THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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A BLOW TO TAFT IN THE SOUTH

THE Taft forces in Dixie may not yet realize it, but Sen. Richard Russell has thrown them a curve ball. Any way you look at it, Russell's candidacy for the Democratic nomination has hurt Taft and helped Eisenhower in the South.

There are several different ways of looking at it, and they get rather complicated. So hold your hat. Here goes:

1. At the outset, the possibility that Russell will get the Democratic nomination must be dismissed from the calculations. In the first place, he is unlikely to get it. In the second place, if he does get it, all Dixie Republicans, pro-Taft or pro-Eisenhower, might as well stay home on election day.

2. The main objective of the Russell candidacy is to persuade Mr. Truman to step aside for a candidate more acceptable to the South. If that objective is attained, Russell's group will not bolt, but will support the ticket. In that event, Taft's chances of carrying any Southern state will be nil, since most of the Taft strength in the South outside his party faithfuls is anti-Truman rather than pro-Taft sentiment. Eisenhower might not do much better, but he does have more positive support among Dixie independents, or "mugwumps" as Taft chooses to call them, and would hold their vote as well as the normal Republican vote.

3. If Russell and his group fail of both objectives, they have two alternative courses of action—to bolt or not to bolt.

If Taft is the Republican nominee, they will be forced to bolt if they hope to deny an electoral majority to Mr. Truman and throw the election into the House of Representatives. They couldn't afford to gamble on Taft's dubious ability to carry the South against Mr. Truman.

If Eisenhower is nominated by the Republicans, however, Messrs. Russell, Byrnes, Byrd *et al* may well decide there is no need for a revolt, that the General can take care of himself in the South against Mr. Truman—a conviction we hold.

4. Suppose, as the last possibility, a successful Dixie revolt takes place and the election is thrown into the House of Representatives. Under the Constitution, each state has one vote, and the ballots are cast for the three highest nominees. If Eisenhower is the Republican candidate, Southern Democrats would find it easy on their consciences to throw their support to him and elect him President. So would Democrats from outside the South who consider foreign policy more important than some of the controversial domestic issues. It would be much harder to carry off a coup for Taft, if the Southerners so desired. And it is not at all certain that they would so desire.

In other words, the sole hope of victory for Taft forces in the South hangs on a Truman-Taft race, with no third party to divert the anti-Truman sentiment. The Russell announcement virtually rules out such a race.

In any other combination of circumstances, Dixie Republicanism will fare better with Eisenhower as the front man than with Taft. If the delegates to district and state GOP conventions are smart, they'll see the light and vote for Ike.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS NO MILK RUN

SECRETARY of State Dean Acheson returned from the Lisbon Conference with praises of his accomplishments ringing in his ears. Though orchids are seldom thrown his way, he did not have time to pick them up. Waiting on his Washington desk were pressing problems from another part of the world —Indo-China.

The Alsop brothers and Marquis Childs today deal with the Secretary's European and Indo-Chinese affairs. Their remarks set us to pondering some of Mr. Acheson's multitudinous other headaches, and awakened in us a new admiration for the man.

Korea, of course, ranks with NATO and Indo-China as an area requiring the Secretary's constant study and thought. And there's Iran, the China and Formosa issue, other trouble spots alongside the Iron Curtain. He finally got the Jap treaty and armed forces pact under his belt, but the Austrian treaty is still dangling and a settlement with Germany is still up in the air. On Capitol Hill last week Congressmen were hounding him for more information about our dealings with the British, and a Senator suggested that maybe Mr. Acheson was overruling the loyalty review board. Then there are the perennial McCarthy smears and various charges of communism in his Department, pushing along Point IV and the Voice of America, testifying before often hostile Congressional committees, UN meetings, NATO meetings, Cabinet meetings, Pan American meetings, visiting statesmen.

Then, on top of all this, studying reports on his domain, which is the world. And, when time permits, quietly reflecting, pondering what recommendations he should make to the President, who relies so heavily upon him.

