video audience just about as fast as their resources and responsibilities will allow, and in some instances faster.

If there is any one thing that American youngsters—and grownups—need more than they need television, it is the healthy-minded ability to stand on their own two feet and determine what is worth while in the world to them. This decision is not precisely the same for any two people. No one can properly make it for anyone else, and no one can wisely make it for himself on a basis of "keeping up with the Joneses."

American children need to learn that there are many values in life besides money and gadgets, and other ends besides entertainment. One of the most wholesome things some youngsters could hear their parents say is: "We shall buy only what we can pay for without sacrificing essentials."

In the matter of television sets, many parents already have been subjected to the exquisite extortion which only children know best how to exert. To have manufacturers and merchandisers join in applying this ruthless kind of pressure is more suited to building displeasure than good will.

Nationalism Dooms French In Indo-China

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE HEADLINES are focused on the imminent peril on that remote border between Manchuria and North Korea. But there is another and at the moment less newsworthy border with Communist China where the threat is almost as great.

The forces of Moscow-trained Ho Chi Minh are able to pass back and forth across the line between China and Indo-China at will. That has been true ever since the Communist-led Vietminh forces drove French troops from the border posts they have held through the long and wearying warfare for control of the former French colony.

CAN FRENCH HOLD?

That retreat has raised serious doubts as to whether the French can hold on even though they are beginning to receive the military and economic aid promised by the United States. There is a strong likelihood that an appeal will come — if it has not already been privately conveyed — for assistance from United States bombers flown by American pilots.

This might temporarily remove the threat to Hanoi and the rich food producing region in the north. The French are flying for the most part outmoded planes. But so much of the Communist operation consists of guerilla infiltration along mountain trails and through dense jungle that bombing in itself might not be very effective in closing the frontier or in wiping out the Communists.

The French are just now making some of the concessions that should have come at least two or three years earlier, Saigon has been reached to furnish arms for an army of loyal Vietnamese who would fight alongside the French legions.

But even with these steps that are both too little and too late, those willing to face the facts without prejudice believe that in the long pull the French cannot hold Indo-China. Both in the State Dept. and the Economic Co-operation Administration there is a constant and somewhat feverish discussion of alternatives.

One thing seems apparent, and that is that the French will not gain the loyalty and the support of the Vietnamese in the areas they control short of a declaration that they mean to grant full independence within the foreseeable future. This would end the charge, which has been heard throughout Asia, that the French are merely defending the defunct colonialism which has disappeared everywhere else in Asia.

It seems to me that two drastic steps should be taken immediately if the opportunity to keep Indo-China within the free world is to be kept open. They are:

1. A firm declaration by France that the Vietnamese are to be granted their independence within a period of, say, two, three or four years.

2. An immediate request by France, joined by the United States, the United Nations, asking for the creation of a supervisory commission for Indo-China. This commission would perform a dual function. To the one it would assure the Vietnamese that the terms of the independence declaration were being lived up to. At the same time it would observe and report any further aggression by Communist-led forces.

Even this may come too late. But those who have the region believe that if it were projected with dramatic suddenness, it would win over the majority who reject Communism but who also refuse to live under colonialism of anything resembling it.

Thus far there is no reported evidence of Communist opinion by Communist China in behalf of Ho Chi Minh. But his forces by moving back and forth across the border have access to supplies, to rest camps and to refresher training. The situation is like that in Greece before Tito closed the border to Communist-led guerillas, thus shutting down on a source of supply that might have prolonged the war in Greece indefinitely.

By granting independence to India when that step appeared to be inevitable, the British saved at least part of their economic position and political status in what had once been their colony. It is an object lesson the French might study with great profit.

'I'm Doing My Best To Get You In, Pal'

Cash Grubbers Making Like Big Diplomats

By THE ALSOPS

HELL HATH no fury like a contributor scorned, as the harassed President Truman is now learning. Two of the most important contributors to his 1948 campaign are furiously battering on Administration doors, demanding their rights. The story of these frustrated contributors is worth telling, since it also tells a good deal about the Truman administration.

