



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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### Free Trade Is A Nice Ideal But . . .

**E**VEN before Congress opens its aisles for business, the disjointed splendors of U. S. trade policy are being subjected to more critical scrutiny than the levitation act on a carnival midway.

At stake is the administration's request for a five-year extension and liberalization of the President's authority to cut tariffs under the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act.

This "contest" has been billed in advance by the political pundits as "the forthcoming battle-royal between protectionists and free traders." If so, the free-for-all will somewhat resemble a team tag match involving Rocky Marciano, Floyd Patterson and Sugar Ray Robinson on one side and Elv Presley's baby sister on the other.

Like single-taxers and world federalists, free traders have exerted a great deal of lung power but for roughly 170 years they have never got to first base. Nobody politically powerful has seriously suggested that tariffs be abolished altogether. Traditionally, Republicans have been more inclined to make them stiffer and Democrats less stiff. Nowadays the nation cannot even depend on these established orthodoxies. But protectionist doctrines exist to some extent in both major political parties.

Nevertheless, the glorious oversimplifications persist and have persisted since the earliest days of the republic. The best founding fathers could not see how a constitution that forced Connecticut to take down its tariff barriers against New York and give us free trade between the states. Externally we have always had tariff duties on many commodities, usually sizable ones. America can thank Alexander Hamilton and his 1791 "Report on Manufactures" to the House of Representatives for the scriptural line on the subject.

Free trade is a nice deal and some day the United States may indeed burn down its customs houses. But for many

years to come we will most probably be prisoners of a tradition that is bigger than all of us.

The fact remains that trade is a two-way street—something Americans have not always been willing to admit. If a nation wants to sell it must also buy. Sky-high tariffs, indefinitely applied, block the tariff lanes and pose long-range economic problems.

Charlotte and the surrounding area have an interest in the trade issue because of a local economy based to a considerable extent on textiles. Foreign mills with minuscule labor costs flood this country with price cheap goods against which Carolina mills could not hope to compete. Consideration must be given to the thousands who earn their livelihood in textiles. In the interest of stronger, freer economies throughout the world the battle for free trade must go forward. But for obvious reasons the nation cannot afford to commit itself to massive domestic unemployment in order to spread special favors around the globe.

By raising tariffs to unusual heights, however, and imposing quotas without time limits the nation would encourage the indefinite maintenance of protected business activities regardless of how efficient or uncompetitive they may be. This is not the answer. A more reasonable solution would involve the establishment of a new system of escape clause relief under which a finding of serious injury to a domestic industry would be the occasion for temporary tariff adjustment.

Over-all trade policies would be liberalized and the advantages of free trade in most fields could be enjoyed. At the same time, certain other industries would be given time to adjust. Rather than unlimited "protection," these industries would be given time to develop greater efficiency and technological advances. Then some day—a happy day indeed—the custom house will go up in smoke, perhaps, and the United States'—its cake and eat it too.

### A Difference Between Harry & C

**T**WICE within the week former Defense Secretary Wilson has behaved like a man with a worried concern for the record he left in Washington.

He has blamed both the President and Congress for cutting his military budget requests, then shifted the blame from them to the complacent mood of the people. Having thus exonerated himself, he proceeded to warn his successor against proposals for ending inter-service rivalry by putting a bigger chief over the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This is chiefly interesting as an example of Mr. Wilson's close resemblance to Harry S. Truman who perhaps in Eugene Charlie's mind referred to that vulgar little man from Missouri. The resemblance has been noticeable before in Wilson's and Truman's shared fondness for attacking enemies with verbal broadswords, in their lack of personal ostentation and in their earthiness. These are understandable attitudes of straightforward men trying to operate in a jungle of politics. So is their touchiness

over their records and their willingness to offer unsolicited advice to their successors. Both Truman and Wilson operated with a deep and intense interest in the affairs entrusted to them, and although they have left their offices they have not lost this interest.

But in undertaking to blame the people for the inaction of Washington Mr. Wilson is following the Republican Party line and, naturally, this does not resemble Mr. Truman at all. Unfortunately, it does not bear much of a resemblance to the truth behind the U. S. lag in missiles and spunkies.

The team on which Mr. Wilson played in Washington was not felled to follow the people but to lead them. The people's complacency, dearly held as it was, would have been dissipated had a candid administration confronted them with even a smattering of the facts it possessed.

Mr. Wilson's hindsight may soothe his own feelings, but it provides no comfort for the rest of the nation.