When the Secretary appeared on TV at San Francisco last year, many persons noted his "stage personality", and suggested he make more public appearances in order to bolster public esteem of the Department.

We think it would be nice to see more of Mr. Acheson. But we don't imagine the Secretary, who is carrying so much of this old world's burden on his shoulders, often feels like adding public relations to his chores. Nevertheless, he took NATO to the public last night, via radio and TV.

Few men have been more severely criticized and condemned while in high office than has Dean Acheson. We think he's doing a pretty good job. History might accord him a much greater standing. At any rate, his is a tough, often thankless task. The American people may owe him more than they now realize.

UNITED FOR A COMMON GOAL

THE success of Charlotte's first United Preaching Mission is virtually assured before it opens with a mass meeting at the Armory-Auditorium tomorrow afternoon.

The conception and planning of the mission was a tremendous undertaking in itself. It will be the biggest religious event in the City's history. More than 70 meetings are scheduled in the City, ten of them at the Armory.

But even more significant is the new level of co-operation that has already been achieved among the ten denominations and 141 churches that are participating under the sponsorship of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Ministerial Association.

Having measured up so far, the Mission's final test will be its impact on the community. Thousands of persons will get new spiritual inspiration from the many outstanding speakers on the program. From them and through them, the whole community may be expected to benefit.

Dr. William E. Hudson has defined the purposes of the Preaching Mission in these words:

"The supreme object is the spiritual awakening which will spread over the nation. The Preaching Mission was conceived in faith, born in prayer and nurtured in that spirit ever since."

On all sides of us, there are signs of a nationwide spiritual awakening as anxious people seek some pillar to which they may cling in these turbulent times. We are happy that Charlotte, the city of churches but often too materialistic in its outlook, has a part in the great movement.

From The Washington Post

TIME AND INCLINATION

WE have it on authority of a Reuters dispatch in the *New York Times* that the famous leaning tower of Pisa may lean over just a bit too far one of these days. So if you have been looking forward to seeing this great marvel of eccentric architecture, you had better make your arrangements before A. D. 2151, which, according to present calculations, is when the tower will topple over. Only a few years ago, the engineers were saying that this disaster couldn't happen much before A. D. 3500.

The angle of inclination, it seems, has been increasing every year by some calculable fraction of a degree. How long this has been going on nobody knows exactly, but it began to be noticed more than 40 years ago. Obviously, that sort of thing can't continue until the tower has come to rest gently on its side, so the problem is how to stop it from listing any further; but if there is an answer to the problem nobody seems to know it. About eighteen years ago the engineers put some concrete—about a thousand tons of it—underneath the foundations, and this for a time stopped the sea water from eroding them. But the foundations were shaken loose again by the vibration of bombs dropped during the war.

The tower started to sag even while it was being built nearly nine centuries ago as the campanile, or bell tower, for the Cathedral. This appears to have discouraged the original architect, one Bonnano, for he never finished the job. But about a hundred years later a few more stories were added by another architect, and some years after that the tower was capped by a belfry. By that time the tower was leaning so far out of the perpendicular that people took it for a kind of miracle that it stayed up at all, and they attributed the miracle, as many Pisans still do, to the good offices of Saint Ranieri, patron of the city.

The miraculous tower became almost the most important Pisan institution because of its attraction for pilgrims and curious travelers. So it has remained until this day; for even in the rationalistic eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when many tourists discounted the miracle, the tower was venerated as the place from which the eminent Pisan scientist, Galileo Galilei, had let drop the iron balls to prove that bodies of different weights fall at the same velocity.

Today the ordinary Pisans, though well aware of the importance of the tourist trade, are not, it is said, greatly worried about the reported doom of the tower. They believe that Saint Ranieri is still on the job and will take care of things somehow. Of course, they wouldn't want him to go so far as to set the tower upright. "From their point of view, as from ours, that would be about as bad as allowing it to fall.

