THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1952

OF STRAW OR STICKS

YOU remember the story of the three little pigs, and of the wolf that successively puffed down the house made of straw and the house made of sticks, only to meet his match in the house made of bricks, and his ultimate doom when he came down the chimney and landed in a pot of scalding water.

Well, the moral of the story, of course, is that brick houses are stronger than houses of straw and sticks, and any little pig with the sense of a pig would use bricks in rebuilding his house.

But the four-year-old around the house/put a new ending on the story the other day. He gravely recounted that the first little pig went back and built his house out of straw again, and the second little pig went back and built his house out of sticks again. When we expressed some mild astonishment at that new twist, he assured us that "That old wolf won't bother those little pigs anymore."

He didn't know it, but he had pointed up the basic weakness of U. S. security preparedness in this century. After each major crisis, we have tended to go back to straw and sticks in building this nation's security, and we have done so in the naive hope that the crisis, once met, would be the last.

There is evidence that the process is at work again. As the Alsop Brothers write, "The ghost of Louis Johnson is rather dimly stalking the corridors of the Pentagon and the White House," i. e., there is grave danger of cuts in defense spending next year that would not only trim off the fat but would cut deeply into the muscle. Pressure for cuts below the requests of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is coming from the Budget Bureau and from members of Congress.

The impulsion to cut defense spending is strong. It is an election year, and both parties would like to trim the big Federal budget to avoid new taxes and new deficits. Heavy fighting has lulled in Korea. General Eisenhower is making slow progress in building European defenses, and the Soviet Bear, if not hibernating, is at least stretching languorously. Furthermore, projected defense spending of some $4 billion a month by next year will place a heavy burden on the taxpayer and will create a dangerous inflationary pressure.

Undoubtedly the defense program can be trimmed somewhat. Original goals set in the tense atmosphere of the Korean War may be higher than necessary. And there are many places in the defense establishment where great savings can be made without sacrificing real combat strength.

Even so, a pruning of defense and foreign aid spending must be done cautiously lest the armed services be so crippled that they will be unable to guarantee the nation's security. Millions can be saved in non-defense expenditures if Congress has the courage to followed the leadership of men like Senators Paul Douglas and Harry F. Byrd. In any drive for economy, non-defense spending must be given top priority. And in no event, must we yield to the temptation to use straw and sticks in our security structure where brick and mortar are needed.

TV AND SEGREGATION

WRITING in his political newspaper, the ill-named *Statesman*, Governor Talmadge of Georgia has charged that some national TV shows violate the spirit of the South's segregation laws because Negro and white actors appear, perform and converse together "on a purely social, equal basis".

He singled out the Arthur Godfrey, Ken Murray and Clifton Fadiman shows, and urged TV audiences to "turn their own resentment individually toward the products which sponsor such shows" if the television producers do not have "good taste".

The usual counter-arguments hold true—a lot of unsegregated white, black, brown and yellow men are acting and dying together, in defense of Governor Talmadge and the rest of us, in Korea. Statements such as his, which will be widely quoted by the Communists throughout the world, provoke a hatred for the U. S. which millions of dollars and words cannot offset.

Equally important, such statements aggravate a difficult and complex problem. Furthermore, coming from a governor, they increase the validity of the argument that some state administrations are incapable of dealing justly with inter-racial problems.

Fortunately for the governor and his kind, they can always turn off that little button on the TV set, if they don't like the programming. Unfortunately, there is no such button on Talmadge.

THE TROUBLES OF HEADLINE WRITERS

THE average newspaper headline writer longs for mythical rubber type that would expand or contract as needed. Forced to work with cold, hard metal type, he often finds it hard to get into a headline just what he wants to say.

Having watched our own telegraph editor perspire over the fairly vague, well-qualified Eisenhower statement of Monday (he finally solved it with "Ike Would Accept GOP Nomination", and put the rest of the story in an overline, "Announces He Is A Republican"), we were curious to see the other Monday afternoon papers in the area. It proved to be an interesting study.

