THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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NOW FOR A GOOD LOOK AT McGRATH

THE upshot of the Morris-McGrath double out yesterday may be that a situation which seemingly couldn't get much worse will improve. If Mr. McGrath had been removed long ago by a competent Attorney General, the appointment of Newbold Morris as special corruption investigator, and all the disgusting consequences, might not have been necessary.

Judge McGranery, the new Attorney General, used to be a Congressman. Apparently he is highly regarded by Democrats—both Northern and Southern variety, and Republicans, although surely some aspect of his past life will be broadcast by yet-silent critics before long. But at least he should be approved promptly by Congress. Time alone will tell whether he has the stature, authority and capacity for restoring to government service, and the Department of Justice in particular, some measure of those plain and honest virtues which are wanting.

Insincerity and callous indifference seem to have characterized the whole affair, which leaves us, at the moment at least, more disgusted, and ashamed of this spectacle, than angered. Mr. McGrath appointed Mr. Morris to investigate Mr. McGrath, after several men had shied away from the job. Obviously, Mr. Morris was out of his league. The Congressional diatribes against Mr. Morris, the Attorney General's cavalier disregard for the questionnaires, the refusal of Congress to grant Mr. Morris adequate powers—all pointed up to the smug contempt with which the clean-up move was regarded. The President packs little weight anymore on matters of morality in government, and his influence for clean-up has been slight, if not negative.

The President does, however, usually give his subordinates a free hand, which in the case of Mr. McGrath seems most regrettable. Mr. McGranery will presumably have a free hand—at least until he starts stepping on toes. We expect no miracles from him, particularly because of increasing election fever. We hope he can restore integrity to his high office. That goal is achievable. And it is sorely needed.

Meanwhile, full steam ahead on the investigation of Mr. McGrath. His several actions suggest that he's covering up something. Let's take a good look. Maybe when his deals are publicized the patterns of this jigsaw will fit together.

A BILL WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN GREAT

IT SEEMS that in all controversies involving in any way U. S. water— the St. Lawrence Seaway, TVA, the proposed MVA —a great amount of mud gets thrown around. The so-called 'tidelands" issue is of this pattern.

Some persons want the Federal Government to continue ownership of these lands, which in Texas, California and Louisiana are rich with oil. Others seek state ownership. "Tidelands" is a misnomer, as the actual tidelands, that coastal strip lying between the low-tide and high-tide marks, have always belonged to the states. The Federal Government has never claimed them. Its dispute is claim to the marginal sea, the submerged land lying seaward of the low-tide mark to the traditional three-mile limit of national sovereignty.

Three times, once in 1947 and twice in 1950, the Supreme Court has held that these marginal seas belong to the United States, rather than those individual states which abut them. Last year the House of Representatives passed a bill which would overrule the Supreme Court, passing title to the individual states. Wednesday the Senate passed a similar bill, 50 to 35, and the two bills now go to a House-Senate committee where the differences will presumably be ironed out.

Before voting affirmatively the Senate tabled, by a vote of 47 to 36, the "oil for education" amendment, proposed by Senator Hill of Alabama and seventeen of his colleagues, under which present Federal ownership would be continued, with an important qualification. Here, in Senator Hill's words, is the essence of his proposal:

"Our amendment provides that a national council of twelve educators be appointed to study the question of applying the funds to aid education in every state in the union . . . Out of a study by such a council should come intelligent and equitable plans for relieving the financial straits of our elementary and secondary schools; and also for helping our colleges and universities, medical schools, nursing schools, technological schools, and research institutions, presumably through measures such as scholarships and grants-in-aid. The possibilities challenge the imagination."

We regret the Senate's refutation of this amendment. It of course would completely change the nature of the bill, and for a wonderful, worthy purpose.

The amendment was criticized as being—that bad word again—"socialistic". If it is, we've been socialistic since colonial times. From our earliest times a portion of the public domain has been earmarked for the support of schools, first in the colonies. Our land-grant colleges, which played such an important part in education in the South and West, sprang from this inspired use of the national domain. Senator Hill's amendment would merely permit the Government to retain what it has, using the profit therefrom for education, for all the nation. Without the amendment, the bill will benefit only three or four states and the oil interests therein, to an extent estimated by Senator Hill to be at least $50 billion.

The difference between what is proposed and what might have been proposed is vast in this instance. The President, we trust, is sharpening his veto pencil. Perhaps a future Congress will recognize the worth of Senator Hill's proposal.