Acheson Now Must Turn To Indo-China

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

IN TROUBLE in Indo-China the French have sent up an urgent distress call. The Communist Viet-Minh forces are pushing so hard and with new equipment supplied by China that the French position is in peril.

At the NATO meeting in Lisbon, just ended, Secretary of State Dean Acheson was told that American assistance on a greatly enlarged scale and immediately is vital. Unless it is forthcoming, the French say they cannot be responsible for what happens. If Indo-China should go, then the shaky regimes in other Southeast Asian countries would fall like a house of cards.

This alarm resembles the crisis of 1947 when the British said they could no longer maintain sufficient force to hold back the tide of communism in Greece. As a consequence, President Truman called on Congress to approve help to those two countries. The Communist guerrillas in Greece were eventually put down with close to two billions of American funds going for economic and military aid.

Just returning from Lisbon, the hard-pressed Secretary of State must try to cope with the newest appeal. In an election year the devout hope is, of course, that no new request of Congress will be necessary. Yet such is the scale of what must be done that it cannot be ruled out.

ALWAYS ANOTHER

On the strictly human side this has for Acheson a grim irony. For achieving, on paper at least, far more than had been expected out of the Lisbon conference, he has been getting some most unusual salvos of praise. But now as so often in the past, he must try to find support to meet a new threat of Communist aggression.

In reality it cannot be called new. At least twice in less than a year the French have warned of the danger inherent in the situation in Indo-China, particularly as it relates to the capacities of the French at home to sustain an army of 150,000 in the Indo-Chinese jungle. Last year the cost was nearly a half-billion dollars. It is expected to be greater in 1952.

When he visited Washington in September, General De Lattre de Tassigny was frank to say he felt he could be in urging the need for much greater help. That gallant soldier had done a great deal in a brief time to build up the position of the French forces in Indo-China. His death was a severe blow. Similarly, when General Alphonse Juin visited Washington in January his main plea sound as urgent as possible.

The French are saying now that they must have at least twice as much assistance and especially in two categories, planes and trucks. That volume is essential to check the infiltration and also to combat the modern weapons brought in from China by way, it is believed, of Soviet Russia.

Chief among recent additions are effective anti-aircraft weapons. Ten French planes have recently been shot down by ground fire.

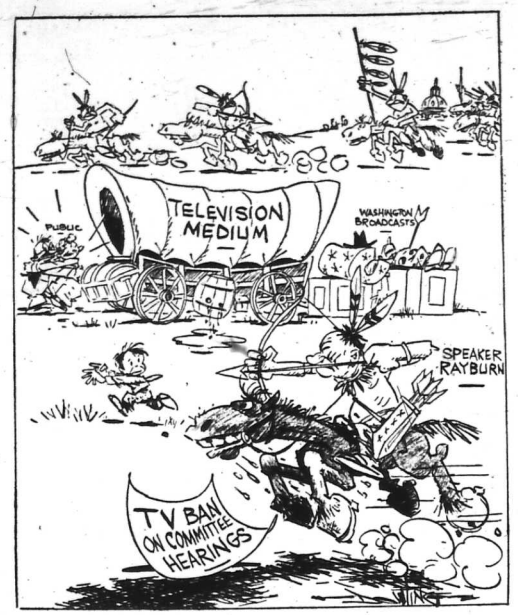
During recent weeks the same thing has been happening in Korea. There jet fighters have been shot down by anti-aircraft fire. This means that the Communists in Korea are using the very latest radar-controlled weapons, since only with such weapons is it possible by ground fire to bring down planes traveling 600 miles or more an hour.

THIS COULD BE BAD

Although this development has not been publicized, it has caused great disquiet among those studying intelligence reports. If Soviet Russia means to intervene in these local wars by equipping troops with the latest arms, then the danger is very considerable that a local war will become an all-out conflict.

