

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE PRISONERS—A FEW OF THEM—RETURN

DURING the past two evenings many people in a town in the mountains have rejoiced in the knowledge that a loved one who was captured by the Reds in Korea is now safe in allied hands. Some of the returning prisoners have brought messages of reassurance for relatives of friends left behind in prison camps. And, although no more U. S. soldiers are scheduled to be repatriated today, 55 more Americans are due to be sent back later in the week. Judging by the dispatch with which the first two transfers were made, the return of the 55 additional men seems assured.

The most hopeful note in this prisoner exchange is this: It indicates that the Reds are willing to make some concessions at this time, that some action will accompany the oratory of their current peace campaign. Certainly the exchange of a few prisoners

does not necessarily mean that the Reds will agree to a truce. It indicates, however, that the fruitless negotiations in Korea any progress looks encouraging.

However, in sharing with families of returnees the happiness of the prisoners' return, and in taking note of the fact that in exchange was made, let's keep the prisoner-of-war issue in focus. The men being returned represent a minute percentage of the number of men believed originally captured. Thousands of prisoners, in the opinion of Army officials who studied the matter, were murdered, sometimes brutally, by the Communists. For every home that rejoices this week with joyous shouts that Johnny is coming home, there are a score of homes where mothers will wait in vain by phone and radio. Let us never forget those prisoners now beyond repatriation, whose cruel tormentors must some day be brought to bar.

CAVEAT WEEKS

SECRETARY of Commerce Weeks has now reversed himself. He has asked Dr. Astin to continue as director of the National Bureau of Standards for several months. A special committee will conduct the functions and operations of the bureau in relation to present national needs.

The action was in order. It may be, as Secretary Weeks said, that "at no time has there been any intent, implied or otherwise, to cast reflection upon the integrity of the bureau or the professional competence or integrity of Dr. Astin." Nonetheless, when the Secretary told a Senate committee on March 31 that he had asked for Dr. Astin's resignation, he said that the Bureau had not been "sufficiently objective" in testing the battery additive AD-52, and implied that the Bureau was not above dealing surreptitiously with persons who might benefit by adverse reports on a product.

More than any other factor, it was the implication that the Bureau, under Dr. Astin, lacked integrity that stirred a great hue and cry among U. S. scientists, who long have looked to the Bureau as an objective scientific research agency. In the face of reports that some 400 scientists in the Bureau were ready to quit, Secretary Weeks asked Dr. Astin to stay on.

The purely scientific aspects of the

"evaluation" which articles may be left to scientific minds. But there was another disturbing thing in Mr. Weeks' testimony that has not yet been adequately explained. He raised the question whether any product on the market should be subjected to Government appraisal. "As a practical man, I do not see why a product should be denied an opportunity in the market place."

Upon inquiry, it was told that newspapers, Trade Commission has been the Government's "watchdog" against a variety of "unfair and deceptive practices," including false advertising. When the Commission gets a complaint that articles in newspapers are being grossly misrepresented or are potentially dangerous, it asks the Bureau of Standards to make an impartial scientific analysis. The Bureau runs tests, and passes along the results to the Commission for evaluation. In this work, the Commission performs the same public function that the Food & Drug Administration does in its field.

If Mr. Weeks means that the Government should get entirely out of the business of protecting the people against fraudulent products, he will have an argument on his hands. The old rule of caveat emptor (let the buyer beware) is not an arbitrary nor a complete rule. It is a rule that has been broken at bad before before it tries to make it a

OFFSHORE, THE SENATE HITS A CALM

FOR OVER three weeks now, the Senate has been debating a bill that would transfer from the Federal Government to the states the land and resources under the mineral base that lie within the states' "historic boundaries." No end to this debate is in sight. Majority leader Robert Taft has ordered debate and night sessions to speed up the debate. Meanwhile, because of Congressional preoccupation with investigations, and the delays resulting from a change of party in the national administration, pressing legislation is piling up before the Senate.

Two News does not agree with the President, most Republicans and some Democrats that this bill should be passed. We do, however, sympathize with Senator Taft in his desire to bring the offshore oil dispute to a head so that the Senate may get on with other issues.

The issue has been thoroughly debated this session, as it was in previous years. Therefore, Senator Taft can in fairness ask for

a vote to cut off debate. This motion would require approval of two-thirds of the Senators. If approval is forthcoming, then in accordance with the wishes of Congress, the President, and presumably a good many of the people who helped elect him, the bill will be passed.

