

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FEW WORDS FOR FRANCE

THE French Government fell last week on an issue understandable to Americans. The Assembly voted \$4 billion for France. Then when the Government asked for a fifteen per cent tax increase to pay for the additional arms it did not receive a majority vote. So the Premier was required to turn in his resignation.

In our country Congress can and does vote billions for defense or other purposes, then asks to raise the money by a tax increase. But over here the Government doesn't do this. It merely increases our national debt.

The French may likewise "solve" the situation by increasing their indebtedness—if they can borrow the money. But meanwhile France is without a Government at a time when Congress is considering voting funds for that country. Senator Connally reflected an opinion prevalent among many Congressmen when he said France must do her "utmost" to share the burden of defense or else aid to her would be slashed.

"France," he said, "must do her duty." Legislators on both sides of the Atlantic express the opinion of their constituents when they speak out for further tax action. Yet appropriations for increased armaments continue. What's the answer?

Perhaps it can be indicated by putting the Congressional point of view alongside that of the Frenchman, who would probably point up these facts.

France, with little more than a fourth as great population as we have, is committed to furnish twelve divisions to the European Army.

France, with a gross national product (national income at market prices) little

more than a fourth as much as ours, in its war against communism in Indo-China, has spent an amount at least equal to all the billions in aid the U. S. has sent to France since the end of World War I.

France, which has men fighting in Korea, has suffered more casualties in Indo-China since 1946 than the U. S. has in Korea. The French housewife pays 50 francs for the loaf of bread she eats each day, as against a year ago. During the same period heat and light have risen fifteen per cent. Wages have not kept up with the cost of living.

Then, on top of all these dreary factors, the Government asks for a fifteen per cent tax hike, a one-third reduction in reconstruction

the she wore on the other foot—if these conditions applied in the U. S. and the Administration asked for a fifteen per cent tax hike and the cutbacks—would not the American people and their Congressmen, who are now asking France to do her "duty," shut down the new taxes?

The current situation in France is nevertheless grave. The eventual solution may simply be a reduction in the NATO defense goal. If neither France nor the U. S. is willing to finance the additional burden placed on France at Lisbon.

But all in all it seems that France, as the U. S. in doing a pretty good job of strengthening the Atlantic community, despite inflation and war in Asia. Admittedly the temptation is strong to throw off allies when the going gets tough and "get the job done."

The contemplation of the contributions of our allies shows how foolish and costly such a course would be.

PROSPERITY IN TAR HELIA

WHEN you discount the extra business done by North Carolina's revenue total for the month of February is an impressive indication of this state's economic strength.

The general fund, always a good barometer of general economic conditions, soared to \$2,817,625 for the month of February, 1951. Income taxes almost doubled—from \$2,463,965 to \$5,538,184—and the sales tax brought in \$3,862,261, up \$63,358 from last February.

Highway fund collections were 10.74 more than a half a million dollars, to \$10,746,894, and are now running at a rate that will reach \$10,000,000 annually.

This was not a temporary spurt. Revenue has been going up steadily since the fiscal year began in July. The state's general fund collections amount to \$4,261,011—an increase of \$10,900,612 over the same period last year.

Inflation has played its part in booming

state revenues, but it is a relatively minor part. The main explanation is that North Carolina's economy is sound and healthy. Its people are making more money and buying more of the things they need. However, the state is still tapping up literally from Manteo to Murphy, while farm products continue to bring good prices.

If the revenue picture is still as bright with a reduction in the state's needs next January, there will be a temptation to reduce state taxes. Other states have done so within the past twelve months. We do not, however, believe that our state's taxes are oppressive. The full burden on Tar Helia is that levied by the Federal Government.

If the fiscal year ends with money in the bank, let it be reinvested in the future of the state by building new and better schools, providing the services needed by our people. Any concerted campaign for tax reduction should be directed at Washington, not at Raleigh.

A NEW STATUS FOR PUERTO RICO

PUERTO RICAN politics, like its continental counterpart, has its fringe groups. At the far left are the independentists, rabid in their emotional desire for full independence in language and methods.

At the far right are the statistas, since in their hopes for full statehood within the United States, gentlemanly in language and conduct.

The vast majority of Puerto Ricans, however, have long sought something in between those extremes, some status that would permit full control over their own government yet retain the traditional bonds of citizenship, political allegiance and economic relationships with the United States.

Under two Democratic Administrations, the ground has been prepared for this new status. Step by step, direct U. S. control and supervision has been eliminated until today the islanders make their own laws, elect their own public officials including the governor, and generally run their own affairs.

The same has been true of the constitution writing into law this new status. The constitution was drawn by Puerto Rican leaders and members of the U. S. Congress. It creates a commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a "free associated state," politically independent where its internal affairs are concerned, but loyal to its obligations of United States citizenship.

