THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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NOTHING SECRET ABOUT CAR INSPECTION

WHEN the motor vehicle inspection bill came before his Judiciary II Committee Friday, Sen. Pou Bailey of Wake County, asked newsmen to please leave.

Why?

"There's been a good deal of controversy on the bill," he said. "I don't want the members to feel that they will be written up in home town papers before they have a chance to talk with their folks. I don't want them to be embarrassed by the press."

Now that's an interesting line of reasoning. It would seem that the best way of reaching all the folks back home would be via the press. With reporters at an important committee meeting, rapid communication is assured. The legislators' views would be available to any constituent who read the papers, instead of only to those who could see their legislator on his busy week-end. The only persons embarrassed would be those legislators who vote one way and talk another way.

The Senator himself introduced this sensible bill, and he may have suggested the secrecy in a gallant attempt to protect other committee members from the supposed wrath of constituents, who still remember the fouled-up and short-lived motor vehicle inspection law of five years ago. Possible repercussions from the voters is certainly no excuse for secret legislative sessions, but it should be pointed out that the public and the press have shown their ability to differentiate between the 1948 law and the much improved law now proposed. There has been no appreciable opposition to Senator Bailey's bill, and he and his committee members could decrease what criticism there is by pointing up the improvements.

But most important, motor vehicle legislation, like all other matters considered by the General Assembly, is an issue on which all North Carolinians deserve to know their representatives' position, at all times. Executive sessions are in order only in matters involving the tender secrets of national security, which the states long ago delegated to Congress.

CORRELATE THE KOREAN FILE, SENATOR

WE SEE no military merit in Senator Taft's investigation of the Korean situation. Opposition to the idea already expressed by key Democratic leaders, like Senators Russell and Kefauver, and Senator Knowland, policy committee chairman of Taft's own party, assures that the probe would cause a political ruckus overshadowing any possible benefits. The inevitable security leaks could be disastrous. Therefore Congress should not grant this latest request of its majority leader.

Indeed, Congress has already investigated, reinvestigated, probed, surveyed and studied the Korean situation until some Congressmen actually think they are running the war. The big show, of course, was the MacArthur investigation. Currently playing are the Senate Foreign Relations and House Armed Services Committees' investigation of the war. General Van Fleet, who just returned from his command post in Korea, testified before a Congressional committee last week. Tomorrow he, Secretary of Defense Wilson, the Army's General Collins and Army Secretary Stevens will go before the Armed Services Committee. Wednesday the House Appropriations Committee gets it turn at Van Fleet. Meanwhile a Senate Armed Services subcommittee has ordered a separate inquiry to look into the reported ammunition shortage in Korea.

The superimposition of yet another investigation would compound a Congressional fault. Military leaders have to trot from committee to committee telling the same story three or four times. Senator Taft's proposal would merely mean another go-around for all the brass.

If his proposed investigation would replace all these other probes the idea would have merit. But Congressmen don't work that way. Each little group wants its chance at the big boys, its day in the sun.

A better idea would be for Congress to correlate all the material its various committees have gathered on Korea lately. Congressmen could profit from studying this mass of material while the military men have a few moments free to fight the war.

BENSON'S POSER—MARKETS FOR FARMERS

A DEVOUT MORMON, Secretary of Agriculture Benson does not indulge in caffeine nicotine, or alcohol. That's all to the good. A less disciplined Secretary would probably have coffee nerves, cigarette hangover and delirium tremens by now.

A few statistics that have been gathered in our agriculture notebook during the past several weeks point up just one of his problems, the solution of which will require the wisdom of Solomon.

It is the problem of farm and ranch production. American farmers are turning out food and fibres in staggering amounts.

That is fine. There are many hungry, poorly-clothed people in this world. The trouble is, many of them don't have enough money to buy our foods and clothes. That puts the U. S. Government in the unenviable position of keeping up the farmers' income, with price supports and government purchase, or letting huge surpluses hit the markets, there to push prices below parity.

There are 93.6 million head of cattle on American farms and ranches. That's an increase of 5.8 million, almost seven per cent, in one year.

