THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

1886—Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Year—1953

THOMAS L. ROBINSON ..... Publisher
J. E. DOWD ..... General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH ..... Executive Editor
C. A. McKNIGHT ..... Editor

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1953

THE PERILS OF 'PEACE'

THE Soviet olive branch to the West has suddenly grown into a tree of many limbs. Daily, sometimes several times daily, Communist policy toward the West is softened—in Korea, at the U.N., in Moscow, in Germany. During less than one week's time, the following events have occurred:

1. The Communists agreed to discuss immediately an exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war, then proposed a resumption of peace talks.

2. They suggested resumption of four-power talks on Germany.

3. They offered to work out, with Western officials, some system to assure that Allied aircraft flying near the Soviet zones of Germany would not be fired upon.

4. Reversing a long-standing obstinacy to any candidate for U.N. Director General acceptable to the Western powers, the Soviets agreed with the West on nominating Sweden's Dag Hammarskjold.

5. Several American newsmen were permitted entry to Russia, where they are now enjoying a (conducted, of course) tour.

6. Russia has submitted to the U.N. new disarmament proposals which appear to be similar to Western proposals previously denounced by the Soviets.

7. Russian zone border guards virtually abandoned controls on the East-West express highway to Berlin.

8. Obstacles to granting of trade permits for goods going from West Berlin to West Germany, through the Russian zone, were removed.

Clearly, the word has gone out from the Kremlin to conduct a major peace offensive. At no time in the history of the cold war have there been so many major Red gestures in so short a time. Why have they made them?

We cannot believe these gestures proceed from a genuine desire, in Moscow, to end the Korean War. As long as Allied troops and, military hardware are tied up on that beleagured peninsula fighting, not Russians, but Chinese, the Kremlin planners profit themselves.

We do believe these moves are designed to lull the West into disunity and disarmament. If this evaluation is correct, and the goal is accomplished, then the Reds can swiftly reverse themselves and proceed with their plan of world conquest with reasonable assurance that they will not be opposed effectively.

Consider, for a moment, what effect a period of relaxed East-West tension would have on the economy of the United States. The sharp decline on the stock market, when the latest peace feelers were announced, would be infinitesimal compared with the plunge stocks would take if defense production were sharply curtailed. A majority of the present Congress is firmly opposed to any of the "pump-priming" measures by which the late President Roosevelt jacked up a sagging economy. In other words, the wily Reds may figure that a peace offensive will produce a drastic defense cutback by our economy-minded Congress. And that will bring on another depression, that breakdown of the capitalistic system the Reds have been waiting for so patiently these several years. Would that not be the simplest way to break up the free world's resistance to communism?

We would like to be more optimistic about the current peace offensive. Past experience with the Reds, and their historic policies, do not justify optimism. Nevertheless, with the patience of Job, the West must negotiate with the Russians if negotiation and compromise are possible. For it is through continued knocking on every door leading to East-West understanding that real peace may some day be won.

THE RACE IS NOT ALWAYS TO THE SWIFT

APRIL 16—less than two weeks off—is the deadline for filing for the City Council. There are seven seats on the Council. So far, only ten candidates have announced.

What has happened to the intense interest in public affairs that showed itself, as recently as November, in a record-breaking turnout at the ballot boxes?

Is it that the managing of local affairs is so much less important than the managing of national affairs?

Is it that the men and women in Charlotte who would make excellent Council representatives are too busy with other activities?

Or do they just not care?

These and other questions turn through the mind as one contemplates the sluggish Council race. They are not easily answered, for it is hard to put a finger on the cause for the current exhibition of public apathy.

With only seven seats involved, it should be possible to enlist at least two candidates for each seat. That would give the voters a choice. Moreover, it should be possible to enlist at least two good candidates for each seat. And that would give the voters an even better choice.

Look at it this way. The citizens of Charlotte are owners, as it were, of an enterprise worth some $340,000,000 in total property valuation. Operating costs for this big enterprise are running at better than $8 million each year. The owners are also consumers, and the services they consume are vital—education, police and fire protection, health and sanitation, streets and traffic control and many others.

Would not the stockholders of a $340 million private corporation insist that the very best men available be named to the board of directors? Though the analogy be not perfect, the people ought to be equally insistent that they have a wide choice among able candidates for the City's "board of directors."

Almost two weeks remain before the filing deadline. We wait, hand cupped to ear, for some other announcements.