Most cautious of the lot was the *Statesville Daily*: "Eisenhower Agrees He's Republican".

The *Concord Tribune*: "Ike: 'I Will Accept If Drafted'" and the *Hendersonville Times-News*: "Ike Would Enter Race If Drafted" added the draft qualification.

Five other papers ignored that qualification, and had variations of the same theme. The *Richmond News-Leader* said "Ike Indicates Willingness To Accept GOP Bid"; *Twin-City Sentinel*, "Ike Is Willing To Accept GOP Nomination"; *Gastonia Gazette*, "'Ike' Willing To Accept Nomination"; *Shelby Daily Star*, "Eisenhower Willing To Accept GOP Presidential Nomination"; and the *High Point Enterprise*, "Eisenhower Available For Nomination".

Three of the papers were a bit bolder. The *Statesville Daily Record* said "Eisenhower Hat Now In Ring", the *Dunn Daily Record* told its readers that "Eisenhower In Race For President". The *Kannapolis Independent* headlined the story "'Ike' Gives Nod To GOP Backers".

And the *Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont* tossed all caution to the winds with the flat, unqualified "I Will Run As GOP—Ike".

We don't know what it proves, if anything, but we found it interesting, and thought you might be interested, too.

WE'RE BACK TO NORMALCY

THE vacation is over now and we somehow feel relieved. There's a feeling of uneasiness when all, relatively speaking, is quiet on the Washington front.

The vacation really got under way when the King subcommittee, a few days before Christmas, decided to postpone hearings featuring its reluctant witness, "The Dutchman" Grunewald, until February. Of course many Congressmen were already long gone to the remote corners of the globe or their constituencies. During the holidays most everyone waited with interest for the President's promised drastic action to clean up Government corruption. Judge Murphy came to and went from the White House, the President ate his turkey in Independence, the silence on drastic action continued and the press and public, perhaps filled with Christmas cheer, were for the most part unmindful, or at least uncritical. Readers yawned as they read of the droning Korean peace talks and the Vishinsky diatribes, and a man alone on a helpless vessel was the top news.

Then life started to creep back to the capital. First little items of not-too-drastic action. Congressmen drifted back to their old haunts. Churchill arrived, there was the Lodge press conference, Eisenhower's statement, Congress reconvened. Kefauver greased his bandwagon-wheels and the President's annual messages, politicians' daily statements started rolling out.

The trend was noticeable not only in Washington. Over in France, another government fell.

Truly, we are back to normalcy.

From The New York Herald-Tribune

EFFECTIVE ADVERTISEMENT

THE proposal to brand with a red stamp the front and rear windows of the cars of reckless drivers is a bold idea, and one well worth considering. As it was suggested to a regional conference on highway safety by Warren N. Gaffney, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking & Insurance, all motorists would carry a conspicuous label on their front and rear windows. The safe driver would have a green stamp. The convicted reckless driver would have his car marked with a red stamp—several sizes, we hope, larger than the green. This red mark of shame would remain on the windshield and rear window for one year, during which time the guilty driver would be presumed to be "losing face".

That's the important point—his losing face. Considering the murderous bravado of the small but dangerous number of teen-age hot-rod maniacs that menace the highways, the red sticker might be regarded by them as a kind of red badge of cop-baiting courage. The answer to that possibility would be to impose on the red-stamped offender, after his next conviction, the logical penalty, the permanent lifting of his license. Certainly the adult driver who suffers from a compulsion to crowd the speed limit and pass all cars ahead of him would be inhibited by the red brand on his car windows.

One may question, as a general principle, the idea of branding people for anything. But when one looks at the enormity of the death toll from reckless driving on the highways, it would seem that this exception could be made to the principle. We think that Girard Moore, aged 15, of Leonard, Mich., who had to undertake the role of head of family for his ten younger brothers and sisters orphaned by a crew of Saturday night hilarious teen-age drivers, will agree with us.

Eisenhower Statement Brings Variety Of Editorial Reaction

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's statement regarding the Republican Presidential nomination yesterday brought quick editorial reaction from newspapers in all parts of the country.

