# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON .... J. E. DOWD.

B. S. GRIFFITH.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1951

### POWER OF THE FARM BLOC

HERBLOCK'S cartoon on this page yes-terday and Dowling's ditto today point up the power of the Congressional farm blee in preventing any move to con-trol farm prices. Usually President Truman is saddled with the blame for giving farmers prefer-ential treatment. He deserves some of it,

to be sure, but the main responsibility be-longs to the potent Congressional farm

bloc.

Washington Post reporter John W. Ball,
who digs into the farm price mess regularly, points out that both Senator Clinton P. Anderson, when he was Secretary
of Agriculture, and the present Secretary,
Charles F. Brannam, have been trying for
five years to get price supports removed
rom potatoes or to change the law so
hat potato production could be curailed.

tailed.

Congress refused to do so. Net result; in the first six months of the Korean war, the Army Quartermaster bought almost \$5 million worth of potatoes for the Armed services. In the same period, the Agriculture

"The Quartermaster was buying the potatoes with taxpayers' money to feed funited States solders. At the same time, PMA was spinding millions to keep potato prices at a high level. In other words, one Government applicy was spending millions to force another times are the spinding millions of the semilies."

its supplies."

Congress wrote the law which forced PMA to destroy potatoes so that prices would go higher. Congress refused to give President Truman power to regulate commodity margins to discourage speculation in farm products. Congress wrote in a loophole for farm prices to go skyward when it passed the Defense Production Act last

Blame Mr. Truman all you wanting to spend money on Fair Deal ventures. But blame the Congressional farm bloc for actually spending it in a fashion that if anything, is even more ridiculous.

### INDO-CHINA: ANOTHER KOREA

WE HAVE had an aversion to the word "parallel" since the North Koreans crossed the 38th last Summer. But we cannot blink the fact that 'another parallel, this time in the broader sense of the word, is presenting itself in the Far East,

The parallel is this:

So long as the North Koreans were mak-

The parallel is the North Koreans were making headway in their war against the United Nations, the Chinese were content to offer only moral and material support, withholding their troops. Once the UN Army had, through the masterful Inchon landing, stymied, and all but destroyed the Red Korean army, the Chinese intervened. In Indo-China, things had been going well for Ho's Red Indo-Chinese army, It looked as if How with guns and other equipment from the Chinese Army of Mao Tactung, might be able to force the French Into compromise or evacuation of Indo-China, Then, a few short weeks ago, a new boss assumed command of the French Army (General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny) and shoot the defeatism out of it. He strengthened the Army with new equipments of the strengthened that the set of the strengthened that the set of the strengthened as counter-attack that set the back on his heeks. Ho's army set strengthened the set of the second act in that strange of tental play that might be called "Big Beyther" is due: Chinese intervention.

The East is already rife with rumors of that intervention

Hong Kong, the correspondents write, is siming to look like a city under siege. The Americans have been evacuated; all British men over eighteen have been or-

dered to register for conscription. One cor-respondent, perhaps prematurely, has already reported that some organized Chinese units have crossed into Indo-China. Other observers say the Chinese

China. Other observers say the Chinese Third Army has been transferred from Korea to the Southern front. If the sak ourselves what the Prench can do to stop the Chinese Army, we can only answer 'very little'. We have seen in Korea that hundreds of thousands of expendable Chinese can give a good accounting of themselves against the best we can offer in guns and tanks and planes. What such an army could do to the Prench forcesbarely more than a colonial army—squite apparent.

The Chinese have made it clear that they will use aggression in their 'big brother' role. Another most evident fact is that the Chinese, who have obviously embarked on an era of conquest, will need all the raw materials—particularly food—that they

materials—particularly food—that they can lay their hands on. If it means noth-ing else to them, Indo-China means rice

What this new aggression, when and if What this new aggression, when and if it materializes, means to the cause of peace is all too clear. United Nations forces have not yet been able to defeat China in Korea, and will be at an even greater disadvantage if forced to meet aggression in Indo-Chinia at the same time they are battling on the Korean front. This makes it imperative that any sanctions invoked against China, now or in the foresceable future, shall foot commit U. N. members it is break-safe ground warfare at a time.

### THE NATURAL GAS DECISION

THE Federal Power Commission's decision I this reacral Power Commission's decision I giving Piedmont Natural Gas Corp. rights to distribute natural gas in eight North and South Carolina cities is coming in for some criticism. Governor Scott is looking into the matter at the request of several cities and towns outside the Piedmont network, and several newspapers have lifted their voices in a critical refrain.

frain.

