



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Let Natural Gas Bill Rest In Peace Until Its Backers Learn Some Manners

CONGRESS should neither waste its precious time nor further strain the public's patience by considering the natural gas bill at this session.

We mean neither to condemn the bill nor to prejudice the effect its passage would have on the gas industry or on gas consumers. Because of the money-heating tactics of its backers, however, its passage now would place a dangerous burden on public confidence in the legislative process. Put more bluntly, passage would leave in its wake a widespread suspicion that the Congress had been bought.

IN simplest terms, the natural gas bill is designed to exempt natural gas producers from utility-type regulation by the Federal Power Commission. Proponents say easing of federal controls is needed to encourage individual initiative and to provide incentive for firms to seek and develop new sources of supply. Opponents say the gas industry wants to use freedom from controls as a license to exact an extra \$1 billion a year from consumers who would have little recourse other than to pay. Congress has passed the bill twice. President Truman vetoed it in 1952 as against the public interest. President Eisenhower, although favoring the bill's objectives, vetoed it in 1956 on grounds that "arrogant" tactics of the gas lobby had clouded the merits of the bill and cast suspicion on the Congress.

If the question of whether the public interest would be served is debatable, the arrogance of the gas lobby is not. It seems to have increased, if anything, since the President rebuked the industry.

CASE in point is the \$100,000 war chest raised this week by Texas Republicans at a \$100-a-piece "appreciation dinner" for House Republican leaders. Joe Martin of Massachusetts. There is nothing unusual about such dinners. The shocking thing is that the contributions were solicited as the price of getting the gas bill passed. Potential contributors were asked to remember that "Joe Martin has always been a friend of Texas, especially of the oil and gas producing industries" and that in order to pass the bill again "Martin has to put Republican members from Northern and Eastern consuming areas on the spot politically." Well, of course, in a campaign year the availability of \$100,000 for expenses can draw a pretty sizable spot. The dinner, incidentally, was a sell-

out. Some wealthy Texans bought blocks of 20 or 30 tickets, according to Republican National Committeeman H. J. Porter, and either gave them away or failed to use them at all.

Joe Martin's reputation for integrity is too stout to be damaged by the sleazy implications of his hosts' promotion of the bill. The significance of the incident lies in the indication that a fabulously rich industry, with vast concentrations of wealth in a few states, is willing to bring financial pressure to bear on politicians throughout the country. The position inferentially passed to potential recipients of campaign funds is not their general fitness for office but their favor for a specific piece of legislation. It's a shady matter at best and, if not repudiated, one that will impair seriously the reputation of Congress.

IS the gas industry so destitute of friendly ears in Congress? Not at all. Senate Majority Leader Johnson and Speaker Rayburn both are from Texas, and both favor the natural gas bill. Congress twice has passed the bill. Yet two oil company lawyers and the company itself pleaded guilty in 1956 to offering \$2,500 to Sen. Case of South Dakota to support the bill. The industry failed to get a fair hearing in public, as some of its members claim? If so, the reasons are mysterious. Senate investigators have said that an industry committee spent \$13.4 million in support of the bill between October, 1954, and March, 1956. A single oil company, its president said, spent \$300,000 annually on its own "information" program.

All this fails to suggest that federal control has crippled an industry that professes need for new incentive to produce gas.

The question should be decided by Congress after thorough debate and study the probable effect of the bill. But opinion in the Congress has been closely divided. The bill passed the House in 1955, for example, by only six votes—209 to 203. In such circumstances passage now would leave an indelible suspicion that the main of victory had been provided by lush industry contributions to the campaigns of certain congressmen.

THE gas bill should not be passed until the industry gives some indication that it does not seek freedom from control as a license to gouge the consumer. No such indication is now apparent.

People's Platform

Charles
 Editors, The News
 HAVING an inveterate curiosity of the new messiahs of the soda fountain, the splendidly articulate letter from a Mecklenburg high school student was naturally of surpassing interest to me. While I have progressed so far into senility as to treat the young man's outburst with tolerance and good humor, I am not as yet so completely a victim of decrepitude as to let his assertions, a compound of emotions and dreams rather than reasoned judgments founded on reason and knowledge, go unchallenged.

