THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

1888—Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Year—1953

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

MONDAY, JULY 6, 1953

SECONDARY ROAD PROGRAM LOOKS BETTER

BACK in the Spring of 1949 when former Gov. W. Kerr Scott was plugging his $200 million secondary road bond program, his office sent out a mimeographed sheet answering many questions that had been raised. One of them went like this:

Question: Where would the State get the money to pay off these bonds?

Answer: From gasoline taxes. The Governor has proposed increasing these taxes one cent a gallon. This would raise an estimated $7 million a year, half of the required amount. Increased revenues are anticipated, if more dirt roads are hard-surfaced, from the present gasoline tax of six cents a gallon . . . Then, too, the State expects to have enough money in its high-way sinking fund by June, 1953, to take care of road bonds now outstanding. Money now set aside from gasoline revenue for retiring old bonds (some $3 million a year) will be available to pay on new bonds or to help maintain newly surfaced roads.

The Governor's estimate was not accepted everywhere. The N. C. Petroleum Industries Committee, in a brief issued on May 14, 1949, said "There is strong reason to believe that an additional $200 million plus interest road debt is more than the people of North Carolina can safely assume . . . Plunging rashly into unnecessary debt, mortgaging the future of the whole highway system, boosting the tax on a product so important to industry and agriculture as gasoline is today—these acts could not help but do serious harm within our state."

The present chairman of the State Highway & Public Works Commission, A. H. Graham, warned somberly that "if the entire credit of the State covering road and highway financing is dissipated at this time, our primary highway system will be in sad state long before these bonds are retired."

And this newspaper, among others, viewed with some concern the potential drain on the highway fund to pay for the road bonds.

What has happened? Arthur Johnsey, Raleigh reporter for the *Greensboro Daily News*, says that the State Treasury has piled up a balance of $6,779,482 from the one-cent gas tax levy after paying off $27,708,040 in principal and interest; that the one-cent tax is now producing revenue at the rate of $10,820,000 a year, as compared with Scott's estimate of $7 million; that by the time the bond carrying charges hit their peak level of some $14 million a year, the one-cent levy will carry the debt service without using that $3 million that was formerly used for retiring old bonds, now paid up.

Governor Scott could not have prophesied the Korean War and the resulting inflationary trend. But since he undoubtedly would have been blamed had the economy gone into a tailspin, it's only fair to give him credit for what has turned out to be a wise investment of state funds at a time when it was still cheap to borrow money.

WAR BABIES DESERVE BETTER TREATMENT

AMERICANS may not like to be reminded of the numbers of illegitimate children their sons, brothers and husbands fathered abroad during World War II. But countries that are now schooling the little tykes can't forget them, because they are so plentiful.

In the American zone of Germany they number 50,000. There are 70,000 in Britain, 100,000 in Japan, and tens of thousands in other countries where U. S. troops lived and loved.

Increased illegitimacy has always been a concommitant of war. During the late unpleasantness in Europe hardened G. Is jokingly advocated one "solution" to this problem. Why, they said, didn't Uncle Sam keep us home and just send the uniforms over here, put them on the thousands of offspring of World War I doughboys, and let them do the fighting?

Actually, Russia recently laid down a policy somewhat akin to the G. I. suggestion. A recent Soviet order decreed that all East German children of Russian fathers must take Soviet citizenship at age five. They are then put in Soviet schools. The plan is to send them to Russia later.

Furthermore, according to a *New York Times* dispatch, East German children of American Negro, but not white, soldiers have been transferred to Russia. After indoctrination there they doubtless will be used in the Kremlin's psychological warfare. Thus Russia displays its coldly-calculated totalitarian technique of using thousands of children as pawns in its global strategy.

The American attitude, except for the work of some charitable organizations in maintaining the children abroad, has been one of indifference, an indifference that looks like callousness to the mothers and officials abroad. Actually some of the fathers and many childless couples have endeavored to adopt some of these children, a great many of whom are in orphanages. But they are usually unsuccessful because of present immigration laws and red tape. Certainly these war babies deserve special treatment under the law when Americans are willing to adopt them.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

THERE will be a happy ending after all to the dispute over who first scaled Mount Everest, the New Zealand beekeeper, Edmund Hillary (it's Sir Edmund now) or "Tiger" Tensing, native guide. Lt. Col. John Hunt and his climbing party have returned to London with the announcement: "They got there together."