### Fasten Your Safety Belts For 1965

**E**VERY age has its surfeit of obscure oracles and if all the world's would-be Nostradamus were laid end to end they would surely reach from here to Bikini Atoll. But at a time when the unimaginable can become alarmingly imaginable overnight certain prophecies are piquant enough to give one pause.

Such is the case with a bit of crystal ball gazing duly transcribed in 1882 and offered to us just the other day by a local reader who prefers to remain anonymous. It was uttered at Kensington in England by James Stanley Little of the Imperial Federation. Said Mr. Little: "By 1965 Ireland will have secured home rule, England will have rid herself of her colonies, the British Navy will be powerful, the island an armed barracks, and marriage will be a terminable contract. The monarchy and the House

of Lords will have been saved from extinction by their policy of acquiescence, Canada and Mexico will have been absorbed by the United States, France will have disappeared into the German empire, China will have been taken over by Russia, Japan will be fighting for its life, and war will have broken out between Russia on the one side and the English speaking commonwealths of the United States, Australasia and South Africa on the other."

So many of Mr. Little's predictions have either come to pass, almost happened, or may well happen by 1965, that we wish he had given some additional sign to indicate that the world will somehow bear up under it all. At the moment we are not so sure. Neither, apparently, was Mr. Little.

## How Dreary Dreams Became An Obsessive Reality

By STEWART ALSOP

Editors' Note: Stewart Alsop's column today takes the form of a letter to his brother, Joseph Alsop.

**DEAR JOE:** This letter, in reply to yours of a couple of days ago, is a difficult letter to write. For in a way, all I can really say is: "Dear Joe: I agree with you."

Like you, I have for the first time a foreboding feeling that the unthinkable — defeat for the United States — has suddenly become thinkable. Like you, I have never had this feeling before, even in the dark early period of the war, when every day seemed to bring some fresh disaster. Like you I have always proceeded on the assumption, which has been basic to all our thinking, that "the United States will always do what it can't not do."

Now, like you, I am no longer sure. The other day, I was leaving through some of our old columns, and I came upon one published in May, 1954. In it we predicted "first tests" of "guided missiles of intercontinental range . . . in 1957-58." We also noted that the Soviet were "ahead of the United States in the immense task of guided missile research," and pointed out that "thus the question is raised whether the Soviets may not be the first to achieve an intercontinental missile with hydrogen warhead."

#### MODEST BOAST

The column you wrote it, incidentally, has stood the test of time better than most such epigrams. In the very limited field of the new weapons, at least, we can paraphrase Winston Churchill's modest boast, and claim that "we have not always been wrong." But there is one way in which we have been dead wrong.

We always assumed that so obvious a warning as a deer and present danger to national survival as a first Soviet ICBM test

would be a signal for a tremendous outpouring of American energy and inventive genius, spurred on by America's leaders. Instead, when last June I reported the first Soviet ICBM test, the report was elaborately pool-poohed by the Pentagon. And when it was confirmed a few weeks later in Moscow and Washington, all our leaders, from the President on down, joined in telling the country that it changed nothing, and not to worry. The country, which does not like to worry, gladly obliged. The story does not, praise be,

and there. In your letter you referred to the dramatic scene in which intelligence chief Allen Dulles briefed the frightened senators on the real facts of our situation. When the senators asked Dulles why our own defense effort had been cut back in the face of such facts, Dulles replied, in effect: "Thank God for the spunkies."

We can indeed thank God for the spunkies, in the same way that we can thank God for such other pressing disasters as the Korean aggression, or Stalin's rape of Czechoslovakia, or even Pearl Harbor. At first, the administration tried

to pool-pooh the spunkies, as it had pool-poohed the Soviet ICBM. But this time, especially after Stutink II — which still races above us, carrying the bones of its pathetic passenger — the country would have none of it.

#### NEW SMIEL

You know the way you have to smell the atmosphere of a country really to sense the trend — indeed, that is why you chose to be some of our foreign correspondents. The smell of the atmosphere here has changed in a way I think you would immediately recognize.

## All Democrats Know Is Who They Don't Want In '60

By DORIS FLEESON

**W**ASHINGTON DEMOCRATS hope to find in 1958 their issues and their candidates for the presidential election in 1960.

Their bright prospects for strengthening their control of Congress in the midterm elections next year have been well publicized. They have been under-

sured by the announced resignations of five Republican senators and six Republican representatives.

