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A WARNING TO MR. TRUMAN

THE MOST surprising thing about Senator Richard B. Russell's announcement for the Democratic Presidential nomination is the timing of it. It has been evident for a long time that anti-Truman Southern Democrats, who dislike the idea of jumping the party fence, were lavishing their attention on Senator Russell, just as they did in their futile effort to swing the nomination away from Harry Truman in the 1948 national convention. But there had been no indication that the high strategy board of the 1952 Dixie revolt was ready to move so early.

To the contrary, everything that the two key leaders of the rebellion, Governor James Byrnes of South Carolina and Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia, had said on the subject pointed to a waiting game—a "war of nerves," so to speak, that would dangle the threat of a revolt before the national party up to and including the July convention.

As Byrd mapped the strategy in his Selma, Ala. address, and as Byrnes has hinted on so many occasions, the Southern Democrats would seek: (1) to restore the two-thirds rule at the convention; (2) to cite a platform acceptable to the South; and (3) to nominate a man palatable to the South. Barring that, there were thinly-veiled threats of a third party movement—robbing either party of an electoral majority and throwing the election into the House of Representatives, where each state has one vote.

Apparently the Southern strategists have decided that Mr. Truman is going to run again, despite the offhand commentaries remarks he tosses at Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois. And we can only assume that Senator Russell's early announcement

is a maneuver to persuade Mr. Truman that it would be a mistake to offer again.

Although this newspaper is completely cold to the whole idea of a third party movement in the South, we cannot but express our admiration for Senator Russell. His record on foreign policy and his service as chairman of the key Senate Armed Services Committee leave little to be desired. And he gained stature in the eyes of the whole nation by his fair, impartial, and businesslike conduct of the highly-explosive MacArthur hearings last year.

Unless the experts are all wrong, however, a Southerner who represents the die-hard anti-Civil Rights school has not a ghost of a chance of being nominated for the Presidency and elected to the high office, no matter what his other qualifications may be. As we have said on so many occasions, both parties should be national parties in every sense of the word. No purely sectional party can hope to rule the roost, nor should it.

Southern Democrats, by their long blind allegiance to the Democratic Party, have made their bed, and must now lie in it. If the time ever comes when the South is unwilling to stake its political destiny on the national Democrat, and that time may now be at hand—the solution is not to be found in a third-party movement, no matter how influential its leadership. It is to be found in a vigorous two-party system that will offer both sides the hope of reward and thus prompt them to consider the wishes of the South in their policy calculations. To put it bluntly, Southerners who don't like the Democratic Party platform and who resent a presidential candidate can always vote Republican.

THE ROOT OF THE EVIL

THE State of North Carolina unquestionably needs a stronger law for dealing with the subversive, terroristic violence of the Ku Klux Klan.

Attorney General Harry McMillan has suggested the rough framework for such a statute. It would outlaw organizations that use masks and hoods, that conspire against the general welfare, and that purport to regulate public morals and exercise police powers.

State Bureau of Investigation Director James Powell agrees with Mr. McMillan that a stronger law would be helpful in preventing a new outbreak of Klan terrorisms.

If we have gauged public opinion accurately, the people of North Carolina would support a strong anti-Klan law enthusiastically. It should pass the General Assembly easily.

But to rely solely on a strong law to wipe out the vestiges of the Klan will be a grave error. Elsewhere on this page today is a

challenging editorial from the Whiteville News Reporter written by a man who has been in the thick of the battle against mob terrorism in Columbus County. It asks a number of searching questions of the people of Columbus County, and points up the obvious moral:

"While the agencies of law and order seek to ferret out and bring the guilty to justice, good citizens need to dedicate themselves to the task of eliminating the conditions that give rise to the tragic experiences of the past thirteen months."

The conditions? Ignorance, poverty, rural slums, low morals, disdain for human rights, prejudice, absence of any sense of responsibility.

These conditions are not limited to Columbus County. They exist wherever the people have permitted them to exist.

A strong anti-Klan law will help curb mob violence. The more difficult and the more important objective is to remove the conditions that spawn the Klan mentality.

CRASH IN THE NIGHT

BECAUSE there were no eyewitnesses, no one knew quite how it happened. But there it was, the big headline that screamed "Two Die, Two Hurt in Fiery Crash."

And there was the picture of the inferno on the highway that flared up after an automobile and a truck collided between Charlotte and Monroe.

Early arrivals on the scene sought to reconstruct the accident. It was their guess that a two-ton automobile had run into the truck, and that both had burst into flame 150 feet apart. No one knew who was at fault.