Working through their Chinese allies, the Russians may feel that they can go even further in Indo-China than they have gone in Korea. This raises the serious question as to whether the United States, preferably in partnership with the United Nations, should not give the Communists a clear warning against further intervention.

Pioneer Days



Orchids For Acheson

The Lesson Of Lisbon

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

A gigantic disaster to American foreign policy has been most narrowly averted in the last two or three weeks. And instead of disaster, a notable success has instead been scored by Dean G. Acheson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and W. Averell Harriman at the just-concluded Lisbon meeting. Not one American in a hundred is aware of this sequence of events, which suggests the way in which great issues of national security are becoming clouded and obscured in this election year.

When Acheson flew to the Lisbon conference before the Lisbon meeting to talk with British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, French Foreign Secretary Robert Schuman, and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, disaster loomed very close indeed. What seemed in prospect was a complete collapse of Allied policy on the issue of German rearmament. This in turn would have made nonsense of all General Eisenhower's plans for an integrated defense of Western Europe, and thus knocked the underpinnings out from under American foreign policy.

There were all sorts of contributing factors to this infinitely dangerous, almost unnoticed crisis, like the silly and provocative French gesture of sending an "ambassador" to the Saar, which the Germans regard as an integral part of Germany. But essentially what happened was that a great surge of traditional French and German nationalism threatened not only the shaky regimes in Paris and Bonn, but the whole structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

TOUGH JOB

Thus the German Bundestag attached conditions to German rearmament, including an absolute unconditional grant of German sovereignty, which the French (let alone the British) simply could not accept. And the French Assembly promptly responded by attaching conditions to French participation in the European Army which the Germans could never accept. In such circumstances, it seemed impossible that anything at all could be accomplished at Lisbon.

Yet Acheson and Harriman have now returned from Lisbon in triumph. The European Army concept has been unanimously approved, at least in principle. General Eisenhower's plan for a 50-division NATO army by the end of this year, based on the brilliantly realistic appraisal of the "Three Wise Men" headed by Averell Harriman, has also been unanimously accepted. And such lesser but very difficult issues as the size of Germany's defense contribution and each country's appropriate share of constructing and maintaining NATO bases have finally been dealt with.

Some of the credit for thus snatching success from the jaws of disaster belongs to Acheson and Harriman. Acheson is at his best in this sort of difficult, largely private negotiation; one French diplomat, asked why the Lisbon meeting succeeded, answered simply "Acheson's obstinacy." There was also a certain fellow-feeling among the four principals, Acheson, Eden, Schuman and Adenauer, since all four have been bitterly attacked at home. But the real reasons went deeper than Acheson's doggedness or this companionship in misery.

ALTERNATIVE WORSE

The disaster was averted essentially because the French and the Germans, having moved up to the precipice, had a good look over the edge and did not like what they saw. Both had their own special angle of vision, as they peered into the abyss. The Germans saw the indefinite continuation of the occupation. The French, by contrast, saw a rearmed, independent German army, which would dominate Western Europe. Yet the great central danger which both French and Germans saw at the bottom of the precipice was the same—that the United States would simply withdraw in disgusted frustration, leaving Europe to its fate.

The fright which this glance into the abyss induced actually made possible more real progress at Lisbon than ever before. Yet the precipice is still there. The blueprint for a solidly defended, solidly united Western community now exists; but it is only a blueprint. Any single one of a number of events could cause the blueprint to be torn to shreds—a Communist triumph in the forthcoming Italian election; the victory of the de Gaulle or Schumacher nationalists in France or Germany; the fall of the Churchill Government.

Each of these events could mean the collapse of the Western alliance, which has been so narrowly averted in the last few weeks. And one or more of these events is absolutely sure to occur if American leadership of the Western alliance is undermined by the desire in Congress to make an "economy record" in this election year. This is a year of decision, just as much abroad as at home. For if the United States provides wise, firm leadership, there is now a rational prospect for building on the Lisbon blueprint a Western community strong enough to withstand whatever shocks may be in store for it. This is the lesson of Lisbon.

