THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE SLOW PROCESSES OF PEACE

SLOWLY, step-by-step, the fateful and delicate negotiations for an armistice in the Korean War are moving to a climax.

Acceptance by the North Koreans and the Chinese Communists of General Matthew B. Ridgway's proposal for truce talks came just 39 hours after the offer was made—a time lag that is not at all unreasonable when one considers the difficulty of co-ordinating battlefront developments with the Politburo in Moscow.

As expected, the Communists proposed that the truce talks be held in Kaesong, rather than Wonsan harbor, the spot suggested by General Ridgway. This is apparently a face-saving device. Communist propaganda has insisted that the U. N. forces have lost the war. Since Kaesong is the only town in South Korea still in Communist hands (it is just three miles south of the border), a meeting there would, in a sense, conform to this propaganda tenet. Wonsan, on the other hand, is 90 miles north of the border and a conference in that harbor under the big guns of the Allied fleets and the wings of Allied planes would shatter the illusion of a U. N. defeat the Communists have tried to build up.

First indications were that the U. N. command would not insist on Wonsan — even though the Communist counter-proposal did not definitely reject the Wonsan site. General Ridgway may agree to meet in Kaesong. He may, on the other hand, suggest still a third and more neutral site. In any event, the place of the meeting doesn't matter so much as the significant fact that the Communists have not yet mentioned the various conditions that have been tied to all previous Communist peace proposals — recognition of Red China as a member of U. N. and the surrender of Formosa to Peiping's control. These conditions may be brought forth when the talks begin, but there has been nothing in the preliminary moves to pose an insurmountable barrier to peace.

The word from Korea is that the war will go on in full fury until the truce talks open. Intelligence reports show a great build-up of Communist strength in the West in the vicinity of Kaesong. A lull in the fighting until the period between July 10 and 15 would be of great benefit to the Communists; hence, the U. N. command has no intention of permitting this build-up to continue unhampered.

Officials in Washington are still guarded in their reaction to the events set in motion by Soviet U. N. delegate Jacob Malik's initial truce suggestion on June 23. Hopes for peace are higher than at any time in the 53-week-old war, but the record of International Communism in the past discourages anything more than cautious optimism — an attitude that the American people may profitably adopt in the coming fortnight.

LANE STRADDLERS AND LANE JUMPERS

SITTING in our Ivory Tower and reflecting on the antics of the teeming humanity on the streets below, we are often set to pondering about the minds of motorists.

Many of the motorists puzzle us—those who try to beat the traffic lights, who cut corners sharply and bear down fast on defenseless pedestrians, who jam on their brakes without signalling the car behind, who honk their horns when there's nothing to honk at.

But the most bewildering breed of all is the motorist who ignores the white lines painted on the pavement to designate traffic lanes. This breed falls into two categories: (1) the lane straddler, and (2) the lane jumper.

The lane straddler must not know what the line is for. He apparently thinks it is a guide for his radiator decoration, and that he should split it sharp and true and hold to it from intersection to intersection. He is not quite so offensive on the two-lane street, for he would quickly lose one or both fenders. But put him on a four-lane street, such as Tryon or Trade, and he's in his element. Down the street he merrily rolls, totally oblivious to the fact that cars cannot pass him on either the right or the left. You can honk at him, and maybe he'll pull over for a second, but he swings right back, usually before you get around him, and pushes you across the center line or toward the cars parked on the curb.

The lane jumper is the more dangerous of the two. He, too, falls into two general categories. One type appears to be playing a game. He swings from lane to lane, passing cars on either the right or the left, always in a hurry. If he's a skillful driver, it's not so bad. But when he plays his game without looking about or behind him, he can cause some exciting moments. The other type is the motorist who wants to turn at an intersection but who, from thoughtlessness or ignorance, hasn't gotten into the correct lane. That doesn't seem to bother him, however. Across the line he swings and around the corner he goes while the motorist whose path he has crossed slams on his brakes and mutters imprecations.

It would seem that such a simple thing as a white line would be understandable to anyone smart enough to kick a starter and change gears. Apparently not, and we know of no remedy except a continuing campaign by traffic officers to halt every violator they spot and explain very slowly and very patiently just why Mr. House paints up the streets with those white lines.

DON'T BE A GUBERIF!

A FEW paragraphs chosen at random from the current issue of *Forestry Digest* illustrate what is being done across the nation to replenish our vital forests.

Since Feb. 25, the Missouri Conservation Commission has delivered more than 4,000,000 forest tree seedlings to farmers and landowners in the state.