But there was no mistaking the result. Two occupants of the automobile burned beyond recognition. A third passenger critically injured. The truck driver, less seriously injured, but badly burned.

OFF TO A GOOD START

THANKS to the enterprise of Chairman Paul R. Younts, the Urban Redevelopment Commission of Charlotte has accomplished the preliminary step in clearing out the City's blighted areas in record time.

The Commission was appointed in November. It wasted no time in getting underway. It selected what it considered the most critical areas on the long list furnished it by the Charlotte Planning Board, the Commission selected two areas for demolition and two others for rehabilitation. It reviewed the development, and made its application for a preliminary planning loan.

Yesterday Senator Willis Smith notified THE NEWS that the preliminary loan had been approved. Thus, after three short months, the Commission is ready to proceed with a more detailed plan for the initial two projects. Charlotte is the first North Carolina city to qualify for the planning loan.

Urban Redevelopment opens up unlimited vistas. For the first time in history, cities are now able to perform surgical operations on their blighted areas by clearing away substantial buildings, erecting new structures, and reselling the land to private developers for conversion into useful, productive property.

Urban Redevelopment is pegged to private enterprise, with the local and Federal Governments merely lending a hand. The National Association of Real Estate Boards has

And in the pre-dawn darkness, the flames shot high into the air, creating a bizarre glow over the horror that lay below.

And so it happened, just as it does day after day on our narrow, overcrowded highways, jammed by vehicles guided by persons who are either ignorant of the power of momentum, or just plain careless.

Had it been a plane that crashed into a dwelling, there could be a tremendous city outcry, just as there is in Elizabeth, N. J. But this accident, like the thousands of others in North Carolina, will become a notation in the record books.

And the people will go on about their business, heedless of the new deaths that the highways, oblivious to the sudden death that awaits them there.

been interested in urban redevelopment for more than 25 years, and the enabling act under which the local Commission operates was drawn up by the C. Real Estate Board and the League of Municipalities. A recent meeting with the Commission, members of the local real estate group showed great interest in the program.

The national emergency may delay the demolition of substandard structures and the substitution of new improvements. But a good start has been made. It does not require much imagination to envision the day when Charlotte's blighted areas will be a thing of the past.

"Take a look around the corner, please, and see if Sen. McCarthy is lurking in the neighborhood. Because I've got a real 'red herring' to pull across the trail. Guess who's in 'Who's Who in America'?" Joe Stalin? I'm not kidding. Just look at 'Who's Who in America' (Vol. 26, for 1950-51) and you'll find Uncle Joe there on page 2612, down at the bottom of column one—New Orleans States.

They are interesting and, in some cases at least, decidedly helpful, but this country was reminded that they aren't exactly cheap when the Senate recently approved an expenditure of \$700,000 for eight special investigations. In four years Congress spent almost \$7 million in this manner.—Jopsis (No.) Globe.



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.

Still Applicable

CHARLOTTE  
Editors, THE NEWS:  
A WEEK after Senator Taft's re-election in November, 1950, you were kind enough to publish a letter giving my impressions of the man. If I may presume upon your good nature again, I would like to quote one or two paragraphs from that letter that are applicable to the current situation. Here they are:  
"Senator Taft is unquestionably a candidate for the Presidential nomination, notwithstanding reports to the contrary. Probably no man in American life is more intensely ambitious for political advancement. Certainly he is seeking support and votes. But you can search his record for the past few years in vain for a single instance where he has flinched or dodged or trimmed his sails to win votes or to avoid losing them."  
"To the contrary, Taft is unique in his seemingly total disregard for political consequences when it comes to determining his course on any legislative proposal. In instance after instance during the past several years he stepped out squarely against this or that bloc of voters, and their measures make or break themselves accordingly, and by doing this he exposed himself quite needlessly, because he knew the pressure behind these measures would be sufficient to pass them anyhow."  
"These instances are called to mind to illustrate the quality in Senator Taft that more than any other characteristic makes him the most praised and at the same time the most lambasted individual in Congress during the past several sessions."  
—A. T. BARKLEY.

