

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1954

New Explosions Due On Water Issue

OUT of the loud and emphatic welter of words about increased water rates for outside consumers, one fact stands out clearly today. The debate is only just beginning.

The unsuccessful attempt to delay adoption of the city's 1954-55 tax rate so councilmen could review the new water rate structure was but one chapter in a long, long story. The council has not heard the last of this matter. The roots of the problem run too deep to wither away now.

Serious questions have been asked by protesting perimeter residents and they deserve straight answers. These people point out correctly that water supply and sewage disposal are not primarily revenue-raising operations. Yet, they charge, a fat profit has been realized in the past. They conclude then that water and sewage service can operate adequately without 1954-5 "unreasonable" rate hikes.

Water-sewer balance sheets for the last fiscal year for which figures are available—the one ending in June 1953—do show a surplus. Actual revenue totaled \$1,867,398.26. Actual expenses totaled only \$1,014,791.64. At first gasp this would seem to be \$852,606.62 more than needed. But when you subtract a \$697,765.74 contribution to the debt service fund, the actual surplus amounts to \$154,840.88.

Mayor Phil Van Every and City Manager Henry Yancy take a broad view of the water-sewer problem. Other items not included under expenses—like capital improvements during the year and depreciation—more than balance the financial picture, they indicate. Both firmly believe that the increases are necessary "when everything is taken into consideration. Water-sewer revenue in the past was simply not sufficient to take care of the overall expense, they say.

Some councilmen—notably Claude L. Albee and Basil M. Boyd—have their doubts. They, along with Councilman Steve W. Dellinger, wanted to delay action of the city tax rate yesterday until the water matter could be studied further.

While city water users are well aware of it, the drought is felt much more keenly in rural Mecklenburg and, in fact, throughout the Carolinas, whose farmers have lost uncounted millions of dollars as pastures and fields burned up.

Some farmers could have decreased the damage had they been better conservationists.

Most farm ponds are too small to irrigate fields of any size, and of course some of the ponds dry up when a major drought hits. But the drought undercuts the value of farm ponds for stock watering, as a water source for garden

ther. They were one vote short. Councilman Albee has consistently opposed the increase in water rates for both city and out of the city consumers.

The dispute obviously is linked to the question of annexation of outside territory. Some believe the council is using "excessive" water rates to pressure outside residents into coming inside the city—a suggestion councilmen hotly deny.

It must be pointed out, however, that the city has no real legal obligation in this water-sewer matter to outside residents. It does have an obligation to those who pay city taxes, those who have put up the money for multi-million-dollar water and sewage facilities constructed over a long period of years, those who must share the burden of the city's present bonded indebtedness.

Fringe area residents must pay premium rates. This is perfectly proper. For one thing, it costs more to service them with water.

But Charlotte's country cousins reason that an 80 per cent rate increase is simply not justified if the city is making a profit under the old system. And by the city's own estimate, the increase will bring in \$146,880 from outside the city and \$264,384 from inside, for a neat \$411,264 total.

To magnify the problem, the city has had a war rate at its peak. Individual bills look far more startling than they would have later or earlier on the calendar. The accuracy of meters has even been challenged.

The city erred in applying new rates to water used before consumers knew the increase was in effect. Yesterday's "rebate" order corrected this oversight. But the action did not pacify many complainers.

If the sharp rate increases are indeed necessary, it appears that the city has done an inadequate job of explaining and documenting the need. A few more facts and figures might fill in the gap and convince worried outsiders that the City of Charlotte is not merely trying to take unfair advantage of them.

A Cultural Key To Better Understanding

CHARLOTTE and other progressive American communities should have a weather eye on a unique educational experiment under way in York, Pa. This southern Pennsylvania city has four of its second and third graders chafing in French this summer as a result of language instruction in elementary grades of the public school system. Learning by the same conventional methods that taught them English, boys and girls are tossing around properly accented Gallic phrases almost as soon as they enter school.