Milk production has increased 16 per cent, in one year.

The government has millions of dollars worth of dairy products, eggs and grains on hand. It sells wheat at a cheaper price overseas, to get rid of some of the surplus. Secretary Benson has asked cotton farmers to cut back this year's crop by about 18 per cent. But market men doubt the cotton farmers will comply with the request. As long as they aren't compelled to restrict production, and are guaranteed a good price, they will produce at record rates.

Ah, some will say, that price support business is the trouble. If farm products didn't have artificial price supports the law of supply and demand would take care of things.

But the example of the beef industry shatters that theory. Beef prices never were supported. Yet they skyrocketed. And, as Secretary Benson is reminded daily and angrily by farm Congressmen, the beef producer has taken a 30 per cent cut in prices during the past year.

A partial answer to this problem of production, it would seem, lies in a radical change in American marketing. New overseas markets must be created. This involves a lowering of our tariff barriers and the admission of more foreign goods at low prices, so people in other countries can buy more of our agricultural products.

But if Secretary Benson chooses this course he runs head-on into another problem—the reluctance of many Congressmen, particularly in the majority Republican Party, even to renew existing reciprocal trade agreements, let alone reduce tariff barriers further.

We take what little comfort we can from the fact that Secretary Benson is a marketing specialist and a man of good will. He will need all his talents and traits, and maybe then some, to find an answer to the problem which America's efficient farmers have created.

From The St. Louis Globe-Democrat

GILDING THE FISH

THERE'S something about a dead fish over the mantel. Either you like 'em or you loathe 'em. There is no middle ground.

Take the type that dotes on them. Take with a grain of salt, that is. Given one guest and a glance at the glassy-eyed fireplace monster and all shackles of truth fall about his feet. No exaggeration, no tale of heroic man against ichthyosaur is too wild to tell in childlike faith it will be believed. Embellishments come easy to an experienced embellisher. What if its miniscule dimensions do make something less than a dramatic tableau on the wall? Some small fish have mean dispositions, don't they? Well, this one was the meanie of them all. "Terrific struggle; he fought for hours."

Or take the type that antidotes on them. A dead fish is a dead fish, with or without shellac and a walnut backboard. However highly placed, it reminds of something long since washed up by the tide. A revulsion to mankind. A necrotomy to be fled with shrieks, did etiquette not forbid. He would recoil, no matter how true the narrative. It's too unlifelike.

But into this total clash of the exuberant and the subconscious, it seems, now steps Aluminum Company of America. Its suggestion to frustrated sportsmen: Have yourself a game fish carved out of solid aluminum, artistically hand-colored to simulate the biggest and most ferocious sailfish, barracuda, dolphin, white marlin or rainbow trout. The buyer can manufacture his own yarn.

The possibilities are dazzling. Not the least of which is that if the guest is not properly envious, the topic can be melted down into a light laundry tub.

At a recent shipyard launching, the woman who was to christen the boat was quite nervous. When the shipyard manager perceived this he asked her if she had any questions. "Yes," replied the woman. "How hard do I have to hit the ship to knock it into the water?"—*Etowah (Tenn.) Enterprise.*

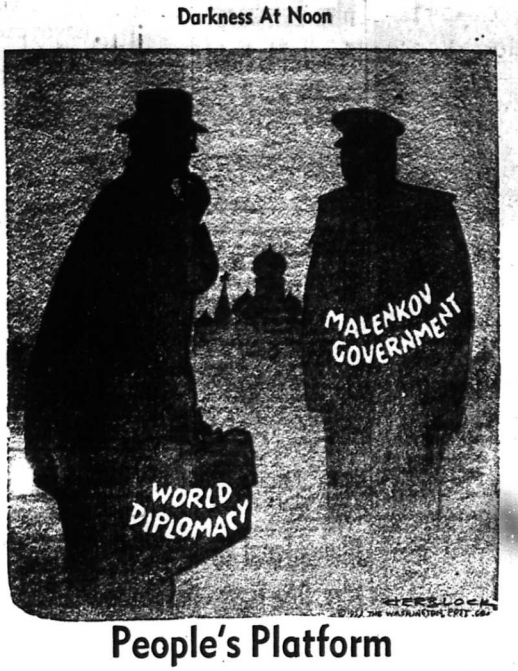
"It is easy for a man to live on his wife's money, but he has no chance at all of getting to heaven on his wife's religion.—*Hamilton County (Tenn.) Herald.*