Senator Taft, however, might not be able to muster the necessary 64 votes to invoke cloture. Some of the Senators who want the offshore oil transfer were great champions of the right of unlimited debate when they were filibustering against civil rights legislation, and would be hard put to reason themselves into voting for cloture in this instance.

If Senator Taft is unsuccessful in an attempt to limit debate, the bill will require the tedious old legislative be filed away with the civil rights proposals, so the Senate can get on with more necessary business.

SECRECY AT RALEIGH UNWARRANTED

TODAY, with the House Appropriations Committee at Raleigh holding hearings on repeal of the hastily-enacted secrecy law, it seems a good time to review the status of secret sessions in our national legislature, and relate them to the issue here in North Carolina. The current issue of Congressional Quarterly indicates the extent to which the practice is followed in Washington.

From Jan. 3 to March 31, of this year, Congressional committees and subcommittees held 180 times, exclusive of House Appropriations subcommittee meetings on budgetary matters. Of the 659 meetings, 217 (32.9 per cent) were closed to the public, 223 (33.8 per cent) were partly closed, and 420 (63.3 per cent) were open. In addition, House Appropriations subcommittees held four public closed meetings daily during the past two months.

Some proponents of secret sessions in the

General Assembly point to this Congressional precedent and say, "Well, if it's all right in Washington it's all right in Raleigh." There are two main reasons why this reasoning is in error.

First, the General Assembly does not consider classified matters that vitally affect U. S. security. Congress does. Revelation of tender secrets that Congress must deal with could endanger public security.

Secondly, the fact that Congress holds some secret sessions on non-security matters does not make the practice right. Congress has several glaring shortcomings that are not amenable of adoption in state legislatures. Undue secrecy is one of these shortcomings, and we trust our legislators, whose constituents prefer to set their own rules of fair play instead of adopting the Washington standard, will condemn the injudiciousness of their hastily-enacted law in time to repeal it this session.

From The Asheville Citizen

RAMPS

THE CITIZEN has no warrant to pick a quarrel with West Virginia and its claim that the Mountain State is already harvesting a true species of alium tricum—or ramp. However, we doubt very much whether the West Virginia ramp, upon suggested examination by Mountain State authorities, will match North Carolina specifications.

Ramps you meet at Ramp Convention time in the high hills near Canton. We had always thought they were an exclusive Western and North Carolina product. Anyway, you meet and know the succulent ramp by its smell.

The smell is nearly indescribable. A West Virginia ramp (if there is such a thing) would merely have the odor of double-

tilled ammonia. True ramps are something else again.

For example, to approximate the fragrance it would be necessary to compound hydrogen sulfide, asphaltite, the aged distillation of a pound of rancid butter, and the essence of Albanian garlic.

We leave the scientific determination to Mr. Stupka, pondering the question under microscope light up in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. However, we are confident that the North Carolina ramp will never know peer. As Professor Stupka is well aware, the secret of its noisome quality is the ingredient hydrogen sulfide, which is peculiar only to this park. That's chlorophyll spelled backwards, son.

'Remember When People Talked Of 'Guns-Or-Butter'?



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.

Wants The Full Text

CHARLOTTE
Editors, The News:
It has been my practice over the years to read the text of important public speeches in your newspaper rather than to read a lead story on what somebody said the public official said. President Eisenhower made an important policy speech on April 16, 1953 which seems to have been a reply to recent Russian peace overtures. I put both of our Charlotte daily newspapers aside with disappointment when I found neither had printed the text of the Eisenhower speech.

Upon inquiry, I was told that newspapers found that less than one per cent of the subscribers read the text of important public speeches, and that newspapers generally are content to copy the necessary space to print the speeches.

It is difficult to be critical of newspapers under these circumstances, but it seems to me that something of a public trust to print such important news. It is easy to be critical of the average newspaper reader who must lack sufficient interest in public affairs to read such important documents. The ever-increasing cost of greeting my newspaper boys at my front door once each month makes the added cost of the New York Times some what beyond the family budget.

ROTT, R. GALVIN

Grier Will Be Good Councilman

CHARLOTTE
Editors, The News:
WANTER North Carolinians are, justly, indignant that eastern counties of small population, refuse to abide by one of the fundamental provisions of our State Constitution: the right of unlimited debate when they are filibustering against civil rights legislation, and would be hard put to reason themselves into voting for cloture in this instance.