This week the jobbers came out of the hills to join sugar plantation workers and the

residents of the cities in voting on this historic document. They ratified it by an overwhelming majority, just as everyone thought they would. As a result, it is ratified by the U. S. Congress, the few remaining supervisory powers will be removed; the power of Congress to repeal laws made on the island, and the Presidential appointment of assistant justices.

In time, Puerto Rico may qualify for statehood. The commonwealth is a first step. But we rather suspect that the friendly, likable people of that island will prefer to retain the traditional bonds of the political independence they have longed for without casting them completely adrift in an uncertain world.

The cynics may call the new status "divorce with alimony." A. S. political independence with economic support by the U. S. But it is the only feasible solution. And the example set by the United States is a heartening reaffirmation of the basic principles that guided our own American Revolution—the desire of men everywhere to be masters of their own destinies.

The Voice of America has trumpeted the case of independence over all the world. If actions speak louder than words, as the old adage has it, here is an event that should be even more effective in penetrating the Iron Curtain, inspiring the will for freedom and the oppressed people of Europe and giving pause to their totalitarian rulers.

Any other course represents rank discrimination. Failure to collect the additional amount of taxes which would be exacted from those who do bear their full burden of the added sum which some of their fellow citizens should bear but slip out of.

New tax legislation may be necessary, but first of all let's make sure that Congress plugs up the oad.

VERY FIRST OBLIGATION

THE very first obligation that Congress has with respect to tax legislation is to close the loopholes in existing revenue statutes.

Minnesota's Senator Humphreys is authority for the statement that the Federal Government is losing more than \$4,500,000,000 a year through such loopholes. And, on the basis of his charge, the benefits accrue almost entirely to taxpayers with incomes of more than \$10,000.

That to a considerable degree is understandable. It is the larger taxpayers who are better advised as to filling out their tax returns. They have sufficient at stake to justify the expense. The benefits accrue almost entirely to taxpayers with incomes of more than \$10,000.

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While we recognize that Senator Hum-

'Couldn't We Just Throw Away The Worms?'



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 Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Investigation Passed By

MARSHALL
Editors, The News:
A NOTHER criminal term of Superior Court with A. W. K. McLean as Solicitor has come and gone in Madison County without the grand jury being allowed to review the State Bureau of Investigation evidence collected relative to the 1950 election charges. In this question, vital to the people of Madison County, only to be used as a stepping-stone?

The Klan—An Abomination

MATTHEWS
Editors, The News:
SOCIETY should commend Solicitor Malcolm B. Sewell for his fearless patriotism reflected in his vigorous action against the notorious Ku Klux Klan.

The idea of white supremacy is a false doctrine, subversive of American democracy. With the identity of its members unknown publicly, preaching hatred and practicing intimidation abroad, their religious ceremonies are reprehensible for the same reason that industrial slavery, child labor, political tyranny, and prostitution are reprehensible to the very heart of our people.

Theoretically, we believe in democracy. In practice, though, we are Fascists at home while fighting dictators abroad. Our religious ceremonies help us to detest the Nazi conception of a superior race. However, we smugly discriminate against minorities with regard to social, political, economic and civil rights. With sanctimonious inconsistency, we assert our faith in government of, by and for the people.

Every aspect of racial segregation is revoltingly nauseating. We can demonstrate our sincere faith in democracy only as we vigorously attain complete democratic equality of all people without any regard whatever to race or color.

In Defense Of Charlotte

CHARLOTTE
Editors, The News:
I HAVE just finished reading Mr. McManus' letter in The News. He speaks of Charlotte as a city compared to Sodom and Gomorrah. He also says that he is a visitor in our city, and later in his letter he says someone owes him \$10. I just wonder if he traveled the whole state in order to collect the amount owed him here in Charlotte.

It seems also that Mr. McManus has a friend in Charlotte who he has known 20 years. I don't know if his friend has been in our city, but surely he reads the morning and evening papers.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS
ON a mountain top looking out over the Virgin Islands are the ruins of a stone building labeled "Drake's Seat." Where Sir Francis Drake is supposed to have sat and watched for pirates and the Spanish fleet in those days when the islands were Spanish colonies, or such modern detectors as radar.

On that seat, many years ago, my father used to sit when he was the first civil governor of the Virgin Islands, looking out over the Caribbean trying to chart a more prosperous economy from the ruins of abandoned sugar mills and the rum distilleries which had no other use.

The problem of prosperity was fairly simple in Francis Drake's day. His fleet merely lurked in the channel between St. Thomas and the British island of Tortola and pointed out to Spanish galleons loaded with gold as they started back to Spain. Or, later, British and Danish planters merely imported more African slaves for their sugar fields.