South Carolina's 1950-51 production of 20,615,315 forest tree seedlings brings the total number of seedlings produced in the state since 1928-29 to more than a quarter of a billion.

Some 15,000,000 pine seedlings will be planted by Florida landowners this year.

North Carolina 4-H Clubbers, for the second year in a row, have planted more than one million trees. This year the total was 1,163,826 seedlings, with 1,241 members taking part.

The Arkansas State nursery has just completed its most successful year with a distribution of 13,300,000 seedlings of the five species grown.

Across the nation the many-phased campaign to protect forests from destruction by fire, to use scientific methods of cutting lumber, and to replace trees after land has been cleared is gaining momentum. One of the most productive aspects of the program, the Tree Farm movement, is observing its tenth anniversary at Montesano. Pictures of the Clemons Tree Farm taken in 1941 and 1951 show the vivid results of tree farming, now on an organized basis in 29 states.

Farmers and landowners are learning a great deal more each year about the preservation of our forests, and putting what they learn into practice. But there is still a lesson to be learned by the average citizen—a lesson epitomized by the new poster campaign in Idaho—"Don't Be A Guberif" which, if you note, is simply "firebug" spelled backwards.

From The Arkansas Gazette

FLORA & FAUNA, INC.

WE BECAME involved a while back in a discussion between the *London Times* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* over animal nouns of assembly. A noun of assembly usually denotes three or more of any given beastie and there is a proper one for virtually every species.

Herds of cattle, for instance, or flocks of chickens. There are gaggles or skeins of geese, dens or skulks of foxes, coveys of quail, murmurations of starlings, prides of lions and exultations of larks.

The point at issue at the time was that there was no proper noun of assembly for cats, and we took the position that until one came along we'd use pride in denoting a group of any kind of cats, big or little.

Since then, however, one of The Times' constant readers has dug up an oldie — "clowder" (meaning clutter) for cats, and "kindle" for kittens. With the respect due the world's oldest extant newspaper from a contemporary which is merely the oldest west of the Mississippi, we accept the Thunderer's ruling on this point and henceforth shall describe cats by clowders and their young by kindles.

But we feel that this discussion, which has dealt sorely with the animal kingdom, has not gone far enough. There are, so far as we know, few if any nouns of assembly for plant life, and certainly plants stick together!

There are, to be sure, clusters of butter cups, drifts of daffodils and rows of cotton blossoms. But there is none in which botany shows the imagination exhibited by zoology and we believe the situation should be corrected. What would be wrong, for instance, with a murmuration of sparrowgrass, or an exultation of larkspur? How about a herd of cowslips, a yoke of oxalis, or a team of horse chestnuts?

We might list dogwood and wolfsbane in packs, tiger lilies in prides, monkshood in tribes, and chickweed in flocks. And what could be more pleasing to the ear than a flight of bird pepper, a school of trout lilies, a clowder of catnip, a kindle of pussy willows, a den of foxglove, a navigate of crabgrass, or a bevy of maiden-fern?

This is a broad subject which will require a great deal of horticultural and semantic research and we believe, having made the opening gambit, we shall turn the whole matter over to *The Times* and *Post-Dispatch* for further perusal. Being larger, those journals must have more facilities than we, and being farther north they undoubtedly have more energy at this time of year.

Right now all we want to do is sit here under a plague of locust-blossoms and watch the gentle swaying of a hesitancy of bachelor-buttons.

—Bowdoin.

A conservative is one who does not think anything should be done for the first time.—*Greenwood (Miss.) Commonwealth.*

People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Regulation W Scored

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

IMPOSITION of stringent controls on the purchase of used cars on installments is having exactly the opposite effect from that intended by the Administration. And yet the Administration is calling for an extension of these controls!

These controls are embodied in Regulation W, the consumer credit control law that sets stringent limits on the terms on which installment purchases must be made. Scheduled to expire on June 30, they are now being analyzed by Congress in line with the Administration's request that the Act be extended for another two years.

The Federal Reserve Board is granted the power of administering Regulation W and should have realized it would defeat its stated aim of conserving needed materials and preventing inflation by bringing used cars as well as new cars under the jurisdiction of Regulation W.

With the same controls in effect on the installment purchases of both new and used cars, buyers who might otherwise have bought a top-quality, late model used car are now buying low-priced new cars since the terms are the same. Prospective buyers of used cars in the middle price line are forced to turn to a lower-priced used car in order to meet the strict terms for payment. This has resulted in an expanded market for the lower-price line and a consequent increase in prices at that level where they were not already selling at the maximum allowed, according to dealers' reports.