How much more flagrant can it be? According to my sense of fairness and decency, we of the Old North State have flouted the rules of fair play and the spirit of democracy, of, for and by the people, much more emphatically for several decades. From time to time the vast population of this city has selected outstanding men of their race to offer representation on the governing boards of the city. But, election after election, they have been denied.

This year they have offered a man who is outstanding as a citizen, regardless of race. He is well known and highly respected for his character: he is a Christian in the true sense; he is the brand of integrity which knows no subterfuge.

He is respected also for his intelligence and ability. He has been successful in his varied business ventures because he has the brains to plan and the courage to execute. I know whereof I speak, for I have known him well for 30 years!

His name is Arthur Grier. He is now being asked to represent this city for many days by men with sufficient wit to know that neither I nor our sound-thinking Southern Negroes

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
SEVERAL signs point to the likelihood of growing friction between the President and his Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles.

Observers compare the situation with that which gradually developed between Woodrow Wilson and William Jennings Bryan, a man who was later established a reputation of his own before he became Secretary of State and who later came to a company with Wilson over Germany.

Eisenhower and Dulles have now had two disagreements, one of them rather unimportant. It is now leaked out that the latter off his Secretary of State in rather sharp language following his press conference on probable Korean truce terms. Eisenhower was really sore. Afterward, G. W. Sherman Adams remarked to a friend: "We had to send Dulles north to cool off."

The other disagreement was not unpleasant but probably more important. When Eisenhower's recent speech proposing a new peace offensive was sent to the State Department for approval, Dulles and advisers wanted to eliminate any references to disarmament. This would have ruled out the most dramatic and popular appeal of all—namely, using money saved from arms to rebuild the world.

Cart Before Horse

REASON for the State Department's opposition was the belief that you couldn't

put the cart before the horse, that there could be no disarmament until political problems of the world were solved. In Russia pulled out of the satellite nations and evacuated Austria, it would be impossible to reduce armaments so any promise of disarmament, the State Department argued, would only confuse our friends in Europe.

However, Emmett Hughes, formerly of Life magazine and the man who chiefly wrote the speech, together with C. D. Jackson, former publisher of Fortune magazine, argued that Eisenhower had to give people hope. In order to lead the world you had to give people hope of peace and hope of relief from the crushing burden of armaments. They won out.

Secretary Dulles and advisers got their way, however, on one important point. They insisted that the United States should not be asked to consider the Eisenhower plan for peace until the Russians had agreed to disarm.

For Eisenhower to put this in his speech, the State Department argued, would put the burden of execution on "the United States. It was better to put the next move up to the Russians."

Secretary Dulles and advisers won out.

Inside The Cabinet

A LOT of people wondered why quiet, unassuming Joe Dodge, Director of the Budget, issued that interoffice memo ordering his employees, in effect, to stop on

each other. Dodge is not the kind of man to go in for interoffice espionage, but here

he was. The motive? It was interesting to see the newspaper being printed and to see how last the newspaper goes through the machines. Thank you for your kindness.

THE FIFTH GRADE

Huntersville Students Enjoy Tour

HUNTERSVILLE
Editors, The News:
WE enjoyed our visit to the Charlotte News last week. It was interesting to see the newspaper being printed and to see how last the newspaper goes through the machines. Thank you for your kindness.

THE FIFTH GRADE

Dulles Disapproved Disarmament Proposal

WASHINGTON
Secretary of State John Foster Dulles disapproved a disarmament proposal that would require the United States to disarm first.

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Haggling Over Ike's Speech Was Tiresome But Helpful

By JOSEPH W. STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

The President's speech to the American

newspaper editors was nobly conceived and nobly delivered. It offered a new hope and a new faith which the whole tired world has greedily welcomed.

It is only now, however, that it is clear how much the speech has helped. It is only just beginning to lose its former glamor as champion of anti-communism. The State Department and Pentagon had little trouble in knocking out the hint about a neutralist Germany.

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Communist China, conditional on a Korean truce having been successfully negotiated.

Free elections in Indo-China were quickly and nobly dropped from the speech for the reason that the

speech is only half complete. The Indo-Chinese Communist are only just beginning to lose their former glamor as champions of anti-communism.

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