The colonel elaborated:

"You get to the top of a mountain only as a result of climbing with other people on a rope It is not a matter of who is first, second or last on the rope. Each has a particular job to do, and one is to help others."

That strikes us as pretty good philosophy, applicable to fighting wars, or playing ball games, or building community projects. Maybe we should all spend a little more time climbing mountains.

CHECK THOSE TIRES

CERTAINLY the smaller-than-expected number of highway traffic fatalities this past holiday week-end is most heartening. The National Safety Council has, in the past, often forecast the number of car war casualties with grim precision. As of this morning, however, it appeared that the traffic death total would fall about 75 short of the council's estimate.

Maybe—just maybe—the mounting concern about highway dangers on the part of so many people will finally be reflected in accident statistics. We hope so. At any rate, this is no time for drivers to relax their vigilance, for the upcoming Summer week-ends will find the highways crowded.

Particularly during the Summer months, when hot pavements and long drives add to their wear, special attention should be paid to tires. Here are some sound suggestions about Summer tire care from the New York Automobile Club:

1. Check regularly that your tire pressure is correct, and that the wheels are aligned.
2. Avoid prolonged high-speed driving.
3. Rotate the tires every 4,000 miles.
4. Never bleed air from tires when hot; inflate when cool.
5. Don't ride the edge of the pavement; avoid sudden starts and stops.

From The Christian Science Monitor

WHY THE COMMOTION?

COMMON experience and common sense have pharaphrased famous words of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes into the popular adage that free speech doesn't cover shouting "Fire!" in a crowded theater. This is usually quoted to suggest the limits within which speech in the United States is constitutionally free.

But there are other inferences to be drawn from this precept—among them the blame which attaches to those who thus precipitate a panic when what is needed is a business-like extinguishing of the fire. This is the first of two quite crucial points which Whittaker Chambers misses widely in his recent and generally temperate article in *Life* magazine, "Is Academic Freedom in Danger?"

A good part of what Mr. Chambers says deals with facts and events already pretty well known and about which there is no great dispute. He asks the question, however: Since but 150 out of a million or more teachers have been queried by Congressional investigators (and most of the 150 have hidden behind the Fifth Amendment), why the uproar about a "witch hunt"?

This is why: Because, by virtue of their national position, these Congressmen have all too often been the voices crying "Fire!" to the biggest audience in the largest crowded theater. It is the atmosphere of panic they thus compound, not just the number of suspects put on display, that is doing the widest harm—academic freedom included.

The second point Mr. Chambers himself suggests—as a theory, but not in its full range of accomplished fact: Liberals, says he (who he rightly asserts are anything but Communists), are afflicted with a "neurosis" lest in the hunt for Reds, "by design or error, the move may be against themselves."

The "move" is already against them. And against not just liberals, but middle-roaders and many conservatives also. A pernicious political weapon has been forged. And it is being wielded against anyone who seriously opposes the wielders. One does not have to look far for evidence.

Item: The 1950 campaign against Maryland's conservative Senatorial incumbent, Millard Tydings—complete with faked photographs. Item: The unsuccessful campaign against Stuart Symington in Missouri for the Senatorship. Item: Senator McCarthy's Oct. 27 speech "exposing" Presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson's "Red associations." Item: The Wisconsin Senator's privileged grilling of Editor James A Wechsler for his newspaper's opposition policies. These are but some of the nationally known instances. Examples on a state and local level must be legion.

Why bother with rational argument when a little poison might do the job? That's what the commotion is about!

'Who's Cooking, Comrade?'

Improved Diagnosis, Vaccines Offer Hope In Polio Battle

FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

SOME OF the dread was taken out of infantile paralysis last year by the confirmation through field tests of the fact that gamma globulin, a fraction of human blood, confers a temporary immunity to polio and also appears to lessen the danger of permanent paralysis in patients who are given it after they have contracted the disease.

There are going to be polio epidemics in the coming months, and there are going to be demands by millions of parents on their physicians that their children be given gamma globulin. The vast majority of them are doomed to disappointment.

There are 40,000,000 children under 15 years of age in the United States, and only a million doses of gamma globulin for polio immunization or treatment.

GAMMA GLOBULIN COSTLY

The accumulation of even that number of doses has been very expensive and has required the quick construction of costly laboratories to separate gamma globulin from blood.

Armour & Co. opened such a pharmaceutical center at Kankakee to inspection the other day. It cost millions of dollars and will produce only 40,000 doses of gamma globulin a month — providing it gets 78,000 pints of whole blood a month with which to work.

