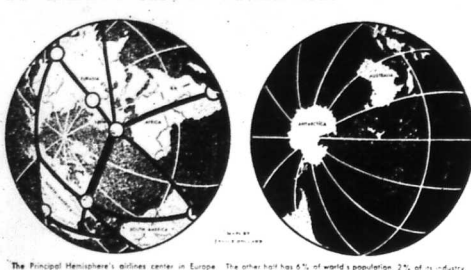


THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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

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EUROPEAN BASES KEY TO AIR WAR



The Principal Members' airlines center in Europe. The other has 6 1/2% of world's population, 2% of its industry.

THERE is one school of foreign policy in the U. S. that emphasizes air power and plays down the vital importance of Europe in this country's national defense. Former President Herbert Hoover, a leading exponent of this theory, says the "first national purpose of this republic must be the defense of this final Gibraltar of freedom—that is the Western Hemisphere." Along with this, he would leave it up to European nations to protect U. S. airfields within their boundaries.

Senator Taft, General MacArthur, some other military men, and many of the GOP right wingers generally agree with this view. But it is also held by some who disavow the Old Guard but are attracted to the idea of a powerful home-based Air Force.

The importance of Western Europe to the U. S. in this air age is obvious. If one forgets the "Eastern" and "Western" hemispheres as well as the distorted Mercator projection maps most of us are used to, and looks at a globe.

Some geographers have de-emphasized the traditional concept of hemispheres, and divided the globe differently, putting in one hemisphere as much of the world's land mass as possible. Stick a pin in the globe just southeast of Nantes, France, draw a circle halfway around the pin away from the pin and there you have what J. Parker Van Zandt, president of the Aviation Research Institute, calls the "principal" hemisphere.

This principal hemisphere included almost nine-tenths of all the free land area in the world. It includes 94 per cent of the world's people, 98 per cent of the world's industry.

Another hemisphere consists of Ant. arctica, Oceania, the southern part of South America—and a lot of water. (See cut.)

Ours then, is a lopsided world. The United States is on the periphery of this important principal hemisphere, France, and the other countries of Western Europe, clustered closely around it, are smack in the middle of it.

Except for the East Indies, the Reds are continuing their attention to this principal hemisphere. And thus the result of the principal hemisphere is of immense strategic importance.

THE STATE LOSES A LEADER

DREW CLYDE A. ERWIN came into the state education picture in 1944, when he was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction. North Carolina was still in the grip of the depression, and the mere preservation of its school system in a time of decreasing revenue was a formidable task.

But North Carolina had made up its mind that, no matter what happened in the years to come, the state would be kept open, and that progress would be maintained toward a system that would give every child in every one of the 100 counties an equal minimum education stand.

Dr. Erwin was as much a diplomat as he was an educator. The problems of standardization, of consolidation of modernization arose in every school district were settled amicably in most cases, but always firmly. The biennial battles with the Advisory Budget Commission and the General Assembly were waged calmly, but persist-

importance particularly to the Air Force. The strategic disadvantage of the United States in an air war can be illustrated by comparing a few air mile distances.

It is 498 miles from Chicago to Moscow; it is only 1,541 miles from Paris to Moscow; it is 5,476 miles from Chicago to Istanbul; it is only 1,401 miles from Paris to Istanbul; it is 7,061 miles from Chicago to Calcutta; it is only 4,899 miles from Paris to Calcutta.

That is a difference of over 6,000 miles on a round trip to each of these destinations; areas in areas where bombing was urgently required in event of World War III. That extra 6,000 miles means, to the Air Force planners, that only the extra long range bombers can make the trip.

To the bomber crew, it means less pay load, and much less lighter support.

To the American, it means that more of the expensive military equipment he is being paying for will be destroyed, with less damage to the enemy.

Altwise, a "Europe first" policy makes sense. If our bases in Western Europe are lost, our Air Force, no matter how strong, will be at a tremendous strategic disadvantage.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE

FOR WEEKS the pundits shied away from forecasts as to who would get the Democratic nomination. This they said was a free-for-all. Anything could happen.

Now the top political writers have watched the preliminaries, and each is crawling out onto a limb—a different limb.

Last night Drew Pearson, perhaps miffed because he hedged a bit on predicting Eisenhower's victory, came out flatfooted. It's going to be Kefauver, he says.

David Lawrence has it figured out, too. They'll ballot away hopelessly a few times, then there'll be this rally in Springfield, and Governor Stevenson will be drafted.

The Altop brothers know the score, too. Vice-President Barkley has the all important nod, they say from the White House.

Yup, this is a free-for-all, and anything can happen.

And through the years, Dr. Erwin led a crusade to educate the adults of North Carolina to the need for a better education system for their children.

He was no technocrat. On the contrary, it often appeared that he went out of his mind while affording capable local actors an outlet for their talents. When one takes in one of these dramas 'neath a Carolina moon, he gets his history, easily (and pretty straight) along with some darned good theater. It's a wonderful way to spend an evening.

The GOP platform calls for "a Constitutional amendment providing equal rights for men and women." Good idea. We men have been discriminated against too long.

We've just read major portions of a series of articles on why we are lagging behind the Soviet Union in the matter of air power. It boils down to the simple fact that the most productive country in the world isn't building enough airplanes—Greenville Piedmont.