THE ALL-PURPOSE OVIBOS

THE WORLD is full of wondrous things, undiscovered or unnoticed. Take the ovibos, for example.

Mr. John T. Teal of McGill University has just received permission to trap calf ovibodae on Nunivaera Island in the Canadian Archipelago, to which they moved, long ago, from Kentucky. The ovibos, he says, is sometimes called musk ox, but shouldn't be, as it is not an ox and has no musk glands. It smells, he insists, good.

But that is not all. Listen to his description of ovibodae potentialities:

"It is half way between a sheep and a cow. The meat is better than beef, the wool is the lightest and softest known and the milk is as good as cow's milk".

Obviously, as comic page readers will readily note, it combines the better features of schmoos and schminks. And in addition, says Dr. Teal:

"The ovibos can live the year around on sparsely-grassed lands with no attention. You don't have to cut hay or buy feed. The animal can eat right through the snow or lick the lichens off rocks in the Winter time. If we can domesticate the ovibos it will be the greatest contribution to agricultural economy since the taming of the cow."

Mr. Teal is an anthropologist, and, scientists are always modest in their predictions. On the basis of his estimate surely the ovibos can lick lichens out of Piedmont clay and the tar out of Tar Heelia beef cattle, dairy cattle and sheep. Bring some of those three-in-one jobs down here, professor, and we'll go back to the farm.

From The Wall Street Journal

TWO STANDARDS

WE NOTED in these columns recently how Europe's retreat from freer trade threatens to indefinitely postpone that area's economic recovery, hinder higher production for defense and delay the day when Europe can stand independent of American aid.

The U. S. has preached removal of trade barriers in Europe and the expansion of markets as one of the chief aims of its post-war economic policy. But America's own practice is far from blameless, when looked at alongside these preachings.

Congress has balked efforts to repeal the quota restrictions on imports of dairy products which were passed last year as a rider to the Defense Production Act. The House has voted to impose a tariff on fresh and frozen tuna fish now admitted duty-free from abroad. The Tariff Commission also is investigating whether duties should be raised on imports of garlic, briar pipe bowls, bicycles, motorbikes, watches and watch parts.

If trade barriers are raised, instead of lowered, on this side of the ocean, it will mean more than higher-priced watches, pipes and tuna fish salads for the American consumer. It will also nullify much of what our billions in foreign aid are intended to accomplish.

Our import restrictions on dairy products have already drawn yelps of pain from ten countries. Many of them, like Italy and the Scandinavian nations, had boosted cheese exports to the U. S. at the urging of our own Marshall Plan officials. If our market is closed to what they can produce to sell to us, how can they pay for the coal, cotton and wheat they must buy here with dollars? Will American aid forever make up the difference between what they earn and what they spend here?

It is certainly inconsistent to erect trade barriers restricting Europe's earning power here with one hand while voting vast sums with the other to conceal Europe's "dollar gap".

That is the practical side of U. S. import restrictions. There is a moral and psychological side, too. We have hammered endlessly at the Europeans to allow a freer flow of trade across their own borders, to create a single large market in Europe. Europe's only hope of economic health and independence from American aid lies in such an expansion of its trade. Yet how can we expect our friendly advice to meet anything but cynicism when we allow our own actions to deny our words?

World economic health requires the razing of trade barriers everywhere, on this side of the ocean as well as the other. To set two standards is to cause all American taxpayers to be penalized—through prolonged and unnecessarily high foreign-aid appropriations—in order to subsidize and protect a small group of domestic producers.

'Didn't You Know, Dearie? This Is Leap Year'

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. The News reserves the right to condense.

We Jumped The Gun?

PINEHURST

Editors, THE NEWS:

IN your editorial of March 29, "Eisenhower And The Independents", it appears that you protest too strongly to warrant complete belief in your profession of political independence. As of now you are an avowed Eisenhower partisan. You state that "Bernard DeVoto has made out a neat little thesis" which briefly is that the independent voters should not be for Eisenhower, their best bet being Adlai Stevenson. You make out an equally "neat little thesis" to the effect that the independent voters should be for Eisenhower and no one else. At this time with neither nomination having been made, with no platforms to study, my belief is that both you and DeVoto are jumping the gun. I agree with you completely in your desire to have Eisenhower nominated on the Republican ticket. There our agreement ends and I equally disagree with DeVoto.