GOOD WORK

THE Senate Roads Committee did a good day's work yesterday when it killed a House-passed bill to permit the renewal of driving licenses by mail.

The measure would have materially weakened North Carolina's highway safety program by opening the door to perjury and deceit in the affidavits submitted with the request for renewal.

The House should never have passed the measure. Thanks to the Senate committee, it got the quick death it so richly deserved.

MR. JONAS IS DOING ALL RIGHT

A BILL introduced in Congress this week by Rep. Charles Raper Jonas—his first since taking office—may not be of earth-shaking significance, but it shows some straight thinking.

Mr. Jonas wants to combine the expensive fleets of government-owned automobiles into car pools. In a statement accompanying his bill, he noted that many hundreds of automobiles and trucks are owned and operated by the various Federal agencies in the District of Columbia and in other major cities—Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, New Orleans, Los Angeles, St. Louis.

"If the motor vehicles in these areas were properly consolidated into a centralized, well organized and properly managed pool, I believe big dollar and cent savings would result," Mr. Jonas told Congress.

We believe so, too. The military agencies long ago adopted the car pool system. It is not perfect, but it is more efficient, and less expensive, than the unregulated use of automobiles by dozens of assorted agencies.

Mr. Jonas' first speech, as we recall it, was a short talk opposing an appropriation to pay writers for compiling a history of the Office of Price Stabilization. He figured the nation could get along without such a literary work, and that the history of the OPS had already been recorded in failure.

And now his first bill makes just as good sense as did his first speech.

The Congressman from Lincoln is taking his new job seriously, and he is tackling it thoughtfully. It is with no intention of prejudging his two-year record that we say he's been doing all right so far.

From The Baltimore Evening Sun

DISCONCERTING?

THE British Academy has recently published its "Proceedings" for the years 1949 and 1950, consisting of papers and lectures by scholars in the humanistic studies. A brief review in one journal closes with this remarkably interesting sentence, which teases but never satisfies the curiosity of the little lettered:

> In the 1949 volume occurs Prof. E. Lobel's account and text of "A Greek Historical Drama," on the theme of the usurpation by Gyges of the throne of Lydia—one of the most disconcerting discoveries of this century.

The natural instinct of the unscholarly is to ask "Disconcerted? Who? *Me?*" Just why anybody should be disconposed by any discovery relating to the founder of the Mermnad dynasty in the Seventh Century B. C., the slayer of Sayattes and the conqueror of the Troad and Colophon, is certain to puzzle all but the deeply learned. After all, ours is a period that has been daunted by experts—parallel lines that meet, supersonic jets, the atomic bomb. Gyges to be sure, was a tyrant, but who that has lived in the day of Hitler, Stalin, Malenkov is dismayed by recollections of him?

Could it be that the humanists have been impressed by the manner in which the non-humanists and inhumanists have forged to the forefront of public awareness by disconcerting us again and again, and yet again? And have decided to try some disconcerting on their own in behalf of their studies? Conceivably it could prove a way back into general interest. But to cut a real dash of disconcertingness in this age, we suspect they will have to come up with something flashier than revelations regarding a drama about the Mermnadae.

Mrs. Eisenhower told her press conference she has made a few changes in some of the White House rooms. Probably moved the vases away from the windows overlooking the lawn when Ike's out there.—*Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.*

'Does The Treaty With McCarthy Allow You To Keep Your Desk?'

Congressmen Abuse Their Privilege

A Man's Freedom To Dissent

AN EDITORIAL IN BUSINESS WEEK

CONTRARY to expectations, the change of administrations has not brought an end to Congressional inquiries on Communist infiltration in and out of government. Instead of relaxing, Congress has intensified the scope of its probing, a development that is causing confusion in some quarters and alarm in others.

Many critics fail to recognize that the Congress, as one of the three main branches of the government, has a long-established right to conduct investigations. In welcoming the help that the new inquiries may provide, Secretary of State Dulles made clear that he respected this right. He was acknowledging that Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy and Rep. Harold H. Velde, the chief investigators, are exercising a legitimate and proper function.

Legislators' Limitations

THIS right of Congress to investigate on a broad scale is designed as a check on the executive power. That does not mean that it can dictate policy or run the administrative branch. It would be a practical impossibility, for example, to have Congress screen every government employee. All that it can determine is whether the executive has, in fact, done an effective job.