It was the British fleet which made this area one of the most prosperous in the world. But the British fleet which once made these islands wealthy also contributed to their decline. When it blockaded France during the Napoleonic Wars, Napoleon developed beet sugar. That, plus the end of slavery, plus the purchase of the islands from Denmark by the U. S. in 1917, plus oil-burning vessels which all over the world struck at St. Thomas for coal, left these islands poverty-stricken and hopeless, with the Negro population swelling with unemployment.

It was at this point, at the height of the Hoover depression that my father took over. Herbert Hoover, who appointed him, made one visit to the islands, publicly branded them "an effective poorhouse" and went back to worry about things closer to home. That was in 1931.

The problem of reviving those bankrupt islands eventually broke my father. He left the islands four years

papers. Most every church in the city is represented in these papers with an invitation to anyone to attend its services. Surely his friends can see the signs on the outside of the churches inviting the Klan to their religious ceremonies.

I do not intend to answer all of Mr. McManus' criticism of the City of Charlotte, for I really believe he was irrational when he wrote this.

I'll admit that we have in our city as most other cities a few big liars, but when Mr. McManus shakes the Charlotte dust off his boots, one will be missing from our midst, God bless Texas and North Carolina.

Favors Cemetery Project

CHARLOTTE
Editors, The News:
I READ with interest Mr. McDonald's story in The Charlotte News concerning Mayor Shaw's efforts to get some civic-minded group interested in sponsoring a project to beautify the old run-down cemetery located in the very heart of our city. This ground could be converted from an "eyesore" spot to an attractive place that would reflect the pride of the citizens of Charlotte and rest there.

My wife and I were most happy to see Mr. McDonald's story which will result in this plot of ground being more in keeping with the pride of those who were instrumental in giving us the freedom to build beautiful cities and (sometimes) beautiful cemeteries and attractive parks.

Surely there are 1000 men and women in this wonderful city of ours who will contribute at least \$10 each towards this splendid project. If your paper or any civic organization will sponsor such an undertaking, I shall be glad to be one of the 1000 persons to join in the movement.

Quote, Unquote

CONSCIENCE is something that makes you tell your wife some dirty lies does—Greenwood (Miss.) Commonwealth.

THE FELLOW who stays home on election day because he doesn't want to have anything to do with crooked politics has a lot more to do with crooked politics than he thinks.—Kingsport (Tenn.) Times-News.

AT THE Harford County marriage license bureau in Bel Air, Courthouse, where something ominous was brewing, a young lady approached Virginia Rollins behind the clerk's desk not long ago and asked for a license to keep sugar cane in her new 1950 Buick. I had no desire to renew a license to Motor Vehicle.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

Virgin Islands Honor Housing Pioneer

later, criticized and reviled. The white plantation owners conspired against him. The Negro politicians lampooned him. He was even accused of stealing four bags of cement.

But sometimes those who are reviled the most eventually are remembered the most and last week I was invited to St. Thomas to dedicate the first public housing project in these islands. It was named the "Paul M. Pearson Garden."

I had not been in the islands for 21 years. Frankly, I had not wanted to go there. Though my father was not embarrassed by the treatment which brought an early end to his life, I had no desire to return.

I was glad, however, that I did. All over the islands are landmarks to the dreams that Father dreamed, the dreams he made come true.

It was Father's home that laid the groundwork for a new tourist trade, a new teaming with visitors. The old pirate's den—Bluebird Castle—which he bought on behalf of the Government and turned into a hotel, is so well known that you can't get in. In his day, private enterprise wouldn't gamble on the tourist trade; hence Father's move is reviled. But today the enterprising firm of Kessler and Behn has put up the magnificent Virgin Island Hotel, while a dozen others have blossomed forth all over the islands.

Scuffed At Organization

HALF the population of St. Croix was unemployed when my father took over. The three Danish sugar plantations were closed and the Danes had been sent down from Washington to feed the people.

But last week I saw a factory, run by the Virgin Islands company which has been organized, belching smoke and gulping truckloads of sugar cane as fast as they could be hauled in. And I couldn't help remembering, as I watched a giant crane dump sugar cane in the new mill, how the local plantation owners scuffed at Father's organization of this co-operative company. Yet doing an

McCarthy's Re-Election Race May Grab National Spotlight

By MARQUIS CHILDS

SIX years ago an unknown named Joe McCarthy came to the Senate from Wisconsin. At that time this political figure was a thing in plain. Running for re-election, Joe McCarthy will be the most controversial figure of the year.

For the present, the Affairs McCarthy is comparatively quiet. But he is not calm before the storm. Both sides are collecting ammunition. The dossier covering McCarthy's personal life are growing to extraordinary size.

Shortly Senator G. V. Gillette took the investigating committee unanimously is hardly possible in view of the split in the party and in the Senate.

