

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1954

Editorial Correspondence

Italy - A Political Battleground

By THOMAS L. ROBINSON
Publisher, The News

(Editor's Note: Mr. Robinson, writing from Rome during a tour of Europe's principal capitals, sets forth in the following correspondence some of his observations on the political situation. He will write tomorrow on the economic problems facing Italy.)

ROME, Aug. 31. REGARDLESS of how adept and accomplished the average American feels in his knowledge of politics in our country he can feel completely bewildered when he faces the complexity of politics in Italy where parties to the left, right and center are so numerous that only a strong coalition can remain in power.

With a total population of about 48 million, approximately 27 million Italian men and women voted in the 1953 elections. At the left were the coalition of Communists (20 per cent) and the Italian left-wing Socialists (15 per cent). In the center were the Christian Democrats leading a coalition which included Republicans, Liberals and Democratic Socialists. This "center" polled a few votes short of 50 per cent of the total. Over at the extreme right were the Monarchists with about 9 per cent of the vote and the Neo-Fascists with about 6 per cent.

Led by the distinguished Alcide De Gasperi, who recently died, the Christian Democratic party was a rallying point at the center. By winning the support of such smaller parties as were represented by Republicans, Liberals and Democratic Socialists, the "center" has thus far stood its ground despite strong opposition from Togliatti's Communists who have teamed up with Pietro Nenni's Italian Socialists to constitute 35 per cent of the voting strength of Italy.

In 1948, the "center" succeeded in thwarting a Communist attempt to gain political control of Italy. However, in 1953, the so-called "Centrists" had lost votes to the left and the situation was again critical.

AS A RESULT of the elections of 1953, De Gasperi was unable to form a new government which would have the support of the majority. To breach the crisis, Giuseppe Pella, a financial expert of the previous De Gasperi governments, was accepted as Premier by the Christian Democratic leaders—but only on a temporary basis. His job was to get the budgets through Parliament. Actually Pella resigned in about six months when the left of center political factions withdrew their support, suspicious that Premier Pella intended to remain permanently in power.

Last January the well-known left-wing Christian Democrat, Amintore Fanfani formed a Cabinet made up solely of Christian Democrats, but he was unable to win a vote of confidence. Fanfani was succeeded by former Minister of the Interior Mario Scelba. A new center coalition government was set up by Scelba.

A Powerful Man Heads For Washington

AN AMBITION of at least 30 years is on verge of fulfillment in South Carolina. State Sen. Edgar A. Brown, long a powerhouse in the legislature and Democratic Party, is virtually assured membership in the U. S. Senate now that the state Democratic committee has nominated him for the seat of the late Sen. Burnet R. Maybank.

Intelligent, shrewd and ambitious, Sen. Brown left the farm to read law in Aiken, then moved to Barnwell, his present home, 46 years ago. He has been a member of the Barnwell County Democratic executive committee continuously for 40 years. He has served two terms as chairman of the state executive committee, and has been state president of the party as well as national committeeman.

His active role in the party has been paralleled by his legislative leadership. Twice an unsuccessful candidate for the U. S. Senate, he has been speaker of the South Carolina house of representatives, in which he served three terms. Since 1942 he has been speaker pro tem of the Senate in which he has served since 1929. He is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and thus an ex-officio member of the State Budget and Control Board.

When he first tried for the Senate 28

who was able to accomplish this vital step by bringing together the strength of the four old-guard center parties.

This history is reviewed so as to indicate how tenuous is the hold of the "center" because of new groupings and deviations which are apt to take place at any time among the parties to the extreme left and right.

Some observers in Italy feel that the danger of further strengthening of the extreme right parties is as great as the possibility of having the Communists gain sufficient voting power to take over Italy. In other words, the only salvation for Italy from a sane and moderate viewpoint is to have the "center" coalition of parties gain in strength, unity and conviction.

It is generally conceded by well-informed Italians and American officials with whom this correspondent talked that without the substantial aid received from the United States since the end of the Second World War, another dictatorship might well have arisen on the ashes of Mussolini's more than 20 years in power.

Although the Fascists were in bad odor and discredited, the Communists, a legal party in Italy, rose in strength largely through their powerful assault on Fascism. Between what many Italians regarded as two all-consuming fires, Italy had to build a party which would stand solidly in the center and protect the nation from going completely toward Fascism or Communism.

It is interesting to note that there are right, left and center groups within the very ranks of the Christian Democratic Party. What holds this party and the coalition together is not an agreement regarding policies which should be followed by the Italian government, but a desire to retain and keep the Communists out.

