

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

100th-50th-25th Anniversary Year—1953

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A GUARANTEE AGAINST FRAUD

THE TESTIMONY in the New York state charity investigation showed a sickeningly low side of human nature.

There was the professional fund-raiser who admitted he wore the robes of a priest in some cases.

There was the promoter who kept 85 cents out of every dollar he raised in the name of charity.

There was the solicitor who raised \$30,000 for a nonexistent cancer hospital, and used \$435,000 of that sum for "expenses".

There was the man who established so many connections for himself with charity appeals that his family expects to earn \$75,000 this year out of them.

The evidence included the double tragedy of those illicit appeals and deceptive solicitation techniques. Not only did the "take" of the charity racketeers cut down the funds that would have been available to legitimate charity in the past, but the expense of the racket may create widespread suspicion about all charity in the future, causing a decrease in giving all over the nation.

The New York legislative investigation has clearly shown the need for a stronger statute in North Carolina authorizing some central agency to pursue all questionable charity appeals before solicitation is permitted in this state.

At the local level, Charlotte has already

made a start toward assuring local donors that appeals made in this community are bona fide. Under the chairmanship of G. W. Aitken, banker and former member of the City Council, a solicitations information bureau has been established, and is beginning to function.

The bureau will have no legal powers other than the pressure of public opinion. It will ask that detailed information be submitted in advance of each solicitation drive. After examining the goals, the purposes, and various other yardsticks of public solicitations, the bureau will then either approve the drive or withhold its approval, making public its decision so that donors may be advised accordingly.

Elsewhere on today's editorial page, there is a complete list of the charity solicitations in Charlotte last year, obtained from the records of the city government's Charity Solicitations Commission, which issues permits in a routine fashion. Perhaps all of these appeals were worthy, and perhaps all of the campaign goals were justified.

It is our feeling, however, that the addition of the voluntary work of Mr. Aitken's new bureau will help substantially to insure that Charlotte does not experience the kind of fraudulent campaigning disclosed in the recent New York investigation.

TAKE NO COMFORT IN BERIA'S DEATH

STALIN'S "most faithful comrade-in-army," "one of the most outstanding leaders of the Soviet Union," "A true pillar of Stalin."

Those fine phrases were used by Soviet leaders and books to describe the late and unlamented Lavrenty P. Beria.

But now, the Kremlin says, Beria and some of his accomplices are dead. They had no public trial or confrontation by witnesses, which the Sixth Amendment affords persons criminally accused in this country. They were indicted, softened, tried, then shot.

How do Soviet subjects react to this downfall of their Soviet leader, and what does his demise portend for the U. S.?

The Russians are probably quite used to the sudden downfall of Soviet leaders, particularly police chiefs. Beria's predecessors as chief of the secret police, Yagoda and Yezhov, disappeared under similar circumstances. Some Russians may have raised their eyebrows at the part of the indictment against Beria. He was accused of refusing to jump on the Communist bandwagon until victory of the revolution was assured. (The same could be said of Georgi Malenkov.) Soviet history has been rewritten so many times that the party stalwarts' faith probably will not be shaken by the upcoming revisions regarding Beria, and the silent opponents

of the regime simply will see another example of communism's tortuous techniques.

Americans can take no comfort from the fact that Beria is gone. The ease with which the USSR's No. 2 man was ousted indicates the firm control of the Malenkov machine. Certainly the goals of international communism have not changed.

And Henry Shapley of the United Press, an American correspondent who left Russia, after 21 years there, after Beria's arrest, adds another sobering note.

He writes that the accusers emphasized Beria's supposed sabotage of agricultural policy and encouragement of reckless police actions against Russian citizens. The accusers are trying to impress the citizens that, with Beria gone, things will be better. And, reports Shapley:

"The Russians I met the last few months seemed less afraid than ever before... The curious but salutary developments of the past few days may have the effect eventually of reducing, if not eliminating, (their) fears."

That is a disturbing conclusion. For if the Russian people cease to fear their government, then the Kremlin can divert attention from internal to external affairs, which would mean increased activity toward the Soviet goal of world dominion.

A NEW SINGER OF THE OLD REFRAIN

BEAT WITH US, if you will, for a few stanzas of an old refrain:

"Whenever anybody mentions the words Truman and Democrat to you, for the rest of your lives remember that those words are synonymous with Americans dying, thousands of miles from home, because they did not have the ammunition to defend themselves."

"Remember that the words Truman and Democrat meant bungling our country into war and the lack of courage or the capacity either to win the war or to win a truce."

"Remember that the words Truman and Democrat mean the loss of \$50 million Chinese to the free world."

From The Christian Science Monitor

RUMOR FACTORY

WHAT'S the best way to deal with a rumor? In these times when suspicions and half-truths are especially ripe, this is a vital question.