By striking early in language instruction, York is exercising good common sense. Before he reaches the age of reasoning, the child has the greatest capacity for learning several languages. This capacity diminishes rapidly in the early teens and is never regained. The conventional two-year language course in high school and college is simply a case of too little, too late.

Language study has been the victim of startling neglect in the United States

since World War II. And yet learning the languages of our global neighbors is one of the surest ways imaginable to advance the cause of international brotherhood. It is a phase of public education which deserves special attention in America as we take up the reins of world leadership.

The study of foreign tongues cannot help but have a great and lasting effect on the character of the student—young or old. The child who learns a new language naturally gets to know something of the people who speak it. He tends to lose his hostility toward strange cultures and, consequently, becomes more tolerant of all cultures and all peoples.

To survive the perils of the atomic-hydrogen era, we need all the international understanding and good will we can build. Language study will help. We must abandon the "let-'em-learn-English" attitude toward foreigners. People of other lands are indeed learning English. But we cannot afford to leave the initiative entirely in the hands of people who would lead.

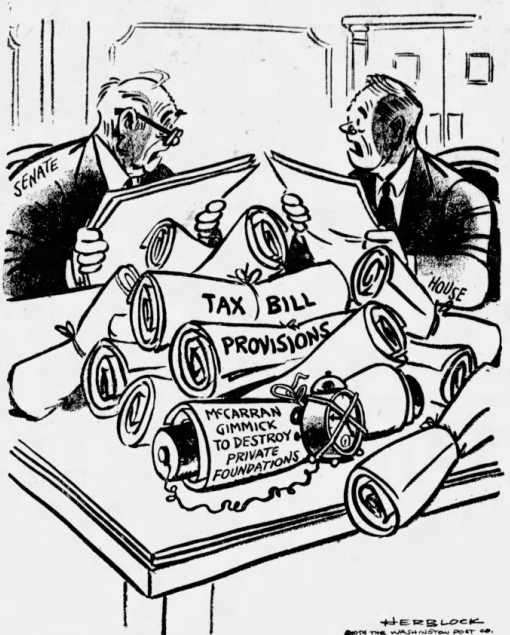
With juke boxes, a sun deck and bunk beds with aluminum partitions and built-in bedpans?

Shiver all the periscopes of all the subs that ever went down like McVinty and blow all the forests flat, what's going on afloat and ashore these days?

It's not that we object to seeing life made beautiful for lumberjacks or living in beautiful, gracious "submarine saloons." It's just that here were two he-man occupations that comfort and convenience have been a long time catching up with.

What is it about the new "bloomer" bathing suits the girls are wearing this year that makes them more eye-catching than the "bikinis" of previous seasons?—GREENVILLE (S.C.) FIERMONT.

'Why, No. I Didn't Say Tick-Tock Tick-Tock. Did You?'



A British Viewpoint

The Leader Isn't Leading

An Editorial In The Manchester (England) Guardian

ONLY the United States can lead the Western world, and it is no longer doing so. Only the United States has or had the resources, vigor and idealism for the task.

Its leadership is failing for two reasons—weakness within the Communists and an honest divergence of view between America and the other western nations.

The weakness of the administration is sadly evident. The United States government now speaks not with a united voice but with many and divided voices. What is its policy?

Is it to find means of "getting along" with the Communists in Asia (as President Eisenhower says) or to reject all negotiation as worthless (as Sen. Knowland insists)?

Is it to send troops to Indochina (Mr. Nixon on April 16) or to keep out of Indochina (Mr. Nixon on April 20)?

Is it to help small nations with all possible speed (Mr. Lodge on June 1) or to let them stew in their own juice (Mr. Lodge on Guatemala's appeal to the United Nations)?

True, more public discussion recedes the forming of policy in the United States than in other countries, and that is healthy. But now we have the discussion without the policy.

The secretary of state, who should give direction to the discussion, seems a prisoner of his own rigid prejudice. The President, who above all must speak with authority, is silent or ambiguous.

