

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TIME TO BURY THE HATCHET

ONE spectator at yesterday afternoon's turbulent City Council session was overheard saying, on departure, "Well, there seems to be a slight difference of opinion in this Council." The remark takes rank among the great understatements of all times.

The printed record of yesterday's session doesn't begin to reveal the tense-jangled anger and suppressed acrimony that swirled around the election of Attorney J. C. Sedberry as City Recorder after Mayor Victor Shaw's impassioned remarks in behalf of the present Recorder, E. M. Carr. Long after the meeting adjourned and the sizable group of onlookers had scattered, Councilmen and their close friends were in tight huddles, animatedly discussing the events of the previous hour.

Although there were numerous veiled hints and frequent pointed remarks at the public session, many questions about the rejection of Judge Carr and the appointment of Mr. Sedberry remain to be answered. Previous speculation had centered around Attorney Ralph Kidd. When did Mr. Sedberry come into the picture? What prompted Councilmen Baxter, Albemarle, Jordan and Boyd to unite behind him? Was it pro-Sedberry sentiment? Or was it anti-Carr feeling? If it is the latter, what caused the shift? Was it Mayor Shaw's mean by his reference to Police Department influence in the appointment? Was he talking about Chief Frank Littlejohn? Or was he referring to policemen who may have been dissatisfied with the outcome of their cases before Judge Carr? And what documentation does Mr.

Baxter have for his remark that Judge Carr has been too lenient with criminals? The News holds no particular brief for Judge Carr, however, what it holds for any man of unquestionable character and ability on the bench. And it knows little about Mr. Sedberry and his qualifications for the job. Nonetheless, we regret exceedingly that the exchange of comments at the public meeting failed to produce more real evidence as to the motives behind the outer move.

Perhaps those motives, and the facts supporting those motives, will come out in succeeding days. For the time being this newspaper will reserve its opinion on the matter. But it is not too early to voice a warning—and a plea—to Mayor Shaw and to Councilman Baxter who appear, at this moment, to be renewing the political feud of two years ago when Mr. Shaw defeated Mr. Baxter for the majority post. It is, of course, difficult to ring down the curtain on past political differences, particularly when the men involved have strong opinions and equally strong wills. Still, the progress of the City of Charlotte and the solution of its multiple and vastly complicated problems are of far greater importance than the political past or future of any individuals involved. Mr. Shaw, Mr. Baxter, or any of the other Councilmen who arrayed themselves on one or the other side of the Carr battle.

If this smoldering rivalry is not damped, if it continues to burst into flame each time an issue presents itself, there is little hope for substantial achievement in Charlotte's public affairs in the next two years. Won't you bury the hatchet, gentlemen?

STRENGTH IN UNITY AND VICE-VERSA

LONG famed as an expert at dissecting our national ailments, Vice President Bernard Baruch has put his finger squarely on the basic weakness of both the Administration and the MacArthur foreign policy schools.

Said Mr. Baruch, at Virginia Military Academy ceremony honoring General George Catlett Marshall:

"In our present situation, whatever is attempted on behalf of peace, must fall short, because of a lack of supporting military strength."

"We are trying to enforce a global doctrine of opposition to aggression with a military establishment which is sorely strained by the demands of only one theater. Many of the issues—and choices—raised by the controversy would solve themselves if more of America's strength were mobilized. Until we have mobilized, few of the issues which have been raised can really be solved."

"There is strength in unity. But there is also unity in strength. We—our allies as well as this country—must first grow stronger militarily before we can have a unified foreign policy."

Mr. Baruch did not imply that he should change our global strategy because of our military inability to enforce it. Rather he said "whatever we are doing as much as we can as quickly as we can." And he answered:

"I would be less than frank if I did not say I do not believe that we, as a nation, or our allies, are doing enough. I might add that even if the fighting in Korea is

brought to an end, as we all hope, the need to remain united remains."

The elderly statesman also made a wise—and timely—observation on the precise differences between the programs advocated by General Marshall and that urged by General MacArthur. The former, he said, is "Marshall's first goal is to bring peace to the world." "And today," he called upon to devise the global strategy which will bring us victory in the peacekeeping, and avoid the need for any amphibious landings on hostile shores."

MacArthur, on the other hand, is the leader of troops, not the organizer.

"A great leader of troops naturally is loath in desiring that when his men become locked in a battle where every resource be marshaled which might increase the chance of their winning or decreasing their losses. The very qualities which made him so valiant a leader of troops would make him impatient of any limitations on his action."

Mr. Baruch arrayed himself solidly behind the theory of global defense—thus, once again, turning the other cheek to an embattled President who, having cut the elderly statesman from his list in a fit of irritation, now finds the Baruch wisdom on the issue is just one more measure of the real stature of Bernard Baruch.

