THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Are Security Regulations Too Rigid?

ONE OF THE more significant paragraphs in the majority report on Dr. Robert Oppenheimer was overlooked in early press dispatches. It came in that section of the report called "General Considerations", and followed the key sentence which said: "We, therefore, do not recommend reinstatement of clearance."

This is the paragraph:

"It seemed to us that an alternative recommendation would be possible, if we were allowed to exercise mature practical judgment without the rigid circumscription of regulations and criteria established for us."

The implications of that paragraph should be carefully considered by thoughtful Americans who are puzzled by the dilemma of a brilliant scientist who is a loyal American and yet is classified as a security risk.

It was, in indirect language, an implied criticism, and a rather strong one, of the new standards of security established by the Eisenhower administration. The board was forced to consider the Oppenheimer case within the rigid limits of those standards. It would have cleared Dr. Oppenheimer had it been able "to exercise *mature practical judgment.*"

The Alsop brothers touch on that point in their column. "Just what the devil *is* national security?" they ask. And the question is not easily answered.

Our security regulations for the atomic energy program are still rooted in the 1945-49 period when it was assumed that the United States had a monopoly of scientific secrets and industrial prowess, and that our security would be preserved if we could simply keep any secrets from leaking out.

That mania for secrecy in a field in which there are no lasting scientific secrets has prevented us from using the talents of scientists of friendly nations —the same kind of men who contributed so effectively to our development of the first atomic bomb.

And now it threatens to cost us the services of the man who is generally conceded to be the most brilliant nuclear scientist in this country, and perhaps in the world.

Are such rigid security restrictions wise at a time when our national security depends not upon the hoarding of secrets but upon the full utilization of all of the best minds available to us?

The answer to that question will not be found in the Gray-Morgan majority report on Dr. Oppenheimer. No one below the President of the United States can answer it, in fact, for it was the President who promulgated the rigid standards that now stand questioned by the same distinguished men who were impelled to label Dr. Oppenheimer a security risk against what appears to be their better judgment.

Doctor Of Humanitarian Service

WHEN Catawba College awarded Charlotte's I. D. Blumenthal a Doctorate in Humanitarian Service at the recent commencement, it was a case of the right degree for the right man.

Mr. Blumenthal's activities have been spread over much of the area of human activity.

In civic activities, he has served the Chamber of Commerce, the Mecklenburg Historical Society, the Park & Recreation Commission, the Carolina Spastics Association, United Community Services, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Mecklenburg County Humane Society, Charlotte Symphony Society, and Charlotte Opera Association.

He has been an active Civitan, Mason and Shriner, and member and leader of B'nai B'rith.

A devout Jew, he is honorary life president of Temple Israel, president of the North Carolina Association of Jewish men and originator of its new project for a circuit-riding rabbi to minister to the smaller Jewish communities of the state, organizer and now life director of the Charlotte Federation of Jewish Charities.

And he has been a generous philanthropist, contributing to many of the worthy enterprises of the community.

In the broader field of human relations, I. D. Blumenthal has set an example of tolerance, understanding and vision for men of all races and of all faiths. His beautiful Wildacres at Blue Ridge has become the center for assemblies of church and civic groups interested in developing better understanding between all peoples. Best known are the annual Civitan Youth Conference in Human Relations and the annual invitation to ministers of many denominations and their families to spend a week at Wildacres as his guest.

Catawba College took note of these and the many other accomplishments of this successful businessman who has looked into the far horizons of human affairs and sought to help his fellowmen see what lies there as he has seen it. The degree — Doctor of Humanitarian Service — is a well-deserved tribute.

A Bow To Alexander And Bell

THE Social Planning Council is completing a year of solid accomplishment. It undertook a comprehensive study, now nearing completion, of Negro hospital needs. It helped get jobs for temporarily unemployed persons. It made plans for a city-county recreation survey, for which the county commissioners and United Appeal have already pledged funds. And it has been devoting a good deal of attention to other matters in which concrete benefits may soon be realized — the care of unwed mothers, camping facilities for youths, prisoner rehabilitation, continuing the while its regular chores such as maintenance of the Christmas Bureau.