The automobile industry has had years of experience with the economic balance between new and used cars. The auto industry could have told the FRB that this situation would result. But despite the fact that Regulation W called for amendments issued under authority of that law to be issued after consultation with industry representatives, the FRB did not see fit to solicit any serious advice from the automobile industry before going ahead with its decision.

As for its stated aim of conserving materials, one cannot help but question the reasoning behind so-called materials conservation on new cars when the materials have already been conserved by material allocations long before the prospective customer ever becomes interested in buying it. And, obviously, no materials are conserved in a transaction involving a used car.

Our Congressmen are now making up their minds as to how they will vote on the extension of Regulation W and should be informed of the feelings of the people they represent on the matter.

—GEORGE F. STEPHENSON.

Segregation Not A Luxury

PITTSBORO

Editors, The News:

MY FAVORITE editorial page (issue of June 26) has me well-nigh boiling. Your editorial, "Segregation—A State Responsibility", is a fine interpretation of the opinion in the Clarendon County (S. C.) case, but the concluding sentence is just about too much for me.

"So long as this State chooses to enjoy the luxury of segregation, it must pay for it." Now, can segregation be classed as a luxury? If it is just a luxury, it should be abandoned, for the State is under neither political nor moral obligation to provide luxuries for anybody; nor, for that matter, is it under any obligation to provide economic luxuries, though it is hard to escape the conclusion that such is being attempted in many phases of our current state welfare activities.

Conceded, there are disparities, which may be interpreted as discrimination, if you please, in the physical equipment of the white and Negro schools. But there is but little, if any, disparity in teacher personnel and transportation facilities. What could be said to be bad by integrating the schools with respect to these phases of the present segregated schools? It can be only by increasing the teacher load and further crowding the busses. The administrative cost would not be decreased except by the elimination of some school principals. Certainly, the classroom space would not be reduced by integregation. Except in the outlay necessary to equalize plant and playground facilities, which should be done with all reasonable dispatch, I can't find any warrant for the conclusion that segregation is in any sense a luxury.

Segregated schools at the elementary and high school levels is matter of principle with me. I am not a farmer, but the son of a farmer. We did not mix, indiscriminately, our bloods in the same pasture, for the simple reason that pure bloods was the objective. You can't hope to maintain racial purity by scrambling the races at immature ages in busses, classrooms and on the playgrounds; and there is no analogy between servants and laborers in households and on the farm and in the factories, and to so argue is only begging the question. There is no factual approach in such contention.

What the U. S Supreme Court will do with the S. C. case is anybody's guess. Unless the people of the Southland are disposed to acquiesce in what the Court may rule, caution should be taken in the way of expenditures on equalizing plant and playground facilities pending the appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. South Carolina authorities should get a stay of the order in case of appeal; otherwise, she may put out to her sorrow. This goes generally for all affected areas, North Carolina included.

Furthermore, the situation now is confused. The denial of certiorari in the N. C. University Law School case left the Circuit Court's opinion as the law of the case. In this opinion is this expression: "It is for him (the student) to decide in which direction (to the white or Negro school) his advantage lies." Is it for the student to decide what professional or graduate school he will attend? Or what undergraduate school he prefers? Or what elementary or high school? Further, at what age can the student make the selection? Or can his natural or legal guardian make the selection for him? These are all involved in the present confused state of the law. A clarification is badly needed.

—JOHN W. HESTER.

Rigid Control Of Inflation Poses Test Greater Than War

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

ALREADY AN odd dimness surrounds the three men — Mobiliser Charles Wilson, Stabiliser Eric Johnston and Price Controller Michael DiSalle—who should be towering figures on the Washington scene. If the fighting ends in Korea, moreover, it will be surprising indeed if these three men do not simply fade away, and the whole national mobilization program with them.

A plaintive rhetorical question asked by one of the endless stream of businessmen who daily track Wilson to his lair in the old State Department building, to complain about "government interference", is worth repeating. For it tells a good deal about the blind complacency which accounts for the dimness which surrounds Wilson, Johnston and DiSalle. For his pains, this businessman had received from Wilson an impassioned lecture on the need for high taxes and strong controls. "What gets into a man like Charlie Wilson," he asked afterward, "when he comes to Washington?"