THE challenge facing the conservative and level-headed element in Italy is how to strengthen and stabilize the "center" coalition. Over its head hangs the ever-present threat that if either the Liberals or the Social Democrats voted against the government, it would mean the fall of the government and the rise to power of the Communists.

The failure so far of the European Defense Community to materialize gives the Communists in Italy new fuel for their fires of propaganda. The Communists, however, have consistently refused to join the European Army plan which has developed, the Communists may successfully capitalize on the failure to date.

The ever-present political crisis in Italy is constantly fanned into hot flames by the fact that political extremists at the far left and right spend their time exploiting Italy's basic economic weaknesses, namely poverty and unemployment. Consequently, I will discuss tomorrow some aspects of Italy's economy, so closely related to her seething political cauldron.

Will McCarthy Get Away With It All?

Myrtle Beach, S. C. I read your editorial about McCarthy and the way he voted. Let's analyze it even further.

1—When he campaigned for the Senate he was even more liberal; he courted the Communist vote.

2—He voted for many so-called liberal ideas but so did others—among them President Roosevelt.

3—He was very liberal with leaves of absence from the Marine Corps where he fought such glorious battles—or was it campaigns?

4—He has been very liberal with abuse of people's rights and personal activities in the name of anti-communism. We wonder. The Communists and fascists follow the same methods.

5—Friends were fought for bitterly lest they fail to be communists.

Up, the gentleman from Wisconsin was very, very liberal all the way through, and will make you a bet. He probably will get away with it, the fields of politics being what they are.

—DR. WALDO R. JONES



And now KZNI brings you opinions on world events from the 'man in the street' . . .

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Was The World's First Man White?

McColl, S. C. I AM NOT a minister, nor am I white. But I would like to answer some of the questions asked in a recent letter to People's Platform.

First your correspondent wants to know the color of Adam or Eve. Well, science tells us that the cradle of the human race was Africa, which most certainly is not the home of the white man. So we have little reason to assume that the first man was white.

He also wants to know the color of Jesus Christ. That we don't know. His parents were Jews. But that just tells their religion, not their race. But we are told that when his life was in danger they took him to Africa where he remained until he was about 12 years old. During that time did the child Jesus play alone or did he play with little black boys and girls?

He wants to know if anyone ever regarded the Negro as God's chosen people. Sure! The ancient Greeks did. Homer tells us the Ethiopians were such nice people. Zeus, their god, spent his vacations with them.

—TOMMY MCNEIL

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A 'Common Ground' Is Difficult To Find

Pittsburgh Editors, The News: YOUR editorial entitled "Common Ground For Atlantic Alliance" has the virtue of embracing a central theme, common ground of alliance, without which no alliance can stand much pressure.

Napoleon, and we should have known a little of what he was saying, said the coalition most easily broken was one of unnatural allies. The now wrecked EDC was a proposed coalition of unnatural allies. The two principal powers of EDC, France and Germany, are about as unnatural to each other as the devil of communism for the twin victims of Fascism and Nazism and get hell to boot.

—JOHN W. HESTER

'There Is No Caste System In Heaven'

Pinebluff Editors, The News: I AM NOT a minister but I would like to quote a little Scripture in answer to a recent letter in The News. The reader asks whether or not there are grounds for saying that the Negro race is equal to the white one in the eyes of God. I refer him to the 17th chapter of Acts: "God hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." Or Romans 12:5. "So, we being many are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

At the time of the big issue of segregation was between Jew and Gentile or Greek. Paul says clearly: "There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek for the same Lord is over all."

And certainly there is a very solemn warning for those who attempt to judge others on any basis, including their race, creed and color. It goes like this: "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whoever thou art that judgest; thou condemnest thyself, thou condemnest thyself. For thou art a doer of the things which thou condemnest. For thou art without excuse."

About two-thirds of the earth's population today is colored. Is the one-third minority of white men to claim that only they are made in God's image and likeness? On the face of it this is ridiculous. If God didn't make the black, red, and yellow men, who did? The more we know of the people who are we to look them up in separate rooms? There is no class or caste system in the Kingdom of Heaven and we won't bring it on earth until we scrap our ignorant prejudices and learn to look on all men as our brothers because we are all children of the same Father.

—CONSTANCE FOSTER

Auto Horns Are Inbearable Even The Silver Fanfares

By JOHN ALLEN MAY
In The Boston Science Monitor

BOSTON RESOLVED: That auto horns have become too much of a bad thing and ought to be abolished. Even in Paris it has this very month been made illegal to blow horns except in a crisis.