These accomplishments are not made possible by a few persons, but by many civic-minded citizens, working with the capable full-time staff of the Social Planning Council.

But it is proper at this time to note publicly the credit due the retiring president of SPC, H. Y. Alexander, who gave unstintingly of his time and talents. And we are particularly pleased to see that his successor will be J. Spencer Bell. A past president of the state and local bar associations, chairman of the council's Negro hospital study committee, Mr. Bell has already given a full measure of service to the community. Under his leadership, the Social Planning Council is assured another year of substantial achievement.

Louis Graves In The Chapel Hill Weekly

OUTSIDE EXPERTS

THE Outside Expert—meaning, somebody who comes from outside the state to give advice about some phase of government—is a familiar figure in North Carolina. Possibly in other states, too, but I don't know about that.

I am using the personal term in the singular for convenience. In reality, the advice is usually given not by one person but by an organization.

The earliest visit by an Outside Expert within my own memory—no doubt there were earlier ones—was that of the Brookings Institute something over 20 years ago. The Institute was called in to formulate a plan for university consolidation. The plan it recommended was a frightful shock to Gov. Gardner because it called for the concentration in Chapel Hill of activities that the governor wanted at State College. So the plan was discarded and one more to the governor's liking was substituted for it.

A few years ago there was the McCormick commission that came to make a study of our prisons. It made the study and proposed a plan of reorganization for our prison system. The plan was rejected —or, rather, ignored, which amounts to the same thing—by governor and legislature.

Now State Highway Commissioner A. H. Graham is bringing in an Outside Expert to study our highways and say what ought to be done about them. It's a safe prediction that the recommendation will call for the expenditure of a vast sum of money. Everybody knows that the state has got to spend a lot of money to put its highway in decent shape; but will the legislature be willing to submit to the people a bond issue as large as the outsiders propose? And, if it does, will the people approve? Or are we going to see another throwing overboard of an Outside Expert's plan?

My own feeling is that the advice given by outsiders who have made studies for us has been good. The fault has been the state's in not following the advice.

It was charged at Geneva that the United States has pursued an aggressive policy against Red China. If this is so, closing a window in a storm constitutes aggression against the rain. — GREENWOOD (MISS.) COMMONWEALTH.

The two-dollar bill used to have a bad reputation, but today it is the only one that will pay for a dollar's worth of anything. — CLAYTON COUNTY (GA.) NEWS and JOURNAL.

An amateur astronomer in New Orleans says he has discovered evidence that somebody has built a super highway on the moon. If you find there is plenty of parking space, Mister, let us know, please.—GREENVILLE (S.C.) PIEDMONT.

A college debating society has written to a newspaper in another city asking if there isn't any way that people can argue any more without getting mad. There is, but it doesn't make a very good television program.—LEXINGTON HERALD.

"He was watching the McCarthy Hearings and getting a big kick out of it, and then he realized these are the men running our government. . . ."

People's Platform

Letter 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.

(Editor's Note: Mrs. Parks O. Williams, 2008 Independence Blvd., is not the Mrs. Parks Williams whose letter appeared in People's Platform yesterday.)

County Children Get Free Rides To School

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

THE EDITORIAL which appeared in your paper earlier this week entitled "City Limits Extension Offers Much to Those Who Are Now Opposing It" brought out a number of points deserving careful consideration by those affected. However, in your long list of points to be considered, there is no mention of the most important advantage to those now living in the area outside the city limits which might be taken inside.

I refer particularly to the free transportation of children to and from school. To the family man this is a direct benefit offsetting the value of everything the city of Charlotte can offer.

When his property is taken into the city, the tax load of such a resident usually becomes from three to five times the former figure, since not only does his tax rate more than double but for some unaccountable reason the assessors think the value of his property has also increased and at the same time he is suddenly deprived of what he regards as the most important service that he gets for his tax dollar.

It has always been true that most of the enthusiasm for extending the city limits has come from those inside the city rather than from those more directly affected. I suspect the feeling of the average city resident is that his tax dollar is not buying one hundred cents worth of service and his neighbors living outside the city limits are getting far more for their money.