Omar Bradley says he has never met anybody with a solution for the Korean stalemate, which is what comes of riding around in staff cars instead of sitting behind a couple of experts on the bus.—*Asheville Citizen.*

Philadelphia psychiatrist says children need "a dash of savagery". We'll agree that they need firm discipline but we won't go quite that far.—*Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.*

Some children act immature even before they become adults.—*Memphis Press-Scimitar.*

Darkness At Noon



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.

SB 105 Inadequate

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

HAVING read L. M. Phelp's letter in the People's Platform Wednesday I would like to say I am quite in accord with him. Our N. C. automobile insurance laws are most inadequate.

Recently I was an innocent victim of an automobile accident. Neither party had insurance. I talked to an insurance executive the other day regarding compulsory liability insurance. He replied: "That is what we don't want, the best policy for N. C. would be the Senate Bill 105.

After reading up on SB 105 I still feel that compulsory insurance is what N. C. needs. It may cost the responsible driver a little more to carry this insurance, but what is that when compared with a life?

The responsible driver is not the one we are afraid of. It's those irresponsible drivers who are a menace to our state and city. What I am most interested in is that N. C. pass a law that will protect the people and help those who cannot help themselves.

—ANNE B. MATHIS.

The Right Of Referendum

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

ALTHOUGH I am opposed to having a dry state (There are too many bootleggers get rich selling rot-gut whisky) I'm still for a state referendum.

Why? Simply because I'm broad-minded enough to realize that even though I'm against an issue, the majority should have the last word.

That's why I was for the bonus referendum that was recently killed in the Veterans Committee. It seems to me that our state believes in government of, for and by the politicians, instead of the people.

I'll express my opinion when I go to the polls and vote against the referendum. If the drys win, then we can say the people truly expressed their opinions. It won't be a couple of dozen men in Raleigh making the decision for the whole state.

Yes, I'm against a dry state, but for the referendum. Wasn't it Voltaire who said, "I disagree with what you're saying and I'll defend until death your right to say it."?

—KENNETH CONRAD JR.

Whose America, Senator Smith?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

SEN. Willis Smith made a few amazing statements in his speech in Charlotte in support of the McCarran-Walter Immigration (Exclusion) Act. The Associated Press story appearing in the High Point Enterprise quotes the Senator as saying that most of "the opponents of the McCarran Act are either Communists or (are) Communist-inspired."

Our junior Senator also is quoted as saying that former President Truman "probably" had not read the Act before his veto of the measure. Senator Smith further gave it as his opinion that despite President Eisenhower's campaign promise to "liberalize" the measure, he (Smith) is convinced that the President will do nothing about it. In further summation of his case our Senator says that "you of us who have been to large cities know that one can walk for blocks and blocks and never hear a word of English spoken." This "condition." Senator Willis Smith says needs correction and the McCarran-Walter Act will help "correct" it.

Senator Smith did not say that the McCarran Act was passed over President Truman's veto by a margin of only two votes. So by the Smith reasoning 28 members of the United States Senate would come under his charge of being "Communist-inspired." He failed to point out that the most articulate opponents of the Act include Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam; the National Council of Churches, including most of the leading Protestant churches of America, National Council of Catholic Men, American Friends Service Committee (Friends), Nat. Lutheran Council and Msgr. O'Grady, Dean of Catholic University's School of Social Work. The sponsors of the Lehman-Humphries Bill, as a substitute for the restrictive McCarran Act included such Senators as Hendrickson, Ives, Langer, Kilgore, Lehman, Magnuson, Morse, Gillette, Moody, Murray, and Pastore. Some of these Senators have been in the lead in taking anti-Communist measures at home and abroad.

