

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1958

Christmas Sequence

A Santa's Sack Of 10-Second Notions

WE might as well admit it. With Christmas just a whoop and a holler away, no one could possibly care whether we view the Big Issues with alarm or point to them with pride.

At a time like this, Charlotte's thoughts are not of disengagement, ballistic missiles and foreign aid but of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It is, in fact, the single season when a weary and incredulous world makes way for "good tidings of great joy."

Why, then, should we raise a cloud of editorial dust with large and unwieldy thoughts about large and unwieldy subjects? Why indeed?

Instead, we offer a Santa's sack of ten-second opinions about the Little Issues—none weighing over an ounce and a half, stripped, none larger than a Christmas tree ball. Each has been hand-made for eye-ease and cerebral relaxation and there's not a profundity in the whole assortment. Honest Injun.

Reach right in and take your choice.

No Takers

SOME citizens just can't understand why prominent Charlotteans aren't eager to be part of a proposed "reform ticket" in the 1959 municipal elections. Simple. The Queen City's mayor and city councilmen traditionally have to withstand more public abuse than John Foster Dulles and Jimmy Hoffa combined. It's no fun being a permanent target.

Which reminds us of Abraham Lincoln's retort when an old Springfield friend asked him, "How does it feel being President of the United States?" Said Mr. Lincoln: "You have heard about the man tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail?" A man in the crowd asked how he liked it and his reply was that if it wasn't for the honor of the thing he would rather walk."

The Athlete

A 52-YEAR-OLD grandmother won the rocking-chair championship at the Turin, Nova Scotia Agricultural Exhibition by rocking continuously for 93 hours and 8 minutes.

Now if she'll just try on this hula hoop . . .

Whooping It Up

THE weekend hallelujahs by the swarms of Charlotte's sports fans sent the blood racing through our veins again. We couldn't help wondering how it would be if sports writers covered the business and financial news for this town's family journals.

A jazzy possibility from the pen of one of our acquaintances:

"Striking with devastating fury in the first ten minutes of a sensational directors' meeting today, President Pug Bickertstaff of the Magenta Bank & Trust Co., a highly-gearred, beautifully coordinated financial machine, clawed his competition badly throughout, giving the greatest display of statistical pyrotechnics ever seen in a local board room . . ."

Spelling It Out

THE Soviets used 700,000 words to "interpret" their new Seven Year Plan to the people.

Will Rogers was right. Communism is one-third practice and two-thirds explanation.

It's Disclosure Time

WE noticed that Gov. Faubus has "disclosed" to newsmen that he was offered the Democratic vice presidential nomination if he would desegregate Little Rock's public schools. That's a little like the Abominable Snowman "disclosing" that he was offered a seat on the City Council if he would play goalie for the Charlotte Clippers.

Yes, Santa Claus . . .

THERE is supposed to be a new pledge of allegiance to the flag up in Virginia. It goes something like this:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the sovereign State of Virginia and to the segregation for which it stands; one commonwealth interposed, under Byrd, with litigation, not education for all."

Those cavaliers needn't fret though. We hear Santa's going to fill their Christmas stockings with a whole new Supreme Court come tomorrow night.

But Will It Float?

BELL Telephone Laboratories announced the other day that it is now possible to refine metal to obtain 99.99999999 per cent purity.

What do the people at Ivory Soap have to say about this?

Unprepared

ACCORDING to FORTUNE MAGAZINE, the Business and Defense Services Administration continually urges companies to enlarge the scope of their civil defense planning. "It would be hard to find a corporate program more thorough-

ly planned," says FORTUNE, "than that of Standard Oil of New Jersey . . . A small but well equipped hospital room, a dart board and ping-pong table, and a small locker filled with emergency whiskey rations (Haig & Haig) are among the amenities."

We'll probably be among the early casualties. There's not even one lousy can of emergency beer on the premises.

Unseen Blushes

AN official of the cultural office of Szechwan (China) announced, reports the New York Times, ". . . that the province now had 4,000,000 amateur writers grouped into 88,700 organizations and that they had produced no fewer than 78,450,000 literary works, mostly folk songs. Of these, he said, 3,700 collections of poems and ballads had been deemed fit for publication."

Too bad about all those unpublished gems. But to quote Sir Thomas Gray, "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Time To Spare

WITH the Sunday New York Times unprinted, and the Washington Redskins in mothballs till next autumn, a number of folks we know are anticipating long, dreary Sunday afternoons.

As we are reminded of Mark Twain's hilarious "Excerpts From Adam's Dairy," where once a week there was a brief but telling entry:

"SUNDAY: Pulled through."

'The Soap Of A Greek'

A SEQUEL to Homer's Odyssey, penned by a Greek writer name of Nikos Kazantzakis, recently translated into English, opens with these lines:

And when in his wide courtyard Odysseus had cut down the insolent youths He hung on high his sated bow And strode to the warm bath to cleanse his bloodstained body.

