THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 1952

THE DRIFT TOWARD WASHINGTON

BY COINCIDENCE, the August issue of *The Commonwealth*, the state magazine of Virginia, arrived here at the same time THE NEWS received a full text of Governor Adlai Stevenson's speech at the Illinois State Fair. And, by coincidence, the magazine gave documentary evidence to back up Stevenson's warning about the steady drift of authority away from the states and toward the central government in Washington.

Said Stevenson:

"We talk about and we deplore incessantly the increasing centralization of power over our lives in Washington. But what tidal drift toward the Capital will go on and on unless those necessary functions of government which don't have to be performed in Washington are performed, and properly performed, at the state level."

Said Dr. William H. Stauffer, research director of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, who recently analyzed Federal expenditures:

". . . our Federal Government has become the promoter and principal financier of an exceedingly large number and variety of comparatively new and special activities foreign to the historical and traditional concept of the role of the central government."

Dr. Stauffer found that in the fiscal year 1951, Virginia received $90,812,390 of the $5.5 billion handed out by Uncle Sam in grants-in-aid, benefit payments and civil works expenditures. The following figures showing how much Virginia received do not include payments made on federal social insurance, pensions, pay rolls, and loans:

Agricultural experiment stations and research, $283,656; co-operative agricultural extension work, $803,377; forest fire co-operation, $236,477; agriculture conservation program, $5,120,601; roads and trails, national forest funds, $35,816; national school milk and lunch program, $2,010,668; research and marketing act of 1946, $30,729; removal of surplus agricultural commodities, $429,951; donation of agricultural commodities, $893,335; farm housing program, repair and improvement, $1,500; Federal airport program, $422,206; highway construction grants, $8,284,520; wildlife restoration, $157,650; migratory bird conservation, $377;

Unemployment compensation and employment service administration, $1,717,463; National Guard, $1,897,127; lease of flood control lands, $2,444; payment under Federal Water Power Act, $16; supervision of on-the-job training for veterans, $49,230; administration of unemployment and self-employment benefits, $32,367; readjustment benefits and vocational rehabilitation for veterans, $26,255,476; automobiles for disabled veterans, $12,792; colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts, $100,561; co-operative vocational education and rehabilitation, $625,977; education of the blind, $3,452; old-age assistance, $4,201,514; aid to permanently and totally disabled, $438,651; aid to dependent children, $3,870,587; aid to the blind, $404,214; maternal and child health services, $369,977; services for crippled children, $257,264; child welfare services, $146,218;

Venereal disease control, $214,748; tuberculosis control, $202,568, general health assistance, $313,727; mental health activities, $73,500; heart disease control, $18,158; hospital survey, planning and construction, $3,631,472; cancer control, $50,954; national institutes of health, $154,460; division of research, grants and fellowships (FSA), $100,149; water pollution control, industrial waste studies, $17,300; office of vocational rehabilitation, $323,320; maintenance and operation of schools and school construction, $982,989; annual contributions, Housing and Home Finance Agency, $82,822; rivers and harbors, $2,140,000; flood control, $23,310,000.

The sum of these various Federal grants to Virginia—$90,812,390 — closely approximates the total taxes collected by Virginia's own state government for all of its general governmental operations, Dr. Stauffer notes.

Obviously the time has come to unravel this labyrinth of Federal services. The first step must be, as General Eisenhower put it in Abilene, to ask about each of the services: "Is this trip necessary?" And having eliminated those that are not necessary, the next step is to ask of each: "Should not this be done by the states rather than by the Federal Government?"

It is extremely difficult to detach a service from the Federal Government, once it becomes established. In no other way, however, can the Federal Government be freed of functions that can be better performed by the states and that keep the Federal Government from concentrating on its major and proper functions. Even so, the states must be prepared to accept and to carry out those services which the people rightly or wrongly, believe to be necessary.

TRUMAN'S TARIFF STAND HELPS N. C.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN enhanced his already good record of opposition to new trade restrictions—and incidentally helped North Carolina—by refusing Thursday to raise the tariff on imported watches as recommended by the Tariff Commission.

The "escape clause" in our trade agreements laws provides that U. S. producers or manufacturers who feel they are being hurt by foreign competition may seek increased protection from the Tariff Commission. If the Commission okays the request the President may overrule it provided he gives his reasons for so doing to the Congressional committees that write tariff and trade laws.

This the President has done, stating that an increase in the already substantial tariffs on watches, most of which came from Switzerland, would be "erecting barriers against our own export markets."