STATE FINANCIAL WORRIES

THE North Carolina State Revenue Act has been criticized in times past on the grounds that it imposed taxes higher than the system of commodity taxes and, hence, discouraged industrialization.

There may have been a shred of merit to the complaint. If so, it is rapidly disappearing. All over the nation other State revenue systems are apparently seeking their sources of revenue, while North Carolina stands alone on its stabilized revenue act that has not been substantially altered since its adoption in 1931.

A recent issue of the *Wall Street Journal* tells the story of state government financial worries in the United States. Legislative bodies of 45 states have met since the first of the year. A small minority of them have voted insignificant tax reductions. The great majority have had to find new revenues—from higher income and corporation taxes, sales taxes, taxes on luxuries such as alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and cig-

arettes, taxes on agricultural products, license fees, and a large assortment of other miscellaneous levies.

Despite the intensive search for new revenue is that 40 of the 48 state governments operated in the red last year, and are faced with even greater expenditures this year and next. The Commerce Department estimates the continuing trend of States' expenditures to exceed revenues.

Comparing the prosperous condition of the North Carolina general fund with those of 40 other American states, Tax levels can be compared. The State's tax demands have been kept on an even keel. Consistency is a great virtue in individuals and in governments, and outside industry may be expected to place greater stress on the stability of the North Carolina system than on specific levies. From the revenue pattern in other sections.

From The Buffalo (N. Y.) Courier-Express

WIDE-AWAKE DRIVING

AFTER the confinement of the Winter months, the lure of the great-open spaces will make more and more people tour-minded—particularly those with new cars. The matter of getting sufficient sleep is an important consideration for people who expect to do a lot of driving.

An extra hour of sleep may make the difference between a traffic accident and a safe trip, according to Dr. W. A. Egbert, chief psychologist for the Kemper Insurance Group in Chicago.

Dr. Egbert said a survey indicates that a driver who sleeps seven hours or less a night is in a state of fatigue. On the other hand, an accident-free driver averages eight or more hours' sleep. His findings were based on a year-long study of industrial drivers.

Truck operators assigned to night-long trips apparently appreciate the need of getting enough sleep in their off-hours, as they have a good rating for safe

driving. Not so well advised are tourists, many of whom are up with the sun to cover as much distance as possible in daylight. Their lagging energies and dulled faculties toward the end of a day often cause accidents.

Even in broad daylight when driving a car requires special attention in traffic or when it becomes more or less routine on the open road, there is a premium on unfailing alertness. A tendency to drowse may have to be fought, against, particularly in the case of motorists who expect to drive until dark would do well to rest, stopping at intervals or relaxing while others take over at the wheel.

It is usual, when starting out on a trip, to check the condition of the car. It is equally important to make sure that the driver is mentally and physically equal to the demands of protracted driving.



Collected By Bill Sharpe

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

Makes No Difference

(Smithfield Herald)

Mrs. Fleming follows the custom of remembering the birthdays of her boarders with a small cake and lighted candles. Hubert Woodall, who was the object of this gesture on April 30, remarked after the ceremonies that he was reminded of the colored prisoner who replied very sullenly to the judge's question as to what he was born. "What do you care? You ain't gonner give me nothin'."

Roy Gets A Grudge

(Roy Thompson, Winston-Salem Journal)

I'm starting a club called The Benevolent and Protective Order of All Men With a Grudge Against A Gardner. She is a movie star.

Every few months she comes here to visit a sister. Everybody is crazy about her. I was crazy about her until I wrote a story about her. She was not delighted with the story, and she said so with a reference to a "small-town jerk."

I resent that. Winston-Salem isn't such a small town.

That's Poor

(Mt. Olive Tribune)

Willie Hobbs gives Jonas Dail of Duplin County, credit for the following graphic description:

"Land so poor you can't even raise h—l on it with a quart of whiskey and a fast woman."

Rita-ism

(Durham Herald)

Hypothetical quote from Rita "Aly" O'ops:

Wife Finder

(Harrisett County News)

A fellow told us the other day he had hit upon the surest way to locate his wife when he goes into a department store with her and the waziers off.

"I just pick out the prettiest and most flimsy-dressed girl in the store, start up a conversation with her, and in a minute or two here comes my wife."

He said it works every time.

Segregation

(Mrs. Theo. Davis, Zebulon Record)

We so continually emphasize age groups and the urgent necessity for each child to be with his own that it would be surprising if some attention were not given to what we say in school we are told that it will do strange and tragic things to a pupil's personality to be with those older or younger, he must stay with his age-group. In Sunday School the same principle holds. There must

be classes for every year, too, and, if this seems impossible, we are ashamed of the lack of provision made. Even married couples must be sectioned off into groups according to their years on earth.