Under the American system the President must act firmly if there is to be any policy, since otherwise Congress will squander its time on side-shows. Roosevelt dealt firmly with Congress, as did Mr. Truman, but not Mr. Eisenhower. In America, also, the President must reconcile the discord between departments, since there is no cabinet, and other government departments are free to co-ordinate foreign and domestic policy.

The United States increasingly tends to see the Indochinese War as a clear case of evil against good, and to see the weakness of the American administration, its honest divergence of view from others, and the yearning among other nations for agreement with Communists—are greater than a weekend at the White House can overcome.

It is a grave thought that the Western nations now lack clear leadership. It is more grievous that the United States, in present trends, may gradually withdraw from many of its commitments in the outside world.

These policies—an excellent notion—but in practice the Defense Department goes one way, Commerce another and State a third.

The eighteenth-century Constitution can be made to meet the demands of twentieth-century government only through the force of a President's personality. To-day that is absent.

The divergence of American and other views was especially evident at Geneva. The United States—both its Government and apparently most of its people—believes that negotiation with the Communists is a dangerous waste of time. This view is shared by no other major government in the West.

The United States believes that agreements negotiated with the Communists are worthless, because they will be torn up as soon as it suits the Communists, just as Yalta and Potsdam were by Russia and earlier, as Lausanne was by Hitler.

Others, however, think that a change may have occurred in Russia since Stalin's death and that the Chinese have never been given a fair chance (and they remember that Locomo was followed by 14 years of peace).

The United States holds that further aggression by the Chinese is inevitable and will be encouraged by "weakness" in negotiation. Others hold that, although further aggression may come, it may not come immediately, further, they hold that even a temporary lowering of international pressure will encourage weakness.

These matters were discussed in Washington. But the divisive personality at work—the weakness of the American administration, its honest divergence of view from others, and the yearning among other nations for agreement with Communists—are greater than a weekend at the White House can overcome.

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Oppenheimer's Advice Was Honest, Sound, Unwelcomed

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

TO the Soviet enemy, the transcript in the case of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer has revealed many secret matters. To the American scientific community, this same transcript has made an even more dangerous revelation.

In brief, it has shown that Dr. Oppenheimer really got into trouble, not because of his alleged defects of character, but because he gave his government honest, informed, usually sensible but unwelcome advice.

The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Adm. Lewis Strauss, has gone to great lengths to give a different impression. "Defects of character" were the theme of his bitter opinion against Oppenheimer. And to a disturbed and protesting scientist of Los Alamos laboratory, the stronghold of our weaponry, Strauss wrote:

"The Atomic Energy Commission does not believe that any government servant, scientist, engineer or administrator should be given his advice or temper his professional opinion because of apprehension that such advice or opinion might be unpopular now or in the future."

Naturally, however, the scientists are testing these assurances by Adm. Strauss, against the record compiled by his own subordinates. That record begins, of course, with the commission's charge against Dr. Oppenheimer, with its ugly hints about the H-bomb controversy. And that record continues through the massive transcript, with attack after attack on Dr. Oppenheimer's advice to his government. Dr. Oppenheimer's stand on the H-bomb, in which he was of course joined by a majority of other American scientists, leaders, in only a small part of the story.

BARUCH SHARED VIEW. For example, Maj. Gen. Charles Roscoe Wilson testifies that one of the reasons why he "felt impelled to go to the director of intelligence to express my concerns" was because of "my awareness that Dr. Oppenheimer was interested in what I call the inter-atomic energy of atomic energy, this at a time when the United States had a monopoly. It did interest me, the fact that a long-term interest of Dr. Oppenheimer was shared by Dr. B. M. Baruch. It was interest that did not suit people like Gen. Wilson."

Again, there is the matter of the long-range detection system. Among the secrets the transcript reveals is the fact that a long-range detection device for nuclear attacks on Dr. Oppenheimer.