Now that Mr. Truman has renounced any intention of seeking re-election, it is certain that there will be a new administration after January next regardless of the outcome of the November election. As of now there is no data upon which to determine whether it will be a greater advantage to elect another, but entirely new, Democratic administration, or to elect a Republican administration. As of now you definitely favor not only the nomination of Eisenhower, on the Republican ticket, but also his election. You take this position even before the Democratic nominee is known. Maybe you are right but until the situation becomes clarified and there are more facts upon which to base my decision, I refuse to be stampeded into an irrevocable decision from which it might be embarrassing to withdraw in the event I changed my mind.

It seems reasonable to believe that a real non-partisan (independent) voter should take this attitude. It seems incorrect to classify anyone as an independent who at this early date declares his undying devotion to some individual, not only for nomination but for actual election, regardless of whom his opponent may eventually be.

Part of DeVoto's thesis is that Eisenhower's foreign policy would be scotched by the isolationist and near isolationist group of the Republicans in Congress. Your thesis, to the contrary, is that Eisenhower by the use of "persuasion and compromise" will be able to get the "Old Guard of the Republican Party" to change ideas and beliefs for which it has fought and died since 1920, and for which at times, it has seemed willing to wreck the party.

The late Senator Vandenberg. God rest his soul. struggled against this same smug and stubborn group. With the assistance of the liberals in the Republican Party and the internationally-minded Democrats the semblance of a non-partisan foreign policy was obtained. But, with all his powers of persuasion; with all his knowledge of the use of political pressure (a knowledge Eisenhower lacks because he has had no political experience) Senator Vandenberg was unable to puncture the rhinoceros hide of the GOP Old Guard. It seems that your argument, that General Eisenhower will be able to accomplish what neither Senator Vandenberg, nor anyone else, has been able to do down the years, approaches the naive. At the least it is wishful thinking.

I suggest that as of now we Independents, to be independent in fact, sit back and wait. Of course we can hope that each party nominates an outstanding candidate, but for me it seems too early to commit ourselves, as you so blithely do, as to what we will do in November. At least let's wait until the two nominees are known and we have some ideas as to the principal issues that will be discussed.

—ELMER M. SIMKINS.

Wants More 'Creeping Socialism'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

ONE interesting factor in observing this year-in and year-out battle against the New Deal and Fair Deal, is the fact that the editorial pages are "agin'", while the financial and business sections are silently "for". A recent survey by the United States Department of Commerce, and published by the highly reliable publishing house of McGraw-Hill, gives some startling figures about this "creeping socialism" the editorial pages warn against.

First of all, the cold facts show that in 1950 (of which only one-half a year was a "war" year), American business, manufacturing, mining, railroads, electric and gas utilities and other transportation spent $14 billion for new plants and equipment, said $14 billion being more (for expansion alone) than the entire full value of the same plants in 1931.

Under Roosevelt and Truman the actual value of finished goods produced in North Carolina increased a little over 221 per cent over 1929, and the number of manufacturing plants in the state increased exactly 110 per cent during that same period. If that be "creeping socialism", let us hope that we get another decade of the same.

—T. L. SHAPIRO.

The Children's News Useful

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IN our present technological age we find many who are relying totally upon the radio and television as their source of information. We know from experience that if each one is to handle competently the written word, he must practice reading same.

Children, being first of all human beings, need source areas for successfully meeting this need. The Children's News is a definite step in this direction. It will provide opportunities for even our first graders in bridging the gap between the school and the community. Reading of course, means much more when one has the opportunity to successfully practice it through such medians as **The Children's News.**

This section should become a part of and not apart from the total informative nature of a good newspaper. This section can be of untold value in providing our children with information relative to our community, state and national happenings. It would be through this successful experience that our children will be able to relegate reading to its proper place in our everyday living.

—H. JAY HAICKES, Director
Special Education, Charlotte City Schools.

Steel Wage-Price Trouble Small Part Of The Picture

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE argument over steel wages and prices is taking place for the most part in a framework dated by at least ten years. The monumental fact overshadowing almost everything else is the extraordinary expansion of the national economy during the past decade.

The nation's total productive capacity was increased by nearly 50 per cent in the World War II. Steel capacity in 1939 was 61,000,000 tons. In 1946 it was 91,000,000, and in other fields the increase was much greater.

Most of the professional economists were predicting a depression at the war's end. They estimated that unemployment would be anywhere from 8,000,000 on up. The prophets of doom did some handwringing over the lack of any coordinated government plans to meet the oncoming depression with prearranged work projects similar to those initiated by the New Deal in the 'thirties.

PROPHETS CONFOUNDED

These prophets were, of course, completely confounded. Phenomenally high levels have been maintained in every field. Since 1948 the real national product has been expanded by $50 billions a year. This means that when due allowance has been made for the inflation of the dollar, the productive system has been increased in three years by a volume equal to nearly one-third of total production in 1939.

