



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1958

Keep Toll Collectors Off The Parkway

TAR HEEL officials busily plotting trench warfare against another administration attempt to impose tolls on the Blue Ridge Parkway won't have to go into battle unarmed.

They can and doubtless will cite substantial arguments as these administrative costs and difficulties would be tremendous in collecting tolls on a roadway having some 600 entrances in its 300-mile length.

The parkway was established as a free road on land donated largely by citizens of North Carolina and Virginia with no understanding that tolls were to be imposed.

The loss of good will by North Carolina and the National Park Service will outweigh any benefits derived from a toll.

Tourist business enterprises built on the assumption that the parkway would remain toll-free would be crippled by a loss of customers.

The parkway, which draws more attendance than any other National Park Service area in the nation, would be

come just another park area.

Admittedly, the administration argument is not without substance. It regards the proposed toll as a fee to be paid by those who use the parkway, thus lessening the tax support burden on those who do not use the facility. Fees are charged in many other public service areas.

Our own view is that the toll plan should be withdrawn because the tourist industry, the major industry of western North Carolina, would be dealt a severe blow. The unemployment rolls would be lengthened considerably at a time when business is hard enough already.

This one fact should be sufficient to force the administration to some sober second thoughts. The parkway was built during one depression in order to create work for the jobless. Surely it will not be used during another depression to put people out of work.

There will be plenty of time for resolution of present arguments on arguments on parkway tolls after we reach that corner around which prosperity is allegedly lurking.

Col. Nasser's Pure Political Appeal

FROM all appearances the political appeal of Gamal Abdel Nasser is purer than ivory soap. The canal closer floated to victory as chief of state of the new United Arab Republic by capturing 99.94 per cent of the 7,400,000 votes cast in the Egyptian-Syrian plebiscite.

Running for president of Egypt, in 1956 he had received a paltry 90.784 per cent. Naturally, Nasser was grateful at this increasing evidence of adulation, and so he joined the multitudes whooping it up in Cairo after the plebiscite was completed. The suspense was over. Syria had committed national bankruptcy with marvelous enthusiasm—just a gnarl's lash short of unanimity.

A feature of the celebration was the chanting by the multitudes of the new republic's anthem, O ALLAH, WE WON BY YOUR WILL.

Without disparaging the power of Al-

lah, one must observe that such near unanimity of the polls generally requires the energetic assistance of an unsanctified breed known as ballot box stuffers.

Puzzler

BEFORE House investigators fired him as counsel Dr. Bernard Schwartz had raised a host of questions about the award of a Miami television channel to an airline. Getting answers to these questions—which primarily concern the conduct of FCC members—will take considerable time. But when they can get around to it we wish the congressmen would explain for the record why any airline should be awarded a television channel. That's been puzzling us.

Obviously, A Matter For The DAR

"YES, Santa Claus," a Tar Heel editor once explained, "there is a Virginia."

We never quite grasped the mischievous subtlety of his pun until just the other day when we received by stage a copy of the FAUCIGNER (V.A.) DEMOCRAT. It advised us that it had renamed Virginia's historic Little River turnpike for Col. John S. (Gray Ghost) Mosby. The action was taken, according to the DEMOCRAT, after committee members were advised that the United Daughters of the Confederacy were opposed to the measure "because Mosby became a Republican after the war."

Goodness! That was a close shave, wasn't it?

But somehow we fear that another

rescue from the hosts of darkness is in order. That entire state north of the border was named for Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen. She was no Republican. Worse yet, she was a r-o-y-a-l-i-s-t!

Flashback

A LONG, white envelope from New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel turned up in our mail the other day—amid reports from all over about rising unemployment and falling stock prices. It was clearly marked on the outside:

"Press Release—Address by Herbert Hoover, 'Some Observations On Business Slumps & Recessions,' before New York Chamber of Commerce."

We're afraid to open it.

From Central High School's Rambler

THE KING AND HIS WONDERFUL SCHOOL

BACK in the year 1658, a certain king decided to build a school for all the children in the kingdom. Other kings had, of course, built beautiful schools, but this one was to be the grandest in all the land. The king dreamed of all the great statesmen (and taxpayers) who would come to admire his school.