There is more to see families sitting in a row at church, the father at one end and the mother at the other, with "starstruck" children between. The little ones have their own service, suited to their age.

All this may make for efficiency, but it widens the gulf that is always between those of different generations. Small wonder that youngsters feel their recreation must be found, not at home, but where there are more like themselves, that it does not occur to many of them that parents are people who might sometimes say something interesting, or that fun may actually be found at home.

Repayment

(Dillon Herald)

Over a long period of years we have spent millions—probably billions—sending food, medicines and supplies to impoverished China. They have repaid us with bullets and lethal weapons that have killed and wounded 60,000 of the flower of our young manhood.

Civic Line-Up

(Sanford Herald)

In a talk before the Rotary Club Tuesday, Hugh Hines, county engineer, declared a bon mot he had heard:

"Kiwans build a town. Rotarians own it, and Lions enjoy it."

'Quare' World

(Goldsboro News-Argus)

An Indian Springs farmer of about 58 watched from his filling station as a school bus went by one of the warm days recently.

"It's a strange world," he said. "The Americans are afraid of a \$50,000 bus to keep the kids from walking to school."

"Then we have to build a \$50,000 gymnasium so they can get some exercise after they get to school."

Ideal

(Camden Chronicle)

A Camden writer comments that there are many skin diseases for which medical science has found no cure but has found palliatives. And this is the case with Russia. The Russian statesman who specializes in the treatment of skin diseases and who was asked by a friend how he happened to select that branch of medicine, "Oh, these are three perfectly good reasons," the physician replied, "my patients never get me out of bed at night; they never die; and they never get well."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THE American public has shown its ability to take the bad news along with the good and therefore has a right to know about our worst air disaster of the Korean war. So far the facts have not been released at the Pentagon.

Last month, however, 40 B-29 Superfortresses, escorted by jet fighters, bombed the international bridge connecting Sinuiju, North Korea, with Antung, Manchuria. The B-29s were hugging so close to the Manchurian border that one side was exposed and approximately 100 Russian MiG-15 jet fighters hit them from the exposed Manchurian side, breaking up the formation.

Two B-29s were shot down. A third was listed as missing but was seen crashing into the sea. Seven of the big Superfortresses had to crash-land in South Korea, while one more was badly damaged but made it back to its home base.

Despite this disastrous toll, the bridge wasn't even hit, and the mission was a complete failure. On the other hand, most of our bombing missions have been far more successful and the Air Force on the whole has done an amazing job. When our planes get close to the Manchurian border and Russian planes, however, the hazards increase.

Friendship Grain For India

THE Russians are playing the same kind of trick in India that they did in France—a trick which helped inspire the Friendship Train for the United States.

It was in India that the Kremlin has suddenly announced that it is sending 50,000 tons of wheat to the Indian people; and as a result of this carefully timed move, Russia has monopolized the headlines and won thousands of new friends. Actually, Russia is selling the wheat, not giving

it. In contrast, the United States has been selling wheat to India at the rate of 100,000 bushels per month for some time.

It is a somewhat similar situation in France. In 1947, Russia landed one shipload of wheat in Marseilles during the height of the French drought, and thanks to a parade through the city, got raptures of publicity and left the general impression that she was feeding the French people.

Actually, France had to pay for the Russian wheat in dollars. This incident helped give this writer the idea of having the American people collect food by means of the Friendship Train for the hungry people of Western Europe, and showing motion pictures of the food collections and of the train in the theaters of Europe so European people would know that the food really came from friendly American people.

Somewhat the same people-to-people movement is now taking place in regard to food for India. Thousands of large shipments and others have raised wheat which they are shipping through the Indian Embassy in Washington. Meanwhile, the American people are donating food to the arrangement with the American Red Cross whereby anyone can send cash to "Friendship Grain," care of the Red Cross, Washington, D. C., and it will be used for the purchase of food from Government surpluses and shipped to India.

In other words, while Congress dillydallies, the American people, as usual, are way ahead of their legislators.

The MacArthur Controversy

SO many thousands of words of testimony have been published regarding the MacArthur dispute, that it is difficult to keep the record straight. However, here are a few

Summer Trip Might Help Mend President's Fences

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE FUTURE looks to the Republicans that they can hardly repress those pre-ventricular smiles. They believe that they will be able to put at their meeting at Tulsa, Okla., that they've got issues and more Democratic votes than they know what to do with.

In fact, you can almost tell a Democrat from a Republican these days by the facial expression. And that goes for Harry Truman, who is doing little smiling right now except when the news cameras are around. He is more excited, more determined, the line of his jaw more stubbornly set, than at any time since he entered the White House, according to some who see him from week to week. Yet the gloom is not so heavy as it was two weeks ago. The belief is beginning to grow that the case in justification of the dismissal of General MacArthur is getting across to the public. Already there are signs of a new way and means for rehabilitating the President in public opinion.

