



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1958

What A Difference A Week Makes

ON Jan. 9 President Eisenhower went up to Capitol Hill and carried the day by delivering with firmness and purpose his State of the Union message. A week later his first press conference in two-and-a-half months produced in his auditors what appears to be a general reaction of depression and disappointment. The difference is interesting, and may be important.

Both groups in their renewed contact with the President were interested primarily not in the state of the nation but in the state of the President. They already knew on the visual evidence of the spunk and on the testimony of scientists, military men, and study groups that the state of the nation with respect to national security was not good. On the basis of history they also knew that in times of national crisis the state of the nation depends ultimately on the strength of the President.

The President's firmness before Congress was particularly evident in his blunt warnings that inter-service warfare within the Pentagon must be replaced by unified direction and improved organization. A Congress frustrated and sometimes befuddled by its inability to get direct and comprehensive answers from Pentagon brass took the President's words as a promise of some presidential head-knocking. The military is his field. The applause was lusty when he seemed to indicate that he was going to take charge of it.

But before the press his remarks on this and other subjects lacked the same tough fiber. There were varying accounts of Mr. Eisenhower's physical appearance and his agility in fielding fast and far-ranging questions. He was "ruddy as of old," the Associated Press reported, "and the consensus of the 270 newsmen on hand was that he looked himself well." The United Press thought, however, that he was "pale," and suggested that he had

increased trouble in communicating his ideas. The WASHINGTON POST said "there is room for concern over his diminished vigor." The WASHINGTON STAR said "it seemed indisputable that since his last illness, the President has slowed down." James Reston in the NEW YORK TIMES said "this public appearance provided many of his hearers with little reassurance."

But the variance in reaction to how the President looked and talked cannot extend to what he had to say. The disappointment here was not so much that the President had changed because of his illness but because he apparently had not changed because of the crisis. As one reporter put it, "The President Eisenhower, who had the battle dress of his State of the Union message and slipped back into the role of chairman of the board." The President lost his temper in defending Secretary of State Dulles, but showed none of the emotion that had excited Congress in his comments on service rivalries. He showed an open reluctance to take a strong lead in imposing his judgment in the matter.

All this suggests that the President has not satisfied a hunger in the nation for strong, purposeful leadership—openly and continuously displayed. It also suggests that, although expectation of that sort of leadership will continue, the expectations will not be met.

This perhaps is not primarily because of the President's illness but because of his personality. Bold announcements, precise opinions, provocative challenges to Congress and the people are not his style. The lack of these traits played no small part in his overwhelming campaign successes.

Seemingly they will continue to play a large part in a national mood, however, of uneasiness and apprehension. The times have changed. The President has not.

Is Kennan The Cause Of A Carnival Of Opium-Eating?

By JOSEPH ALSOP

THE rumpus stirred up by the brilliant Russian expert, George F. Kennan, is such a remarkable sign of the times that it deserves close study.

The excitement started when Kennan delivered a series of six lectures on BBC Radio in Britain. What Kennan had to say about the Soviet Union and its relations with the West attracted vastly more interest and stimulated vastly more controversy in Britain, France and Western Germany than anything either President Eisenhower or Secretary of State Dulles has said in recent memory. The excitement therefore spread to the United States, where former Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson has just rebuked his ex-adviser with extreme brutality. Acheson, Kennan has received enough attention to delight most outside policy-makers, but Kennan, quite characteristically, has only been made miserable by it all.

OLD SPIRITUAL

Thus Kennan reminds continuously the line in the old spiritual, "Everybody talkin' 'bout Heaven ain't got there." The reason is that everybody talks 'bout Kennan ain't readin' him. But if you do read his BBC lectures and you have any familiarity at all with George Kennan, what you discover is just what you would expect. There is a superbly lucid, cool

and penetrating analysis of the present state of the Soviet Union. There is witty but rather gentle criticism of the peculiar diplomacy of Secretary Dulles—but there is no personal attack on Dulles. There is a big plug for an old Kennan idea, that the West should

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MESSRS. DULLES, ACHESON AND KENNAN
There Is A Gnaing Hunger For Delusion

offer the evacuation of Germany by all NATO forces plus a guarantee of Germany's future neutralization in return for Soviet evacuation of all Eastern European plus permission for German reunification. It is an idea with several attractions and one fatal defect, that the Soviets would never take their troops out of the satellite states, particularly after Hungary. But on this point Kennan says, quite sensibly, that if the Soviets refuse such an offer, they will then have the blame for preventing a sane European settlement.

