THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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

A SYMBOLIC ACT IN AN ANCIENT CITY

SEVERAL thousands miles to the East, in Jerusalem, a narrow strip of ruined and desolate land cuts the Holy City into halves. Pockmarked with the shells of the latest of many wars that have seared the Holy Land, the corridor winds up to the Damascus Gate, swings right along the Great Wall of the old city, and then veers off toward Mt. Zion and loses itself in the distance.

It is called No Man's Land, and it stands today as a grim, unhappy reminder that the nations of Jordan and Israel have not yet found a way to end the technical state of war that has lasted since 1948.

On 364 days a year, the border is closed to all save a few voyagers with special credentials. At one side stand the dashing Arab Legionnaires, their *kaffiyehs* fluttering in the cool breezes that sweep down from the hills around Jerusalem. At the other side stand the trim, snappy young Israeli soldiers, their caps bearing the Star of David.

Tonight—the of Christ's birth—the guards will step back, and stand at attention, as several hundred Christians led by Msgr. Alberto Gori, the Latin patriarch in Jerusalem, cross the border to make their way on foot to Bethlehem. Escorted by Arab Legionnaires, they will go first to the tiny village of Bet Jas, and then proceed to St. Catherine's church in Bethlehem. After the birth of the child Jesus has been celebrated, they will return upon their traces, and the border will be snapped shut once again.

In this unhappy state of affairs on what should be the most joyous night in the year, there is double symbolism for a troubled world.

There is the symbolism of faith in a Supreme Being and, among world Christians, of faith in his Son. By returning to the place of His birth, as identified by the scholars and historians of the ages, they render mankind's reverent judgment upon an event nearly 2,000 years ago that was slow to dawn upon the consciousness of man.

And there is the symbolism of man's inability to find yet the era of Peace, Good Will Toward Men on Earth, despite the hundreds of Scriptural guideposts marking the way.

Four years ago, when the Christmas Eve border patrol first stepped back and bridged Jerusalem's No Man's Land, rifle shots and mortar shells rang out in the distance as Arab and Israel soldiers kept firing at one another.

Tonight there will be only silence, an uneasy silence, but pregnant with new hopes that Jew and Arab are closer to Peace and Good Will. And if peace can be attained in the war-scarred birthplace of three great world religions, it may yet be attainable in the rest of the world, fulfilling the promise of the heavenly host that hovered over the Hill of the Shepherds not far away.

HOW SILLY CAN YOU GET DEPT.

LAST SPRING, when Charlotte was about ready to sell a $6 million housing authority bond issue, the House of Representatives passed a bill that temporarily snagged the program. The bill, proposed by Rep. Ralph Gwinn (R-N.Y.) required housing authorities to certify that no member of an organiaztion listed as subversive by the Attorney General resided in housing units under their jurisdiction.

Obviously, no housing officials could so certify. Prospective bond buyers balked. Various housing officials explained the unworkability of such a law to Congressmen. The bill was rewritten, and enacted the last day Congress met. The law now reads that tenants of Federally-aided low-cost housing units certify that they are not members of any of the 203 listed organizations.

So now if tenants of low-cost housing projects say they belong to any listed organization, they get no public housing. If they swear falsely, they're liable to five years' imprisonment and a $10,000 fine.

This law is silly and pointless for several reasons. They are:

1. Membership in one of the listed organizations does not denote disloyalty. The Supreme Court firmly stated this view in the Oklahoma case this month, so the law may well be unconstitutional to boot.

2. The real leaders of subversive movements stay in better quarters than those afforded in low-cost housing projects.

3. The law stems from a laudable desire to assure that this country is not threatened by internal subversion, but it treats with perjury, that could be unintentional, rather than treason. Many well-educated and respected persons did not know they were on the rosters of listed organizations. Some of these tenants have difficulty reading and writing, let alone differentiating among dozens of similarly-named organizations.

Most of these tenants will think better of their own government if it helps them get a roof over their head, instead of confusing them with misguided gobbledygook.

WASTED TALENTS

THE FACT that a particularly able man was defeated in the Presidential election and retires from public office next month underscores a deficiency of our governing system.

Gov. Adlai Stevenson doesn't need a forum as badly as the country needs his thoughtful and articulate comment on week-to-week affairs of government. But, under our constitutional system, a party leader does not participate in legislative debate unless he is a member of Congress.

Why not take a leaf from the British parliamentary system, and provide non-voting seats in Congress for former Presidents, and defeated nominees for the Presidency? Men such as President Truman, Herbert Hoover, and Governor Dewey, as well as Governor Stevenson, were the choices, of their parties and of millions of voters, for the highest office in the land. Surely their experience and ability would lend authority to legislative debate.