By mid-Summer, when MacArthur controversy more or less in the background, the goal will be to get the President out of the issues once more—the field in which the President's popularity has been won and held. The study is being given a trip into the country that will enable the harassed Chief Executive to renew his touch with the land and the people.

ALABAMA VISIT?

At Tracy, Calif., near San Francisco, work is being completed on what is said to be the greatest reclamation project in the world. Power from the Shasta Dam will operate the world's largest pumping system. Life-giving water fed into fertile but arid land will mean new crops and a new food supply for a population that is now well above the 150,000,000 mark and increasing rapidly.

To turn the giant valve and thus initiate this project would be to put the President in the hot seat. The issues he has most loudly and successfully championed—public power and reclamation—would also stress the need for greater production in order to bring down prices. This last is the economic

theme song of the Truman Administration. An August trip would depend also on Congress. But even so, it would be perfectly feasible to fly out to San Francisco for a week-end speech and be back in Washington on Monday.

Should Congress be indulging in that much-discussed recess, then the President would be able to make what is said to be his last trip. Ever since 1948 and the white-hot campaign, he has been to get out on the back platform and talk to the voters in their own language. Moreover, he enjoys doing just that.

In the event of a recess the Presidential train could be expected to go out the northern way from Chicago through Minnesota, the Dakotas, Montana and down through Washington, Oregon and California and then back by way of Texas and the South. It would be a space of ten to twelve days. The President would take in a large part of the country.

Does this kind of discussion, now going on very quietly and privately, mean the President will be a candidate for re-election? It is almost literally true that perhaps no one can tell Harry Truman knows the answer to that question. But the MacArthur controversy has developed into the President's own and stern determination to show that he is right in asserting the supremacy of the President.

The Republicans, as they demonstrated at Tulsa, are not eager to make the President's case. Mink coats, food freezers, Donald Dawson, Ambassador O'Dwyer—these are the kind of things that will mean more to the trick regardless of who gets the Democratic nomination. But here, too, some Democrats profess to see changes in the oiling of the President. Indirect pressures—applied not by the President but in his behalf—will put the President in the hot seat. O'Dwyers. This would indeed be a reversal of form for the everyday President. But again he has clung to cronies long after they have become liabilities or worse.

The People Are Dullied By Repetitious Cry of 'Wol'

By ROBERT C. RUARK

MIAMI

I AM not a man to knock my head against a wall. I make a living, which is the business of communication, but I am not a man to knock my head against a wall.

There used to be an old thing which said, "What you don't know don't hurt you," with a twist. It is easy to disagree. But the opposite is to ignorance is sufficient—without the slightest effort, it is a horror and damnation.

The posed as of imminent disaster has always been a forceful tool, and has been lavishly brandished by the exhorters of the day. The politicians or preachers, hucksters or even wives with a point to make. The trick weapon, and the words, "If you don't do such-and-such so-and-so will happen" are rubbed slick with hard usage.

But it is possible to threaten too much, too often, and too widely. So that the keen edge blunts and the harsh impact is reduced to a dull thud. The Americans have been threatened right down to lethargy, and they are apathetic. This is made possible by our vast network of communication—the devices by which the crisis of the moment is no matter where it occurs, is swiftly transmitted to the home of every man.

Gen. Marshall, for instance, tells us that we are in immediate danger. He says, "We are in danger." This is so. It is highly conceivable that at any time during the next two years of Soviet bombers may lay their deadly eyes on any of 200 important American cities. Our intelligence knows that

the Russians have such horrible atomic equipment as nerve gases and disease spreaders, in addition to the big bomb.

We know it sure. We have been told it over and over again. But we have been unable lately to interest the American people in the mechanics of survival. This deadly callousness results from a simple fact: The American people are used to prove a piddling point, they are watered down by repetition. If the President says, "The world is going to die tomorrow, in order to force him into buying a new insurance policy," he is not a slightly distrustful when a few years pass and he is not yet

For some of this passive resistance I blame chiefly the politicians and publicists. I also blame us—papers, books, radio, television, magazines and movies for helping them. In our honesty we have generally run the good with the bad, and cannot say that we have been any more than the choice of what makes startling news.

For the past six years, low-grade generals and admirals, age-type politicians, and professional propagandists have been making a healthy capital of the atom, in order to peddle their shoddy little new insurance policy. In our honesty we have generally run the good with the bad, and cannot say that we have been any more than the choice of what makes startling news.

It is a sin and a shame that we have been so stupid. It is a sin that we attach only small importance to the cry of doom, and brush aside baleful warnings under the often-correct assumption that the baleful warning is merely trying to sell his own petty kettle of fish.