Quote, Unquote

Whenever it is said that a woman is making a fool of some man, we are always reminded of the incident in which a mother told her young son to stop pulling the cat's tail. "I'm not pulling it, Mama," he said, "I'm just holding — he's pulling it."—**Bristol (Va.) Herald Courier.**

This is the era when you hear of a man who began life with a million dollars and ran it into a shoestring. — **Asheville (N. C.) Citizen.**

Magician who sideswiped another car while driving blindfolded through mid-day traffic in Omaha didn't do any better than many a driver who has unobstructed vision. — **Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.**

Willie Sutton Nothing But Another Punk

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

THE case of Willie (The Actor) Sutton, who has been portrayed as a kind of superbrain among criminals and quoted almost reverently as a master Raffles and a modern Robin Hood, has made for me the best argument yet against crime. All crime.

Consider poor Willie, who owes the States something over 100 years of back time, and who says ruefully that a man on the lam from a jailbreak can't plead not guilty. Here is Willie, the superbandit, fingered by a pants-presser, and nabbed by a couple of cops who were almost dumb enough to let him go! What kind of mastermind gets lagged by a fuzz-cheeked youth and two beat-pounders who have to go hunt up a detective to decide whether to make a pinch on Criminal No. 1? And who wait an hour before frisking him for the gat he is carrying.

Then consider Willie's life as a fugitive. One time he served as a porter at a poor farm for two years while hiding out. Pardon me if I fail to distinguish between life in the clink and life at a Staten Island poor farm. And consider his life on the lam for the past five years, cowering in a tiny cell of a furnished room — sewing small companionship on the sly afraid to go back twice to the same bean joint for fear of identification, and living daily under a creeping fear of being recognized and pinched.

JAIL WAS NICE

Consider that in his 20-odd-year history of heisting banks and swiping jewels, the only real peace of mind and temporary security that Sutton has known was enjoyed while he was serving time in jail for one of his jobs. In the tank he was secure; outside he was never any better than a furtive shadow afraid to enjoy his spoils, afraid to relax, afraid . . . always afraid.

A criminal's pervading fear is a frightful thing. Whereas all men know momentary fear, the professional criminal lives with it like a perpetually shrewish, nagging wife. It never lets him up. He cannot really trust a partner in crime. He cannot make new friends. He cannot indulge himself in love or normal relaxation. He cannot even get drunk or take dope with any impunity, for the search for booze and narcotics leaves him wide open to arrest. He cannot sleep even, without wondering if some John won't come crashing in to drop the arm on him.

Willie, the master-mind, who so carefully cased his jobs, who walked in and out of prisons with equal ease, was reading a library shaped to help him find peace of mind. Willie fed pigeons in the park, always more than half afraid that even a pet pigeon could turn stool and lead him to a waiting cop.

TIRED OF IT ALL

And then the end of the chase. No gory gun battle, like that which cut down Dillinger and did in Ma Barker, but a meek and apologetic approach from the harness cops, who literally begged his pardon when they interrupted him fixing his car — two laws who were tipped by a youngster who recognized Willie on the subway. Willie didn't go for his gun — he didn't go for the one they frisked him for or the one they left. Willie just went quietly. He was sick and tired of the horrible life of the lammister.

The dapper Mr. Sutton did not know that the sheepish finish to his gaudy career would write a powerful sermon on the ancient cliche that crime doesn't pay. He wrote it unwittingly, and he wrote it large for all to see.

In New York we have devoted two flamboyant weeks to detailed coverage of poor Willie's decline and fall, because it was interesting reading and Willie had always been billed as a kingpin criminal. Actually, we did not chronicle the downfall of a super crook. We wrote an anti-climatic finish to a man who in the end was just another punk.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

GOP Attacks Military Aid Program

WASHINGTON

GOP policymakers are quietly loading Republican Senators with ammunition in order to open fire on the military aid program. The GOP theme has been set in a confidential memo to every Republican Senator from the Senate Minority Policy Committee, headed by Senator Taft.