What is more, this increase is going forward at just as rapid a rate. Steel capacity is now being expanded from the current rate of 108,000,000 tons to 120,000,000. Large developments in Labrador and South America are opening up new sources. Expansion of the steel industry in the West is resulting in what will be, in effect, a brand-new Pittsburgh on the Pacific Slope.

The public quarrel over steel wages illustrates once again one of the cardinal failures of the Truman Administration. That is the almost total absence of a constructive and co-ordinated information program that gives the American public a chance to find out what is really going on.

While it was on the generous side, a valid case could have been made for the steel wage increase as catching steelworkers up with the wage procession. With the escalator clauses in their contracts auto workers have had an increase of about 16 per cent during approximately the period when steel wages have been stationary. They have had six paid holidays and other benefits included in the package approved for the steelworkers by the Wage Stabilization Board.

But in presenting the wage decision the board failed to put sufficient stress on these facts. So, increasingly, the emphasis in the discussion of the steel decision — politics enters in here, too — is on the increase as a seventh round and a precedent for other unions.

The prevailing economic realities are, however, likely to operate against this becoming a general pattern throughout industry. Take textile wages, for example. They are still above steel wages. A drive to push them higher is most unlikely, since there are large pockets of unemployment in the textile industry. Beginning Feb. 1 John L. Lewis has had the right to press new wage demands for his coal miners, yet he has not done so. The competition of oil and natural gas has made great inroads in the use of coal.

As more and more plants are built to make more and more things, the purchasing power to buy those things must be available. This is an old argument worn somewhat threadbare. But it still seems valid in relation to a wage rise that is not altogether nullified by a price increase. A reasonable compromise in the steel industry is not likely to unbalance the economy, as still other prophets of doom are arguing.

Old Pros Found A Fall Guy In Amateur Newbold Morris

By ROBERT C. RUARK

(This column was written before Messrs. Morris and McGrath left office yesterday. Editors, The News.)

NEW YORK

THE transparency of the entire deal that cited one of our barefoot boys as head white wing of the government sanitation cleaning becomes apparent, even though it seemed all too incredible when it started.

We had a lot of stealing going on in the government, especially in the tax-enforcement end, with heavily embarrassing public attention. Our new-retiring chieftain came boiling up from Key West to put things right. What he wanted was a Hercules to sweep the stables, or so he said.

They made a pass at big Tom Murphy, a tough and honest Irishman, who tentatively accepted. Then big Tom spied some of the mice in the breadbox and said nossirree, bob, not for Missus Murphy's boy. That should have told you that the intent to wash down the Justice Dept. was a pure piece of lip service, shaped merely to douse the fires of spreading scandal. If Judge Murphy didn't want to handle it, something had to be screwy.

Then we had what looked like the immediate firing of Howard McGrath, the Attorney General of the United States. Truman was going to can him one day; the next he was back in favor. It smelled, some.

WHAT A SUCKER

Then we had the appointment of Mr. Newbold Morris, a gentil parfait knight of the Republican Party, as head housecleaner for a Democratic scandal. That had to smell some, too, because no expedient political gang is actually going to grant full powers of delousing to a member of the opposition in an election year. I thought Newbold was a sucker to take the job. Time proved that, too.

Of Mr. Morris it has been said that he was born with a silver foot in his mouth. This was exemplified in the heavy attacks on him as portion of that reeking deal with the oil tankers, for which Newbold's law firm drew up some papers for a fee. Now it was Newbold under attack. They had him sweating on the stand, and all the time he had come there to sweat the attackers.

Well, Newbold screamed in anguished innocence, and his inquisitors heaped more fuel on the flame of his indignation, and finally they let him stand down. He served his papers.

WAS HE SERIOUS?

And now, bless de Lawd, Att'y. Gen. McGrath is refusing to answer about his money and its sources, and these of his subordinates. And some other Cabinet-ers are howling about the indignities of being circularized on their money. McGrath, wondrous to behold, is even saying that he never would have had the job if Newbold's appointment as vermin chaser if he had known the man was serious about chasing vermin.

So now Newbold is going to be back home with us soon, silver foot firmly in mouth, and his record of noble nonaccomplishment intact. Newbold twice tried to unhorse Bill O'Dwyer, the Ambassador, for the mayoralty of New York, and got nowhere with that, either.