Anyone who has ever seen Kennan succumb to something like an attack of moral shingles at the mere sight of the Pentagon, of course knows that he suffers from an almost neuritic horror of military power in all its modern forms. It is odd in so courageous a man, and it is a real weakness, since military power above all needs to be thought about calmly and unemotionally. In the present case, Kennan's weakness led him into patches of plain silliness. Even so, he went far to correct

from the effort to strengthen the NATO forces in Europe."

To all this he added, throughout all the lectures, a long series of coldly realistic condemnations of Soviet imperialism and grimly stern warnings of the Soviets' implacable hostility to freedom and the West. One is at first, a bit bewildered, therefore, by the Kennan rumpus.

GNAWING HUNGER

Yet the real explanation of the rumpus is simple enough. In the

People's Platform The Tribune Did Right By Lincoln At Gettysburg

Charlotte
Editors, The News:

IN THE interest of fair play, I would like to offer a correction to a portion of your editorial relating to your reference to the Chicago Tribune's appraisal of the Gettysburg Address. You wrote that "The Tribune... the President of the United States also spoke and made the usual ass of himself." The Chicago Tribune, it was not said by the Chicago Tribune. This was part of the story sent to the London Times by its reporter at Gettysburg. Since the Chicago Tribune happened to be the speaker, it is not surprising that it correctly estimated the value of Mr. Lincoln's address, it appears right that we should call attention to this correction.

lish reporter for the London Times in addition to the quotation you erroneously attributed to the Tribune, added: "... anything more dull and commonplace would not be easy to produce."

Only the Chicago Tribune captured the spirit of the moment and understood the immortality of those sentences. In an editorial the day after Lincoln's speech it said: "The dedicatory remarks of President Abraham Lincoln will live forever in the annals of man."

"The above information is from 'The Chicago Tribune Was Right Fourteen And Ten Years Ago' by the writer, in the Democratic Digest, December, 1953."

HARRY GOLDEN
Editor
The Carolina Herald

Editors' Note: Our thanks go to Mr. Golden, our apologies to The Tribune, and we hope a copy of the Democratic Digest will go to Harry S. Truman, Independence, Mo., in reports of whose address before the Overseas Press Club we found the reference in the Tribune.

Let The Navy Run The Defense Forces

Editors, The News:
I AM disturbed somewhat by the recent editorial endorsing the trend that seems to be universal of centralizing the command of the armed forces.

If absolute unity of all services is accomplished you will find that the very ideals and traditions, embodied at Annapolis, Paris Island, San Diego and Great Lakes will be defeated. Many men, wonderful Americans, have grown gray in the uniforms of the Navy and Marine Corps and added countless glories to our American heritage.

Daily we are reminded of the forefathers who did this or failed to do that and 1776 is a part of our children's tradition. In short, we believe in tradition. We are steeped in tradition at home, at play, at school, at college and even at church. In no other undertaking is tradition and esprit de corps of so much value as in the military. In the seamy South Pacific jungles I have seen men curse the very breath they drew and yet cut your throat if you spoke disparagingly of the Marine Corps. The traditions from Jun Taven to Iceland kept a man going. No longer was home, his country and Pearl Harbor of significance. Your old neck and the Gable and Anchor were the shining pot of gold!

The Marine Corps and Navy have never had a "sit down."

and better for less. Abolish the Women's Reserve Corps of all the branches. Let the military installation operate all commissaries with their own people. Abolish airborne troops. It's a waste of money.

Use the Pentagon for schools and put the "chairborne" people there into combat units. Organize each Naval District into a task force with all Army, Marine and A. F. troops therein as a component part. The naval commander would be the task force C.O. and have on his personal staff a representative of each branch as an advisor only. Make use of all federal prisons

ers in industry, labor and allied jobs for military manufacture. Cut retirement age to 16 years active and four reserve or 14 and if retirement on 20 is desired, Abolish the Defense Department. It's a farce.