Congress would not decrease its ultimate power over legislation by granting them all the privileges of Congressmen except the right to vote. We hope Constitutional amendment along these lines will be commended to the people by the next Congress.

SPENDING MUST BE CUT FIRST

THE Associated Press reports that a majority of Congressmen who answered its questionnaire say they want to reduce Federal spending before any tax cuts are voted. If they really mean what they say, that belongs in the good news department.

Unquestionably the pro-Eisenhower sweep reflected mounting resentment against high taxes. The man has not yet been born who enjoys paying the levies assessed against him in these parlous times.

Even so, it should be clear to everyone by now that Federal deficit financing is a greater evil in the long run than high taxes. Continued deficit financing feeds the inflationary stream, cheapens the dollar, and weakens the sturdy foundation upon which savings and investments are based.

Deficit financing may be the only alternative in time of grave emergency. For instance, the American people could not have waged World War II on a pay-as-you-go basis without reducing themselves to a bare subsistence level. But in time of peace, or even of a cold war, balanced budgets are in order.

The Federal budget has been unbalanced for one reason only. Congress has consistently voted to spend more money than it levied in taxes. Hence, the first item of business in tackling deficit financing is to reduce spending. Once spending is reduced, taxes can be cut.

That is the approach favored by a majority of the incoming Congressmen. Let us hope that the promise is fulfilled in the deed.

From The Hartford (Conn.) Courant

A 'POOD' SUGGESTION

MANY of the good things in life including, so they say, roast pig, are the happy by-products of mischance. Many scientific discoveries owe their recognition to an acute eye viewing an accidental happening, and correlating it with other facts. All of which leads to the main point, namely that an esteemed, younger contemporary, the *New York Times*, inadvertently created a new word the other day. It is a word of tremendous possibilities, and it is solely with the thought that its brief life may be saved that we now mention the matter.

The story had to do with a certain public official who was considered by the State Department to be, so the story said, a "pood" security risk. Obviously there was mental conflict in the production of this word, wavering as it does midway between good and poor. A pood risk, indeed: How many things are there in life that dangle halfway between good and poor?

"How was the show last night? Oh, not too good, not too bad. Just about pood, I'd say."

In fact nearly everything, including people, fall into the pood category. Most singing is pood. Most people are pood sports. Most cooking ranges from pood to poor, or if you are lucky, from pood to good. Most people have a pood time at parties, and enjoy pood health.

We could go on like that *ad infinitum* to better the position that none of the words we now have indicating safe, middle ground is nearly so effective as the portmanteau word created by the *Times* linotype operator. We suggest that it would be a pretty pood idea for the *Times* to throw its respected weight behind this new word.

A woman on S. Cypress St. points out that there are 30 per cent more men than women in mental hospitals. Okay, okay; but who put them there?—*Carlsbad (N. M.) Current-Argus.*

Two men in Memphis, Tenn., fought a duel over whether passenger cars can travel faster than trucks. It was probably a safer way to settle the question than a race down the highway might have been.—*Portsmouth (Va.) Star.*

Eisenhower Will Fill Nearly One Thousand Patronage Posts

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY WASHINGTON

WITH Republicans gaining control of the new Congress and the Presidency, one of the plumpest patronage plums will be sliced by President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The general will select his own "civilian army" of about 900 and 1,000 employees for the executive department of the Federal government. Salaries for the top posts range from $9,000 to $25,000 a year — the highest paying patronage jobs the nation has to offer.

The Presidential appointments are to top posts in the executive department — including the independent offices — and to 18 major boards and commissions. These selections are subject to Senate confirmation, and the Senate usually scrutinizes the appointments to major boards and commissions more closely than it does those to the "official family."

IMMEDIATE STAFF

The President appoints, without Senate confirmation, the members of his immediate staff: Presidential assistants, secretaries, etc. ($6,400 to $20,000), the budget director ($17,000) assistant budget director ($16,000) and the National Security Council executive secretary ($15,000).

Other top posts in the executive office of the President are filled by Presidential appointment, subject to Senate approval. They are:

Council of Economic Advisers (three members, $16,000 each), director of Central Intelligence (presently gets pay of Lt. Gen.), Defense Mobilization director ($22,500), National Security Council director ($22,500) and National Security Resources Board chairman ($17,500) and vice chairman ($16,000).

Jobs in the independent offices which are filled by Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation pay from $10,500 a year for a member of the selective service appeals board to $25,000 annually for the Mutual Security Agency's special U. S. representative in Europe.