In regard to security, it is the task of the new Administration to prove, to the satisfaction of Congress and the nation, that it can assume full responsibility. For it was the reluctance of the Truman Administration, even after evidence of subversive activity was disclosed, that gave Congress valid cause to commence its own inquiries.

There is, then, no reason to complain over the fact that Congress conducts investigations. There are even established precedents for the trial-like atmosphere surrounding the probes. Those critics who are protesting the loudest today were silent when the Nye Committee, whose counsel was Alger Hiss, conducted an exhaustive spectacle calculated to pin the blame for our entry into World War I on bankers and arms manufacturers.

Nor was there any outcry when another inquiry, led by Ferdinand Pecora during the early days of the New Deal era, made political capital through its exposure of Wall Street practices. Its avowed purpose was to help Congress formulate legislation, but the probing into individual activities was more embarrassing than relevant. Then, as now, the very nature of the investigation entailed an invasion of individual privacy.

The real cause for anxiety today is not that witnesses are singled out in public, but that they are subjected to treatment that smacks of a medieval inquisition. In their zeal to root out subversives, Congressional investigators have indiscriminately harassed Americans merely because they hold unorthodox, or unpopular, views.

Dangerous Doctrine

THIS is an alarming trend. While it is still not a crime to be a Communist, we agree that there is no room for one anywhere in the government or universities. But the growing tendency to assume that all witnesses are guilty until proven innocent is a dangerous violation of American principles of justice. It constitutes a threat to our fundamental belief in freedom of thought, which is essential to the continued progress of free enterprise. It has encouraged evasion, from which only Communism can profit.

The efficiency of the new Administration in conducting its security program will serve to reduce the threat to individual liberties, but it cannot, by itself, prevent undue hardship caused by intolerant treatment. Congress alone can provide the proper safeguards to protect the innocent. Without any curb on its power to investigate, it could take steps to insure that the basic American right to freedom of thought and of conscience is preserved.

Most important, Congress must resist the temptation to make dissent tantamount to disloyalty. Let it never be forgotten that America was built by dissenters and is kept great by men and women who are not satisfied with the status quo. By insisting on conformity, Congress will hinder, rather than help, our fight against totalitarianism. It is incumbent upon Congress to improve its investigatory practices before they inflict permanent damage on our way of life.

Where The Blind Are Leading

REPRINTED FROM 'COMMUNITY HEALTH'

FOR the past five years, North Carolina has led the nation in the number of blind people rehabilitated for effective living. This was done through actual restoration of sight by means of a widespread medical program, and through training so the handicapped can earn a living or can take their places at home as useful members of their families.

To study so successful a program, visitors have come to the Rehabilitation Center at Butner from all over the country and from foreign lands as well, including India, France, Denmark, Holland, Egypt and several South American nations.

They learn that the North Carolina program is based equally on hard sense and warm hearts. The State Commission for the Blind provides organization and direction to the generous contributions of citizens in the North Carolina Association for the Blind and the more than 300 Lions Clubs.

H. A. Wood is executive secretary of the Commission and a director of the Association. He is also, of course a loyal Lion. His close work with all three groups provides for both organizational efficiency and intimate contact with those in need of help. His office has the case history of every blind person in the state.

Superintendent of the Center at Butner, where so many new methods of rehabilitation have been introduced, is Miss Helen Cutting. She and her staff, many of them blind themselves, have succeeded first of all in creating an atmosphere of such hope and friendliness that the visitor who came to pity is astonished to find himself leaving with a kind of envy for people who can achieve so much.

"Students" learn everything from good grooming and good housekeeping to a variety of occupations, including the management of refreshment and "notions"—stands the Commission places in many cities. There are equal facilities for both races. Days are busy, balanced between study and recreation, but the goal before them at all times is the same: independence. To stand on their own feet as contributing members of society represents more than a saving to the Tar Heel taxpayer. It means the satisfaction of the deepest need of all mature men and women.

Safety Lies In Co-operation Exercised Through Treaties

By JUDGE JOHN J. PARKER

(Editors' Note: Last week Charlotte's Judge Parker, Chief Judge of the U. S. Court Of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington, at the committee's request, regarding proposed amendments relating to the treaty-making power contained in the Constitution. In the belief that his considered and well-stated opinion on this important subject deserves widespread publicity, The News is reprinting excerpts from his testimony in three installments, of which this is the second.)