One of the angry contributors is James Bruce, a New York business man and a shrewd promoter. Bruce bet on Harry Truman when Truman was a very long shot indeed, by collecting a good deal of money for the Truman campaign in the Summer of 1948. Ever since, he has been waiting impatiently to collect on the bet, by becoming American Ambassador in London. The second is Stanton Griffis, now Ambassador to Argentina, who was also generous in 1948, and who therefore considers that he has a lien on the London embassy.

STATE DEPT. BLOCK

According to the strategy of Bruce and Griffis, the recent election has presented a golden opportunity for the realization of expectations so long frustrated. For the fact is that Bruce and Griffis have thus far been blocked, not by President Truman, but by Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Under Secretary James Webb.

The most conspicuous diplomatic achievement of both Griffis and Bruce, who preceded Griffis as Ambassador to Argentina, has been the establishment of warm relations with Juan Peron, the Argentine dictator, and his rather unCharming wife, Evita.

Acheson and Webb have opposed the appointments of Bruce and Griffis to the London and Paris posts on simple grounds. These grounds are that chumminess with a South American dictator, plus large campaign contributions, does not constitute sufficient qualifications for the two most important diplomatic posts in the gift of the American Government.

The opposition of Acheson and Webb is the key to the anecdote, widely repeated in Washington, about Bruce's interview with President Truman (at which, significantly, no third person was present). The interview took place when Lewis Douglas, former Ambassador to England, resigned. According to this tale, Truman rather mournfully informed Bruce that he had wanted to send him to London, but that "they" had insisted that he send instead "that telephone fellow". When the President could not remember his name. The "telephone fellow" was of course Walter B. Gifford, now Ambassador in Britain. "They" were chiefly Acheson and Webb.

Aside from "they," another obstacle has been in the way of the triumph of Bruce and Griffis. This has been the fact that the Paris embassy is now occupied by Bruce's friend, David K. E. Bruce. David Bruce's competence is so universally recognized that Griffis' chances have been hurt. And James Bruce's chances for the London post have also been hurt, since it would be odd, to say the least, for two brothers to be serving at the same time in the two most important American diplomatic posts.

Whether the solution will work out as neatly as all that depends, of course, on President Truman. And it is by which means it worth recounting the case of the frustrated contributors. For a great deal will depend on whether Truman accepts the Bruce-Griffis resolution. After his surprise triumph in 1948, President Truman discarded the bi-partisan foreign policy, placed full responsibility on domestic politics, let men like George Marshall, Robert Lovett and James Forrestal go, and handed the Democratic Party over to bigger money raiser of them all, Louis A. Johnson.

Truman, in brief, clearly decided that politics-as-usual was the recipe for success. Last Nov. 7, the voters rejected this recipe. The fact is that in these times, politics-as-usual is not good politics. There are signs, including a number of his post-Korea appointments, that Truman now knows this. If he sends Bruce and Griffis to the vital London and Paris posts, solely on the basis of their labors in the rather grubby money-gathering political vineyard, it will show that the signs have been misleading. This is the real meaning of the case of the frustrated contributors.

Simple, Decent Thing

James F. Byrnes Informs The KKK

By RALPH McGILL
(In The Atlanta Constitution)

SOUTH CAROLINA'S James Francis Byrnes, Governor-elect, did a simple, decent, but necessary thing last week.

He took notice of the Ku Klux Klan outrages in his state and made a firm, plain statement about it. There was no double talk in what he said. Not even the dullest mind could fail to understand.

He said that while there were not many members in the Klans, persons outside the South and those in foreign countries didn't understand that fact. Therefore, it is necessary for the people in any state to put down this stupid organization because of the very real harm it does the country. (The Klan is officially listed as subversive, or harmful, to the United States as are the Communists.)