Other such patronage jobs in the independent offices include certain agency heads and assistants in the Federal Civil Defense Administration, Federal Security Agency, General Services Administration, Housing and Home Finance Agency, Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Selective Service, Small Defense Plants Administration, Veterans Administration, Defense Production Administration and Economic Stabilization Agency, Mutual Security Agency.

DEPARTMENT JOBS

The President nominates and the Senate confirms 120 posts in the key posts in the State Department of State. Top paying jobs are ambassador at large ($25,000), Secretary of State ($22,500), and United States representatives to the United Nations (up to $25,000).

State Department jobs number about 20,000. Ninety-eight per cent of these posts are under civil service, being protected by civil service or foreign service status with the people who hold them having qualified by competitive examination.

About 75 top Treasury Department posts are filled by Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation. These positions pay from $9,000 a year for one engraver at the mint to $22,500 for the Treasury Secretary.

Treasury has more than 88,000 employees, 97 per cent of whom are under civil service. The largest group of non-civil service workers is one of about 550 "lamplighters"—lighthouse keepers for the Coast Guard. During peacetime the Coast Guard operates under the Treasury Department.

The President nominates and the Senate confirms about 13 top Defense Department officials — exclusive of the Chiefs of Staff and all officers in the U. S. Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. The top appointive jobs pay from $15,000 to $22,500 a year.

The Department of Defense has the largest number of civilian employees of any government agency—1,334,000. In addition it has military personnel totaling 3,600,000.

Top paying post filled by Presidential appointment and Senate approval in the Department of Justice is that of Attorney General at $22,500. The President also fills many other jobs in the Justice Department. Included are 94 U. S. district attorneys and 94 U. S. marshals, but in reality they are largely selected by Senators belonging to the President's party.

The department has some 31,000 employees, 30,000 of whom are protected by civil service or the FBI merit system.

ONE OUT OF 20

About one of every 20 employees of the Post Office Department is Presidential appointee confirmed by the Senate. However, most of these are in reality selected by Senators and Representatives of the President's party.

Top paying job actually filled by the President in the department is that of Postmaster General at $22,500 a year.

Many of the top positions in the Department of Interior are filled by Presidential nomination and Senate confirmation. Pay ranges from $10,600 for the governor of Puerto Rico to $22,500 for the Interior Secretary.

The President appoints the commissioner of Reclamation ($14,000) without Senate approval.

With the exception of the top policy posts and employees of the defense administrations, all Interior employees are under civil service.

With Senate consent, the President files half a dozen top policy posts in the Department of Agriculture paying from $22,500 for the Secretary down to $14,000.

Agriculture has 72,000 employees, mostly under civil service.

About 25 top Department of Commerce posts are filled by Presidential appointment and Senate approval. Pay for these jobs is from $10,323 for the maritime administrator to $22,500 for the Secretary of Commerce.

The department has 58,000 employees, about one-fourth of whom are not under civil service.

Top Labor Department posts filled by the President, with Senate confirmation, number about 10. They pay from $11,000 a year up to the Secretary's $22,500.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There are 18 important boards and regulatory commissions whose members are appointed by the President subject to Senate confirmation.

Members serve for specified terms, and most of the statutes under which the commissions or boards were created limit the right of the President to remove members.

Consequently there will be no immediate wholesale turnover in membership of most of the commissions, and Democrats may outnumber Republicans on some of them for many months after the new Administration takes office.

Exceptions are the Civil Service Commission and the Renegotiation Board, whose members serve at the pleasure of the President, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, whose director has the same status.

The Eisenhower Administration will be able to make at least 24 appointments to key boards and commissions immediately. Some posts are now vacant, others are filled by persons holding recess appointments which will lapse when the new Congress convenes, and some terms will expire at the end of 1952.

Boards and commissions to which new appointments can be made immediately include:

Atomic Energy Commission, Civil Aeronautics Board, Export-Import Bank, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Maritime Board, Federal Mediation Service, Federal Power Commission, Federal Reserve Board, Federal Trade Commission, Interstate Commerce Commission, National Labor Relations Board, National Mediation Board, Renegotiation Board, Securities and Exchange Commission, Subversive Activities Control, Civil Service Commission and Tariff Commission.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Ike Won't Visit Capitol Hill Often

WASHINGTON

GENERAL Eisenhower will junk the Truman plan of making frequent personal appearances before Congress, will appear there personally only once each session—to deliver the "State of the Union" message.