Some newspapers hailed the General's pronouncement with unqualified approval and support for his candidacy; other editorials were sharply critical.

In between, several newspapers indicated they were reserving judgment because, they said, Eisenhower's position on most domestic and some foreign issues still is unknown.

There also was a group of generally neutral editorials, confined to noting that Eisenhower's statement had clarified his political affiliation and that there will be a wide range of Republican candidates.

A nation-wide survey of a cross-section of daily newspapers by the Associated Press, apart from the editorial comment, showed this box-score on the various Republican potential candidates:

For Eisenhower, 24 newspapers; for Senator Taft, nine.

Eisenhower's statement was the occasion for the Independent-Democrat Hartford (Conn.) Times to announce its support for the General.

The Independent - Republican Kansas City Star announced its support for Eisenhower today. So did the Hutchinson (Kan.) News-Herald.

But the Portland (Me.) Press-Herald, said it would continue to support Senator Taft although it expressed approval of the Eisenhower announcement.

Support for Taft was announced today by the Independent-Republican Charleston (W. Va.) Daily Mail.

Most critical reaction to Eisenhower came from the Chicago Tribune and the Washington Times-Herald in similar editorials. The two newspapers declared that in foreign policy Eisenhower will continue the course set by President Truman.

Among newspapers endorsing Eisenhower editorially were the Independent-Republican New York Herald-Tribune, which said the General's statement "points straight to victory," and the New York Times, which called the General's stand "the best news the new year could possibly bring." Both papers previously had announced their support for Eisenhower if he received the Republican nomination.

Here are some other pro-Eisenhower comments:

Providence (R. I.) Journal-Bulletin (Independent) —"Eisenhower's refusal to abandon his uniform and join the scramble for the GOP nomination conforms perfectly with the character and principles which have made him the preferred candidate of millions and millions of Americans."

St. Louis Globe-Democrat (Independent)—". . .Above all others on the political horizon (Eisenhower) possesses qualities of leadership. . . so manifestly needed at this time."

Minneapolis Tribune — Eisenhower is "a man who is not only and deservedly a national hero, but one who has demonstrated in public and private service that he possesses the integrity, the administrative ability, the breadth of view, the understanding and insight, the humility and the humanitarianism of which great leaders are made."

Kansas City Star —". . . (Eisenhower) is a Kansas Republican . . . The Kansas Republican is a sort of middle-of-the-road fellow, progressive without being a left-winger, conservative without being reactionary."

Portland Oregonian—"No other American would have a better opportunity than this nation in its foreign policies and to establish an honest, stable, and efficient home government."

Milwaukee Journal — "His (Eisenhower's) candidacy will give the Republicans a definite choice between the wishy-washy, nebulous foreign policy record of candidate Taft, and the positive, dynamic record of a candidate who has been a central figure in the effort to solidify the strength of free peoples against Communist aggression."

Indianapolis Star (Rep.-Independent) — "If the Republican Party decides to give General Eisenhower the 'clearcut call to political duty' he says he would answer, the future of American liberty will be in strong and sure hands."

A number of the critical editorials on Eisenhower fell in the group of newspapers pointing out that the General is an unknown quantity on many issues.

The Chicago Tribune and the Washington Times-Herald said Americans "are asked to accept as a Republican a man whose whole career has been achieved through New Deal patronage. . . The Republican Party fortunately is not obliged to accept a mystery as a candidate. . . Everybody has known for many years that Senator Taft is a Republican. . .Everybody knows that Senator Taft has proved a winner."

"The global meddlers know that the game is up, so far as Truman's capacity to carry it on is concerned," the editorial continued. "They know that Truman can't be elected, so they are transferring the cause to another agent, even if they are obliged to engage in a technical shift of party allegiance to accomplish their aims."

Eisenhower's decision not to campaign for the nomination, the Cleveland Plain Dealer said, would "deprive Republicans of a chance to hear from the General's own lips how he stands." The newspaper, while citing the General's popular appeal, expressed belief that Taft has the best claim to the GOP nomination.