How does Senator Smith's charge that Truman hadn't read the McCarran Act square away with the fact that the former President quoted two whole passages from it during the press conference following his veto? Senator Smith is only guessing about this, and my guess is that Truman knew more about the McCarran Act than most of the Senators who voted to override his veto.

Unless Senator Smith has some direct word from President Eisenhower, many of the people who voted for him are perfectly justified in assuming that he will follow through on his promise made during the campaign in speeches in Providence, R. I., and Newark, N. J., that he intends to "liberalize" the McCarran Act.

Finally as to Senator Smith's "big city blocks with out a word of English spoken"—let us assume that this is true. In the city of Hamtramck, Mich., the traffic cops speak Polish as do most of the judges in Buffalo. And there are streets in New York where you hear Italian, Spanish, and Chinese, as well as Yiddish and Greek. But that is just the point—that is America. The concept of "Ein Folk," "Ein language," "Ein Feuhrer," etc., is completely foreign to the American ideal. (The word "ein" means "one" in German). Senator Smith may not know that the first white man to set foot on the shore of what is now North Carolina was an Italian, who did not speak a word of English—his name was Verrazano. By the reasoning of Senator Smith neither Paul nor Silas, who spoke only Aramaic and Hebrew would be qualified to enter our country and live under our flag.

The big point is not whether thousands of our citizens retain a sentimental hold on their old-world cultures; the big point is whether they have been and are good citizens. Up in our great Northwest, Swedes to this day toast the King of Sweden in their native tongue on New Year's Day—Americans in Michigan and Delaware of Dutch stock dress up in native costume once a year. Italians, Greeks, Jews, and Frenchmen maintain a reverence for their ethnic and cultural ties. And yet all of them, German, Swede, English, Irish, and Slav have combined to make this the greatest nation on earth. These people of immigrant stock have helped build our bridges, and write our songs, and in times of trouble they have gone off to fight our wars. A roster of those who have won the Congressional Medal of Honor includes men of 11 different European and Asiatic strains in our life-blood—a symphony of democracy unequalled in world history, a blend of usefulness and honor which is seriously threatened by the restrictive McCarran Act which shuts the door in the faces of thousands of refugees and would-be refugees from Communism, who, if they were admitted to our land, would prove formidable fighters for democracy.

—HARRY L. GOLDEN, Editor
The Carolina Israelite.

Dulles' Handling Of The Vincent Case Discourages McCarthyism

BY JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

EVIDENTLY early reports have misrepresented Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' approach to the gigantic problem of reorganizing and administering his new department. It has been alleged that Dulles was following the system of the legendary Russian peasant by wolves, throwing any State Department employee to Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy in the happy hope of escaping himself.

This now has been proven wrong in the highly significant case of John Carter Vincent, which has been too much obscured by the rush of other events. In this case, Secretary Dulles assumed personal responsibility for deciding Vincent's fate, after the Truman Loyalty Review Board had held that this intensely controversial foreign service officer was doubtfully loyal.

Dulles took his responsibility extremely seriously. He read through the whole long record of the charges against Vincent, before the Senate Internal Security Committee and elsewhere. He considered other evidence that was also presented to him. He talked with Vincent. In the end, he concluded that there was no doubt about Vincent's loyalty, but that there were grave doubts about his wisdom — that, in short, Vincent was a perfectly loyal American but a silly fellow.

DULLES DENOUNCED

On the basis of this judgment, Secretary Dulles allowed Vincent to resign with full pension rights. The difference between the Dulles decision and the prior decision of the Loyalty Review Board was the difference between firing a cook for burning the roast, and charging a cook with being a professional poisoner. The difference was instantly recognized by Senators McCarthy and Pat McCarran. They had, in effect, charged Vincent with being a professional poisoner of the worst kind. They, at once, denounced Dulles for his action, in the bitterest terms.