Especially active and well-financed Democratic congressional campaign committees are in the field already. They are aiding in the search for candidates where it is lacking and they are promising all kinds of congressional cooperation to the state organizations.

No such clarity and sense of direction exist with respect to 1960. Possibly the very fact that they do not is helping the often-stormy Democrats to pursue with such unity of purpose their present congressional aims.

For it is generally agreed that so far as the next presidential contest is concerned, no Democrat is ahead of any other and

no one can yet be sure of what the overriding issues will be. Some of the ways in which 1960 will be different from the recent past are apparent.

#### KEFAUVER'S ROLE

Take the primaries, for example. No one national figure is far enough in front of all the rest, or likely to be, who will inevitably be challenged to a test of strength in different parts of the country. Also, that primary pace-setter of 1952 and 1956, the indefatigable Estes Kefauver, must run for reelection to the Senate in 1960. Gov. Frank G. Clement is already threatening him with a contest for the nomination. This means that Kefauver must devote himself to sacking the hands of Tennessee if he is to survive at all.

#### ADLAI AGAIN?

The turn of events abroad has led to a revival of sentiment for Adlai Stevenson. One thing certainly can be said of that candidacy if it materializes: Stevenson will not go into any primaries. Nor will that other elder statesman, Gov. Averell Harriman of New York, whose probable entry has been enhanced by present developments in foreign affairs.

The chances are overwhelming that the primaries will be left to

the favorite sons instead of furnishing the decisive drama of 1952.

By this time also in recent past elections the men most talked about for the Democratic nomination seemed to be strengthening their positions with each passing month. This is probably going to be true in the Republican Party where Vice President Richard M. Nixon has such unusual opportunities to keep himself in the public eye.

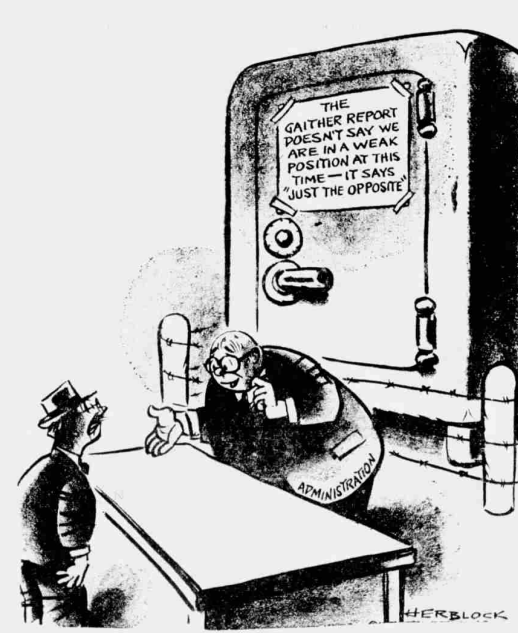
But where Democrats gather it is more common to find dissatisfaction with names of men known to aspire to the nomination and a feeling that the candidate to suit the times has still to emerge.

#### FACE AND FIGURE

The same search goes forward in groups allied to the Democrats. Labor has no one favorite or even several favorites. In fact, in its present uncommitted state, its leaders are commonly saying they will settle for almost any proved winner after and take their chances on influencing him afterward.

Even the vocal intellectuals who insist on being heard in Democratic councils are presently confused. They know much more about these things than they want than they do about where to turn for the winning face and figure.

### 'We'd Let You See It But We're Afraid You Might Be Overcome With Joy'



## People's Platform

### God And The Wind: Unseen But Present

Editors: The News.

**M**R. A. W. BLACK, challenges anyone to prove there is a God. I challenge him to prove there is a spirit.

I can't see the wind but I discern its passage. I am unable to observe electricity flow along a wire but I can feel and see the results of its passage.

There are many things that science cannot verify but common sense tells us they exist. Can you, Mr. Black, or your scientific friends, positively prove that the moon has an opposite side? No one has seen it. Can you, or science, prove how life began on this planet? It does exist, you know. Can science create life? Obviously no.

You state that every fact of life

disproves the supposition of spiritual existence. What are these facts? Name them. You write that reason, observation and experience establish that man dies entirely and permanently. What reason? How observation? Experience? Have you died and returned or perhaps have the verified testimony of someone who has?

If there is no God, how, Mr. Black, do you explain the creation of life? Prove it. The universe? Proof, please. The orderly arrangement of our universe is proof of the premeditation with which it operates. Why are all the conditions on this planet exactly right for life to thrive?