We wonder whether he used the soap "that makes your skin sing" or the soap that gives you "that skin you were born with?" feeling.

But we'll know when the new soap ads come out.

Doggone!

"BIG BEN," we read in an AP dispatch, is a 68-pound mutt just retired after they tinkered with him for three years at the Tulane Medical School. Gave him cancer, paralysis, used him for a blood donor, even made "an emergency operation for a massive hemorrhage of the neck." He's just been named 1958 research dog hero by the National Society For Medical Research. A special collar and inscribed silver plate are waiting for him.

But Big Ben has skipped town. Can't say we blame him.

An Abuse Pays Off

FORTNIGHTS ago, Gov. Luther Hodges took a slap at "abused" coffee breaks.

Pretty Marjorie Maggart, secretary in the governor's office, missed or ignored the boss's words, continued to take her coffee breaks in Kress basement. There she saw "the good-looking" M-Sgt. Max Winegar. Said she: "I'll take one just like that."

She did. She married him. Some coffee break, some abuse.

Blueprint For Detroit

THESE icy morns, the back windshield of our auto, no less than the front, resembles an arctic backyard. Frozen.

Blotting our insolent chariot down a Charlotte thoroughfare, we had a sudden seasonal wish: Why can't Santa bring Detroit blueprints for rear windshield defrosters?

You could "pay" for it by taking away one pair of tailights. A dozen is too many anyway.

Aiken's Ten Revolt Against 'Revolving Door' Leaders

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON THE SENATE Republican "moderates" who have challenged their Old Guard leaders are the first influential voices within the party to suggest that the voters will no longer buy what the party offers.

President Eisenhower said the election results puzzled him and that he could not understand what it was the voters wanted him to do differently. National Chairman Meade Aiken blamed the GOP defeat on lack of organization, labor and poor public relations. In terms of the party's future, the GOP was always right but that Democrats worked harder and longer at politics.

In fact, the executive branch at no point showed any signs of leadership which would take the party in a different direction than that apparently reconstituted at the polls Nov. 4. Instead the President is following through on his campaign slogans and the Old Guard leaders of Congress continue to be the only politicians with whom he is conferring.

The ten Republicans who met under the leadership of Sen. George Aiken of Vermont believe that something has to be done to shatter what seems to them White House and National Committee complicity in the face of disaster. They simply do not believe that the President and his advisors have awakened to the nature and the magnitude of that disaster.

"We do not agree on all items of policy," Sen. Aiken explains.

"We are of one mind about the fact that something basic has to be done."

The first project of the Aiken group is to make up a slate of candidates for all major party posts. They frankly do not want either Sen. Styles Bridges of New Hampshire or Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois both of whom bear the Old Guard label, to be their leader.

While the leader of a 34-member minority will not be very effective legislatively, he will nevertheless be the party spokesman, holding regular conferences with the President and the press. In every difference with the Democrats—and there will be many—he will be the first person consulted by the reporters.

The Aiken ten included the only three newly elected Republican

Senators—Keating of New York, Scott of Pennsylvania and Prouty of Vermont. New York was the only state represented by both its Senators—a significant clue to the frame of mind of Gov.-Elect Nelson Rockefeller.

NO ENCOURAGEMENT

Although all ten have at one time or another been called Eisenhower Republicans, they have not had any encouragement from the President and do not expect any. Vice-President Richard M. Nixon has said it is known that he is keeping hands off.

The temper of the rebel senators is not so much optimistic as it is fatalistic. They felt they had to strike the blow to free themselves of a brand which spelled defeat for so many of their colleagues.

The understanding of the Republican Senate insurgents is that Sen. Thurston Morton of Kentucky is carrying the ball for the White House in his handling of the leadership crisis.

Morton said that he would vote for Sen. Dirksen for leader against any one else the insurgents except his senior colleague, Sen. John Sherman Cooper, one of the most outspoken of the group. Morton insisted that Dirksen would make a good leader.

His main effort at his press conference was to put across the idea that the key to modernizing the party lay in the committee assignments of senators. If Republicans were given committees where they could best utilize their talents, both their constituents and the party would be better served, he said.

Repeatedly he brought his questions back to this thesis. Such a program, he insisted, would not only help senators with their own reelection but would do the most for the party as a whole.

BADLY SERVED

Morton's position on the committee question amounted to frank admission that the GOP and its newer senators had been badly served by the Old Guard leadership of Sen. Dirksen, which, as a Republican which has been a part, he said that Sen. George Aiken, the insurgent leader, should be chairman of the committee on committees to insure that the old policy would be changed.

At the same time he sought to minimize the importance of the leadership and to portray the fight promised by the insurgents as unfortunate for the party. No issue of liberal versus conservative or Old Guard versus Eisenhower Republicans was involved in the Dirksen candidacy for leader, he argued.