Abolish Joint Chiefs of Staff. Make each task force commander accountable to the President only. These are not brilliant. I am aware, but they would certainly make a noise when proposed. I will send your paper every night. Your editorials are good and timely.

FRANKLIN P. REDMOND
Capt., U.S. Army (formerly 1st Sgt., U.S. M. C.)

'Well, I Asked Them For Quick Action—'



HERBLOCK

The Curly Locks Of Nikita Khrushchev

THE relentless realism of Soviet art is just a little more confusing to us than the fractured abstractionism of some Western art.

The thing one must realize about productions from Red palettes, we've read more than once, is that the man in the street must understand explicitly what paintings mean, and that what all the paintings mean is that the man in the street must go straight back to work from the art gallery. Work is glorified, leisure is shunned.

"The Soviet citizen," according to a Reuters dispatch from Moscow, "is rarely seen in repose, contemplating, behaving like a spectator, dreaming or just relaxing in an armchair. If the artist does paint a young woman in work clothes, sitting on the window sill in the sun and gazing over the rooftops, in the foreground he also paints a large bucket of soapy water. This means that she is entitled to a little break after scrubbing

the floor of her home." In similar fashion, wheat fields must have people in them, harvesting, seaplanes must show fishing boats hauling in a catch, a bridge being built or a power plant being erected.

We see the point, just as the comrades must. This is realism.

But not long ago, shortly after the Hungarian rebellion, a national magazine carried a picture of a portrait of Nikita Khrushchev with a full head of hair.

Now a portrait showing hair on the Kremlin's bald-pated billy is not realism. Nor is it realism for a portrait to show Khrushchev, as this one did, without an axe, knife, pistol or some instrument of destruction in his hand.

Since all Russian art is reported to be realistic, this is very confusing. The explanation must be that the party line on painting makes a slight zig-zag around Khrushchev's cranium.

Words The Government Can Do Without

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."

—LEWIS CARROLL

BEING born to cussness, we alone among U. S. editorial pages stubbornly refuse to take sides in the Great Debate stirred up this month when President Eisenhower used the word "finalize" in his State of the Union message.

All in the world we intend to do is recall that in 1955 the United States government issued a 44-page booklet telling federal employees how to write short, simple letters. One section contains a "watchlist" of words and phrases "the government can do without." They include "ameliorate," "facilitate," "inadvertently," "initiate," "predecessor," "peculiarly interested" and (you guessed it) "finalize."

From The Green Bay (Wis.) Press-Gazette

LOST LANGUAGE

THE slow and peaceful ways of days that are gone have been replaced by the rush and drive of modern America which, of course, provides us with thousands of useful things which make life easier and more productive.

But once in a while it is calming and peaceful to sit back and take a look at what our ancestors did have in those nostalgic days.

Words, for example, were used precisely to transmit what they meant. They did not try to get along on the 50 to 100 words or even 500 most people use nowadays to transmit much more complicated ideas.

Our ancestors liked the precise word, the nicety of flowing language in conversation, which is almost a thing of the past while people in living rooms across the nation stare at TV programs, not knowing or caring about the joys of good conversation.

Although many words have been added to the English language over the years, many of them descriptive of our new way of life, we have lost many more than we have added.

Take carving, for another example. The word "carve" is used today to cover the dismemberment of every kind of flesh and fowl for the table. Not so with our ancestors, who possessed a nice word of discrimination and description. With

them a pheasant was allaved a plover (shore bird with a small thick bill) was minced, a peacock disfigured a hen spoked. The carver dismembered a heron, but he displayed a crane.

A coney (European rabbit) was unlaced, a deer broken, a brown boar's back over his five years in the sideboard branched a sturgeon, transoned an eel, strung a lamprey, played a bream (broad shaped fresh water fish of the carp variety). Pigeon, woodcock and other small birds were thighed; while a porpoise was underdressed.

It is clear that in the good old days carving was looked upon as an art, and it was given its appropriate language. Matters are handled with less show of ceremony today but the people are as well nourished.