The criminal Senator Mike Monroney (Dem.) of Oklahoma has quietly been working behind the scenes to bring about a thorough inquiry. He points out that such an investigation would not necessarily follow the pattern of the Benton charges.

The unanimous vote of Republican Senators would be required to block the investigating committee. Unanimity is hardly possible in view of the split in the party and in the Senate.

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The stress would be on such matters as the \$100,000 fee McCarthy took from the Lastron Corporation at the time Lastron was obtaining a \$7,500,000 loan from the R.F.C. That can hardly be ignored, Monroney points out, for accepting twelve-point loans as favors by loan seekers.

Still another phase of the Affairs McCarthy has begun to draw serious attention. Following McCarthy's carry his war on Time magazine to Time's advertisers, conservative publications began to attack McCarthy.

On the political side, a vacuum was left when Gov. Walter J. Kohler Jr. took himself out of consideration for the Senate race in Wisconsin. The chances of his challenging McCarthy had never been

good. But for a time as he seemed to toy with the idea he got in the national spotlight merely by virtue of this political figure.

Now another Wisconsin Republican, Representative Alvin O'Brien is planning with the same object in mind. In his district in northern Wisconsin, with a population largely made up of farmers, O'Brien received a potent vote large. Serving in the House, he has been elected each time with larger majorities.

O'Brien would be invulnerable on the Communist issue. Long before McCarthy was heard of, he was lecturing to audiences around the country on the Communism. He would be far better equipped for the rough and tumble of a campaign against McCarthy than Kohler.

As for Wisconsin Democrats, they have shown a characteristic inability to agree on the most effective opposition candidate. The result could be an intra-party brawl which would divide the party for the contest in November.

On the legal level, the Department of Justice has been busy working out the charges against McCarthy growing out of the Senate inquiry into the Maryland election. The Maryland case for action has been brought. But the reply at Justice is that Federal election laws in this instance are not necessarily illegal.

Another because of his notoriety or in spite of it, McCarthy has thousands of devotees following him around the country. He calls anyone who opposes him a Communist. Contributions of money are made to him in such volume that they can be acknowledged only with a mimeographed form reply from the Kohler.

The feeling of thousands of others is equally strong. They believe McCarthy has created an atmosphere of fear and suspicion in which fundamental American freedoms are being trampled. This is in short a political vortex where passions are stirred as rarely in our political life.

Truman To Stress Insurance In Asking For Foreign Aid

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON
PRESIDENT TRUMAN tomorrow will send a message to Congress asking some more billions for foreign aid.

Even though many words he'll probably say something like this: "Even though the expense here is a cheap insurance against communism I through it to make Western Europe strong."

The tone of his message probably will be a little different from Sen. Tom Connally's angry blast at the French earlier in the week. Connally's charge was that the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, stuck a needle in the French throat by telling them to act their age. He said France must "do her duty" or she can't expect the U. S. to give her economic aid. He didn't say we wouldn't keep giving military aid.

Recent French antics had peeved him. They probably peeved most Americans. The French are part of the Atlantic Pact. They approved bearing a greater share of the burden of NATO.

"To get the money for this share, they've had to raise taxes. But when they faced the prospect of raising taxes a week ago, their Parliament backed down. That was a bitter blow to us. We're over here where taxes are almost as high as during the war."

And it didn't look good for a couple of other reasons: "If the Russians cut loose, the French will be the main target in Europe. So no one needs more military protection than the French. The French can't have a stiff tax program. The heaviest part of it falls on the poorer classes and the middle class. The middle class has the most to lose, economically. If the Communists ever take over, they'll be more polite. NEED PATIENCE."

But the underlying point is still the same. Whether we like it or not, we'll have to live with them. We'll have to live with them with the French, which Connally does not seem to realize. We'll have to live with them as simply because we need them as much as they need us.

Therefore, it may be a European army without France. France has agreed to provide more divisions than any other NATO country. For our own long-range safety we need a strong European Army, with France as the backbone. As the first line of American defense against Russia.

If the Communists were able to take over France peacefully from within, because of an economic collapse, the European army would fall apart.

So it's to our interest to see that France stays strong. Therefore, in spite of the indignation of Connally and others, we'll have to keep on helping.

Memorial In Hearts Of Men

A Public Housing Administrator under PWA. That was long before the Taft Public Housing Act and it took a lot of pioneering to get on in California, for instance, a law banned any help from federal funds for public housing, and Father undertook to persuade the Legislature to change the law.

After a month of shuttling between Sacramento and San Francisco, he succeeded. The law was revoked. A few days later, Father left the noblest states to be remembered in his heart's memory. So his ashes were scattered off the Golden Gate by the waters of the Caribbean, being carried by the Virgin Islands' first public housing project. And I know nothing would have pleased him more than to see the name of Paul M. Pearson Garden, as a memorial to him and the people he tried to help.