In my opinion, you would do a great service to the community if you would carefully analyze the value of the service the city of Charlotte offers. While undoubtedly residents of the county who receive services from the city without paying city taxes have some advantages, let us not forget that they are paying for most of these advantages.

For instance, the feeling of the average city resident is that city water service in the county is a windfall for the county resident and a drain on the city. I well remember a former water department superintendent making a statement to the effect that about 40 cents of every dollar's revenue from his department was net profit. If you couple this statement with the fact that the county resident pays a premium of 37.5 per cent for his water, then apparently the city is realizing a very satisfactory profit for this service.

Many of your other points of advantage to the residents of our city have a very dubious foundation in fact. I refer particularly to those points pertaining to the various municipal regulations and controls such as zoning, subdivision planning, building regulations, health and sanitation laws, most of which the residents of the county could have if sentiment were greatly favorable.

It is just possible that the average county resident thinks we have too much government at too much cost to the taxpayer.

—LEX MARSH

Colorful Comment On Scott-Lennon Race

Myrtle Beach, S. C.

Editors, The News:

OBSERVATION from south of the border: Scott wins. Lennon loses. Neither one well enough known. Scott claims he went into the red. Tabulation of votes would indicate he went heavily into the blacks.

—JOHN DEVINE

Red-Hunters Sure To Get Smeared

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

SUCH inept terms as persecution, witch hunter, Red baiter etc., are familiar phrases to every anti-Communist who ever had the courage to oppose and impede the conspiracy of the Communist Party. And it would be a foolish speculation to think that Sen. McCarthy would escape the attacks of the Red smear bund.

The Communist Party is well aware that the average American is pathetically ignorant of Communist techniques and tactics. So completely unfamiliar in fact, that not one in a million would recognize a commie if he met one head on.

Aware also that Americans generally entertain a more or less sympathetic attitude for the "underdog", the Soviet-inspired and supported Communist Party in the U.S. takes full advantage of these weaknesses in an endeavor to thwart investigation and exposure of its clime.

The essential pattern follows a somewhat obvious course. Propaganda headquarters coins the required phrases and word labels, and sets the objective and intensity of attack. The pro-Communist and so-called liberal press picks up the agitation, revamps the material to conform to policy, thus adding range and momentum to the campaign.

Meanwhile, the Communist front movements with their quasi-intellectual clime of "fringe revolutionists" and gullibles, take up the chant and the attack is underway. Quite often conservative publications, as well as innocent and unsuspecting citizens, are caught in the network of craft and guile and with sentiments favorably aroused they join in the froth of denunciation.

What the American public generally does not realize is the ominous and constant threat of communism to American traditions and freedom. Everything for which the Constitution of the U.S. stands and permits the Communists seek to destroy and replace with a totalitarian dictatorship. To this end they are dedicated and diligently strive.

To counteract and prevent this subversion McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee have been legally engaged in investigation and interrogation of the conspirators and their bleeding-heart sympathizers who, under the Roosevelt-Truman mis-deal succeeded in infiltrating strategic departments of the government, including the Army, to say nothing of religious bodies and educational institutions.

—A. W. BLACK

Negroes Will Go To Private Schools

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WOULD LIKE to say that those who think Negro kids will be honored to go to school with white kids are very wrong. I have four kids, and I am sure that their intelligence cannot be surpassed by white or any race. If our children are forced to go to school with white I am certain there will be a surprisingly high number of colored kids in private schools. I am a Negro.

—PINK MICHAEL

A Thank You From Hadassah Chapter

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

THE Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah wishes to think you most sincerely for all courtesies extended to our chapter this past year.

—S. M. GULLER
Corresponding Secretary

Sacrifice Of Oppenheimer Threatens U. S. Security

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

JUST what the devil is national security? That is the question raised by the decision of the majority of the board in the case of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer.

On the main point — the only point of any serious import — Gordon Gray and his colleagues gave their judgment strongly for the great physicist. They reviewed all the evidence against Dr. Oppenheimer. They subjected all his pre-war political follies to the most meticulous examination. And they said three things with great positiveness and clarity.

First, this nation "particularly owes" to Dr. Oppenheimer "a great debt of gratitude for loyal and magnificent service."