In researching issues for the 1960 campaign, the Democrats had better quit while they are ahead. If they keep on long enough they may stumble across something that the administration had done right.—ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES.

The apartment dwellers complained about the man upstairs making so much noise they couldn't sleep. He explained: "The doctor told me to take the medicine at night, running and skip the third night."—MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

DWIGHT D. Eisenhower, as he looks back over his five years in the White House today, will probably remember a lot of things. He will remember a lot of things. He will remember the fall of 1955 when he was campaigning for president.

Those were beautiful autumn days. His train rolled through the fields of Iowa, the newly planted wheat fields of Minnesota, the prairies of Kansas. The crisis was over. Name it. Pretty, General Eisenhower was at his best, vigorous, smiling, persuasive.

Calling The Roll

I watched him as he hammered at "communism, but a corrupt day after day he called the roll of Democratic mistakes, unfolded a glowing list of sins, a Republican promise.

The general will doubtless remember those halcyon days of the "great crusade" as he begins his sixth year in the White House and he will recall some of the promises made as he traveled across the nation. In remembering them, he will remember that the career of a soldier is easier than that of a politician. Remembering them as a newspaper

Ike's Promises Vs. His Performances

I thumbed through the speeches made in that golden autumn of 1952 to see how near he had come to fulfilling them. And because there must be a scorecard on government as well as on the private citizen, I have your money to go down and down.—Wilmington, Del., Oct. 17, '52. (Inflation has gone up and up. The value of money has gone down and down.)

1. BUDGET DEFICITS—"We will stop wild spending of your money and prevent these recurring national deficits in the price of supporting the free world to go down and down.—Wilmington, Del., Oct. 17, '52. (Inflation has gone up and up. The value of money has gone down and down.)

Full Parity

2. FARM PRICES—"The Republican Party is pledged to the sustaining of the 90 per cent parity price support and it is pledged even more than that to help the farmer obtain his full parity, 100 per cent parity, with the guarantee in the price supports of 90.—Brookings, S. D., Oct. 4, '52. (Last week Eisenhower made a mistake to Congress urging that farm price supports be reduced to 60 per cent.)

3. FAMILY FARM—"I am for programs to put a firm foundation under farm prosperity and to strengthen the

family farm as the mainstay of our agricultural production"—Columbia, S. C., Sept. 30, '52. (Secretary Benson now advocates the end of the family farm.)

4. MILITARY DEFENSE—"We shall review our entire preparedness program and we shall strip it clean of waste, lack of coordination, inertia, and conflict between the services.—The Republican platform. (Recent developments speak for themselves.)

5. UNEMPLOYMENT—"Never again must the crime of mass unemployment be visited upon our people.—Worcester, Mass., Oct. 20, '52. (Unemployment is now approaching four million.)

Venture Capital

6. BUSINESS EXPANSION—"We shall encourage venture capital investment at home and abroad. We shall support a foreign investment policy that encourages growth throughout the free world.—Peoria, Ill., Oct. 2, '52. (We are still using foreign aid and government loans to support foreign economies.)

7. EDUCATION—"In this critical period of adequate education we must now undertake to help needy children build schools.—Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 9, '52. (No school construction bill has passed in five years. Last summer, the

White House did not even make one phone call to Congress to urge passage.)

Better Housing

8. HOUSING—"We must have better housing for those Americans who are now forced to live in slums and substandard dwellings and blighted neighborhoods.—Pittsburgh, Oct. 27, '52. (Last year the criticized Congress passed a \$177 million urban renewal-slum clearance housing program.)

9. INFLATION—"We are committed to stabilize money and to quit living off the needy banks of our children and the IOUs of our grandchildren.—Tulsa, Okla., Oct. 13, '52. (Last week Ike announced that he favored deflation.)

Lower Taxes

10. TAX REDUCTION—"The people who pay the taxes will know where we are going. They will know that we are on our way toward a balanced budget, toward reduction in the national debt, toward lower taxes.—St. Louis, Sept. 20, '52. (The President indicated the budget will be balanced, and there is to be an increase in the national debt.)