This is so because the Swiss have served notice that they would retaliate—as the U. S. and other countries do when discriminated against—by increasing their tariffs on our exports. Of interest to Carolinians is the fact that tobacco is one of their main imports from the U. S. Thus fewer, more expensive Swiss watches in this country would have meant a diminished foreign market for Carolina tobacco.

It is to the credit of the Tariff Commission that it has already turned down some of the requests of various and sundry other organizations, which have come running to it for protection rather than facing stiff competition. Its previous action in rejecting the pleas of motorcycle and blue cheese manufacturers, and the President's action now, are heartening setbacks to the trend toward protectionism.

Low tariffs mean increased markets for U. S. products. More dollars earned by Europeans, trading here, mean less dollars needed for foreign aid. And North Carolina, which made a big bid for world trade by dedicating the new Morehead City port terminal while the President's refusal to hike tariffs was being announced, will benefit from a free trade policy.

MAN OR MOUSE?

WHEN Dr. Henry W. Jordan docilely agreed to Governor Scott's $750,000 road grab for Alamance County, he dropped several notches in our estimation.

Dr. Jordan is chairman of the State Highway & Public Works Commission. Although the Governor, as director of the budget, can make surplus road funds available, the Commission must approve their use.

The chairman should have rebelled against the Scott dictation, but instead he said: "He (Scott) is the gentleman who was elected Governor, and as long as I am part of the administration, I'd better go along with it."

In fact, Jordan showed less independence than did one of the Commission's "hired hands", Chief Engineer W. H. Rogers, who was quoted as raying that he had not been asked for a recommendation, and that he "didn't feel that Alamance had any greater need than some other counties."

So far as THE NEWS has been able to learn, Dr. Jordan has carried out his duties as chairman in a fair and impartial manner. His name and reputation are too highly esteemed by North Carolinians to be sullied by any connection with this grab, and he will better serve his admirers and the cause of good government by severing his connection with this unsavory enterprise.

CHINKS IN THE CURTAIN OF SECRECY

THE MAIN REASON it took so long to smoke out the Internal Revenue scandals last year was the heavy curtain of secrecy with which Congress and the Bureau have surrounded tax returns. Newspaper reporters who tried to dig out the facts on cases found themselves stymied, and even members of the Congress were blocked from the source of information until President Truman ordered some of the barriers lifted.

Three chinks in the curtain of secrecy have been opened recently, and they should make it less likely that there will ever again be any favoritism in income tax settlements.

Following pressure from a special committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the BIR now says it will allow newspapermen to examine records of any tax settlement case when its propriety has been questioned publicly. The ASNE group had sought automatic publicity on all settlement records. Though the BIR decision is short of the ASNE goal, it will help.

Also, the BIR announces that after its current reorganization is completed about Dec. 1, it plans to make public a complete file of some 20,000 organizations which are now exempt from Federal taxes. Included are charitable, religious and philanthropic groups. Newspapers have long sought access to this list to determine whether some groups that don't properly qualify for tax exemption have been dodging the payment of Federal taxes.

A few weeks ago, Commissioner Dunlop said that liquor license applications and hearings would be opened for inspection.

Each of these is a step in the right direction. The honest taxpayer need not be concerned. No one will object except dishonest taxpayers, and the people will now have some assurance that everyone is being treated alike.

Cary Grant offers tips on how to be a well-dressed man, writes Hal Boyle. Tip No. 1, we would say, is to make as much money as Cary Grant makes.—*New Orleans States.*

"I advertised that the poor would be welcome in this church at all times," said the minister, "and after inspecting the collection, I see they have come."—*Nashville Banner.*

Now, All Together, Here We Go Around The Mulberry Bush

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.

The GOP And Social Security

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

NONE of the pro-Eisenhower newspapers seem to be enthusiastic about their candidate's proposal for a bigger, better, and broader Social Security program. Liberals everywhere should be grateful to General Eisenhower for his willingness to thus expand the Roosevelt New Deal and the Truman Fair Deal, but the silence of his own followers and supporters is highly embarrassing.

The question remains, however, whether General Eisenhower will be able to carry out his promise of expanded Social Security payments. There's many a slip between campaign oratory and enactment into law in the halls of Congress. Apparently the vast bulk of the Republican members of the national Congress do not see eye-to-eye with Eisenhower on the strengthening of the Democratic Party's Social Security program.

Only last May there was a bill before Congress to add a measly $5-a-month in Social Security benefits to help meet the skyrocketing living costs. The measure was defeated, 150 to 140 votes. Two-thirds was necessary for passage. Of the 140 votes against, 100 were Republicans and 40 were Democrats. Of the 150 votes for the measure, 58 were Republicans and 92 were Democrats. Is it possible that this large bloc of Republican Congressmen pledged against the expanded Social Security will now go along with General Eisenhower?