From Tanageria comes the report of a strange creature which the natives have named Agowee, or "little furry man." The report doesn't go into detail as to when the little furry man makes his appearance, but Monday is a good guess.—Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser.

Cost of Politics Rising And Public Pays The Bill

By MARQUIS CHILDS

CHICAGO WITH the costly trapping of a big political circus replaced by that of another, it may occur even to that most glib creature, John Q. Citizen, to wonder who pays for the show. The answer, of course, is that in the last analysis it is the citizen who foots the bill.

Along with everything else, the cost of politics has been going up. And it is not just inflation that has pushed the spending sky high. There is more and more power is concentrated in government, it becomes ever more vital to controlling pressure groups to exert all possible influence on the seat of power which is the federal government in Washington. So the money is poured in with the expectation that special considerations will come out.

Just how much was spent on the lengthy pre-convention campaign waged by Sen. Robert A. Taft will never be known. But in all probability it was the most expensive campaign of its kind in American political history. An ambitious political scientist would do well to try to compute what was spent in just one state—South Dakota, which went for Taft by a hair's breadth margin.

The spending by the Eisenhower forces could not have been left behind. Particularly in the last day-money was poured out prodigally with a flood of full page newspaper advertisements across the country. And it must be remembered that the political spending is only the iceberg analogy inasmuch as what can be visibly computed represents only a small part of what is actually going on.

Backing the candidacy of General MacArthur during the GOP convention was the Texas oil billionaire H. L. Hunt. One of the dragger aspects of the Republican campaign was the MacArthur "demonstration" which had all the fine speeches of the drill team in the South and I will see lodge in Rappahoe, Alabama.

PICKPOCKETS TOO The "demonstrations" have been dredged up by anyone's guess. During the MacArthur demonstration one of the Wisconsin delegates had his pants picked with professional skill.

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The demonstration went on even though the enthusiasm of the delegates was barely visible. The spending of the Democratic candidates has not been on quite such a lavish scale. There are, however, plenty of evidences of it, notably that two thirds of the replicas of the Oklahoma log cabin in which Senator Kerr was born. But since five or six candidates have been contending in the state primaries and in cross country speaking tours the total may be as great as that poured out in the early Republican contest.

For the first time some 50 to 60 million Americans are getting a glimpse of the chief executive of this strange method of choosing the chief executive of the most powerful nation in the world. The deliberations to those watching them for the first time seem to appear about on the level of the arguments in a Middle Eastern rug bazaar, carried on with the kind of distractions that would seem hardly conceivable outside a lunatic asylum.

For these and allied reasons it is quite possible that we may be seeing the last national convention of this kind, deriving from a simpler past when the choice was not so overwhelmingly important to America and the world. A national Presidential primary may be the answer, although it would undoubtedly give rise to a number of other problems, and it might mean even greater spending than at present.

Examined candidly, the present system must seem to give all the advantages to the vested interest with money to spend for a purpose. The chief obstacle to the taking of money to the candidate or his agent. The citizen rarely takes any interest in the political system as it is presented.

A corporation executive can be as dumb as the average public-minded citizen. But so long as the present system prevails—fiercely competing interests in the belief that a national convention—no money will come from somewhere. And the donors will expect some kind of compensation for their generosity.

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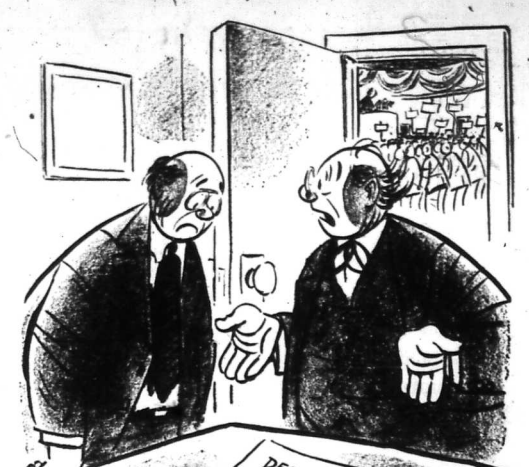
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Isn't There Some Way To Filibuster A Convention?



A Real Fight Ahead

Editors, THE NEWS

THE Chicago Republican convention is over and the nominee is your choice. As to the nominee, I am like the mother of three children. She did not want the thirteenth, but since it had arrived she would not take a million dollars for it. If we can do no more than effect a change in Washington and preserve the two party system in this country, all the wrangling prior to and at the convention and the fight ahead will not have been in vain. But may I remind you that there have been a real fight ahead I shall do my bit and I bespeak the same of the editorial page of The Charlotte News.

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People's Platform

Editors, THE NEWS

A ceiling has necessarily been placed on the number of certificates which may be outstanding at any one time in order to keep the number of cabs operating on the city streets in line with the capacity of the city. To have a certificate authorizing operation of a cab, an operator must have issued a certificate under the "grandfather clause" and must have a certificate from an operator desiring to discontinue the use of a cab.

The certificates under which the Baker Cab Company now operates were not obtained as the result of any discrimination or special favor on the part of the City Council or otherwise. On the contrary, the present certificate of Baker Cab Company were procured as a result of the application of the "grandfather clause" or were purchased from operators holding certificates in their own names.

What Mr. Ellington evidently does not