IN VIEW of the fact that no real danger exists with respect to the power to make treaties which requires amendment of the Constitution, I turn my attention to the proposed amendments. They are objectionable because they will necessarily hamper and impede the country in handling foreign affairs and in exercising that leadership in the free world which is so necessary if freedom is to be preserved.

We must not forget that in our lifetime the character of the world in which we are living has completely changed. Improvements in transportation and communication have made it into one great community. Any part of it can be reached from any other part in a few hours' time. Communication is a matter of seconds. A war starting anywhere can involve the entire world community. There is no longer any safety in isolation.

The only hope of safety lies in co-operation with other nations, and, if we are to avoid a super government, this co-operation must be exercised through treaties and executive agreements.

WE MUST LEAD

Furthermore it is our country which must take the lead in this co-operation. The civilization of Europe was almost wiped out as a result of the last World War, and the free countries of Europe in their attempt to re-establish their civilization look to us for leadership and assistance. All over the world economic and sociological change is under way and the underprivileged peoples everywhere are looking either to us or to Russia for guidance. There has been a greater shift of world power than has occurred since the fall of Rome, and out of the chaos arises the sinister figure of Soviet Russia, plotting and planning world domination and plunder.

If human freedom is to be preserved, our country must form an effective alliance of the free nations; and it is idle to talk of her doing this if the government is to be shackled in handling foreign affairs through amendments of the Constitution which would render more difficult the making of treaties and would hamper the executive in dealing with the allies that we must have in opposing Russian aggression.

Specifically, the proposed amendments would require every treaty to go through a two-step legislative process before becoming valid as internal law of the country. It would have to be approved by two-thirds of the Senate and then be implemented by legislation passed by both houses of Congress.

Treaties of trade and friendship ordinarily provide for the rights of aliens to hold, acquire, inherit, and dispose of property, to engage in business and professions and to be free from burdensome taxation. Such treaties are usually self executing. Since the beginning of the Republic they have, when ratified by the Senate, become domestic law which overrides inconsistent state law.

The proposed amendment would require all such treaties, even though approved by two-thirds of the Senate, to be passed upon, so far as such provisions are concerned, by both houses of Congress, although in the absence of the treaty Congress would have no power to legislate with respect to such matters.

PRESENT SYSTEM SUFFICIENT

I see no reason to hamper the exercise of the treaty making power in this way when no dangers have resulted under the present constitutional system. We are told that other nations require approval of treaties by their legislative bodies; but the answer is that they do not require double approval.

We have been getting along safely for more than a century and a half under a system that requires approval by two-thirds of the Senate instead of the approval of the majority of both houses required by some other countries. If our safeguard is sufficient, there is no reason to encumber the treaty making power by requiring theirs in addition to ours.

Red Peace Moves May Result In U.S. Defense Cutbacks

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE vista opened up by the new Communist truce proposals can very well end in another mirage—a tantalizing glimpse of the peace so longed for by most Americans. But right now the thinking among those responsible for acting on the specific offer that may—or may not—follow the Peiping broadcast is just a shade hopeful.

The new break came on a Saturday when the Pentagon operates at considerably less than full steam. Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson was about to take off for a week-end in Detroit when the first telegram was handed to him. His initial reaction was to say:

"Don't let's have them use this to get us back into that Panmunjom business again."

He was referring, of course, to the prolonged Panmunjom truce negotiation which ended in futility on the demand of the United Nations that prisoners of war be given the choice of going back or seeking asylum outside Communist China. This was the only point in dispute as the two sides wrangled for many months.

CLARK'S CONFIDENCE

After a lengthy exchange of messages with Gen. Mark Clark on the teletype linking Clark's Asian command in Tokyo with the Pentagon, a somewhat more optimistic outlook developed. Clark is himself cautiously confident that the Communists may this time want peace badly enough to agree to some formula which will preserve the U. N. position on prisoner repatriation.

The broadcast offer of Chou En-lai, Chinese Communist Foreign Minister, was vague. Suspicion was aroused in particular by his suggestion that the prisoners who did not want to go back could be handed over to a "neutral" country for further consideration of their future. But, if the present slim hope is at all justified, then the events in the immediate future may take the following course.

After preliminary probing and a specific proposal from the Communists to General Clark, the truce talks would be resumed. In all probability at the outset the Red negotiators would put forward Poland or Czechoslovakia as a "neutral" country to take charge of these prisoners not desiring to return home.