It is certainly not the startling new developments that the world in the eyes of a youngster is a futile concatenation of hypocrisy, vanity, ignorance and intolerance in the unhappy service of a stinging phenomenon known as respectability. The world, always looks like that to the young and it will be precisely the same when this youngster approaches the termination of his biblical allotment of years.

Nowhere is this better expressed than in that neglected classic play, "The Capitalist" by the Polish poet Galeski. This is one of the most pessimistic plays in the world today. To the young the real world is inevitably an insupportable betrayal of the hopes and aspirations and noblest idealism.

It is, of course, very easy to react violently against the conceit, the self-importance, the humorlessness and the intolerance of the young, as it is equally easy to sound patronizing and say "young people" and that their attitude of mind will always be found in a rising generation. But what sensible people want to do is to sympathize and understand.

His Fiscal Policies Follow Sen. Byrd Into Retirement

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
 SEN. HARRY F. BYRD will doubtless be succeeded in the Senate by another conservative Virginia Democrat, but his powerful place as chairman of the Finance Committee will pass into the very different hands of Sen. Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma. This is assuming the Democrats will continue to control the Senate.

It is unexpected, especially here in the Byrd, a self-made millionaire. But there the resemblance stops. An oil man himself, Kerr warmly supports the natural gas bill, but otherwise his record as a practicing New Dealer is virtually unblemished.

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The 'Beat Generation' Is Creating A Monstrosity



"It's a damned mess about industrial societies produce a mass individual, and it's his way of retaining his individuality..."

But it is really easy to treat with power seriousness a generation which, at least superficially, seems capable of no higher idealism than the Loyalist driver sing "Hoot Dawg" plus the rest of the sob and slob music which has reduced radio to the very nadir of taste? A generation which faced the great depression and the rise of fascism, and (need it be said?) is not inclined to be charitable towards the problems of hordes. A generation that saw many of its young men

leave an unsavory impression, an analysis in depth by anyone familiar with history is considerably more unpleasant. What youth seems to be a return to absolute values, a return to God, a return to an inner freedom of conscience rooted in firm traditions. All of these sound very fine indeed, but are they?

Anyone familiar with German history knows that almost word for word the values of the Beat Generation were the tenets of German youth from 1910-1930. It is a horrifying thought that the conservative revolution which the youth of this country fundamentally are trying to effect may have equally disastrous consequences. The dull world we created, which seems to merit this younger generation's contempt, is an inescapable part of the world that the monstrosity which can be the only logical result of the values of the Beat Generation.

—WŁADYSŁAW KLISZCZEWSKI

How guttural can the pseudo-patriotic who cover their reactionary tendencies with the mask of national loyalty think democratic-minded Americans to be? This nation is supposed to have fought all of its wars because it believed in the dignity of man. This fact alone makes it worthy of world leadership. If the rights of the Negro must be sacrificed to give vent to the white chauvinist's ego to prevent his suffering a tenuous tantrum because his desire of self-satisfaction is being frustrated due to equality with human morality and social justice then this type of hypocritical democracy has allowed its in-stillness for the democracy of this republic should be the democracy of all the Americas people, or it should offer the fate of all nations who have shown a wanton disregard for the rights of man and the divine gift of God.

—ROBERT F. WILLIAMS

Negroes Asked To Forego Rights

Monroe

Editors, The News
 HOW absurd can some so-called representatives of the people get? Some lawmakers of North Carolina have reached an act time late in assembly by trying to advance illegal and incompatible concepts that democracy must become static in order to survive the threat of world communism. The enemies of freedom, the bigots whose hate-warped minds oppose the rights of man without reservation are appealing to the oppressed Negro to forego his inalienable right to human dignity in order to prevent a cleft in America's illusion of stability at this psychological moment when this nation's prestige diminishes as a world leader.

James Dean, the sorry hero of the Beat Generation, was a cheap punk compared to the George Orwell of "Homage to Catalonia."