So, he called all his royal messengers into the great hall and told them of the plan that would make his kingdom the most famous of all. The king asked these messengers to go out among his loyal subjects and get all their gold and silver which he would in turn use to educate their children.

The rich gave their jewels, and the poor gave all they had so that their children might be educated.

After gathering all these riches and storing them in the treasury, the king gathered the greatest designers of that time and told them exactly what he wanted. Foremost in his instructions was to "make this building beautiful!"

The architects created a modern structure far ahead of the times and presented their plans for the king's approval, which he readily gave. Construction would have begun immediately except for the king's indecision for a suitable location. He finally decided on a high hill where the whole kingdom could see the gleaming gold roof.

The masons and carpenters studied the plans very carefully and finally began construction. They bought the most expensive brick for the walls and for one particular building, curved blocks were purchased, even though the cost was doubled, for the circular reading room. Greenboards were purchased instead of the conventional black ones and pink chalk replaced the one-of-a-kind white, simply to make the room more colorful. After all, color film had been invented.

Electric pencil sharpeners were installed to replace the old-fashioned hand-crank type to protect the delicate musk-type in the arms of the kingdom's children.

The building was constructed only one story high to prevent any cramping of the legs during class changes. It was noticed in the official polls of the time that this convenience reduced absenteeism almost 50 per cent. It was also noted that insurance rates connected with star protection dropped considerably, saving untold amounts of money.

Installed in the new circular reading room were lounge chairs with adjustable page turners. There were two classes of these turners—the thick heavy page turners, which were built of stronger material, and the thin page turners.

The cafeteria was certainly one of the more outstanding features of this remarkable building. According to the latest psychologists, organized feeding hampered geometry grades and so a new system was employed called "controlled confusion." The "controlled" part meant that one could not enter the cafeteria until a whistle had been blown, and after that, it was every man for himself.

The king's final order before the grand opening concerned the painting of a huge sign urging all visitors to bring their cameras. A footnote was later added, saying "No donations."

Finally the big day arrived and the children from miles around flocked to the new institute of learning. The only problem was that since so much time had elapsed between the dreaming and the completion, and the population had increased so rapidly, that the school proved very inadequate to the poor citizens who had built it.

Reputation is a bubble that a man blows—whether it breaks or not it is up to him.—HAMILTON COUNTY (TENN.) HENRI

Dean: "Son I don't want to see you going around with that wild waitress from the town grill." Student: "Heck, Dean, she ain't wild; anybody can pet her."—LAMAR (MO.) DEMOCRAT.

Courageous Britain Teeters On The Brink Of Disaster

By JOSEPH ALSPH

LONDON

THE pale March sunshine, 13 years after the great victory, London hardly seems the same wounded hero of a city that it used to be so long after the war. The outward surface is more prosperous than ever. The magical London combination of green open space and crowded avenue, of intimacy and public splendor, of double polished glassiness and carefully preserved patina of age is also more magical than ever, because it is so unchanging in a fast changing world. And London is more than ever the most agreeable of all the great world cities for a foreign visitor.

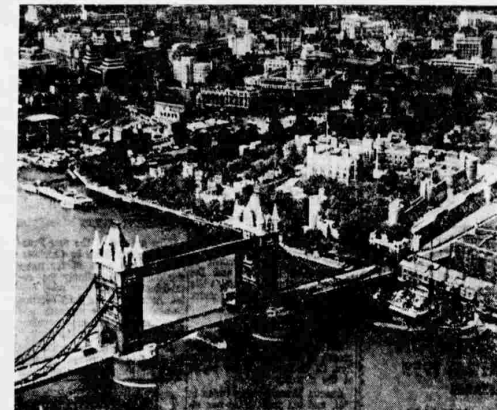
These reflections on London's surface may seem more appropriate for a postcard for the home-folk, showing some such familiar tourist sight as the changing of the guard. Yet they are necessary, in order to put into proportion the fairly brutal thing that also needs to be said. At this London with its rich and charming surface, whose shining courage so recently set an example to the world, is now a city that all but stinks of defeat.