This renewal of the old stall would be quickly rebuffed. The Communists could scarcely have had any illusions that the old gambit would succeed any better than it had in the past. With this made clear, they would then get down to accepting a genuine neutral such as Sweden or Switzerland. The latter might be the most likely choice since the Swiss do not belong to the U. N.

The belief is growing that the Chinese Communist proposal is part of a general move to ease the tensions between East and West. The consequences of such a move are incalculable. But one result right here at home can be predicted with some confidence.

The drive for economy in the defense budget is already formidable not only on Capitol Hill but in the Defense Dept. If peace should come in Korea, the economy drive would resemble an avalanche. The threat of crippling cuts in America's defensive strength would be very real.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Ike Hesitant To Straighten Out McCarthy

WASHINGTON

TOP question being debated inside the White House, next to peace in Korea, is whether steps should be taken to crack down on the fast-dancing, quick-jabbing Senator from Wisconsin, Joseph R. McCarthy—or, as he's called inside the White House, "Jumping Joe."

One Ike adviser frankly admitted the other day that it was never expected McCarthy would be a problem.

"We didn't anticipate that Jumpin' Joe would precipitate things as fast as he has," admitted C. D. Jackson, former publisher of Fortune magazine, now intimate adviser to the President. "We thought he'd give us a little breathing space. Frankly, he's a problem."

Yet at the President ducked any move to tangle with McCarthy. He acted as if he wanted to stay just as far away as possible from any showdown, even with his own Administration involved.

When McCarthy first began delving into the Voice of America, Carl McCardle, Assistant Secretary of State in charge of the Voice, phoned the White House and asked press secretary Jim Hagerty to get Ike to say something at his press conference to squelch McCarthy.

Ike declined. Furthermore, when a news question was asked at the press conference, he indirectly supported McCarthy by saying it was the right of Congress to investigate.

Wrong Advice

THIS, of course, was prior to the bitter battle over Ambassador Bohlen. Since then, White House advisers report that their chief is sore, has stiffened toward McCarthy, and has decided the advice given him by Vice President Nixon and at first by Taft is wrong. Nixon had believed that the Administration should try to get along with McCarthy and that McCarthy in turn would play ball.

This was the same advice given Ike during the election campaign just before his speech in McCarthy's home state. Governor Dewey had urged that Ike cold-shoulder McCarthy on this trip. But Arthur Summerfield, together with Senators Ferguson of Michigan and Hickenlooper of Iowa, flew to Ike's private car, finally persuaded him to reverse this.

However, when Ike inserted two paragraphs in his Milwaukee speech praising General Marshall, whom McCarthy had so bitterly castigated, Summerfield arranged for McCarthy to come up the service elevator of the Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria and confer privately with Ike. At that time, McCarthy persuaded Eisenhower to reverse himself again and take out the two paragraphs praising Marshall.

Ike Can Get Mad

WHITE House advisers say that despite this appeasement, the President can get awfully mad, and it's a well-known fact that when he gets mad, he usually stays mad.

However, a man who has spent all his life away from the hot and hectic arena of politics, usually shies away from political battles with Senators. This was true of Herbert Hoover, who like Eisenhower, had spent much of his time abroad. The President feels that he cannot fire a Senator in the same way he could demote or transfer an Army officer who gets out of line.

Some advisers recall that over in the Justice Department is the Senate Elections Committee report on McCarthy's weird financial operations, one of the most comprehensive reports ever made about a member of the Senate. Some believe the Justice Department should study this report and let the chips fall where they may. But more conservative leaders on Capitol Hill are very much opposed.

That, in brief, is the present White House quandary.

Merry-Go-Round

THE American "melting pot" was brought home to President Eisenhower while lunching with Congressman Al Sieminski of New Jersey, son of a Polish immigrant. "My father came here for the future in this land of freedom and opportunity, but he never thought a son would one day sit down to eat with the President," reported the Congressman from Jersey City . . . Congressman Brooks Hays of Arkansas showed the President a short-snorter the President himself had signed some years before. Hays Arkansan told Ike how he had proudly displayed the signature to his young son. "The only signature he made a fuss about," said Hays, "was that of another signer, Bing Crosby" . . . Recalling a meeting with Walter Reuther and CIO leaders, Ike told friends he was struck by their "youth and mental alertness," and that he genuinely enjoyed the "fast play of wits among them." Ike said Reuther had urged "genuine collective bargaining" with plenty of freedom between labor and industry. "I told him and the other CIO leaders," added Ike, "that I would be sure to be in their corner if they would just stay with that."