The answer is obvious. It is a good New-Deal, Fair-Deal cry on the part of candidate Eisenhower, but the people will not be fooled. Why vote for a speech-making, synthetic Fair-Dealer when we can get the real thing in Adlai Stevenson?

—P. L. LINDSEY

Lonely, Letterless Korean Nights

KOREA

Editors, THE NEWS:

WE, the following members of the First Marine Comm. Section, have been receiving very little mail from the states. We are wondering if you would be so kind as to help us out.

There is nothing better than a letter to read on a wet, lonely night.

PVT. JAMES R. FITZGERALD
CPL. MAXWELL C. LUXEMBURGER
CPL. KENNETH D. PLUMB
CPL. LORN J. PUDWILL
CPL. HORACE D. NEELY
Comm. Section, H&S Co.
First Marine Div., FMF
Care FPO, San Francisco, Calif.

No Fleas On This Ticket

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

MY profound thanks to the News reader from Salisbury, J. Donald McManos, for his thoughtful suggestion that my colleague in thought, J. R. Dean of Lincolnton, appoint me to pilot the suggested latter's 1956 gubernatorial candidacy, in opposition to that candidate who might run on a "destroy all dogs" ticket.

In supporting an unequivocal "preserve our dogs" platform, let me here and now pledge to you, Mr. McManos and the North Carolina constituency, that if Mr. Dean sees fit to appoint me his right-hand dog, we shall conduct nothing short of a doggy campaign. We assure you that mangy or flea-bitten tactics will not be indulged in. As a matter of fact, there will be no fleas at all on our campaign unless they be pure bred, healthy, and honest fleas. Furthermore, we shall not deviate one wag from the high principles of dogdom, and will bark long and loud at our mangy and uninoculated opposition.

If there be any who scratcheth our ticket, he will surely doeth so at his own peril because he only imagineth that our ticket itcheth, having been bitten by a flea—and a mongrel flea at that! I say to you—verily 'tis written and well worth repeating—"Dog is Man's Best Friend!"

—BOB CHERRY JR.

Foolhardy Draft Policy

SPINDALE

Editors, THE NEWS:

EVERY day we read in the press of our supposed manpower shortage, yet our government seems determined to raise a defense force in the most expensive manner.

It is obvious that we can save billions by using 18 and 19 year-olds who, as a rule, are single men with no dependents to be added to the payrolls. Nearly half of the people already live off the public feed bag, and some day the drones will outnumber the workers.

I can't figure out why we use such an extravagant method of raising a defense force when every leading military expert for years has advocated the immediate adoption of UMT which, if divorced from political red tape, can be operated at less than half our present cost and furnish a citizen's army always ready for instant service. And our young men would also learn how to become good law-abiding citizens, reducing to a minimum our shameful juvenile crime record.

We know the price of freedom is high, and everyone must pay his full share, but there is no possible excuse for deliberate waste of the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars in order to satisfy the dreams of our political manipulators. Financial chaos and a bankrupt economy are inevitable results of such a foolhardy policy.

—A. E. BORG

Quote, Unquote

Most Senators, when they retire, can go back to their previous occupations, which makes it tough on Tom Connally who, before he went to the Senate, was a small boy.—**Kansas City Star.**

Street Scene—Bus station news vendor chanting a double plug for his product in the heat, "Read a while, fan a while."—**Atlanta Journal.**

Candidates Rate TV Highly, But Uncertain How To Use It

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

EVERYBODY says knowingly, nowadays, that "this is going to be the first television election," but nobody seems to have thought out the implications of this alarming statement. What can happen is suggested by recent news from the headquarters of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson.

In the Eisenhower headquarters, on the one hand, the New York gubernatorial election of 1950 is being studied with anxious attention. Gen. Eisenhower's exceedingly able press secretary, James Hagerty, is borrowed from the staff of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. Hagerty saw Gov. Dewey transform the New York contest by the first truly inventive use of television attempted by any of our high-level politicos.

What Dewey did in his 1950 telecasts was, in effect, to ask the New York voters into his living room for a nice, brisk chat about politics. The show was informed and varied. Sometimes Dewey answered questions. Sometimes he gave short talks on selected topics. Sometimes members of his staff were present, and sometimes Mrs. Dewey took part. By common consent, these Dewey telecasts were one of the biggest factors in Dewey's comfortable majority when the votes were counted.

CAN IKE DO IT?