"Within four years the Truman Administration has directly committed the United States to the defense of 41 countries," the GOP memo declares. "With a total population of 135 million people, the United States is bound by treaty or by military occupation to defend a foreign population of over 560 million. American armed forces must not only plan for the defense of the United States and its territorial possessions, but also for the defense of more than 45 per cent of the inhabited area of the world outside of the United States.

"The United States has also been involved indirectly, through military missions, military bases or the extension of military aid in the defense of nine additional countries with a population of over 170 million," the memo adds. "Military technicians are scattered throughout the world in 24 countries including five nations not yet included in formal treaty arrangements: Iran, Indonesia, Indo-China, Thailand and Liberia . . . Over a hundred American air bases are scattered throughout the world in ten different sovereign nations or their colonies including two nations not otherwise covered, Saudi Arabia and Libya.

"In total," sums up the confidential memo, "some 50 nations or 730 million people, almost one-third of the world's total population, look to the United States for their military defense. No nation in the history of the world, not even Britain at the height of its empire, ever entered upon such far-reaching commitments."

Commented one pro-Eisenhower Senator:

"It would appear that the GOP policymakers are against stopping the Communists until they arrive on America's shores."

Statue Of Liberty

OREGON'S bristle-browed Sen. Wayne Morse blazed back the other day at a suggestion that he should help tighten the locks on America's gates to ban foreign refugees.

Morse wrote a classic scorcher in answer to a letter from Mrs. Kathryn James of Seattle, Wash., who wrote: "The immigration laws are entirely too liberal. No true American wants this country overrun by the unassimilable hordes. It would be tantamount to treason for any Senator or Representative to vote to liberalize the immigration laws at this time."

In reply, Senator Morse quoted first from the inscription on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

To this Morse added: ""Unless you are a descendant of the native Americans who lived in this country before the coming of the white man, I assume that your ancestors came here as immigrants, no doubt with high hope of living a fruitful and useful life. What would have been their reaction if they had been turned back and told, 'you cannot enter; America is for Americans'?"

Inside The Iron Curtain

A GROUP of realistic peace crusaders, many of them Iron Curtain refugees, listened to some plain talk last week on how we can win the cold war against Russia and restore world peace by using a weapon Stalin fears more than the atom bomb—the resistance of people he has enslaved behind the Iron Curtain.

Sparked by three forthright Congressmen—O. K. Armstrong of Missouri, Republican; Brooks Hays of Arkansas Democrat; and Charles Kersten of Wisconsin, Republican—the meeting was called the Conference on Psychological Strategy. However, it all added up to people-to-people diplomacy of the type being practiced by thousands of American school children right now in writing messages to Russian school children to be broadcast over the Voice of America.

"Communism cannot be appeased," keynoted GOP Congressman Armstrong. "It cannot be contained. So long as this world-wide conspiracy exists, it will seek to destroy human liberties. There remains only one conclusion Communism must be defeated. It must be destroyed. Its virus must be eradicated."

In liberating the captive peoples of Communism, Armstrong warned, however, that the United States "must move boldly with ideas, not guns. Our first task will be to give assurances of hope to these hopeless millions that we intend to work unceasingly for their liberation. Our next and continuing task will be to employ the best methods of strengthening resistance among the victims of Soviet enslavement."

Edward O'Connor of the Displaced Persons Commission also advocated a central psychological strategy agency, with "bold and daring leadership," to develop a "hard-hitting campaign of truth" behind the Iron Curtain.

Note—State Department officials have enthusiastically co-operated with many people-to-people projects such as having the youth of America broadcast over the Voice of America and such as the rubber friendship balls now being sent by Amvets to the children of Italy and other countries. However, the over-all policy of the State Department has been to confine Russia, not penetrate Russia.