Governor-elect Byrnes informed the Klan that as long as he is Governor, which will be for four years, the government of South Carolina will not need the help of any other organization to enforce the law and will not tolerate interference.

"There will be but one government in the state," he said, "and that is the one elected by the people. It will not allow any other organization to usurp the law."

That the Governor of any state should fail to make such a statement is a measure of those failing. That it should not have been made in the past years in South Carolina gives greater stature to James F. Byrnes.

The feists will snap at him and the curs will snarl. But he measures up as a man and as an American.

* * *

IT is proper to discuss the Klan and the Communists together because in the United States nothing has helped the Communist propaganda any more than the Klan. Its acts of violence, in which often sheriffs and police officers join, make it possible for the Soviets to say that the Americans' claims to law and justice is a lie.

To this very day the Russian radios delight in sending out to all those who listen every racial disorder in which the law is flouted. The fact that hooded men can, with seeming immunity, whip and kill other persons and that frequently the ranks of these people are found to contain peace officers, is of great assistance to the Communists.

It is no stretching of the truth to say that in America no organization is of more value to the Communists than the various Ku Klux Klans. They are indeed Joe Stalin's little helpers.

As for the Klans, they are, as Governor-elect Byrnes said, not doing well.

I have in my possession copies of letters from a Florida Klan leader scorning the offer for sale of the Georgia membership list because, in the language of the Florida feuhrer, it is worthless.

Not only that, but the letters reveal that the one-time spiritual leader of the hoods in the Sunshine State has been banished because he preached violence and wanted too much of a financial cut. He reportedly has found a city of refuge in Georgia.

The Klans are not doing well in Florida either. In Jacksonville a successful criminal lawyer, with a reputation which causes newsmen to arch their eyebrows, finances a hate sheet along anti-Semitic lines. But, there is nowhere any rush to the colors because of it.

* * *

THE Commies are also traveling a rocky road. Homer B. Chase, the New England-born Commie assigned to the South, has been a weak reed for the Cominform to lean upon. The New York politburo has been aware of Homer's failings, but one of the mysteries has been why they have kept him on. The best guess is they haven't any replacements fit for the job.

The old Southern Commie-helpers of the 1930s, such as Don West, broke way from the Homer Chase brand. The pressure put on by the New York group during the Progressive Party efforts in 1948 caused the non-Communist Wallace supporters to see the light long before Henry Wallace himself found the road to Damascus.

Here of late they have been having Homer, whose father was a Communist back in New Hampshire, on rather frequent calls. It would not be surprising if the Commies didn't send in someone else. Homer's record is almost entirely one of no hits, no runs and plenty of errors.

About the only help he has had has been from the Klansmen. This is why the Commies are trying to get some small financial help to the Klans, sending it in through members they had in the organization.

Quote, Unquote

In its lengthy strides to overcome man's aches and pains it's a wonder medical science hasn't turned up a cure for which there isn't any disease.—Sherman (Tex.) Democrat.

* * *

Every town wants ample railroad service, and then proceeds to ride the buses.—Elizabeth (Ky.) News.

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

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Vaughn Boosts Recreation For Troops

WASHINGTON

SOME people will hardly believe it, but herewith is a bouquet to my old deep-freeze pal, Gen. Harry Vaughan.

Ever since the Korean war, 10,000 servicemen have been wandering the streets of Washington with no place to go and precious few friends among them during World War II. For the nation's capital—like a lot of other cities—hasn't realized that with the cold war now warm, we civilians ought to shift our hospitality from cold to warm.

An exception is Harry Vaughan, who has been quietly rushing plans with the Treasury and Jess Larson, chief of the General Services of Supply, in order to pry loose the old Belasco Theater for the use of the American Legion and other veterans groups in entertaining servicemen.

The Belasco Theater enjoys one of the most central locations in Washington. Diagonally across LaFayette Square from the White House, it is adjacent to the old Dolly Madison House where the wife of the fourth President of the United States entertained in the early days of the Republic. But because legitimate theaters have long been closed in the nation's capital, the Belasco—believe it or not—is listed in Treasury files and canceled checks.