The main complaint is that the FPC decision will mean cheaper gas rates for the eight Pledmont cities than will be possible in any system embracing the rest of the state. Gas utilities, like other utilities, are allowed a reasonable return on their investment. Hence, gas rates are deermined basically by investment in facilities. Since Piedmont's cities are all close to the Transcontinental pipe line, Piedmont's investment in lateral lines will be rela-tively small, and its rates will be lower than tively small, and its rates will be lower than would be possible in a larger regional network including such distant points as Ashvelle and Raleigh. (The differential may not be so great as it appears, aince Piedmont is paying a whopping \$5 million for Duke's antiquated manufactured gas facilities in the eight eities, and this sum will figure in its total investment.)

TER News has a good deal of sympathy for the plight of the other clies and towns in the Carolinas. Any network serving them and excluding the eight populous Piedmont cities, will involve longer lateral lines, higher investment, and higher rates.

ent, and half-expected the regio minded Federal Power Commission to ject Piedmont's limited system in favor the more inclusive systems proposed by Carolina Natural and Public Service Co. of

But to attack the FPC decision, as the News & Observer does, on the that "all the cities of this state have equal treatment and approxiequal rates, regardless of the acci-an artificial advantage", is an

of an arthreas accessed to the first place, uniformity of rates is sception, rather than the rule, in utilities. Power companies usually uniform rates within their systems, he cost of telephone service varies he size of the city, and long dissolls, bus fares, freight rates and the array with distance. To argue that I gas rates must be uniform all over

the state is to argue that the price of coal and oil, to cite two competitive fuels, should be unformed.

In the second place, there is a practical limit to the investment in lateral pipe lines. It is hard to fix precisely, but it occurs generally at the point beyond which natural gas is no longer competitive with oil for residential space heating. If the lines are so long and the investment so great that gas is no longer competitive with oil, there is no possibility of expanding local gas distribution facilities. The average homeowner is not going to change over his electrical cooking and water heating facilities to natural gas unless he can also change over his furnace, and it

over his electrical cooking and water heating facilities to natural gas unless he can also change over his furnace, and it would not be profitable for the gas company to build lines to his house unless he also wanted gas for heating.

The people of the eight Piedmont cities did not selfishly seek any competitive advantage over their neighbors. On the contrary, the Charlotte City Council, for example, wisely refrained from intervening in the FPC heating on the side of Piedmont, even though it was to Charlotte's advantage to do so. The hearing was long and involved, and every possible argument gainst Piedmont's application was brought to bear. It doesn't seem probable, at this late date, that satisfation against the FPC decipies will her any effect. Some new heart of the production of the produc

From the Greenville Piedmont:

"Senator Mozingo objected (to giving Governor Thurmond his desk and chair) on grounds that Thurmond had been on grounds that Thurmond had been 'more than repaid' for his 'little service' to the State. Well, if Senator Mozingo were paid according to his services to South Carolina, he couldn't afford to work so

The Old Cynic says that the fear every man has of going through a wedding ceremony is just Nature trying to warn him.—
Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.

### Some One Ought To Go To The Rescue Of The Relief Expedition



People's Platform

## Asks Repeal Of Closed Shop Ban

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#### Keep Up The Good Work CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News.

IT WAS with great indignation and considerable agitation that I read the letter in your open forum of Jan 22 by an O R Jones of Charlotte. Mr. of the greatest preacher since "Cytone Mack McClendon—our own Billy Graham of Charlotte Mr. of the greatest preacher since "Cytone Mack McClendon—our own Billy Graham of the State of the State

\_H E BRADERMAN

# Against Car Inspections CHARLOTTE

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cure.

C. F. ELENKOLDER
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F. BARNES
CALHOUN HAMPTON
LARRY G. WILLIAMS
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M. G. TODD
B. C. SMITH
C. V. THOMAS
W. R. KIRK
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H. R. SUDDRETH

### **Diplomatic Posts Still Go** As Rewards To The Faithful

MARQUIS W. CHILDS

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# **New Orleans Goes Noble:** Tuesday Not So Fat In '51

By ROBERT C. RUARK

a matter of how you choose your mood.

New Orleans' Mardi Gras, for donkry's years, has been dominated by high assetty organization of the control of the co

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anybody today but the New Orleans merchants who make money
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### Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

# Sen. Robertson Offers Wise Counsel

last week of Virginia Democratic Sen. A. Willis Roberts.

A. Crolls has described its Old Tectaporn as being a history of wars wrapped up in a prayer for passe. Thoest-son told the little band of Senatorial worshippers. Then he outlined the wars that have raged over tiny Palestine, the cradle of Christianity.

The control of the contr

Capital News Capsules

sultations with Achesin on foreign policy.

RUSSIAN JEFF LANNES—General Vandenberg, Air Force chief of staff, is worried about the high quality of Russian jet lighters now in action over Korea. Despite the next as report on his dest indicating that the Russian MiG-15 as report on his dest indicating that the Russian MiG-15 and LA-17 lighters are highly maneuverable. What's even more disturbing as that the Russians are now getting into manual than the Russians are now getting into Mid-15 and Mid-15 and

as the erras nats—including their private atribanes and moustines.

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