Here are some of the other editorial reactions to Eisenhower's stand on the Republican nomination:

The Hearst Newspapers — "The position that General Eisenhower has taken is as proper as it is dignified and patriotic. . . We hope that the General will now see fit to state clearly his personal views on all domestic and foreign issues so that the electorate will not be asked to support a candidate purely on the strength of his personal popularity."

Columbus (O.) Dispatch—". . . In refusing to campaign for the nomination, General Eisenhower admittedly has some very real and very great advantages over the others in the race who must expose their views to the opposition . . ."

Baltimore Sun — Eisenhower's statement "clears the air. The ground swell of popular faith in this man can roll along unimpeded. The powerful forces within the Republican Party which are working for his nomination can really get to work. In the realm of practical politics, commitments cannot be postponed indefinitely."

Boston Post (Independent-Democratic) — ". . . . The fight for the Republican nomination will be a bitter one. . . When the fight is over, the Republicans will be badly split. What has Eisenhower to offer? No political experience and no platform. He cannot criticize Truman's foreign policy because he, in the past year, has been a party to it as Truman's emissary to Europe."

Boston Herald (Republican) — "The Republican Party has a candidate with a refreshing freedom from the atmosphere of politics, an atmosphere that has shrouded Washington for two decades. . . Among Republican officials, there should be a determination to assure that the present political system does not deny to the people a chance to pick a man they want."

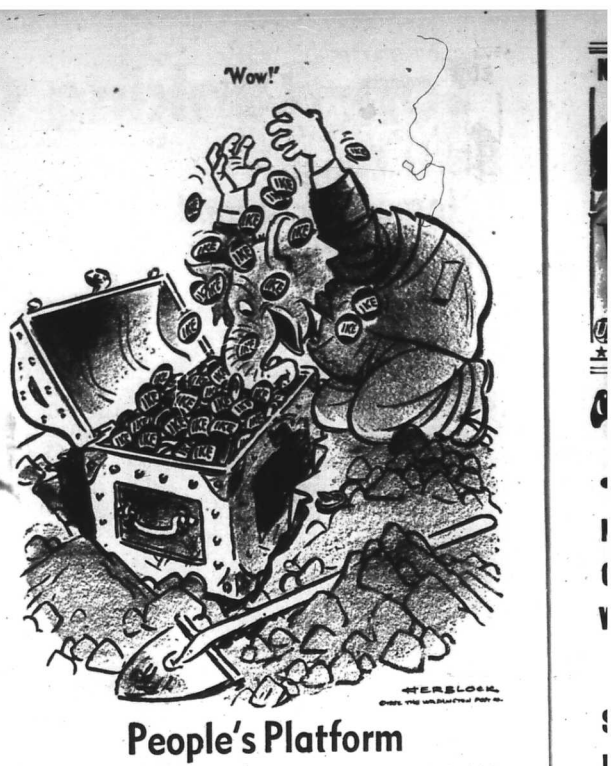
Boston Globe (Independent) — "His statement leaves him in his position of powerful personal influence in Europe. As a potential American President he can speak with unusual effectiveness in dealing with nations who know they will have to seek favors from this country in the future."

Salt Lake City Tribune — While Eisenhower's international views "win him friends. . he will be opposed by some for being too international minded. His prime weakness, however, is that he is a military man. . .Recognizing all of Ike's capabilities and strength of character, many thoughtful Americans will want to know more about his program before following the bandwagon."

Newark Star-Ledger — "The Democrats, who concede the remarkable extent of the Eisenhower popularity, must look to the possibility of an inter-Party debate aroused by Taft, and perhaps by General MacArthur who has yet to be heard from, as their hope for repeating the miracle of 1948 in 1952."

New York Daily News — " . . . The public still doesn't know just where Ike does stand on such important matters as the welfare state, unchecked Government spending and sky rocketing taxes. . . .On international issues, however, there is next to no mystery about him. His public utterances have been. . .consistently Europe-first in character. . ."

"Wow!"



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.