I know there is a God because I can feel his power in my life and observe its results in the lives of others.

Yes, Mr. Black, if there is no God, as you allege, then I think you should offer positive proof.

—CHARLES EURY

From The Baltimore Evening Sun

### FOR COIN COLLECTORS

**B**RIITAIN hasn't minted gold sovereigns for circulation in a long time. Now it is going to produce these handsome coins once again. But they will not circulate in the sterling area, they will probably go in the main to collectors. Britain ought to make some money because the sovereign with a face value of \$2.80 sells for about \$10.36, and it will be bad news for counterfeiters.

The reason for the resumption of the sovereign's coinage is that the counterfeiters have found that many people still want gold coins, sovereigns or others. And they can turn a handsome profit by making the bogus money. Often too, they have proved most ingenious. More than five years ago a couple of Italian counterfeiters who had fled to Switzerland neatly escaped the law. A court held that since sovereigns, French "Napoleons" and Mexican \$10 pieces were no longer

permitted to circulate in Britain, France or Mexico they were not strictly speaking money. The false money moreover contained exactly the prescribed amount of the precious metal so the buyer wasn't cheated. And since the Italians had not tried to make Italian coins they weren't counterfeiters in their own country. But of course their counterfeiters were sold at a premium.

Now the ground will be cut out from under such rascals and the people outside England and the sterling area who still enjoy owning gold money will be able to do so, acquiring it at cheaper rates than the counterfeiters offer and with the satisfaction of knowing they have purchased the genuine article. Even those who are not collectors may welcome the news that at least a country which abandoned gold coins long ago is reviving them if only in a limited way.

### Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

**A** GROUP of top American businessmen, including Paul Hoffman, former head of the Marshall Plan and chairman of Studebaker-Packard, met in New York the other day because of their worry over the rapid downslide of the United States as a leader of the free world.

All of them were Republicans, most of them were among the original backers of President Eisenhower, and some of them have been close friends and advisers.

#### Private Belief

Worried over signs that Russia had taken the initiative from the U. S., they expressed private belief that our present foreign policy, under John Foster Dulles, was deadlocked.

Among other things, they examined Premier Bulganin's note to Eisenhower just before the NATO conference, believed that the note had offered avenues for further discussion. One was

### Ike Backs Dulles As 'Best' Diplomat

Bulganin's offer of a free, neutral zone between the West and Russia, another his offer of a nonaggression pact with the United States, another his offer to ban all armaments shipments to the Near East.

#### Rigid Refusal

The group felt that Secretary of State Dulles was so rigid in his refusal to talk to Russia that some way must be found to circumvent him. They considered the idea of getting Chancellor Adenauer, a shrewd, tough friend of the United States to break the ice by talking to Bulganin. They also considered the idea of getting a special American negotiator to talk to the Russians—possibly Harold Stassen, though he was discarded on the ground that Dulles disliked him and so did Nixon and various Republican leaders.

#### Deaf Ear

Finally a confidential delegation was sent to see the President in Washington

with the idea of persuading him to circumvent the tight policy of John Foster Dulles.

The President, however, turned a deaf ear.

"The more I see of Foster," he said in substance, "the more I impress me. I consider him the greatest secretary of state the United States has ever had."

#### Worries Of Israel

Before Premier Ben-Gurion tried to get arms from West Germany, he wrote two urgent letters to Secretary Dulles pleading for American support to counteract the growing Arab power on Israel's borders. In the first letter, Ben-Gurion gave Israel's side of the border dispute with Jordan, noted that the U. S. has shipped arms to Jordan while banning arms shipments to Israel. . . Ben-Gurion followed with another letter after asking for an American guarantee that we will defend

Israel against any attack by the Arab nations. He pointed out that Russia is openly siding with the Arabs and pouring arms into Egypt and Syria. Israel, he said, has nowhere to turn for help but to the West. . . Dulles refused to give Ben-Gurion any guarantee of American aid, assured him of sympathetic support.

#### 17 Jewels

Not many big businessmen are as frank as Ralph Larus, president of Brax watch, who told a Senate subcommittee that the value of jeweled watches after 17 Jewels was chiefly "eyewash."

Larus was being questioned by Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois. The addition of this fur theme of jewels really adds to the efficiency of the watch or it is so much eyewash designed to give the watch a false value.

Larus: Mostly eyewash.