Second, Dr. Oppenheimer's repentance of past folly is undoubted. He is "a loyal citizen:" and his "loyalty and love of country" are attested by "much responsible and positive evidence." Again, the testimony as to his "deep devotion to his country" is both "eloquent and convincing."

Third, Dr. Oppenheimer "seems to have had a high degree of discretion reflecting an unusual ability to keep to himself vital secrets." There is not an atom of evidence that he at any time communicated any classified information whatever to any person not cleared to receive such information. There is of course no trace of evidence that Dr. Oppenheimer ever gave aid or comfort to the enemy in any shape or form.

THE REPAYMENT

After admitting all this, the two-man majority of the Gray board then repaid this country's "great debt of gratitude for loyal and magnificent service" by classifying Dr. Oppenheimer as a security risk.

That is where the case stands on the surface. But it is by no means where the case really stands, if you consider the broader context of this extraordinary decision. It is this broader context which makes one ask what security really is.

In brief, the Soviet Union is rapidly catching up to this country in weapons design and development. The first proof of this dread fact came when the Kremlin exploded its large, economy-size H-bomb, designed around the use of lithium hydride in the core. In this highly important instance, Soviet science actually surpassed American science. Our physicists and weaponeers had to scurry to achieve the version of the Russian design that the A. E. C. recently tested in the Pacific.

Here is the real threat to the security of this nation. And this threat is the true context of the decision in the Oppenheimer case.

These are the larger requirements of American security. The Gray board mumbled something about them, and then forgot about them. Yet they have got to be considered. For what imperils this country more greatly: Dr. Oppenheimer's regrettable tendency to be contemptuous of government flatfeet, or the loss to the Soviet Union of our lead in weapons development?

With that question staring them in the face, the majority of the Gray board have looked at the little things and not at the big things. They have sacrificed the bellwether of the scientific flock, whose personal talents are quite valuable enough to justify a different decision. They have convinced the majority of other scientists that this sacrifice has been made to satisfy the personal spite of the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Admiral Lewis Strauss. They have endangered the whole partnership between science and government.

For what scientist, and indeed, what ordinary sensible man, will wish to serve a government that is not content with unquestioned loyalty, perfect discretion, and vast and unrepaid past services? If you can still be a security risk when you have met these tests, the best thing to do is cultivate your cabbages until the end comes.

Separate Schools Okayed After War Between States

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

(Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles prepared by Congressional Quarterly on the Supreme Court's school segregation ruling and its impact on the states.)

WASHINGTON

DURING the 19th century, segregation was the general rule wherever Negro populations were located. Separate schools were established in Boston in the 1800's at the request of Negroes whose children were barred by prejudice from the regular schools.

In 1846, when Negroes petitioned for the abolition of this segregation, the Massachusetts court upheld the practice, saying, "This prejudice, if it exists, is not created by law and probably cannot be changed by law." But in 1855 the legislature prohibited racial distinctions in admission to public schools.

Following the Civil War, many northern and western states, from California and Nevada through Ohio and Michigan to New York, passed legislation authorizing maintenance of separate public schools, and in many northern states where there was no specific legislation, the practice was continued, with or without judicial challenge, educators told Congressional Quarterly.

1874 DECISION

In Illinois, separate schools were declared unconstitutional in 1874, and exclusion from a public school on the ground of color was reaffirmed in a series of court cases around the turn of the century, but the last of the segregated schools did not go out of existence in the state until within the last five years.

The judicial doctrine under which maintenance of separate schools has been held not to violate the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the 14th Amendment was set forth by the Supreme Court in the case of Plessy vs. Ferguson. That decision came in an 1896 case concerning separate facilities maintained for Negroes by Louisiana railways. The Court held that "separate but equal" facilities were not in violation of the amendment.

In its May 17 decision, the U. S. Supreme Court reversed the 1896 ruling by declaring that "in the field of education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place . . . Any language in Plessy vs. Ferguson contrary to this finding is rejected." The new decision recalled the dissent filed in the Plessy case by Justice John Marshall Harlan of Kentucky, who declared, "Our Constitution is color-blind and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens . . . the thin disguise of 'equal' accommodations will not mislead any one, or atone for the wrong this day done."