This was made known to the three top Republican Congressmen who called on Ike recently—Speaker-to-be Joe Martin, Majority Leader Charlie Halleck of Indiana, and GOP Whip Les Arends of Illinois.

Eisenhower strongly intimated, without alluding directly to President Truman, that there had been too much promeanading up to Capitol Hill by the Chief Executive on matters that easily could be handled by written messages.

Explaining that he planned to go to Congress only once a year, the President-elect added: "I plan to stick to that schedule unless some emergency arises that makes it necessary for me to adress Congress in person."

On the other hand, Ike assured his Congressional callers, "my door will always be open" to any member of Congress "who has a problem he wants to discuss with me."

Also proposed is a weekly conference of six Congressional leaders with the President, instead of three leaders as in the past. These six will be: Taft, the Senate majority leader; Bridges of New Hampshire, the President pro tem; and the head of the GOP Policy Committee, probably Knowland of California; plus the three Congressmen who called on Ike—Martin, Halleck and Arends.

Eisenhower repeatedly stressed the importance of harmony between himself and Congress, "so we can all do a better job of serving the people."

"I see no reason why we can't get along," he told the three Representatives. "We are all interested in the objectives of world peace and a sound domestic economy. For my part I have a deep respect for the prerogatives of Congress and want to work with you."

Capital Chaff

THE ATOMIC Energy Commission will ask the new Congress to relax some of the secrecy provisions of the McMahon Act. Scientists complain that we've overdone atomic secrecy to the point where it's interfering with our whole atomic progress . . . Bennett Cerf will publish a book of selections from Governor Stevenson's speeches . . . Ambassador Chester Bowles of OPA fame has complained bitterly to Prime Minister Nehru about India's delegate to the United Nations, Krishna Menon. Acting on instructions from Secretary Acheson, Bowles said the United States deeply resents the insulting way in which Menon criticized American policy in Korea. Unless Menon is curbed, Bowles warned, the United States will denounce him publicly.

G. I. Christmas Flights

MOST of the big overseas airlines are now bringing G.Is home for Christmas on charter flights, following this column's disclosure last week that Pan American Airways had pressured them not to permit charter flights.

Immediately following publication, attorneys for KLM, the Dutch Airline, recommended that KLM could carry G.Is on chartered planes regardless of any International Air Transport Association discouragement of charter flights. It has now delivered three planeloads of G.Is while Air France has done the same.

Pan American Airways has denied that it pressured these lines to ban G.I. chartered flights, but here is the inside story of what happened.

About 200 G.Is first approached Air France to take them home on chartered planes for Christmas. Cut-rate competition in chartered flights is banned by the International Air Transport Association. However, the G.Is just didn't have enough money to pay either first-class or tourist rates, and the French government sent word to Air France to help the G.Is in every way possible.

Air France, therefore, decided to carry the troops home by chartered plane regardless of the I.A.T.A.

This word spread to Germany where more G.Is tried to charter planes. At this point, Pan American Airways got into the act. Other airlines say it was Pan Am's representative at Frankfurt who first phoned them reminding them of a possible $50,000 fine if they carried passengers on chartered planes. They also say Pan Am complained to the I.A.T.A.

As a result, most foreign airlines bowed to Pan Am and canceled chartered flights, leaving some G.Is stranded. The 55 G.Is who cabled this columnist say that the Pan Am representative called them "emotional kids." To which the G.Is replied: "We are 55 emotional kids who still appreciate spending Christmas with our families."

Air France, however, ignored Pan Am's pressure from the first and finished one chartered flight prior to publication of the facts by this column. The day after publication, other airlines also decided to ignore Pan Am and the I.A.T.A.

Pan American Airways has done an excellent job of bringing G.Is home for Christmas, but at tourist rates. These, however, are higher than chartered rates, and G.Is have a hard time scraping up enough money to come home for Christmas.

Merry-Christmas-Go-Round

THOUGH this will be Harry Truman's last Christmas in the White House it will also be his first. Hitherto he has carved his turkey in Independence, Mo. . . . Newest Christmas thrill for youngsters is Santa Claus letters from the North Pole. They are mailed, courtesy of Pan American Airways, which will carry the letters (written by mom and dad) to Point Barrow, Alaska, where they're postmarked and mailed back to the U.S.A. Pan American stamps the envelopes with a special North Pole stamp . . . The post office at Santa Claus, Ind., is doing the greatest volume of business in history . . . Dean of Washington Santa Clauses is Perry J. Bobbitt, who each year takes two months leave without pay from the naval gun factory in Washington partly to work as Santa Claus at the Hecht Company, the rest of the time to visit sick and crippled youngsters who can't get downtown . . . Bobbitt reports that the chief presents youngsters want Santa to bring them this year are space helmets and space shoes, though little girls still lean toward the mother instinct and favor old-fashioned dolls. Whispered one four-year-old to Santa Bobbitt: "Please bring me a baby brother and bring mother the same thing." . . . Secretary of Commerce Sawyer, wary of corruption charges, has warned Commerce Department employees against taking any gifts from outsiders—not even cigarettes and candy.