Phoey On Charlotte

CHARLOTTE  
Editors, THE NEWS:  
"CHARLOTTE is the Sodom and Gomorrah of today. I am a visitor in Charlotte and a possible resident—or should I say was. Not after staying in this nearest to Sodom of any city out of 46 states and the nearest to Canada and possibly a thousand towns and cities of this all. You may say why I say that. It is the people who live in it. Six months in Charlotte, at a half dozen or more churches here, and even the pastor hasn't greeted me. Was staying with a young man I have known for over twenty years, and I know unless someone can show him the way to Christ from here on he is lost. Congressmen Zablocki didn't take a half block of a Baptist Church for six years and not a member, a deacon or the pastor has ever invited him to even bring his child to Sunday School."  
And still more—on the Sabbath the Honorable Mayor Shaw closes the shows while church is going on, but if the one preaching or praying gets thirty

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON  
PRESIDENT TRUMAN had a frank exchange the other day with Catholic Congressman Clement Zablocki of Wisconsin regarding Truman's blast at dictator Franco. Zablocki said he didn't approve of the President's action and bluntly said:  
"It was most unfortunate that your remarks were made about the same time that General Eisenhower also spoke against Spain. I declared the Wisconsin legislature. 'I naturally feel that we are going to get more out of the dollars we spend for aiding Atlantic pact nations if Spain belongs to the pact. I agree that conditions in Spain are none too happy, but Yugoslavia isn't a democracy either and yet we have given Tito millions in aid."  
Truman replied that his criticism was directed solely at Franco and not at the Spanish people. Franco was chiefly responsible for the "intolerance" suffered by what he called "that minority of minorities" about 300,000 Spanish Protestants.  
"In some parts of Spain Protestants can't even bury their dead during the day or mark their graves with tombstones for fear of inciting demonstrations," declared Truman. "Distortations encourage that sort of thing."  
Zablocki agreed the situation was "regrettable," but added:  
"We have the problem right here in the United States. Catholics, Jews and Negroes, or, for that matter, anybody with a foreign-sounding name, are badly treated in our Ku Klux areas. We have been reading lately about raffish stoning synagogues."  
"Unfortunately, that is true," agreed Truman, but went on to point out that he, as President, was doing every-

he can go out and get a bottle of alcoholic beer.

And the police are high and mighty. They haven't said the first word to me but I've heard them jump others. They don't talk to people as humans but as if they were dogs. Why? They have a gun, a badge and the authority to throw anyone in jail whom they, the Gestapo, don't like, or anyone returning a word.

Then there is my real kick. I work hard. I would not be afraid to say that my job is one of the hardest of any jobs. And when I do my work I expect to get paid.

But six months in Charlotte, N. C., I haven't done a job that when I finished I had to threaten to sue to get my money. Is everybody here a deadbeat?

Now don't get me wrong. My work is just about all for the man or woman who has money or a well-paying job. So it isn't the poor or the middle class people, but the big shots. Well, maybe that's why they got what they have, stealing from the past who work for them.

There's one here in Charlotte who owes me about \$75 and I don't aim to pay a lawyer \$50 to collect it for me. He is going to pay me and then I'm making the dust of Charlotte from my feet to get paid.

You do have just one thing here better than any city I have ever been in. You have the best and biggest liars.  
—HOWARD McMANUS.

And Then Some

CHARLOTTE  
Editors, THE NEWS:  
YOUR editorial page Tuesday told me more than I need to know about the oilmen's percentage depletion.  
—M. T. WELLS.

NATO The Keystone

WASHINGTON  
I HAVE read with great interest your editorial of Feb. 16, "Let's Start Another Great Debate."  
I think your editorial was very fine, particularly in view of the fact that the American people are now in a maze of doubts about NATO, as well as other world organizations proposing to solidify opposition to Communism.  
Debate on the subject in Congress, in the press, on the radio, and everywhere in this land, would do much to make our people realize what the real issues are and how much at stake. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is the keystone of the arch and must not fail.  
—REP. J. P. RICHARDS  
Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee

The Road Back To Security Order in Columbus County

(From an Editorial in the News Reporter of Columbus County)  
THE unmaking of the former Klan members, who are accused of kidnapping in connection with the flooding of the area, is merely the first step along the road back to security and orderly existence for Columbus County.  
The task of uncovering mobs in other States is not the only task to which the law-abiding citizenry of Columbus County must dedicate itself. It cannot be denied that conditions exist which produce this cancerous growth. The irrefutable truth is that the so-called law-abiding citizens of law and order seek to ferret out and bring the guilty to justice, good citizens need to dedicate themselves to the task of eliminating the conditions conducive to the tragic experiences of the past thirteen months.

NEGLECTED CITIZENS

Several questions arise: In what sense are we falling in our programs of education and religion? Have members of this movement and their sympathizers been neglected by society in such a way as to tempt them to pervert their good human values? Are the churches, civic organizations, fraternal organizations and other agencies doing more service about the poor and misguided who are often neglected in our schools than those who are not attending church, who are not providing the proper atmosphere for their children, who are drinking up their earnings and not supplying the food, clothing and housing which they could afford, and who are indulging in immoral relationships? Has any agency really tried to help these people in the proper manner? Has anybody put into practice the doctrine of love?