To provide only the million doses set aside for polio work, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has set aside $11,000,000 and the Red Cross $7,000,000.

To adjust the supply to the enormously greater demand, gamma globulin is being distributed free through state public health departments and its use is to be confined to people under 30 years old who have family contact with a polio victim.

Pregnant mothers, of whatever age, will also be given protection if they have been disposed to the disease.

Records of epidemics indicate that only about six per cent of polio cases are contracted through contact within a family. Of these cases, 60 per cent appear within five days and the injections will not help.

Another 30 per cent of family contact cases appear within 13 days after discovery of the first case, and the treatment may lessen paralysis in these instances, but will not prevent the disease.

Only the remaining 10 per cent of the family contact cases—fewer than one in each hundred of all cases—will be prevented by the treatment.

Add to this the fact that the treatment confers immunity for only about five weeks, and it can be seen that because of the tremendous expense involved gamma globulin is hardly the sure defense against polio that the world has awaited so eagerly.

The blood fraction is of far more value in the treatment of infectious hepatitis, a serious and sometimes fatal liver complaint, and in preventing the serious complications of measles, than it is for polio protection.

Public hysteria in the midst of polio epidemics must not be permitted to divert the supplies of gamma globulin reserved for the latter treatments.

OTHER ENCOURAGEMENT

There are brighter hopes of beating the polio menace than gamma globulin, fortunately.

Effective vaccines, conferring far longer immunity to the disease, have been developed, but it will be 1955 before they can be proved sufficiently to be released for general use.

Meanwhile, the most significant advance against polio has been in its diagnosis, rather than its treatment.

Dr. John Enders, an associate professor of bacteriology at Harvard University, has devised means of growing the polio virus in tissue cultures. The virus cultures can be treated with antibodies, the disease fighting organisms that make gamma globulin useful, and the particular strain of the virus identified according to the antibody that kills it.

BBC Covered Coronation Well

A Lesson For American TV

By John Gould In The New York Times

NEW YORK

THE televising of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was a magnificent achievement by the British Broadcasting Corporation. The corporation's impeccable coverage even survived the tasteless embellishments and outrageous behavior of some of the American networks. It was British television's day, not America's.

The coronation presentation was the first video program to be seen within the same calendar day on sets extending all the way from the fridge of the Iron Curtain in Europe to the Pacific Coast. And there could not have been a more fitting inaugural of international television.

The centuries-old pageantry of the coronation, the moving solemnity and pomp of the service in Westminster Abbey and the splendor and display of the processions were in themselves a spectacle second to none.

To these were added personal and intimate glimpses of the Queen as she appeared during the day so very young, so very lonely and so charmingly gay. It is no wonder millions of television viewers half way around the world sat entranced as the ceremony unfolded in London.

Common Sense Lacking

The B. B. C. coverage was glowingly reviewed by not only in this country but in England and many European countries on the day after the coronation. Suffice to add at this late date that the corporation's modest yet inspired reporting was altogether right, a model of dignity both in word and picture.

It was against this background that two American television networks—the Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting Co.—moved in on the coronation with a depressing lack of understanding, judgment and common sense. The American Broadcasting Co., on the other hand both wisely and, as it turned out, economically, relied on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to furnish the B. B. C. coverage.

The formidable technical facilities of N. B. C. and C. B. S. were, to be sure, the means by which the coronation program was carried to many millions of persons, and for that they merit due credit. Where the rub came, however, was in their attitude toward the coronation, particularly in relation to their commercial sponsors.

Pre-Coronation War

Weeks before the coronation the two networks engaged in a publicity war that steadily grew in intensity and coarse stupidity. Inevitably, this developed into an airplane race with ridiculous claims and counterclaims and cheap slogans heard on the air.

Healthy competition can be as essential to journalism as any other field and the desire of the two networks to do the better job is both understandable and desirable. But competition in journalism becomes only a nauseating mockery if it tends to reduce the event to be covered, in this instance a ceremony of high religious significance, to the status of a sideshow.

After all, public interest in the coronation stemmed from the crowning of Queen Elizabeth not of either N. B. C. or C. B. S.

The much-vaunted race proved to be anti-climactic. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, which had discreetly kept mum, was the first to put the B. B. C. films on the air on this continent. On the British Empire's happy day this must have been a delightful and appropriate added touch for our neighbors to the north.