There is one sure method—taking the trouble to find out the truth. Although not always easy, it pays off in that pleasant feeling of a good store of nicely folded facts laid away for reference in place of an untidy clutter of wadded rumors.

* * * * * At Stallings Field in North Carolina there is an aviation corporation which thinks constructively about such things. Rumors fly there, as they do in large organizations. But in this plant they are exposed. The reason? It has been stated when it calls the "rumor factory."

In a small building there is a large bulletin board with a two-column sheet. Anyone bearing a rumor goes to the board and looks over the collection already there to see if this is an old one. If it is new, he writes it in the "rumor" column. The personnel director peers at the board regularly, and writes answers in the fact column. The staff drops by to see just what is what. We suspect this is a popular pastime.

The system is a simplification of the process of finding out the truth. But its influence is bound to spread. Employees are used to discovering the facts at work

perhaps will find themselves hunting for them in their personal relationships too.

Maybe the time will come when to tell a story without being able to say, "I know this to be true," and quote chapter and verse on it, will be as unthinkable as to rob little daughter's piggy bank.

The hunting story we liked best was about the fellow who spied a bear. But the bear was not a real bear, it was a statue. The boy didn't want to give away his position. He tried to figure out how to get a shot when he noticed an abandoned old barn with the natural field stone foundation. He computed he could hit a rock in the foundation and the bullet would glance hitting the bear. Telling a friend of the situation, he was asked by the friend, "Did you get the bear?" And the hunter replied, "No, I missed the bear." —MATTOON (Ia.) JOURNAL-GAZETTE

* * * * * It's no mystery why those Russians keep trying to substitute their own news talk plans. Ours might lead to peace. —NEW ORLEANS STATES.

From Which Is Recorded A Personal Relation To A Popular Salad Ingredient:

"There is no food that I like less."

"Then lovely, lacy watercress—ATLANTA JOURNAL.

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'That Man With The Corns Will Have To Go'



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication at the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

For Discipline Based On Rules

Editors: The News:

I'm response to your "Charlotte, submit" request for comment. I respectfully submit those, of a parent, but of an ex-school teacher.

First and foremost I believe a principal should have the right to expel any child from school where he feels such action is necessary to maintain discipline, provided such action is based on a concrete set of rules.

This is not meant to either condone or condemn the action of either the principal or the parent. It is however directed toward the defense of the authority of the principal to take such action.

Perhaps in this case as in others parental discipline is necessary. Unfortunately I have seen school discipline chipped away so by many well intentioned parents that the firm foundation had disintegrated until the schools are unable to maintain any semblance of order. Such a situation is soon discerned by those teenagers who most need the missing discipline. Thus what was meant to be an institution of learning descended to the status of a place which is nothing more than a place of law to law, to spend certain specified periods each day.

May Charlotte find its school authority based upon the confidence of the parents in the integrity and justice of the principals. In return let every principal be eager to grasp each parental offer of assistance.

—GORDON WINTERS.

The following is so much waiting to do and our fight against evil forces at work in America has just begun.

In our progress we must not be slackers, all hands must work together to accomplish a cleaner, better government, to achieve tolerance and understanding of less fortunate lands, fairer and just treatment of returned war veterans and a warm interest in the men who works by their hands.

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Thoughts At Year's End

Editors: The News:

We all know this is the entrance or beginning of the year. Stretching into the days, weeks and months ahead of us, we must be mindful of its vacillating nature, its variable ways, the many unforeseen changes that occur during its 12 months.

We have closed the door of 1953 and are opening the door to 1954. It is, therefore, appropriate for us to consider the things we would like to find in 1954.

First, we must take a look backward, review 1953 and put forever behind us the things that hindered our greatest usefulness. Let us consider a few of the things that hampered our progress in 1953. "Excess taxes," "Heavy Economic Program," "Inflation," "Price Control," "Liberation," "Fight Against Communism," are just a few of the drugs that confronted the American people.

Now we open the door to 1954. What do we hope to find in this New Year? We still have our problems with us, though we crossed a difficult line in 1953. The Korean War has not had the hope of modified or lower taxes, less waste and graft in our government spending, a dismissal of

—CARROLL O. DELLINGER.

CHARLOTTE

Editors: The News:

GREETINGS. Here's wishing you and the entire staff the joys of this blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

MRS. D. A. THOMPSON.

P.S.—Thanks to Mr. Charlie Crutchfield for his fine comments on The News in Dec. 21 issue.

CHARLOTTE

Editors: The News:

AS WE close the door of 1953 and enter the door of 1954, we wish all the persons who will solicit in the campaign, on whom may have a permit card for the election, a happy New Year.

MRS. D. A. THOMPSON.

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