But the Dulles decision in the Vincent case was also bold in another way. Before the Senate Internal Security Committee, the semi-professional ex-Communist, Louis Budenz, had testified under oath that Vincent was an active member of the Communist Party. On the basis of first hand experience of the part played by Vincent in war-time China, the Budenz testimony was challenged by one of these reporters. It was also flatly denied by Vincent. Budenz nonetheless reaffirmed his sworn statement, and was strongly upheld by Senator McCarran.

What confronted Secretary Dulles, then, was an either-or proposition. Either Budenz was untruthful when he made his charge against Vincent, or Vincent lied in his denials. It is singularly significant that a brilliant and seasoned lawyer, with the conservative cast of mind and strongly judicial temperament of John Foster Dulles, should have decided this conflict in favor of Vincent after the most laborious review of all the evidence.

If Dulles thinks Vincent was telling the truth in denying membership in the Communist Party, then he must also think that Budenz foresworе himself when he declared under oath that Vincent was a Communist Party member. This clearly implied judgment by Dulles is all the more significant when taken in conjunction with the Justice Department's handling of the case of that other silly fellow who has been transformed into a national bugaboo, Owen Lattimore.

BUDENZ AGAIN

In the Lattimore case, there was the same either/or proposition as in the Vincent case. Either Budenz was untruthful in accusing Lattimore of being a Communist, or Lattimore was untruthful in denying Budenz's charge. If Lattimore committed perjury at all, this was certainly his most flagrant and positive perjury. Yet the Justice Department apparently preferred to spare Budenz from hostile cross-examination. At any rate, the department left out the main charge, and based the Lattimore indictment on a series of wholly subsidiary and relatively trivial statements contained in Lattimore's rambling testimony.

Any show of lack of faith in Louis Budenz is a flagrant affront to Senators McCarthy and McCarran, who have used Budenz as the chief witness in their prosecutions. From every standpoint, therefore, the settlement of the Vincent case indicates that Secretary Dulles is entirely prepared to stand up to Sen. McCarthy, when he feels his feet on firm ground and knows justice is on his side.

The opposite impression has been created. But this was only because the State Department had never been tightly administered, and had reached a condition close to chaos in the period of transition. Beyond any doubt at all, the department files were in disorder; the security system was all too lax; and the Voice of America had been much mismanaged.

Some U.S. As Well As Soviet Leaders Would Rewrite History

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

NO NOVELIST would dare to employ the coincidence of Stalin's passing at this moment when all the forces of the world crisis seem to be converging. It is drama on the grand scale, in keeping with the awesome sweep of events of the past 15 years.

The noteworthy fact was the constancy of Stalin's policy. It was invariably designed to push by any and all means the Communist revolution all over the world. But invariably, before the threat of outright war, Stalin pulled back.

GREATER DANGER

That ironhanded capacity to go so far and no farther Stalin had developed in his long and bloody climb to power. That constancy—the ability to turn back at the last moment—can scarcely be expected from new leadership. It is why the likelihood is for greater rather than less danger, at those points at which the tension between East and West is most serious.

The evil that Stalin has done in the world is incalculable. Above all, it is in the example he set of brutal and ruthless intrigue; of Oriental despotism valuing human life, the individual, as no more than a matchstick; of the necessity for human sacrifice to atone for any error in policy; of the savage and subhuman means that have long since overwhelmed the glitter of the false idealism of the end.

One has only to look around to see the corrupting force of this example. The twin motives of fear and hate inspired by the evil genius, Stalin, make our actions at times resemble those of the image we profess to loathe.

It was not merely the present and the future that Stalin worked incessantly to pervert. He had a host of hacks hard at work rewriting the past to make it conform with the Stalinist view of history, enshrining the great man in the center of the revolutionary drama. The Stalin henchmen do not bother with anything as flamboyant as burning the heretical books in public bonfires. They merely root them out of every library and classroom and replace them with the official texts.

BOHLEN WAS THERE

Some of our own politicians seem to want history rewritten. Charles E. Bohlen, nominated Ambassador to Moscow, was interrogated by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Yalta and Potsdam. And, again what a coincidence — that Bohlen, one of the two or three survivors who really know what happened at those meetings, should be making a new entrance at this particular moment.