Ill-advised as the uncontrolled press agentry battle might have been, it was of secondary consequence for the viewer at home. What aroused many more complaints was the astonishing lack of discernment in the handling of commercials, which tended to becloud some otherwise good editing under hurried circumstances.

At varying times during the day both networks displayed a callousness in the injection of commercials that defied description. Even Edward R. Murrow's round-up on C. B. S. was not immune to the placement of commercials at the most inopportune moments. And the deliberate association of sponsors' products with the coronation proceedings, even to the point of suggesting an automobile was a "queen," was simply inexcusable.

But utterly disgraceful was N. B. C. video's interruption of the religious service—on its morning program "Today"—in order to show a chimpanzee. No apology can be adequate.

Madness, Not Advertising

It's hard to believe that the sponsors concerned never look at television. Does a manufacturer honestly believe that he will sell his product by exploiting for his own ends a ceremony that goes back to medieval times? Or that a customer will be gained by interrupting a religious ritual for spot announcements? That's not advertising, that's madness.

And what of N. B. C. and C. B. S.? Are they going to let their rivalry go unchecked to the point where it will only irritate their audiences and make pitchmen and prima donnas of their competent commentators? Surely they can stay within certain minimum bounds of taste and propriety, particularly when they are in effect visiting another country.

The decision on the treatment of public events does not rest with the working executives, editors and reporters in the TV news field. Allowed to handle matters in their own way, their taste, judgment and sensitivity are second to none.

Why Not More BBC?

The decision does rest on the top policy officials of the networks and sponsors who tend to lose perspective under competitive pressures. These are the gentlemen who must learn that free enterprise can flourish without making a fool of itself.

Having had an initial sampling of British television the question naturally arises: Why not more? Why does not some enterprising network arrange to present a series of the B. B. C. plays on film? There are untold possibilities.

Looking at the B. B. C. telecast made one realize how small the world had become in terms of time and space. For many viewers here there must have been a new and deeper appreciation of our allies.

If that understanding can be broadened and expanded so that through TV the people of England and the United States can know intimately each other's customs, points of view and cultures, the video medium could experience a glory and usefulness that beggars the imagination.

British television obviously is ready for that day. One wonders whether American television is.

Truman Privately Agrees With Rhee And MacArthur On Korea

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

CITIZEN HARRY S. Truman is having the time of his life. He is enjoying a great many things that were denied to him while he lived in the glare of the impossible office of the President. Above all he is enjoying the luxury of privacy, of going where he wants to when he wants to with a minimum of fuss.

The contrast with his successor in the prison of the White House could scarcely be sharper. President Eisenhower is faced with the end of the session conflicts of a Congress that has acted reluctantly when it has acted at all. A target date for adjournment is July 31, but privately the talk is that it will be nearer the middle of August.

The President is confronted with an extraordinarily difficult situation in Korea where the fate of a truce is still uncertain. The unyielding attitude of President Syngman Rhee, the doubts and uncertainties of America's United Nations partners, the divisions here at home over Rhee and the truce, all this is part of the tangle which Eisenhower and the men around him are trying to unravel.

HE'S KEEPING MUM

Citizen Truman is showing considerable self-restraint with respect to one of the luxuries customary to the public figure with no official responsibility. He is keeping silent on the issues of foreign policy, recommending a bipartisan, Stand-By-The-President attitude. This has been his consistent reply to all interviewers when they get onto such touchy questions as the truce. The nearest he has approached any comment was to refer in public to Rhee as a good old patriot.

But in private to the many friends he has seen on his visit to the east, the ex-President has not concealed his feelings. He has called the truce another Munich, the biggest sellout in history with some Trumanesque denunciatory language thrown in.

This is ironic in view of the charge made against Eisenhower in some quarters in his own party that he is following the Truman-Acheson line in foreign policy. It points up, too, a great deal that was said in the campaign last Fall. The President promised to try to bring peace to the world.

But just as important as the promise in its influence on voters was the background against which it was made. There is good reason to believe a great many Americans had become convinced that the Truman Administration could not find a way out of the Korean war and that the peril was a larger conflict in Asia with the catastrophe of a third world war at the end of the road.

It may not be possible for the Eisenhower Administration to bring peace to Korea. As this is written, the chances look slim indeed. At his press conference, speaking his assurance that a satisfactory solution would be worked out, the President seemed to be whistling in the dark. It seems to depend on how far the Communists will go.

