

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## A REPUGNANT CONCEPT

It is our position that the President is accountable only to the country, and the decisions of the President are conclusive.

Thus spoke the Government attorney who presented the Administration's viewpoint on steel seizure. When Judge Price asked if it was his concept of Government that the Constitution limits Congress and the judiciary but not the executive, the attorney replied:

"That's our conception... The President is accountable only to the country and his acts are conclusive."

The only limits on the executive, as the Government spokesmen saw it, are the ballot box and impeachment.

There is expressed probably the most sweeping conception of executive power that has ever been pronounced in an authoritative case. It is a conception that we cannot stomach. It is a conception that, if upheld and not restricted by constitutional amendment, could lead to totalitarian rule by an overbearing and irresponsible President.

Thus the Government has decided to insert in the seizure case a tremendous issue on which the Constitution is vague. The Government has asked that the constitutional issue not be ruled on at the time, that instead the court rule on the industry request for a temporary order to prevent the Administration from implementing the seizure order. Whatever the decision of the courts, there will be dealing with issues of great and awesome import.

The makers of the Constitution, in their wisdom, left vast areas of vagueness in their document. On the whole this seems to have worked out rather well in the matter of executive powers. As the need for increased executive power grew, along with the increasing complexity and speed of civilization, this power developed through rulings of the Supreme Court and acts of Congress. Certainly in this atomic age it is paramount that vast powers reside in the executive. We do not for a moment go along with those who think the President seeks to set himself up as dictator. But his actions and words increasingly indicate a dangerous disregard for tripartite government. He is in an "I'll show 'em" mood, the danger of which increases with a man's authority. Big Steel crosses his wrath—he's going to show 'em who's boss. Congress arouses his wrath—he's going to show 'em. Now the Administration suggests that even the courts cannot restrain the executive.

There is a great need for governmental machinery to insure operation of an industry that must, in the public interest,

keep operating. There is the problem to which Congress should now devote its time. For, if it is already being invaded by funds for Government operation of the industry are cut off without provision for mandatory operation of the mills, a strike will surely occur. And, as we have previously emphasized, the continuation of operation of the steel industry has been the most important issue in this furor—in this government of checks and balances of ours, in which the Supreme Court continues to uphold the law.

But now the Administration flagrantly assumes that the President is beyond the jurisdiction of the courts. Such a concept is, in our opinion, completely repugnant to democratic principles. It is well that this concept is now challenged. If it is upheld then it seems clear that the gap left by the Constitution's fathers should be narrowed by amendment.

## FOR WAR OR PEACE

CIVIL DEFENSE is one of those projects which has often been classified with plant dispersal, bomb shelters and gas masks. If you have it, you probably won't need it, thus all the expense for nothing. If you don't have it there's greater chance you'll have need of it, and in event of war many casualties will result from its absence.

This dilemma has been repeatedly plagued Congressmen, who decided to have just a little bit of civil defense. Now the President and Civil Defense Administrator Caldwell are asking for a little bit more.

That little bit of civil defense showed its peace-time worthiness during the Missouri Valley floods. In the Omaha-Council Bluffs section hundreds of volunteer firemen, policemen and first aid workers who had been trained by the civil defense organization went into action. The engineers in charge of flood control decided one of the first things to do was inventory available trucking. Fortunately, civil defense had that information, pulled it out of a drawer, and gave it to the engineers. The fact that Civil Defense had at least a nucleus of an emergency organization was the main factor in victory over the flood, according to some of the men who were there.

Congress should bear in mind this dual purpose of the Civil Defense Administration in considering the organization's appropriation.

Most important, an important body of the press resorted to secret session to discuss the results of a recent school board election. Exactly what organizations criticized by the press like to do—discussed the matter privately, then released a statement.

Of course there is an important difference in that the ANPA is not a public body. But it is a very influential private body. Its actions are news, and are entitled to full coverage.

Here were the big newsmen assembled—and the news didn't get covered. As the Post said, "nobody seemed to get the joke." The ANPA action is not entirely funny, but it seems that the newspapers might have to let reporters tag along with the front office men on the annual Spring executives' meeting.

under this rigid, restrictive system.

One would think then, that they would be rather unproductive, dull. Yet no one who fears the hundreds of well-equipped Soviet divisions, the atomic bombs (which first exploded before the Fuchs betrayal), the MIG airplanes in Korea, where our airman admit are superior to anything we have. Can we say that slave labor, turned German scientists, and a relatively few brilliant fanatics were sufficient to make these huge strides in science, as well as in, say, agriculture?