In executive session Bohlen testified that the agreements reached at Yalta and Potsdam were fair and would have been to the advantage of the West if Russia had lived up to them. This was not what some of the Republican Senators wanted to hear. They were determined that the testimony should fit their version of a "sell-out" by Roosevelt and Truman.

But that was not the way Bohlen had heard it. He had been present at both conferences as a technician; a technician-interpreter of a high order but nevertheless a nonpolitical, nonpolicy-making expert. Before the committee he testified as to his expert knowledge of what happened at those sessions.

And even though his confirmation was at stake, he presented the facts as he had known them.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Joe Stalin's Scoldings And Repartee

WASHINGTON

HERE are some little-known facts about Joseph Stalin in his relations with the USA.

Probably Harry Truman is the only person who ever bawled out Josef Stalin since the day when he became top man in Soviet Russia.

For years all of Russia bowed before the ruler in the Kremlin. His word was law. No one around him ever questioned it. However, the little man from Missouri, newly made President of the United States in 1945, gave Stalin a bawling-out which those around Truman have never forgotten. It was as if he were talking to a music critic or a newspaper columnist.

The incident occurred during the first few minutes of play at the Potsdam conference. Stalin had arrived one day late. Truman, Prime Minister Churchill, and Secretary of State Jimmie Byrnes had been on time, had sat around waiting for him. Official reason for Stalin's delay was that the train across Poland and East Germany got held up, which, considering rail conditions in that war-torn area in 1945, may have been true.

However, as the first Potsdam session opened, Truman took the floor and proceeded to tell Stalin that sessions were going to begin on time, were going to follow a regular schedule, and went on to outline what he proposed doing. Aiming his remarks directly at Stalin, he talked with such vigor that Churchill looked at Jimmie Byrnes with a view to getting the new President to take his seat.

This proved impossible. But, driving back to their headquarters, Secretary Byrnes was on the verge of suggesting that it might be wise for Truman not to antagonize Stalin during the first session of the conference, when Harry Vaughan piped up.

"That was wonderful, chief," he enthused. "You certainly did bawl him out. Pour it on him again."

Note—Truman also bawled out Foreign Minister Molotov in Washington when the latter arrived here in April, 1945, after Roosevelt's death. Chip Bohlen, now ambassador to Russia, who served as interpreter for Truman, told his superiors that he had never heard a foreign dignitary bawled out in such language. It lasted for over an hour.

Bawled Out British

STALIN in turn has done some bawling out. The late Wendell Willkie once told me how he had been entertained at a gala dinner in the Kremlin which featured a pleasant round of toasts to the allies.

Suddenly Stalin let loose a diatribe against the British whom he accused of "stealing" 16 Air Cobras which the United States was shipping to Murmansk, but which had been taken off the vessel in Scotland.

Willkie said he had seldom heard such bitter language from a high official at a public function—and with the British ambassador present. Later it was discovered that the 16 Cobras had been removed from the ship after General Eisenhower had appealed personally to Churchill. He wanted them for the African invasion. The British were not to blame, but probably Stalin never did learn the true facts.

Repartee With Churchill

STALIN also had some pungent sessions of wit with Churchill over the opening of a second front across the English Channel. This was hashed over, backward and forward, at Teheran, with Churchill proposing a second front through the Balkans, or southern France, or any other place except the English Channel.

Finally U. S. military men swung their weight against Churchill and for the cross-channel operation. As the conference ended, however, Stalin was still caustic—as Churchill discovered when he left Teheran.

"Good-bye, Marshal," he said, "I'll see you in Berlin."

"Yes," replied Stalin, "I in a tank and you in a pullman car."

At the Teheran conference, Churchill also needled Stalin—probably because FDR was siding with Stalin regarding the second front, by saying:

"Marshal, everybody who comes in contact with you becomes slightly pink."

"As any doctor will tell you, my dear Prime Minister," shot back Stalin, "pink is the healthiest physical condition."

To which Roosevelt, trying to smooth "Don't forget, gentlemen, that the most over the cross-fire, replied:

"Red diluted combination is all the colors of the rainbow."