Not only there is the Vista story. Here, Dr. Oppenheimer's sin was to suggest a change in the then-existing arrangement, which made the whole existing atomic stockpile the monopoly asset of the Strategic Air Command. He wanted to share it, to make it instead, in three parts—one part for SAC, one part for Tactical Air and other use on the battlefield, and one part for the defense.

To be sure, Dr. Oppenheimer knew what the generals seemed not to have known, that the grim era of atomic plenty would soon permit such a division of the stockpile. To be sure, the thinking developed by Dr. Oppenheimer and others in the Vista report is now, generally speaking, the official thinking of the Pentagon. But the generals' toes were trodden on by Dr. Oppenheimer's premature correctness, and suspicions were

NOT POPULAR. Indeed, with the sole exception of the H-bomb debate, time has proven that Dr. Oppenheimer's advice to his government was sound and good. But it was not, to normal people, the "wise" word, "popular" advice. And its unpopularity quite clearly and directly generated the bad feeling, the "cold war" between the public, which in turn made possible Adm. Strauss's ultimate attack on Dr. Oppenheimer.

It is sad to express the basic facts showing supposed defects in Dr. Oppenheimer's character were known in war-time at Los Alamos and when Adm. Strauss and the other members of the AEC unanimously recommended that Dr. Oppenheimer be cleared in 1947. What then are the scientists to think? The state controversies, so endlessly aired, that have been the cause of the public to attribute evil motives to these controversies, have inevitably made the scientists think that the "cold war" is a "cold war" less than a "cold war."

With Few Exceptions, The Governors Are Dull Types

By DORIS FLEESON

BALTIMORE, N.Y. A BALTIMORE reason why the annual Governors' Conference always attracts national attention is its role as a seed bed of the Presidency. At these conferences, especially between national politicians, the press and politicians look over the crops and start placing their bets on the political future.

Of the 46th conference now in session here it is necessary in all honesty to state promptly, though perhaps impolitely, that the list of chief executives of the 48 states is not a distinguished one. Nor is it colorful. There is not an amusing demagogue on this white ballroom floor.

The truth is, indeed, that the governors are hopelessly overshadowed by New York's tall, handsome state trooper at the wheels of the 48 Navy-blue-and-buff cars, which are thoughtfully provided by Henry Ford for this annual conference and painted in colors selected by the host governor.

Relatively few stand out in the crowd of the state police. Among those who do, however, are tall, aristocratic Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts and

some John Davis Lodge of Connecticut, both Republicans; and Democrats Frank J. La Follette of Oregon, William W. Wallbridge of Michigan, Robert Meyer of New Jersey, and Lawrence W. Wethers of Idaho.

18TH CENTURY OUTLOOK. The intellectual content of the discussions follows the prevailing pattern. At least in the opening sessions the most articulate governors have been those looking back longingly to the Articles of Confederation. With the exception of Gov. J. Brainerd Lee of Utah, few really believe this is a practical idea, and their protestations therefore have a hollow ring.

The governors who oppose them—Democrat Meyer, Republican Theodore R. McKelvin of Maryland, and the passionate innovators. They are moderates. They show a good deal of common sense but it holds very little excitement.

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, the host, is of course a man of rare competence who knows a lot. He competes with the state police. It appeared he might one day be President. This year he is reserved, almost indifferent.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Vets, Business Get Most Subsidy

WASHINGTON. Few people have ever seen the budget of the United States. Some people think it's merely an elaborate set of figures that Congress debates every year. Actually, however, it's about the size of a New York phone book and just about as useful. The 1954 budget, however, is extremely significant and ought to be paraded on the Senate floor during the debate on so-called farm subsidies.

For these figures show the amount of subsidies paid to farmers, veterans, business, and others. Highest subsidy, of course, is listed as paid to veterans in the form of bonuses and hospitalization, totaling \$4.2 billion dollars in 1953.

What may surprise some people, however, is that the subsidy paid to business is about twice as much as that paid to farmers. Farmers got \$23 million dollars for soil conservation, price supports, and other government help in 1953; whereas businessmen got 12 billion dollars.