Eaves' Record Questioned

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I AGREE with some of the points in Hoyt Eaves' Jan. 4 letter, entitled "Why the GOP Is Impotent". Our wishes are often ignored by Northern Republicans, although not more so than are those of the Southern Democrats by their Northern brethren. Few Southern Republicans ever get top ranking national posts. We do need a primary to take the place of our present convention system of choosing candidates.

He errs when he lumps all Southern Republican leaders and candidates under the heading of mediocre men who are interested only in local Federal jobs. Some mighty fine men have given unselfishly of their time and money to keep the Party alive during the trying Roosevelt years and to build it for the future.

The real weakness of the Republican Party in the South has been too many chiefs and medicine men and not enough Indians, and this can best be illustrated by citing Eaves' own Party record. To read his letters to the press one would think that he was a dynamic Party worker whose service entitles him to his bitter criticism of Party leaders. During the ten years in which I have been associated with the Party here, only once has he organized his own precinct with more than a paper organization. In 1944 he could not even vote because he had neglected to transfer his registration to the new precinct into which he had moved.

—E. J. PRESSER.

Eaves' Analysis Praised

HUNTERSVILLE

Editors, THE NEWS:

MR. HOYT EAVES really hit the nail right smack on the head in his letter in the Jan. 4 issue.

The remedy he proposes for the ailing and impotent GOP in the South would do the trick of making both major parties live and fruitful in the service of the whole people. Too long have the Republicans of the South been content to ride the coattails of national Party achievements.

It seems to this Democrat that a Republican primary offering an opportunity for the free selection of nominees would tend to break down the practice Republicans have of registering as Democrats to vote in the primary. There were probably thousands of Republicans registered and voting in the Democratic primary last year in North Carolina. This practice causes a loss of self respect and it also tends to make Independents and Democrats who would like to turn Republican shy away.

Mr. Eaves' suggestion that the convention system of nominating national office-seeking candidates should be changed to a primary system is a sound one. It is sound for one reason—because it would minimize the importance of little special groups in key localities of the country, that is, key localities under our present Electoral College system. With such a primary system for choosing party candidates and a popular election each voter would know that his vote would count equally with any other in value.

Democrats in Vermont would register and vote as such. Republicans in the South would register and vote as such. Pressure would be lifted from the President all of the way down the line to the House of Representatives. Elective officers would have a great deal more freedom from pressure groups, could give vastly greater consideration to broadly based problems concerning the whole people.

—LACY RANSON.

Merry Sanitorium Christmas

HUNTERSVILLE

Editors, THE NEWS:

WELL, the Jaycees have done it again. They made Christmas a merry one for us patients here at the Sanatorium.

Entertainers at the annual affair were Genial Gene and his Queen City Gospel Singers and also a choir from the Tabernacle ARP Church. In charge and responsible as usual were Irvin Hankins and Red Hancock, and they did a wonderful job as they always do. Jimmy Dean was along as master of ceremonies and also in the group was Joe Hutchinson. Joe has been coming up for many years and it wouldn't be Christmas here without him.

I would like to express my thanks to all the above people and also the following men or business concerns for contributing fruit, candy, gum, nuts, etc. They are as follows: Mr. Tom Hawkins, Fowler Office Supply, Park Place Pharmacy, Biggers Bros., Dixie Wholesale Meats, Charlotte Cigar & Candy Company, Southern Fruit Company, the Colonial Stores, A&P Tea Company and the Delmonico Restaurant.

The Jaycees, as a special Christmas present, are going to pay for the repairs of rewiring our radio system and there's nothing that will be appreciated any more than this wonderful offer.

Thanks again to each and every one of you.

—BILL W. HORNSBY.

Boyle's Predatory Females

FT. BRAGG

Editors, THE NEWS:

LAST week there was an article written by Hal E. Boyle that was cheap, vulgar and unfair to all decent people. The article dealt with the shortage of husbands and the methods single women should use to secure a spouse. Frankly speaking, it was sickening.