What you have for a conclusion is so simple, so unpretily succinct, Mr. Truman and Co. never really wanted a full investigation of looting the national pantry. All they wanted was to make a few righteous noises, trap a willing sucker at fall guy in the investigative end, and then let the whole smelly mess subside under the rubble of time and confusion. It would appear that, but for the possible hurried resignation of McGrath and a few buried documents, it will come to rest under that self-same rubble.

Come home, Newbold, and let us find you a few fresh windmills to tilt at. When you tangled with that mob you were playing with the old pros, and you are not yet ready for that fast company. Takes seasoning, bud.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Democrats In Spring Future Book

WASHINGTON

THIS is the time when politics, like Spring in the nation's Capital, is bursting all over. Not for twenty years has there been such a preening of Presidential coat feathers, such a parade of hopefuls toward the Democratic altar.

Competition is the spice of politics as well as of American life, and this is the healthiest thing that has happened to the Democratic Party in two decades. To help the American public watch the parade, here is a thumbnail review of the Easter political paraders—in order of age:

Vice President Alben Barkley—age 74. Kindly, astute, popular, Alben once heard an Egptian fortune teller at the Pyramids outside Cairo tell him he would live to be 103. Barkley gave the fortune teller $5 extra and has believed the prediction ever since. In spirit, Barkley is still a young man.

Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas—age 70. Called "Mr. Democrat," he pioneered some of the earliest New Deal legislation: the Holding Company Act; the Securities and Exchange Commission; the REA, which brought electricity to farms. Sam is revered and respected on Capitol Hill, but both he and Barkley automatically give the Republicans their best argument for nominating MacArthur, aged 72.

Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois—age 60. Despite repeated protests that he is not a candidate, Douglas has a tremendous popular following, ranks third—after Kefauver and Truman—in the current Merry-Go-Round poll. A Quaker, Douglas enlisted in the Marines at the age of 50, came out badly wounded, has great political as well as physical courage and, like Kefauver, has built up such popularity that he has incurred acute White House displeasure.

Sen. Robert Kerr of Oklahoma—age 55. A big oil and gas man, Kerr traded all sorts of votes on vital issues in order to pass his Kerr natural gas bill permitting an increase in the price of gas. Though a delightful personality and good campaigner, any inspection of his lobbying record during an election campaign would result in certain defeat.

Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia—age 54. Able and highly respected, he has been the leader of the Republican-Democratic coalition which has successfully fought Truman on civil rights and has automatically alienate the big blocs of Negro voters which can swing elections in New York, Chicago and other Northern cities.

Merry-Go-Round Poll

WITH a healthy race on in both political parties, the Washington Merry-Go-Round is now conducting a post-card poll on the Democratic candidates. The GOF poll resulted in 49 per cent for Eisenhower, 36 per cent for Taft, and incidentally turned out to be an accurate gauge of sentiment in New Hampshire and Minnesota. In the current Democratic poll, readers can vote by sending a post card to box 1952, Washington, D. C., giving the name of your candidate.

Gov. Adlai Stevenson of Illinois—age 52. The top choice of President Truman, has been an A-1 Governor, knows the Government from having served in the State and Navy Depts., grandson of a Vice-President of the United States, able and courageous. Handicaps are a divorce which, though not of his choosing, would make him the first divorced man to serve in the White House; he also testified for Alger Hiss.

Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee—age 48. A proven vote-getter. His performance against the well-organized Truman machine in New Hampshire was nothing short of a political miracle. However, since it's always customary to throw stones at the men in the lead, Kefauver is getting his share—especially from jealous colleagues. Actually Kefauver has shown more courage on civil rights than any other Southern Senator, pioneered on public housing, voted against the poll tax, worked diligently for a united Europe, and saw the importance of a corruption cleanup two years ahead of anyone else. The people like him but the politicians don't.

Sen. Brien McMahon of Connecticut—age 46. Has done more constructive work for peace and foreign affairs than any other Senator. Had the vision to see the importance of atomic energy and establish the Atomic Energy Committee. Having served in the Justice Dept., he knows Washington as few others. Unfortunately, religious prejudice having been stirred up over the Vatican issue, McMahon, a Catholic, would have hard sledding.

Gov. Mennen Williams of Michigan—age 41. One of the coming men in the Democratic Party. He startled normally Republican Michigan by winning the governorship in that state. Reason for Williams' political success is a record which makes many Republicans vote for him. Scion of the Williams-Mennen shaving soap family, he's called "Soapy;" learned about Government under the late Justice and Attorney General Frank Murphy. Williams says he doesn't want to run, but he'd be a great vote getter as Vice President.