The same question could be asked about Eric Johnston, who has been lambasting "the selfish interests" in a manner unusual for a former chief of the Chamber of Commerce. What gets into men like Wilson and Johnston is rather obvious. They are able and highly intelligent, and they can recognize a hard fact when they see one. And the hard fact they now see is that, unless painful measures are taken soon to prevent it, the national economy is quite likely quite soon to blow up in all our faces.

The reasons for this conviction are rather simply explained. Inflation is caused, of course, by the gap between the amount of goods the country makes, and the amount of money the country spends for these goods. If there is more money than goods, money progressively loses value.

The consequences are of course predictable — industrial unrest, loss of confidence in the dollar, tremendous increases in political tension, and above all a disastrous slitting of the defense effort. It is when one examines what those best qualified to judge believe is needed to get the national economy under effective control that the herculean nature of the problem confronting Wilson, Johnston and DiSalle becomes clear.

MEASURES NEEDED

What is needed, in effect, is a whole series of measures which in other circumstances would mean a sort of artificially induced depression. By definition, each one of these measures contains political dynamite. One requirement is a tax increase of at least $10,000,000,000 this year, with further increases to come, to take money out of the spending stream.

Another requirement is a doubling of the rate of personal savings, to more than $20,000,000,000, to take a lot more money out of the spending stream. But people are not going to save dollars which are constantly losing value. To prevent the dollar slipping, really touch price and wage controls are needed. So are a tightening of the credit restrictions which are the special object of hatred of every retail merchant in the land, an increase in bank reserve requirements to tighten bank credit, and a sharp cutback in non-defense government spending.

It is enough to compare this partial list of necessary measures with what Congress has voted or is at all likely to vote, now while the fighting in Korea continues. When mobilization officials are asked what Congress will probably do if the fighting ends, they are apt to throw up their hands in despair.

There is not much danger that Congress would then heavily cut defense appropriations — no politician likes to risk responsibility for defeat. The danger is, instead, that Congress, obedient as usual to the lobbies and pressure groups, will simply destroy the totally inadequate existing measures designed to make it possible for the national economy to bear the rearmament strain without disaster. This is one reason why it is no exaggeration at all to say that a truce in Korea will be a greater test of American stamina than the Korean war itself.

Psycho-Medics Rule Out Mama-Knows-Best System

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

WE HAVE finally run full cycle on the psychiatric approach to parenthood: It says here the baby knows more about his care and feeding than his ma does, and the old lady had better watch her step or else.

A Dr. Benjamin Spock, writing for the American Medical Association Journal, comes up directly that too rigid a diet and toilet schedule can do all sorts of things to the tot's emotional development. He says that after the first year mother better start adjusting her maternal approach to junior's personality, and that, over all, baby is a better judge than either mama or medico of how much he needs to eat.

This is news to me. I've spent the last 30 years or so under the impression that mothers were created for the purpose of keeping an eye on Buster Boy until he got big enough to smoke cornsilk and pull pigtails. I remember I had some definite ideas about diet at three, when that heartless, cruel monster, Mama, rudely trampled down, making me thereby a hopeless neurotic. I used to think that you could swallow and receive nutriment from nails, sewing scissors, screws, nuts, bolts, coins, cigarette butts and lipsticks. I was especially fond of chewing lipsticks, because they were colored so nicely and went down so easily. But that fiend in skirts wouldn't pamper me. She was in there holding out for milk and spinach.

We went to the mat again, later, when I was an elderly statesman of six. I had found, after some tedious research, the perfect diet for little boys.

This was simple fare, consisting of ice cream three times a day, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. On Sundays it was to be served six times a day, as payment for my sacrifice in attending Sunday School. For a variant there were other staples, such as pie, cake, cookies, candy, unripe peaches, pears and apples.

That benighted relic of the dark ages, Mother, kept on practicing her medieval tortures on me. Every time I turned up with the bellyache due to scientific miscalculations in the laboratory, she got out a neat half-tumbler, and sat there until I choked it off. Cheese either.

It was along about this time that I began to bust out with complexes. I began to associate cause with effect. For instance, I learned that if I didn't eat the spinach and the boiled cabbage and the potatoes, I didn't get to eat the ice cream, either. I learned that if I consumed a mess of green plums, I was dead sure to have a slug of castor oil as a demi-tasse.

Oh, I was a psychic wreck. I can tell you. I sensed automatically, that if I brought the billy-goat into parlor when the preacher came to dinner, I could expect a certain cinch to have his pants peeled and a long, lean, lithe lady's hair comb applied to his bare bottom. This was a frightful indignity to practice on a mature dietician-and-tree-climber, but that horrid woman was heartless. I still have fine-tooth marks on my caboose.