There is a loophole to almost any law, of course, and the loophole here probably is that to a good many people, driving in Paris is a crisis. When enough people come round to this viewpoint, which may be driven in the experience of silk-tongued in the French capital proves as passing strange as my imagination paints it, Parisian traffic probably will be back where it started. And it does not mean the Place de la Concorde, which, it must be remarked, is a very odd name for a French traffic circle. I mean, there we are honking away.

But even so it will have been a good try. If this can be done in Paris, can it be done in New York? To Parisians it can be done anywhere by anybody.

One of the greatest lines in French poetry is Rostand's: "J'aime le son du cor, le soir au fond des Bois." ("Love that honk-ah-honk of the horns in the park.") And no greater example of the triumph and public spirit over private longing can be found than that of the Parisian cab driver who, as they say, ne hante plus.

And he can all do it. We must all do it.

JUST NECESSARY

The plain fact is that the automobile horn is unnecessary, particularly hilariously if it is the driver's own "honk." And these days there are too many other fellows on the roads. Even if auto horns were sweet music the noise would be unbearable.

The horn, of course, did begin as a safety device, although some of the boys on those stagecoaches used to jazz it up a bit at times. Even if the silver fanfare had remained standard equipment, 30,000,000 fanfares, as we would have today, would be too many.

Furthermore, the main purpose of the coach horn has been reversed. It was in olden days most used to collect rather than to

disperse a crowd. It was those days seems to have slipped a little. Nowadays, while people do honk sometimes to collect their crowd, the main purpose of the auto horn is so that one may not get lost in a crowd and that itself is pretty antithetical in our times.

Things got this way because it early became law in many lands that an automobile must have a horn, buzzer or similar device of "giving audible warning of approach." This was a laugh in those days, when cars only had to be heard to be believed. It is no laugh these days when, if this purpose were seriously intended, a car's speed would make permanent blaring obligatory.

With taxi drivers, of course, it is a little different. But not different enough. We can be sympathetic but that is all. Taxi drivers need horns mainly for their game of "chicken." The honk is compulsory but, in fact, few games of "chicken" are allowed to begin without one.

The game itself is simple: Two converted cabs continue on their courses at even or increasing speeds until one is brought to an abrupt halt allowing the other to scrape past safely. The driver of the first cab becoming "chicken" and the second going up one as the Knewlman. Twenty straight "chickens" and you can become incorrigible. Failure to draw attention to the start of a game, however, can end in disgrace even for the better player.

Minorities, I'm afraid, sometimes play the game for the majority and in this case taxi drivers will have to give up the game for the general good. The local community, however, could set aside some public land as a "chicken" park; where the honking would be confined and during specified hours. The "chicken" park would, of course, be some distance from the city.

As for the average motorist, he will not miss the auto horn when it is gone. The auto horn is only a bad habit mechanically expressed. The driver will find he is a better man without it.

Impound The Rubber Ducks Of Bumbleheaded Meddlers

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK IT IS DIFFICULT to say where politics stop and treason starts, but I am inclined to believe that somebody ought to have a harsh word with Nye Bevan and Clem Attlee and the other junkies who are playing perfect party for the Communists.

Judging from the uproar in the British press, the harsh words will be said. Because it is not really words but a very real threat of the British government to Nye Bevan and Clem Attlee and the other junkies who are playing perfect party for the Communists.

At the time of the big issue of segregation was between Jew and Gentile or Greek. Paul says clearly: "There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek for the same Lord is over all."

And certainly there is a very solemn warning for those who attempt to judge others on any basis, including their race, creed and color. It goes like this: "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whoever thou art that judgest; thou condemnest thyself, thou condemnest thyself. For thou art a doer of the things which thou condemnest. For thou art without excuse."

About two-thirds of the earth's population today is colored. Is the one-third minority of white men to claim that only they are made in God's image and likeness? On the face of it this is ridiculous. If God didn't make the black, red, and yellow men, who did? The more we know of the people who are we to look them up in separate rooms? There is no class or caste system in the Kingdom of Heaven and we won't bring it on earth until we scrap our ignorant prejudices and learn to look on all men as our brothers because we are all children of the same Father.

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ry Truman, or me, for that matter. He does not, at this moment, exist, politically. We have in our constitutional history certain restrictions about private citizens meddling in foreign affairs. Even so, somebody ought to lift Attlee's passport for a spell, just to keep his cat's paws off the global chessboard.