TWO DEGREES LEFT

Asked if he considered himself liberal or conservative, he said he was "two degrees left of center." His colleagues describe him as a "businessman senator" but temperate and flexible in his attitudes.

That Morton chose not to stand with Cooper is a blow to the insurgents. They knew he was close to the White House but they had hoped for greater fidelity to his old Kentucky home. They have not the slightest doubt that he was chosen by the Administration to state the terms of the compromise it deems acceptable.



A Two-Way Turn

'Wait Here, Please'



Each In His Own Way

CHRISTMAS starts early in the Pestalozzi Village (in Switzerland). On the first Sunday in Advent, when dusk falls, the German children go from house to house, each carrying an apple with a burning candle and singing "Open wide the door, The Lord of Glory is coming." And at each house they leave an apple with its burning candle.

On Dec. 5 the Austrian children leave their house, not in a group but singly and noiselessly. On each doorstep they put down a Krampus, a little imp made of twigs. Then they hide and make an unearthly roar and are delighted when the inhabitants rush out of their door and nobody knows where the Krampus comes from.

The next day St. Nicholas in a white garment and with cap going from house to house and brings apples and nuts.

Toy In A Children's Village

The rooms are being decorated, cakes are baked from recipes from home, letters to relatives are written, presents are packed and dispatched. The Greek children write and print a real newspaper for their relatives and on the table of the mountains of Lapland, a child in the Greek houses at Trogen receives a slice of bread from Greece that was cut for him on St. Vassilios Day.

In the British houses all rooms are decorated with fir, holly and paper garlands, and on the table we find the Christmas pudding with a silver coin in it and, of course, mince-pie. When the housewife prepares the pudding, each child may stir it once—and have a wish.

The traditional dish in the Finns is a rice pudding, and who ever gets it will be married soon. Father Christmas wear a heavy fur coat and fur cap, for he comes from the mountains of Lapland.

PEACE ON EARTH

So they all celebrate Christmas in their own way, but as members of a large European family. And the Christmas story, which their house-father reads to them in each house, from Protestant and Anglican and Catholic and Orthodox Bibles, in German, in English, in French and Finnish, in Greek, in Italian and Hungarian, is their common inheritance which needs no explaining. It is the story of the birth of the Savior and of the promise, "Peace on Earth."

—Parents' Review (Journal of the Parents' National Education Union.)

Draw Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

A RECENT column in which I stated that there should be no discrimination against a Catholic for President of the United States has inspired a storm of mail. Some of the letters are carefully written, from intelligent people. Some are not.

Because this question apparently is of such import, I should like to discuss it in one of two further columns.

Biased

One of the most critical letters comes from Brig. Gen. Herbert C. Holdridge, retired, of Los Angeles. It is vituperative that ordinarily I would ignore it. However, the general has repented his letter and mailed it to several thousand people, who in turn have been sending it to my editors claiming that my column is biased and pro-Catholic.

"Millions of dollars worth of free propaganda for the forces of international Vaticanism!" writes Gen. Holdridge. "For

Columns Stir Up Catholic Controversy

you should be exalted to the rank of papal prince!

"You too have made your pilgrimage to Rome to kiss the ring of the Pope and in return have received the 'kiss of death' placed upon the forehead of Roman Catholics and Protestant officials and civilians who bend the knee to the Pope. You in turn are expected to impart the 'kiss of death' to the free men of the United States who still remain."

"Having donated the robes of treason of McCarthy which fit you so snugly, we should not be surprised if your letters were now summoned to take residence at 2820 Dumbarton Ave., Wash., D. C."

Called Anti-Catholic

In almost the same mail has come a series of editorials from Catholic newspapers highly critical of me in connection with my understanding that the late Pope Pius XII, shortly before his death, permitted a tolerant interpreta-

Courts Should Serve, Not Punish

MANY thanks for your lead editorial last night.

As long as the court system is used as a means of revenue or income for any branch of government, there is real opportunity to exploit rather than render justice or service. The Drunk Walker issue is such an example. Most persons who turn up for this reason are alcoholics who need rehabilitation rather than to be fined.

Your editorial is just one more strong foundation in support of the idea of making our court systems a service to people rather than a means of punishment.

Take Photographs Of The Drunks

JUST read an article on an idea proposed by a police chief up in the State of Massachusetts. He says take a picture of the drunk while drunk and let them see the picture when in court, and their condition. If that's not enough, put their picture in the newspaper so the public can see who gets drunk and endangers the public.

We also need a law that will hinder their ever driving a car anywhere in the state.

Egyptian Mummy Was Well Covered

"THANK you very much for such an excellent article on what the X-rays show of a dead

Let's Fill The Jobs With 'Home Folks'

EDITORIAL is building a new college. That's fine. We're building new high schools, too.

Why? Because out of 18,000 inhabitants, no one has any sense.

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People's Platform

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