If a superficial inspection of the youngsters' passion for conformity, sob and slob music, and the other tiresome idiosyncrasies which characterize the Beat Generation

Jaycee Program Was Big Success

Charlotte

Editors, The News
 I WANT to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the very wonderful publicity given to our Jaycees' Day Hall and the "Outstanding Young Man" selection.

This was by far the most complete coverage given the event in the history of our organization.

The hall was a success in every way, and we feel that a great deal of credit is due you and your staff for your excellent assistance.

—AL MUNN
 Publicity Chairman
 Charlotte Junior Chamber of Commerce

A Real, 100-Proof Official Explanation

THIS time a bromo and a pint of hot coffee fixed us right up. It won't happen again. Next time we'll turn right past those official explanations of the intricacies of liquor law enforcement and pay undivided attention to the simplicities of auto wrecks and wedding vows.

This "friendly crackdown" planned by the new state ABC chief on violations in the cushy clubs and piney woods roadhouses really looped us. Does that mean that an officer enters a swank club where mixed drinks are being served and slaps the manager on the back humbly while slapping manacles on his wrist? Or does it mean that he goes in, gets at a booth, and says "Pardon me, sir, but we suspect this sort of thing isn't quite kosher (oh, no, thanks, I never touch it) and if I should come back six months from now and see you're still mixing drinks for all these people I will be forced, in the circumstances, to well, er, run you in—if you'll pardon the expression."

Well, it might be that polite. We've heard that ABC officers often knock on doors of bootleggers' abodes before

forcing them open at 3 o'clock in the morning. But this is called raiding, we think, and not cracking down friendly. Still it must be the same because the law is no respecter of persons, is it?

Having had your equilibrium added by that, we then proceeded on to attempt an understanding of the prohibition against "public display" of bottles or flasks. It seems that an ABC agent can sit in a club all night watching glasses of water assume an amber color and be disturbed not a whit. But if an arthritic customer who couldn't manage to bend down under the table to pour himself three fingers, boldly poured it sitting straight up, he'd be hauled before a magistrate post haste.

It's a puzzle. Mecklenburg ABC Chairman Frank Sims says all he knows about the "friendly crackdown" policy is "what I read in the papers." Things are confused all over, aren't they?

Well, yes, perhaps another bromo would be helpful.

Will you join us?

SEN. HARRY F. BYRD

A Living Monument?

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his predecessors, the late Sen. Walter F. George and former Sen. Eugene D. Millikin.

TOUGH FIGHTER

Furthermore, Kerr is unlikely to be modest or dilatory about setting a Kerr policy. He rightly regards his own financial record as simply one of the many he has inherited the mantle of former Sen. Tom Connally of Texas as the Senate's only professional economist, Paul H. Douglas of Illinois.

He will not be hampered by rear-guard actions from within the committee, for its complexion has been radically altered by the rapid pace of change in the Senate. The Democratic majority contains not only a few real conservatives besides Byrd—Sen. Allen Frear of Delaware. The rest are New Dealers and include the Senate's only professional economist, Paul H. Douglas of Illinois.

GOP CHANGES

The Republican minority is also in transition. Two of its conservatives—the ranking Republican, Edward Martin of Pennsylvania, and William Jenner of Indiana—retire this year. Of the remaining five, two are Eisenhower Republicans—Ralph Flanders of Vermont and Frank Carlson of Kansas.

Should the unforeseen occur and Republicans regain control of the Senate this fall, the new chairman would be John J. Williams of Delaware. It is understood that this prospect induced Williams to change his own plan to retire this year. Williams is a conservative but a very independent, original man who has not been at all happy in his career on Finance under its recent chairman.

Byrd gave his wife's health as

Quote, Unquote

"I have never met anybody who wasn't against war. Even Hitler said so. I was according to themselves." — David Low.

"The only literature which is at the same time vital and popular is the literature of the music hall." — Herbert Read.

FINANCE COMMITTEE investigation of hard money and debt policies of former Treasury Secretary George M. Humphrey. The prospective new chairman can be expected to take the committee in a direction quite different from its long course under Byrd and

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