MOB VIOLENCE

Mob violence must be a terrible evil behind a hood and robe to deprive men of their liberties, even if only for an hour, and to cause them to be punished. But an enlightened citizenry must do more than rest easy when they are not personally involved. It is the dawn of another day of orderly existence planned and efficiently executed. It must recognize slum-dwellers among our rural population to develop a sense of responsibility as to what happens to the little white citizens. Failing that, little will have been learned from this horrible experience with hoodlums.  
(See editorial: "The Root of the Evil.")

Some Republicans Worried by 'Exclusive' Taft Approach

WASHINGTON  
WITHIN the Taft camp the confident sense of victory is giving way to a more guarded optimism than just professional optimism whipped up to convince the doubters. It represents a conviction that the prize of the nomination is now within the grasp of the nominee and must be made up of the Taft high command.

But with this mounting confidence there has developed an attitude that is not so optimistic. It is not only about those working actively for the drive, but about Dwight D. Eisenhower. Included are lifelong Republicans who have declined thus far to take sides, hoping above all to find a winning candidate on whom most of the Party could agree.

The attitude is increasingly thus: "You're either for us or you're against us. And if you're against us, it's just too late."

In the flood of dubious oratory traditionally marking Lincoln's birthday pro-Taft men were everywhere. The conspicuous absence of pro-Taft men, some Senators are saying, you were not eligible to speak at a Party rally. The vital statistics show that it has been growing exclusive by year.

Senator Taft has several times spoken with scarcely concealed scorn of the independent vote. He has said it is a "dead weight" in the vote without it. He may be right. But, surely, no Republican can win without the united support of his own Party.

Increasingly, it looks as though the pressure of events would result in a more unified Party content. That would present many voters with a highly distasteful choice. The choice would be between a foreign policy, they are at the same time fed up with what has been the approach of the Taft campaign. In this choice, the independents and even many nominal Democrats are being courted in the Election Day. In that event regular Republicans turning out in full numbers on Election Day, it would be that this is the very circumstance on which the Taft camp is counting in their growing optimism.

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Truman Speaks Frankly About Franco

WASHINGTON  
THING possible to stamp out intolerance while Franco wasn't lifting a finger.

"As President of the United States," he said, "I will not compromise with the persecution of minorities either in this country or anywhere in the world."  
Zablocki observed that the situation in Spain could be corrected only by the United States. He said he had his doubts about any real religious tolerance as long as Franco remained dictator.

Taft Battles Bradley

SENATOR TAIT is conducting his private war against the Joint Chiefs of Staff not only in public speeches, but behind closed doors. He even singled out General Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, for special attack in an editorial in the Joint Session of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report.  
Sen. Ralph Flanders, Vermont Republican, gave Taft an opening by protesting: "I have no confidence whatever that the natural profession of war is thinking," and will be satisfied with any scale of military development and expenditure. It is just in the nature of the case that they should not do it."  
Immediately Taft interceded.  
"My confidence in the Joint Chiefs of Staff is somewhat upset," he said, "when I read the testimony of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs two years ago in March where he said in his opinion \$15 billion was completely adequate for the security of the United States. He said if he recommended \$50 billion for the armed forces, he ought to be dismissed as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."  
"That was just two years ago today," opined Taft, "It shakes your confidence as to whether he is right now."  
Taft neglected to mention that he was in the van-

Forgotten Men

THE conference on psychological strategy heard a candid report on the shoddy treatment of Iron Curtain escapees from a man who had a ringside seat—Philip E. Ryan, former chief of mission of the International Refugee Organization.

"They exist in overcrowded camps with little hope for emigration, practically no possibility for employment, and no means of their disposal to the United States (Communism) which has broken their lives," reported Ryan.

Such regard to our "policy" on refugees, Ryan explained: "On the one hand, we apparently encourage them from intolerable conditions under Communism. The picture of life in the West is tantamount to an invitation to 'come over.'"

"Once they are in the West, however, we renounce responsibility. After we have milked them of any information they can give, they are turned over to the German Government, which already is burdened with over nine million German refugees."

"It is if anyone that some refugees, disillusioned by their reception in the West, have returned to the East to be exploited and held up as examples of the unreliability of the West? Thus we hand the Russians a weapon which they use to convince their listeners that we are merely mouth-fake promises."

Iron Curtain refugee, bitter because attention was lavished on the escapee dramatically, as in the case of the Czech freedom train, last Sunday to Bygones. "The only way you'd get attention now is to be shot across (the Iron Curtain) in a cannon."