Perhaps there is free freedom in Russia, the Iron Curtain permits us to know of. Or perhaps communism has proved to be more productive than we Americans, when comparing it to the system we prefer, like to think. We don't know, but it's something to think about.

Right now we're calling for some Rebel lawyer to draw up a resolution to Congress authorizing the use of Confederate flags "whenever the situation warrants." There are just some natural spots on the globe where a Yankee flag ain't wanted.

Our streets would be much safer if a driving license were refused to that person who is called the "other fellow"—Portsmouth (Va.) Star.

Sign on optometrist's window: "Eyes Examined While You Wait." Is there some other way, Doc?—Fernandina (Fla.) News-Leader.

Your editor is absolutely terrified at the thought that the United States may come to 1953 without a politician to fill the Presidency. So far, none but avowed statesmen have come forward as candidates—Dolness (GE) Nugget.



## People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writers name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor.

Spring Is Here, Tra La  
McBEE, S. C.

Charlotte: The city is not the clean city but truly the Queen City. Nowhere, I say nowhere in the United States or Europe can a city of your size be matched in cleanliness of its city streets nor the radiant beauty of its womanhood. I have never found a dirtier street while in Charlotte and I have yet to see a girl or woman in Charlotte who could be called homely.

The main feature of any city is its people. Charlotte has some of the finest people in the whole cockeyed world. I like Charlotte and I like its people. It is a city of fine churches overcrowded on Sundays. Its schools are unsurpassed anywhere. It offers to young and old a chance for increasing learning through correspondence and night schools. Its motion picture theaters can compare with the best equipped and best of some of the finest theaters in the world. The city is scattered throughout the city of a clean, wholesome atmosphere for the young of heart, wholesome. It keeps the girl of his heart's desire or vice versa. Its Saturday night dances and these recreation centers are conducted by the youths themselves and are conducted with a credit to your city.

The effects of your city are well guarded at night and during the day by courteous cops who have a bigger heart than you do a badge. Freedom Park is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. Its levelness never ceases. Your wonderful hospitals are well equipped and staffed with the best of the best. Not only do they know their job but it's kind of hard to keep sick long in one of your institutions. The nurses you can't help but fall in love with.

With a song in my heart I salute you of Charlotte. Keep it clean. Keep it Queen. Keep it where ugliness is never found. I can stand on the Square and fall in love with every young thing passing by. N. Trye, Oh! It's criminal to have so much beautiful women... but ah, who doesn't love it!

—MARK A. BROWN

Charlotte: I should like to thank you for the sentiment expressed in the editorial of your good paper on April 22, 1952 which dealt with the fire department. It is sincerely hoped that our efforts to render an efficient public service shall continue to merit your approval.

The members of the Department endeavor at all times to render a service in keeping with their great responsibilities; and, I assure you that such expressions as yours serve as an inspiration for them to carry out their efforts to maintain this high level of efficiency.

DONALD S. CHARLES, Chief, Charlotte Fire Department

Drew Pearson's Merry-Ground

IT WAS supposed to be kept "confidential and unfiled," but a prospective delegate recently hit Senator Kefauver for "expense money" in return for his support at the Democratic convention.

The would-be delegate is Warner Bloomberg of Gary, Ind., who hinted significantly that expenses at the 1948 convention ran around \$1,000 per delegate. But he solicited the young candidate in crime-busting Senator Kefauver, who may end up investigating instead of paying him.

Bloomberg made his shocking request for money in a confidential letter, dated March 23, to Kefauver's campaign headquarters. "I would prefer that this letter be kept confidential and unfiled," Bloomberg wrote cautiously. "I have been approached by some friends to run for President, but I am in the Indiana Democratic Party... They indicated to me that they would be happy to bring about my selection as one of Indiana's delegates to the national convention at the Democratic convention. There is always that slip between cup and lip in politics of this sort—but the offer presents a good possibility. I have tentatively accepted."

The Indiana member then got down to business. "Bloomberg confessed to this column that his letter had been a 'political error,' but denied that he had any ulterior motives."

In his letter to Kefauver headquarters, Bloomberg asked Senator Kefauver for any money. I asked Jack O'Brien (Kefauver's campaign manager) if he could help me out. After all, he isn't entirely poverty-stricken. Bloomberg admitted to this column that he lives 37 miles from Chicago, that he could room with friends during the convention and that he expected financial help from his labor union system in the Southern States. Senator Kefauver would like to know what is at the bottom of this strange request for a financial touch "running into several hundred dollars."

ONE of Sen. John R. Russell's last acts, before leaving town to fight his Florida primary, was to ask the 30,000 plane-owning Senate Democratic leaders. The problem was how to avoid crippling the nation's economy in the defense and the meeting's most heartening incident was Senator Russell's forthright refusal to let the Air Force try to fight hard to sustain both these vital programs.