To get to the point, my wife read the article and it upset her greatly. She has given me two children and has to stay at home to care for the youngsters. Now she doesn't feel too secure since Mr. Boyle made it so clear that there is a flock of predatory females roaming the country trying to entice husbands away from their spouses. I'm sure that she is not the only woman who felt that way after reading the article. It reached the point where she was seriously contemplating a divorce as her only alternative.

There are many fine things that Mr. Boyle can write about instead of resorting to such a display of cheap journalism, and articles that he writes on cheap subjects are not appreciated by decent people.

If you will, please forward this letter to Mr. Boyle, as I would like him to know just what I think of him and his writings.

—CAPT. LEONARD HAMER.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Bridges Put Heat On 'Good Old Charlie'

WASHINGTON

THE manner in which some Senators have pulled wires to secure tax fixes has come up recently in connection with Sen. Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, who has become the new Republican leader of the Senate, replacing the late Senator Wherry.

Certain GOP Senators who do not wish to be named, but who believe nothing should mar Republican ability to pin the corruption label on the Truman Administration, have dug into the testimony of Charles Oliphant, hastily resigned counsel of the Internal Revenue Bureau. Oliphant testified Senator Bridges had approached him to fix a big tax case in Baltimore involving liquor-dealer Hyman Klein.

Bridges' intervention with Oliphant on behalf of Klein, according to Committee Counsel DeWind, took place "sometime in 1949." GOP Senators have now dug up the interesting fact that Senator Bridges made a speech on the Senate floor on Sept. 29, 1949, urging a pay increase for "good old Charlie Oliphant."

Bridges was then trying to get "good old Charlie" to take the heat off Hyman Klein in a tax case totaling around $7 million. So, apparently to curry favor with "good old Charlie", he proposed raising his salary from $10,000 to $14,000. Thus the public would both pay more and collect less taxes.

NOTE—Oliphant testified that Senator Bridges had approached him through mystery-man Henry Grunewald, a great friend of both Bridges and Oliphant.

Growing U. S. Isolation

MOST disturbing development in the U. S. A. to members of the Churchill party has been the growth of isolationism in certain sections. British observers who see the United States during periodic visits may have an advantage in diagnosing popular changes between those visits. At any rate they compare public sentiment today to that just before Pearl Harbor when the United States also was torn between isolation and international participation.

This, incidentally, appears to be borne out by the Washington Merry-Go-Round poll of Republican candidates. At the start of this poll, Taft chalked up his greatest strength in the traditionally isolationist Midwest; Eisenhower his greatest strength in New England, the South and the Pacific Coast.

The poll, which is still continuing, also continues to show Taft strong in these areas. In fact, the voting runs almost constant in regard to Taft strength in the Midwest, Eisenhower strength in other areas.

You can vote in this poll by sending a postcard to your favorite Republican candidate, Box 1952, Washington, 13, D. C.

Republican RFC Chairman

HARRY McDONALD, to be the first Republican head of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in nineteen years of Democratic rule, can be counted on to carry on the forthright policies of Stuart Symington.

As head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, McDonald vigorously advised GOP members of the RFC not to O. K. the controversial Texmass loan, warned them that his SEC had not given Texmass a clean bill of health.

McDonald, who believes the public is entitled to know all the facts about big financial deals, used to run a Detroit dairy, was Supreme Potentate of the Michigan Shrine, got to know Truman because they are fellow Shriners, and took a mild shine to Rita Hayworth when she visited in Washington.

Washington Pipeline

STANTON GRIFFIS is retiring as Ambassador to Spain chiefly because of ulcers. Also he has written a book which Cass Canfield of Harper's is crazy about. It's the Griffis memoirs, beginning with the days when he sold snake oil at country fairs, but not including his feminine admirers at the U. S. Embassy in Madrid . . . Fanny Perkins, former Secretary of Labor, now on the Civil Service Commission, is given the credit—or blame—for getting ex-Sen. Hiram Bingham of Connecticut appointed Chairman of the Loyalty Board. Bingham is the only man in recent Senate history castigated by an official Senate resolution—for letting a Connecticut Manufacturers Association lobbyist sit in on secret tariff hearings.