CAULDRON OF COMPLEXES

By the time I was 10 I was a seething cauldron of complexes, a mass of tangled emotions, the phenomenon of frustration. If I told a lie I knew it meant two afternoons in the dark, while the other kids played baseball. Shy, tortured as I was, I said "Sir" and "ma'am" to my elders.

I learned that kicking schoolteachers was taboo; playing hooky was frowned on; that little boys who made bad grades often were not allowed to go hunting on Saturdays.

At last my diet was so completely hedged by discipline and wicked rimentation that I had excellent health, stood close to six-foot tall, weighed 150 pounds and could lick any kid in the class.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Gas Rationing Feared In Iran Oil Fuss

WASHINGTON

US OFFICIALS have made some alarming statements about the Iranian oil crisis. But the real fact is that privately they are even more alarmed than they indicate in their public statements. There are three reasons for this worry:

1. If Iranian oil is cut off, it will mean gasoline rationing in the United States. For Iranian oil now supplies England, France, Western Europe, is vital for North Atlantic pact rearmament. If this supply stops, the USA will have to take up part of the slack and we are already importing oil at the rate of two million barrels a day.

2. What Moscow wants most is revolution and unrest in Iran, thereby giving the Communists an opportunity to take over. With British oil royalties cut off, this is more likely to happen.

3. Trouble in oil countries is contagious. The Iranian shutout of the British could result in an Iraquian shutout, then one in Arabia. Already trouble is brewing in these areas. The great oil country of Venezuela could get the nationalization urge too.

Inside fact about the Iranian dispute is that the State Dept. was warned of the situation months ago and in turn warned the British. Justice William O. Douglas, who during two Summers rode all over Iran on horseback, reported to the White House that a disastrous storm was brewing.

The State Dept. in turn called in British Ambassador Franks and Assistant Secretary George McGhee gave him about as tough a dressing-down as it is possible to give a friendly diplomat. This took place last Winter when there was still time to act.

Three Troubles

ONE trouble was that Britain was slow in increasing its royalty payments to Iran. Whereas American oil companies in Arabia paid 50 per cent, Britain paid around 25 per cent.

Another trouble was that the $25,000,000 Export-Import Bank loan which we offered Iran was aimed to improve standards of living, thus heading off Communism. But the feudal lords of Iran, who really run the country, were flatly opposed to building schools, or dividing up the landed estates—even with American money.

Third trouble is that it's difficult in diplomatic relations to force an ally such as England to increase oil royalties, even though the trouble resulting from its failure may result in gasoline rationing in the USA. Likewise it's difficult to get the rulers of Iran to reform their land system even though lack of reform may bring on Communism.

Inland Marine Base

A SLAP at putting regional politics ahead of national interests is made in a House report not yet off the press. A lone paragraph buried in the report, sharply criticizes the location of the Marine Corps Depot at inland Albany, Ga.

This is aimed at Georgia's Congressman Carl Vinson, who not only brought the depot to Georgia but has used his influence as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee to put other military installations in Georgia. In fact, Vinson has now gone so far as to slip an amendment into the new defense production bill, compelling the armed services to consult with him "prior to the acquisition of any real property."

Vinson has already pushed this amendment through the House. If he can also ram it down the Senate's throat, the wily Georgian will actually be backed by law in pushing for bigger and better military bases in Georgia.

However, a House subcommittee, headed by Congressman Herbert Bonner of North Carolina, doesn't approve of Vinson's bringing the Marine Corps Depot all the way inland to Albany, Ga.

Bonner's state has two Marine Corps bases at Cherry Point, N. C., and Camp Lejeune, N. C., on the Atlantic seaboard. Therefore, Bonner's report, so far unpublished, has this to say about Vinson's pet project:

"The subcommittee learned about the proposed construction of a Marine Corps Depot at Albany, Ga. This installation would be many miles from the center of Marine training and administration control. The subcommittee understands that this project was not favored by the Dept. of Defense nor the Bureau of the Budget. No extensive hearings by the Appropriations Committee of the House or Senate were held on the necessity for its construction," the report sternly declares.

"Projects of this nature militate against the principle of supply integration, perpetuate the rivalries among the three departments, and are to be especially deplored in a period of emergency when the taxpayers' dollars could be more usefully employed for our common defense," the report criticizes.

Note—The report illustrates the manner in which sectional politics are being placed ahead of national welfare.