PERSONAL DAMAGE

In its recent decision, the Court relied heavily on testimony by educators and psychologists on the retardation of the learning process and the damage to personal development experienced by segregated children. The use made of social scientists from these fields in this trial recalls the use of economic findings by former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis in a 1908 decision concerning the Oregon law covering hours worked by women in laundries. In both cases, emphasis on actual circumstances prevailed over emphasis on legal principles.

The present finding is not without forerunners. In Sweatt vs. Painter, a case brought by a Negro to obtain admission to the University of Texas law school in 1946, both tangible and intangible inequalities in the facilities available to Sweatt were alleged, and the Court took cognizance of the handicap due to separation from "members of the racial groups which number 85 per cent of the population of the state and include most of the lawyers, witnesses, jurors, judges and the officials with whom the petitioner will inevitably be dealing when he becomes a member of the Texas bar."

Again in the Topeka case on which the Court has just ruled, evidence from social scientists on the psychological effects of segregation was admitted by the lower court which while it sustained the Plessy vs. Ferguson doctrine also noted that "segregation of white and colored children in public schools has a detrimental effect upon the colored children."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

A Motley Crew Helped Cohn And Schine

WASHINGTON

THE full story has never been told of the Cohn-Schine comic-opera investigation of Europe that first catapulted Sen. McCarthy's double-trouble boys into the public spotlight.

The two junior G-men made a barnstorming trip through Europe last year, breezing in and out of a few U. S. libraries, and holding conspiratorial conferences with a motley collection of informants, including a suspected Communist spy, a German politician fired for embezzlement, and a discredited journalist making a living circulating anti-American-anti-Eisenhower throw sheets.

Advance spadework for their trip was done by Arthur Noyes, a stringer for the pro-McCarthy Chicago Tribune. The day before the McCarthy team arrived in Frankfort, Noyes went over to the U. S. library and searched through the book catalogues for controversial authors. He also collected information from an ex-Nazi, named Fred Rudl, who had been sent by Hitler to Prague after the annexation of Czechoslovakia to "Aryanize" the famous Orbis publishing house.

A few weeks later, Chicago Tribune Publisher Col. Robert McCormick passed through Germany and handed Noyes a $1,000 check.

"You have done a good job, my boy, and I can see that you need a vacation," remarked the colonel.

Row In A Hotel

The two McCarthy gumshoes seemed unusually preoccupied with investigating alleged homosexuals, including one very prominent U. S. official.

The pair also made a show of registering for separate hotel rooms, remarking loudly that they didn't work for the State Department.

The incident of their quarrel in a Frankfurt hotel corridor, reported in this column one year ago, was actually reported at the time by the United Press representative in Germany. But UP superiors killed it, possibly in line with the solicitude which the press associations have sometimes displayed toward McCarthy.

What happened was that Schine discovered a notebook missing, and dispatched his driver back to the hotel to search his other trousers. When the driver returned empty handed, Schine dragged Cohn to the hotel with him to look for it. On the way, Schine accused Cohn of stealing it.

The spat got so heated in the hotel corridor that Schine smacked Cohn over the head with a rolled-up magazine. Schine also demanded a search of Cohn's luggage, then suddenly remembered he had left the bothersome notebook in California. Later, their room was found in disarray.

The incident seemed newsworthy to United Press Reporter Bill Long, who filed a dispatch. It was killed. Rankled over this suppression of the news, Long turned the story over to the Frankfort Abendpost, which published it in full.

Cohn immediately retaliated by investigating Abendpost, as to whether the paper had ever received a U. S. loan. Cohn also demanded privately that the U. S. consulate at Frankfort take measures against Abendpost.

Probing The Libraries

The two junior G-men paid superficial visits to only two of the 48 American libraries in Germany, then announced to the press that they had found Communist books in "virtually every" library.

In Frankfort they spent only 30 minutes in a hectic half-hour search through the book shelves and card files of the U. S. library, answering questions from reporters while they "investigated." Then, leaving newsmen outside, they barged into the library director's office.

Cohn opened the conversation by announcing, "Whew, I'm tired," then pulled off his coat and stretched out on a couch with his legs on the coffee table. He conducted the entire interrogation from this horizontal position.