And the Treasury Dept., whose files are chiefly concerned, won't release the theater to the veterans for entertainment purposes.

More Red Tape

FIRST stumbling block was a Treasury claim that it would cost $20,000 to transport the files to another building. Whereupon Maj. Gen. T. W. Herren, Army commander in the District of Columbia, offered to transport the files in Army trucks, free.

Then the Treasury came up with a new argument—that it would cost the Government $75,000 to find other storage space for the files. Furthermore, the Treasury wants an armed guard to be placed over its canceled checks and it's more convenient to keep a guard over them in the Belasco Theater.

But what Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder does not seem to realize is that $75,000 a year is chickenfeed compared to the morale and morals of 10,000 young Americans who don't want to be away from home, but who in serving their country have to be away from home, and need some place to relax evenings.

General Vaughan, recognizing this problem, has done his best to cut red tape. But so far his friends John Maragon and Joe Major seem to have been more successful with Jess Larson regarding surplus property in the past than the General is now regarding hospitality for servicemen.

Protecting The President

THE flocks back in Independence, Mo., still are talking about the strict security precautions taken by the Secret Service during the President's recent visit to his home town. It wasn't at all like other visits when Mr. Truman casually walked around the main streets, waving to neighbors and chatting with old friends.

Milton Morris, a deliveryman for the Independence Ice and Creamery Co., is one who knows how different Harry's visit was this time. For when Morris wheeled his ice truck into the parking lot at the Reorganized Latter Day Saint Auditorium where Truman was being entertained at lunch, he was met by two Secret Service agents. And a new method of delivery was set for the lessman that day.

Morris was told to leave his pocket knife, his ice pick and his ice tongs in the truck. He was required to carry the 50-pound chunk of ice to the door of the building in his arms. There the ice was washed—twice—and then handed to a worker inside the building.

Down at Kelsey's Restaurant on Truman Road, the route usually taken from the Muehlebach Hotel to Independence, a few of the townspeople waited patiently for the President's caravan to pass. But his limousine, followed by Seven Secret service agents riding in an open car, whizzed by a bit in excess of the Independence 25-mile-an-hour speed limit, and few saw Trumpsy.

Ellen, a waitress, looking out at the seven agents in the car, remarked: "Those guys look darn cold."

And up on the roof of the Muehlebach Hotel that night, two Kansas City Detectives, Floyd Hyland and Fred Wilson, caught the night watch from 9:30 P. M. to 6 A. M. They remarked: "It was damned cold."

Note — While the home folks sympathize with the new precautions taken to protect the President, they look forward to the time when he can be just plain "Harry" again.

Phone Strike

THE Senate Labor-Management Subcommittee is rushing a report on labor and strike conditions in the Bell Telephone System.

The report will show that while American Telephone & Telegraph, the mother company, actually dictates labor policy for the entire system, the labor union is forced to deal independently with the local companies, and that "careful and deliberate wage chaos exists in the Bell System. There are over 100 different wage schedules for the single job of telephone operator in the United States."

Starting rates for telephone operators in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Washington, D. C., are only $27 a week; yet it takes these operators eight years to reach the top rate of $36 per week.

"It is our position," the CIO Communications Workers of America told Senators, "that a wage rate of $36 a week for a skilled operator after eight years service with the largest and richest company in the world is an unreasonable and improper wage rate."

The committee found that skilled telephone installers and cable splicers often make less than common laborers. In Newark, N. J., common laborers in the building industry are paid $2.12 an hour, while the starting rate for skilled telephone craftsmen is 91 cents an hour. After eight years, a telephone installer still receives one cent less than an unskilled laborer. Yet the Bell System has such a monopoly on the telephone industry that its skilled workers cannot quit and go to work for a competitor.

Senators also found that the Bell System has collected $394,000,000 in rate increases since V-J Day, considerably more than the wage increases paid out.