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Dad's Different Viewpoint

LANCASTER, S. C.

Editors, THE NEWS:

REFERENCE is made to a column written by my son, A. Z. F. Wood Jr., for The Daily Tar Heel at UNC and republished in your editorial columns on Dec. 15, 1952, under the caption, "Football Fever".

I have been in splendid and enthusiastic disagreement with my son on a variety of subjects for a long time. It began, I suspect, during the lively years when, as a struggling law student and determined father, I tried to persuade him that Pablum was a delectable dish. He took a different view, and punctuated his daily comments on the subject by depositing generous quantities of Pablum on everything within range, including me. I like to think that this spirited contest ended in a draw, since he consumed enough Pablum to survive, while the amount which I absorbed served to sicken me of it eternally.

Today I find myself in disagreement with my son on collegiate football. He says he's sick of football. He says it's time to lay off the game. He says he hopes UNC will lose a few more games so that people will go back to playing football just for the fun of it, like ping pong, hop scotch and mumbledy-peg.

I think this is rather too bad. It must be admitted, as my son points out, that collegiate football, in many places and in varying degrees, has become sadly cluttered up with athletic "scholarships", emasculated academic requirements, professional alumni, undergraduate fanaticism, ticket scalpers, unscrupulous coaches, and Saturday afternoon drunks. I cannot agree, however, that collegiate football in general has fallen so low as to warrant its relegation by my son to the poor but honest obscurity of ping pong, hop scotch and mumblety-peg. Football with all its abuses, still demands certain attributes not ordinarily found in a ping pong, hop scotch, or mumbledy-peg player. For one thing, you've got to keep getting up after being knocked down all afternoon. And there is no recorded instance of a ping pong match having been won by a series of perfect down-field blocks. It still takes team work to play good football.

Because football demands these attributes, and because the game offers in generous measure the element of suspense, there are still many occasions, in some corners of this broad land, when a lot of kids who enjoy the game play enthusiastically for the entertainment of thousands who enjoy watching it, drunk or sober. The fact that football is a spectator sport does not, I suggest, make it any less a "game". And I would not kill the patient to cure the disease.

I suppose it is only natural that a human being (whose soul feeds on defense mechanisms, rationalizations, and other such psychological stuff) should find his views on football colored somewhat by the current football fortunes of his alma mater. It has always been so in my case. Today my own alma mater (not UNC) is riding the crest of a rather long success story, and I am accordingly inclined to regard collegiate football as a beautiful and inspiring thing.

I suggest that, in opposite fashion, my son's present views are perhaps influenced unduly by Carolina's recent misfortunes. Certainly his expressed views on football were not the same when he played a rather respectable high school end; nor were they the same when Justice was pitching and Weiner was catching for UNC. Of course my son was younger then; and it is highly probable that he will be older tomorrow, or perhaps the next day.

—A. Z. F. WOOD
(Senior, that is)

Remembers Christmas Of '32

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

JOY to the world, the Lord has come to the masses of the people of the U.S.A. who are survivors of the Christmas of 1932. At that time our people were in the depth of the greatest calamity of my memory.

Even the masses did not even have the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Charlotte had no relief system. Our industries were idle, or operating part-time. If the Salvation Army, the Catholic Sisters, Lutheran Co. and a few other God-sent people had not extended a helping hand in these days only God knows how much additional suffering there might have been.

Personally I did not have five cents at Christmas time, 1932. But by the mercy of God I still survive.

So when all you people sit down to your ham and turkey dinners please give thanks to our Supreme Being for your many blessings.

—H. E. MARKS

Equalize School Facilities

BELMONT

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE colored people, young and old, don't want to take the white schools. They only want what every citizen of the U.S. wants. Do white people really believe that if the colored schools were equal to those of the whites these arguments on segregation would now be before the Supreme Court?

Give the colored children the same kind of schools as you give the whites, something to be proud of. Compare Second Ward with Central, West Charlotte with Harding High and so on. The colored people are just like everybody else—they want fine things they can call their own and be proud of. "Equal" means neither greater nor less.

—JAMES K. ALEXANDER