Apartment from the unpardonable stupidity of allowing a deposed minister to muck up the world a little, but by the Lord Harry you can call them as naive as Wallace, and as dangerous, in their feather-brained meddling. It is all right to be bumbleheaded, but when you are a bumbleheaded meddler in foreign affairs, it is a body ought to take away your rubber ducks.

God knows what would have happened to the United States if Wallace, in his dough-brained love for the world, had succeeded Roosevelt, including at one time the British government, everything to the Russians, because the atom. Some tougher people, including Truman, were a little less easily fooled by even if awkward at the task of saying no.

But now the British have a pretty good idea, a fair and fine blue-ribbon committee, which they put the Socialists in again. They become a minor colony for Russia. A man is known by his hours friends, and the British people really wouldn't like to know Clem's backslapping buddies in a social basis—not if Attlee again becomes P.M. Because there wouldn't be any Britain any more.

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From The Asheville Citizen

WRINKLE

"COMBAT TELEVISION" is the latest gadget in the military hard goods line but we have our doubts about it.

TV cameras are stationed far out in the front lines and scan the field of battle for the general. The scheme was tested successfully the other day in "Operation Threshold" at Ft. Monmouth.

To begin with, this contradicts Napoleon's dictum: "A general who sees with the eyes of others will never be able to command an army as it should be." But that was written long before TV—and from St. Helena.

What disturbs us, is who takes out the TV camera and tends it? The poor old GI of course. And suppose among the enemy there is a confirmed, bitter television-hater, a gunner who joined up just to get vengeance?

Perhaps, like the Duke of Plaza-Toro, it can be said of the commander that "he led his regiment from behind—he found it less exciting." Of course there are the commercials, in which case what General Sherman said about war was mild indeed.

WASHINGTON

LABOR DAY, 1954, finds the American trade union movement more closely united than at any time in the last 19 years.

One of the main reasons for this consolidation of the highly successful operation thus far of the understanding agreement between the AFL and the CIO. After three months, not a single case has been referred to the impartial umpire. The unions in both camps participating in the agreement have been quietly getting together and settling their organizational differences without much fuss. We still got our fair cross-bred, but the new era of good feeling keeps growing at the present rate, actual labor unity in America may be closer than most observers anticipate.

There are many significant reasons

Outside pressures—economic and international—have served to weld the once hostile divisions of American labor into virtual alliance on all major issues.

All of labor is deeply disturbed by the slump in our national economy. Adjusting the official figures for the year, there are now about five million unemployed in the nation. This means considerable unnecessary suffering to the families on the lower rungs of the economic ladder, whom labor must protect by purchasing power. It means, in the long run, reduced income for business and farmers, unless the retreat is promptly halted.

Gumming Up Works Labor has pleaded in vain with Congress and the Administration for corrective action. We find that big business is running the works in Washington—and getting it.

This conclusion is fully confirmed by the record of the 83rd Congress, Labor changes President Eisenhower's praise of that record.

We can find no satisfaction in giving away the national soil and atomic resources to private exploitation.

Our people will derive no nourishment from the crumbs they get under the new tax-revision law which grants huge benefits to corporations and wealthy stock investors.

The complete failure to fulfill campaign pledges to remove the "unbusting" provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act is aggravated even further by new administrative rulings of the Eisenhower-appointed majority on the National Labor Relations Board which make the law more oppressive to labor.

It is of great concern to us that Congress did nothing to improve the standards of unemployment compensation, mission to raise the minimum wage, that it completely neglected the urgent need for federal aid to education, that it dodged the responsibility of acting fair employment practice legislation and that it passed an inadequate housing law only in the name of the Social Security Act did Congress earn a passing grade.

All liberals are perturbed by the backward trend in governmental policy and by the complacent acceptance of "second

best" conditions, by the shrinkage in our resources for future generations.

Finally, we are shocked by the collapse of the effectiveness of American foreign policy. The United Nations are jointly engaged with the free labor movements of other lands in the fight against communism. Through the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions we have helped to prevent the Kremlin from gaining further conquest by subversion of workers anywhere in the free world.

Today we find that our allies in the free world have little confidence in the firmness of American leadership in international affairs. They are even questioning the stability of the "peaceful co-existence" with communism.

When European labor leaders make missions to Moscow and Peiping and shake hands with those who have imprisoned more than 40 million workers in slave-labor camps, we know the cause of free labor has been ground.

Occasionally, people ask us what advantage would be gained by a merger between the AFL and CIO. The answer is simple. Labor is strong only when it is united. In my opinion, unification of the labor movement will revive and fortify the liberal forces in America.