The Eisenhower strategists are asking themselves, therefore, whether the general can do the same stunt that Dewey did, with the same success. They have one great problem they long to solve. Thus far, the magic that was expected of Gen. Eisenhower before he doffed his uniform has been notably absent from all his formal, set speeches. But the magic has come through very nicely in most of his press conferences, in his preconvention get-togethers with Republican delegates, and in all other spontaneous, face-to-face meetings.

The advocates of an Eisenhower television show on the Dewey model argue that this is just the way to "bring the real Eisenhower" into the houses of the voters. The more conventional political planners around the general reply that such a show could not be really spontaneous; that the magic might not work after all; and that the danger of bad fluffs would be very great. So far as is known, the point has not been decided.

Meanwhile, at the strategy meeting to plan Gov. Stevenson's campaign in Springfield last week-end, a similar debate was in progress. At least one of the seven members of Stevenson's top campaign staff, Sen. Mike Monroney, Okla., head of the Democratic Speakers' Bureau, went out to Springfield with a plan already roughed out. Monroney's plan called for a weekly Stevenson telecast — perhaps a fifteen-minute show every Monday evening — combining a short talk with answers to questions that voters send in. The idea, as in the Dewey show of 1950, is to let the individual voter sit down, so to speak, with Adlai Stevenson, to meet him face to face, and hear him talk, informally and man to man.

In point of fact, Stevenson has already proven his remarkable effectiveness on this sort of show in a televised report on state affairs which he made each month to the people of Illinois. The Stevenson television personality is considered one of the great Democratic assets, and not unreasonably, since he was even able to make such topics as safe driving both vivid and lively in his Illinois reports. A show which would cover the great national issues in the same manner and would be put on at an easy listening time each week until the election certainly seems to promise dividends for Stevenson.

CASH IS A FACTOR

Again, however, there are difficult questions still to be answered.

The Democrats, for one thing, are much more short of cash than the Republicans. Even though the television time could be pre-empted from the networks, the network works will still have to be paid. Such a show as Sen. Monroney has in mind would need to be national in scope; and this one item in the Democratic budget might therefore run as high as $500,000 to $700,000. Again, so far as is known, the Stevenson strategists have not yet made up their minds what to do.

Nonetheless, the central fact remains. Technology has already drastically altered the relationship between politician and voter, and television is sure to change that relationship still more drastically.

Marine To Fight For Right To Label His Car A 'Lemon'

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

MY vast wealth—diamonds, oil, wool and cattle, y'know and my almost incalculable influence (I once fixed a parking ticket) are foursquare behind Cpl. Frank Farkas of the Marine Corps, who is bucking the Supreme Court in Washington for the right to call a citrus medica limonum of the family Rutaceae a lousy lemon, even when applied to an automobile.

The story is simple. Corporal Farkas has a car. He painted the word "Lemon" on it and drew a few more fruits to emphasize his point. He was arrested and convicted in Washington's Municipal Court when the judge held that the lemons violated a District of Columbia ordinance against displays which tend to ridicule the maker of an automobile.

The corporal is a true Marine. He said that the car is a lemon, that the car has cost him $600 in repairs since he bought it 80 days ago, and that, by golly, he is taking this matter to the Supreme Court. I'm with the corporal all the way.

In the first place, it would seem that the car is his property, no longer the property of the manufacturer, since it was bought second-hand. And, as his lawyer points out, the judge's ruling violates the right of a free man to free speech.

I might also point out that if the car were owned by Pitcher Bob Lemon of Cleveland, he could write his name all over it until his arm drops off. If it were the property of Miss Lenore Lemmon, the individualist, she could draw lemons on it until the cows return. So if people named Lemon or Lemmon might legally inscribe their names or family crest on a vehicle, who is to say that the corporal has not named his conveyance for a pitcher or a lady? Maybe he might have an aunt named Lemon. I bet the judge didn't even ask him.

Enough of pure legal fact and forward logic. What I really wanted to say was that not enough customers have been kicking about enough things recently, which is why we have been beaten over the head so consistently in recent years by the people who have ungraciously accepted our money for things they so kindly have permitted us to buy—after due process of standing in line, of course.

Not enough guys like Cpl. Farkas have had the guts to rear back and holler that the product smells on the inside, or that a little more service, politeness and quality, please. It is no matter that the corporal bought the heap of his own will. Now he's got it he doesn't have to like it. Let him yell, and paint his lemons.

There is nothing more aggravating than a car that keeps coming unstuck. I left bits and pieces of mine all along the trail from Washington to Miami a year ago, and when I got there I barely had the same car I started in. If it had been a horse I would have shot it, and, as it was, I left it there to starve.