The sort of simple, national-minded courage is one main reason why so many thinking Democrats are to be heard, none more fruitfully wishing "Dick Russell" than from the deep South. And, consequently, because a serious Presidential candidate.

In the present instance, more over, Russell's courage should have the most far-reaching results. As their chosen leader for the Chicago convention, Senator Russell can carry with him many Southern Senators who might otherwise support meat-axe cuts in defense and foreign aid. With the Eisenhower Republicans also voting for these two programs in the fall, the odds are so heavily in his favor that the outlook for sensible Senate action is unexpectedly favorable. Even the best foreign aid program may not be cut by much more than one billion dollars, which is half the most optimistic official forecast.

The intervention of a single individual may thus go far to preserve the continuity of the most important national policies. Yet the thought of another hair's breadth escape from the clutches of the military-industrial complex does not conceal the existence of something very like a suicidal impulse in Congress at this time.

A few House members, like determined old Chairman Carl Vinson of the Military Affairs Committee, fought hard against the election year madness. But Rep. Frederic R. Courant of New York, believing that the support of the Chamber of Commerce and the National Manufacturers Association, would be enough to get through with South-ern help. And now the damage has to be repaired by the Senate, if possible.

125-GROUP AF FAR OFF

The House vote in effect said that the Air Force must have five years or even more before we are protected. Unless reversed in the Senate, the House vote will impose a material handicap on the Air Force, which is now being built up by the House.

That is a welcome but a not very reassuring disclaimer. The fact that the House vote was intended to be a joke is plausible but that does not make it any less a disaster. It is a remark sometimes will reveal a remark that is more than a carefully considered statement. This nonserif of Mr. Truman's thinking in the House of Representatives is another Government service which he may might deem appropriate.

Mr. Truman ought to invite Judge Cooke to come to the White House to pay him a visit and talk things over. Louisiana, the publisher and editor and some of the staff of the Lake Charles American Press carried on a vigorous, sustained campaign to get the House of Representatives to enforce the laws against gambling.

Without that right, we would have a disastrous federal government and the discussion of important public issues would be as much as might be "perjured."

This decision goes to the heart of the democratic freedoms—freedom of speech, of the press, and of assembly—without which freedoms there can be no individual liberty, without which freedoms democracy would be meaningless.

It took Judge Cooke two and one half hours to read his verdict in the case of the Louisiana State of Louisiana. I am sure that Truman could not spend two and one-half hours better than by reading it himself.

Now, it is only fair to note that on the morning after the President told the editors he had authorized to take over the newspapers Joseph Short, White House press secretary, put out a statement saying that Mr. Cooke did not mean to have his remark taken seriously.

Judge Cooke, who heard the prosecution, in effect threw it out of court. He called an abrupt halt to the Louisiana State of Louisiana. He said that if public officials were to be immune from criticism, then they would be immune from criticism.

If the Government legally seizes the newspapers, then the newspaper editors would be working for the Government. The words of Judge Cooke, no longer would be free to criticize the public acts of government officials. This is where Government seizure of press and radio would lead.

Mountain of Aluminum

IT has been kept under wraps, but the Government may build a mountain of aluminum—a keep handy in case of war. Mobilizing 4,000,000 tons of aluminum is a tremendous, 4,000,000-ton stockpile.

This was brought out at a closed-door meeting of the Aluminum Association, Atomic Energy Chairman Gordon Dean and Aluminum Czar Samuel Anderson.

"To be having to build rapidly for the third time to meet war needs," declared Anderson, "is considered to establish, after civilian requirements have been met, a stockpile of aluminum which could be obtained through an official aluminum purchasing method not required for other uses."

Anderson said that a stockpile of 1,000,000 tons of aluminum could be accumulated by 1959 on the basis of currently planned expansion. He suggested that the stockpile objective could be met by increasing civilian consumption to 1,000,000 tons by 1950, but forecast "strong opposition" to "depriving the civilian area for any length of time to accumulate a permanent stockpile during a limited mobilization period."

Instead, Anderson urged filling civilian orders first and stockpiling only when the Government would become the "residual legatee" of the aluminum produced, which the civilian economy did not want, he explained. Dr. Anderson said that the Aluminum Research Council warned that long storage of aluminum may lead to deterioration.

On contact with moist air, aluminum oxidizes hydro-lytically, and a coating is formed which has to be melted off," he explained.

Feinstein suggested that this could be solved by rotating the stored aluminum in a stockpile arrangement with the producers.