This aid to business, incidentally, was not to small businesses. It was to upper-bracket business which has yelled so loud about "greasing socialism" yet spent so much money lobbying Congress into voting more money for "gallipating favoritism."

Today the new tax bill will give the same kind of quick depreciation to other types of big business, and Randolph Paul, former general counsel of the Treasury and author of "Taxation of the United States," has told congressmen this tax subsidy will cost the government about \$1 billion in the next 17 years.

Contrast, when a farmer builds a barn he gets no tax write-off, but must spread his depreciation over a period of about 30 years.

Utility Subsidies. The big utility companies spend an average of half a million dollars a year on their lobby to influence Congress. At least that's the amount they register officially with Congress. Today this appears to be repeating dividends. One utility combine, Dixon-Yates, has just put

panies in the U.S.A., largely owned and operated by George Humphrey, before the House Committee on Finance, to the opposition of a majority of the AEC commissioners.

Under this order, Dixon-Yates will invest only 5.3 million dollars in cash, but guarantee a nine per cent return on Uncle Sam, will own the plant at the end of 25 years, and will get the benefit of an annual 3.6 million dollar overcharge made up by the taxpayers for the difference between what they would have to pay TVA instead of Dixon-Yates.

This was what Congressman Holtz of California, a member of the House Committee on Atomic Energy, calls this not "creeping socialism" but "gallipating federal favoritism."

In contrast the farmer is guaranteed a 9 per cent return on his investment. He has been guaranteed 90 per cent of the price paid during a cross-section average of previous years.

More Gravy. Here are some of the other subsidies to business to which the U. S. budget offers when it shows that business actually gets about twice the subsidy given to farmers.

Certain airlines get between 70 million dollars and 95 million dollars in top money for carrying the mail. On top of that the taxpayer pays for radar, lighting beacons, and other safety aids for the airlines totaling \$21,361,040 in 1951, \$13,007,035 in 1952, and \$7,000,000 in 1953. Taxpayers also pay \$73,821,733 for personnel to operate these safety aids in 1951, plus \$80,484,761 in 1952, plus about 105 million dollars in 1953.

In addition, another 37 million dollars and 16 million dollars were for runways and construction work at airports in 1951-52 and another \$19,821,000 in 1953.

The shipping companies also get an average of \$4,225,000 a year in subsidies to operate their vessels. The United States Lines got a construction subsidy of \$24,601,000 for building the SS United States, while the Grace Lines and Moore-McCormick are being paid for four new vessels by the current Congress.

These vessels will be turned over to the United States in time of war and this subsidy policy may be a wise one. Also, it is important to keep U. S. airlines operating around the world. But likewise the American farmer has to feed a good part of the world in case of war and he, like the shipping and airline companies, can't contract and expand his economy for peace or wars without facing economic chaos.

High On Totem Pole. Indirect subsidies given to American business, though not listed by the U. S. budget, include such things as giving war factors a 50 per cent business for a song—such as per the gift of the government steel plant at Gwaltney, Utah, to the Steel Corp. and \$47,750,000 through the government paid \$191,326,000 to a private industry flatly refused to build.

Another year the Eisenhower administration decided to sell the government-owned rubber factories to private industry. The result was that taxpayers shelled out millions for them, and through the way made profit for the government one year ago of 73 million dollars.

From The Providence Evening Bulletin.

LUMBER CAMPS AND SUBMARINES

FROM the woods of Canada comes news that the lumber companies of northern Ontario are currently housing their 30,000 lumberjacks in community camps whose recreational facilities include roller skating rinks.

No longer must the wielder of ax and peavey while away his spare time by prospecting the seams of his shirt or listening to some nasal voice intone "The Jam On Gerry's Rock" to the squeak of a fiddle; he can go to the community rink and spend a relaxed evening giddling around in the arms of a girl good enough to make Paul Bunyan weep cloudbursts and Niagaras!

And what's this we hear from the naval base at New London, Conn., about the USS submarine BERGAL getting its interior done in four different shades of green and equipping itself