Some used-car dealers—not, of course, the reputable—would slap a coat of paint and stuff a little sawdust into a Stanley Steamer and tell you it was a 1953 Cadillac. And, by heck, you take chances with a piece of secondhand goods. This you know, and are prepared for. If your worst fears are realized, you don't have to holler whoopee and go dancing in the streets. You can kick and scream.

I hope the corporal wins his case, and I think the judge in Washington is an old sourpuss. Sour, like in lemon.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Tax Probers Soft-Pedal Probers' Deals

WASHINGTON

THE King tax-fraud committee has done an outstanding job of probing tax finagling—except when the tax tracks get anywhere near a member of their own committee, Congressman Eugene Keogh, Democrat, of Brooklyn. When this happens, the red flag immediately goes up.

This may be why the committee's chief unfinished business is a probe of the scandal-smelling Alcohol Tax Unit. Because any real scrutiny of this agency, which deals with the big whisky companies, is sure to bubble-gum back in the face of Congressman Keogh.

Among other things there is a case involving the Gotham Liquor Company and Louis Pokrass; also a strange stock deal with the U. S. Ambassador to Belgium, Myron Cowan, whereby Congressman Keogh made a profit of $12,000; also it's interesting that the Congressman has been in frequent touch with ex-tax collector Joe Nunan and deputy collector Dan Bolich even at the very time these two men were under investigation by the King Committee.

Interesting clues in the case of the Alcohol Tax Unit and Congressman Keogh are contained in the confidential diary of Carroll Mealey, ex-chief of the Alcohol Tax Unit, who resigned under a cloud.

Charlie Clark's Parties

THE Mealey diary shows that lobbyist Clark and Congressman Keogh invited the alcohol tax chief to various parties. On May 8, 1947, the diary has a notation: "Clark and Keogh party." Again, on Nov. 19, 1947, Mealey's diary notes: "Attended Chas. Clark party at 5 P. M., 2703 C. St." Again, on March 26, 1947, Mealey's unpublished diary notes: "Dinner—Chas. Clark, Congressman Keoge."

The confidential diary also shows that the Congressman from Brooklyn either telephoned or visited Mealey two or three times a week during this period—which was more than any other Congressman. When other Congressmen were listed in the diary, the purpose of the visit was set forth. But the visits of Congressman Keogh were always mysteriously labeled "personal".

The diary of the alcohol tax chief also shows that between November and December, 1946, he had several telephone calls regarding the permit of the Gotham Liquor Co., of which Louis Pokrass is an owner. Some of the calls were made by Pokrass himself.

Pokrass had had black-market troubles when connected with the Hercules Products Co., and later was denied an alcohol permit for his Capital Wine and Spirits Co. He fought this up to the Supreme Court and lost. Having lost, he turned around and tried to get an alcohol permit under a different name — the Gotham Liquor Co.

It was just at this time that Congressman Keogh and his lobbyist-pal Clark were giving parties for alcohol chief Mealey. Significantly, Commissioner Mealey expedited the license for Pokrass and even put pressure on his New York office to speed up the license.

But while Commissioner Mealey and the Federal Alcohol Tax Unit gave Pokrass his license, Governor Dewey's office in the state of New York refused. They considered Pokrass' record too smelly.

It was also at this time—when Congressman Keogh was constantly talking to Commissioner Mealey — that Keogh profited from an interesting stock deal.

$12,000 Profit

MYRON Cowan, now ambassador to Belgium, purchased $72,000 of stock in the major liquor distributing company from Congressman Keogh. Then, six months later in the same year—1947—the Congressman bought it back from Ambassador Cowan at a price of only $60,000. Thus the Congressman made a profit of $12,000 on which he only had to pay a capital-gains tax. Significantly, Ambassador Cowan was an attorney for Pokrass.

The interesting thing is that during the year 1947 the liquor business was booming, and there was no particular reason why the stock value should have decreased $12,000 in six months.

Ambassador Cowan, reached on the trans-Atlantic telephone in Brussels by this writer, explained that he had sold the stock because he was going into the diplomatic service and did not think an ambassador should hold stock in a liquor company. He said he regretted the transaction because he had lost money on it.

However, what some members of the King Committee want to know is why this transaction occurred when Ambassador Cowan was reported to be the attorney for Louis Pokrass, then having troubles with the Alcohol Tax Unit. They also wonder why the transaction occurred when Congressman Keogh was making "personal" calls to the head of the Alcohol Tax Unit and entertaining him at parties.