The fact remains, however, that a Democratic Administration, given the background of the past three years, could not have advanced even to this indeterminate stage. The suspicion and distrust of motives, thanks in large part to the McCarthyist attacks, were too great. And the Truman commitments were too far-reaching.

President Eisenhower must, in the view of this observer, be given full credit for the sincerity of his motives in trying to live up to his campaign pledge. Bluders have been made in carrying out the truce effort. But that does not negate the fact of a policy aimed at easing the tensions in Asia.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Gen. Vandenberg Urged To Run For Senate

WASHINGTON

GEN. HOYT VANDENBERG, retiring chief of staff of the Air Force, took a rear elevator up to room 676 of the Mayflower Hotel the other day and dropped in for a quiet chat with his old boss Harry Truman.

Though one is a Republican and the other a Democrat, the two talked, believe it or not, about politics—specifically about the possibility of Vandenberg's running for the Senate from Michigan against GOP Sen. Homer Ferguson. Truman was eager to have him run.

"I've been a Republican all my life," said General Vandenberg, "but when I see what this administration has done to the Air Force, it almost makes me a Democrat."

Truman, who fought for a big military budget, didn't have to express agreement. He has said both privately and publicly that Eisenhower cuts in the Air Force are one of the worst tragedies affecting the security of the nation. On the political front, he told Vandenberg that he would undertake to sound out the Governor of Michigan, up-and-coming young "Soapy" Williams, a Democrat, to see whether he would stay out of the Michigan race if Vandenberg ran.

Upon further talks will depend whether, first, Vandenberg runs in the primary as a Republican against Sen. Homer Ferguson, also a Republican, and whether he runs as a Democrat in the final election. The ultimate decision will partly depend on Governor Williams. Popular in Michigan, he would be a hard man to beat.

Niagara Falls Power

AN embattled group of Congressmen, led by Robert Jones of Alabama and Tom Steed of Oklahoma, will file a vigorous protest this week against what they call a "billion-dollar giveaway" of Niagara Falls power rights by the House Public Works Committee.

Chairman George Dondero of Michigan quietly put a bill through the committee last week giving five private power companies exclusive rights to build and operate hydroelectric plants at Niagara, the nation's mightiest waterfall.

The legislation, written by GOP Congressman William E. Miller of Lockport, N. Y., hands the publicly owned waters of Niagara over to the following companies:

Niagara, Mohawk Power Corporation, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation; Consolidated Edison of New York City; and Central Hudson Gas and Electric Company.

Congressman Dondero was so anxious to ram the bill through a super-secret session of the House Public Works Committee that he did not permit debate, or even reading the bill before the vote.

He did this over the protests of Democrats Jones of Alabama and Watts of Kentucky, both of whom contended the committee should have more time to study the Miller bill, as well as two other bills. One of these, the Lehman-Roosevelt bill, provides for Federal development of Niagara River, and the other, the Becker bill, provides for development of the river by the power authority of the State of New York.

Steam-Roller Dondero

HOWEVER Dondero insisted on an immediate vote.

"Aren't you even going to read the Miller bill section by section so we can discuss it?" requested Alabama's Jones.

"It isn't necessary," replied Dondero. "Everybody knows how he is going to vote on the bill and what it provides for."

Dondero also brushed aside questions by Watts as to whether there might be "legal complications" over "possible encroachment by the Miller bill on the sovereign rights of New York State."

Finally, Tom Steed of Oklahoma demanded:

"Before we vote, I think we're at least entitled to know how Eisenhower feels about this legislation."

Steed looked around the committee table, but Dondero and the others were unable to answer his question.

"Well, I think we ought to get that clarified," said Steed. "Secretary of the Army Robert Stevens and the Army Engineers are for the Miller bill, but Eisenhower assured Gov. Tom Dewey, according to the press, that he was for authorizing the New York Power Authority to redevelop the Niagara."

Just then Dondero picked up a report by the Budget Bureau from the table and said: "This may answer your question."

The budget report advised against passage of the Miller bill and suggested instead that the question of determining who should redevelop the Niagara should be left up to the Federal Power Commission, after a careful study.

However, Dondero did not bother to read the Budget Bureau statement. He explained only that it was against the Miller bill and invited his colleagues to look it over later.

Secret Vote

THE committee finally voted 14 to 8 in favor of the Miller bill, but there is no record of how individual members stood on the legislation. Dondero saw to this by calling for a "show of hands," instead of a record roll-call vote.