PERSONAL REPORT

The fact, if it is a fact, is of infinite importance to all the actions of the West. But judgments of atmospheres are unavoidably personal, and so I shall speak more personally in the present report than is customary in this space.

In the postwar years, I have made at least one visit of inquiry to London each year. In all that period, whether under Labor governments or Conservative governments, the essential London drama has been the same. It has been the drama of the British people grimly struggling to maintain Britain's historic role as one of the great world powers, in the fearful human and material and strategic losses of the Second World War.

It has been a pretty moving drama to watch, but now it seems



Tragedy Lurks Beneath London's Rich And Charming Surface

to be coming to an end. There are just too many signs of the disaster that always, in every army, foretells the acceptance of defeat. For example, the feature of British political life that has always most amazed me was the fact that any given moment, at most everyone from the Prime Minister downwards, at every level and in every sphere, somehow struck the same note. It might be a belligerent note, or a friendly note or any other kind of note. But it was always the same.

PINGS AND PONGS

It used to make me feel like a zoologist climbing about over an enormous rock, tapping with his hammer everywhere, and always getting exactly the same "ping"

or "pong" wherever he tapped. But all this is over now. The most extraordinary and discordant variety of notes is now to be heard from the different leaders of the two major parties, from the civil servants and the ministers they are charged with advising, even among the higher permanent staffs of single ministries. The cause of this wholly novel discord of ideas and attitudes is really simple enough. Britain today is squarely confronted with at least half a dozen major problems which Britain alone does not have the means to solve.

There is Britain's economic problem, which keeps Britain on a permanent brink of disaster. For example, approximately 22 per cent of Britain's livelihood, the hard currency revenue of the Sterling

area, comes from two highly unstable ex-colonial countries, Ghana and Malaya. Again, the loss of the Middle Eastern sources, which are now in ever greater danger, will add a cruel billion dollars a year to the debt side of Britain's national balance sheet. A single individual, the Sheikh of Kuwait, contributes very nearly 10 per cent of the new capital annually available in the Sterling area, which is desperately short of capital. And so the story goes.

STRATEGIC PROBLEM

There is Britain's strategic problem, which is insoluble because of the economic problem. For example, the so-called support costs which the Germans have been paying for the British divisions in NATO amount to less

than one hundred and thirty million dollars. But because the Germans are refusing to pay these costs the British government is thinking of cutting its NATO contribution beyond the point of acute danger, in a way that will prejudice all Britain's relations with the new Europe, and for a sum really hardly larger than the British pig subsidy.

DANGER THREAT

There is the Middle Eastern problem, which is again growing desperate. For example, the old friend among men, Nuri Fasha, was recently in London to repeat his anguished warnings that the Kremlin would soon play the anti-Israel card, which will in turn take every trick in the Arab pack. The leading British experts are now reluctantly convinced that Nuri's warnings are probably well founded. But in all the British government, I could not discover any man with any positive idea about parrying this prospective Soviet move, which will be like a dagger thrust at Britain's very jugular.

TRAGIC POINT

One could continue the recital almost indefinitely, covering all the foreign policy problems involved in the approach to the summit conference, all the domestic political problems revealed by the Conservative Party's slinging defeat in the Rochdale by-election, and so on. But I have said enough to put this prospect of a tragic point having been trying to make.

If it is a true point, it is tragic for America as well as for Britain. For Britain's defeat will mean a new era in the West's defeat. Worse still, we in America will have our own share of the blame for the tragedy. For vigorous, imaginative and courageous American leadership is now the essential ingredient in the solution of almost all our allies' problems and Britain's above all. And this essential American ingredient has been utterly lacking for the last five years.

Brickbats Fill The Air But Ike Ignores 'Losing Streak'

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
PRESIDENT Eisenhower is in one of those losing streaks well known to horse players where the geese just won't run for you.

Nobody expects that a change of heart in the Kremlin, a spontaneous outbreak of full employment

will cure it for him. Therefore, the manner of his meeting it is the major topic of Washington.

The events of the last few days show the pattern that is emerging.

In the presence of unprecedented private and public criticism, the Eisenhowerers are carrying on as usual with ample and

frequent vacations interspersed with sporadic bursts of leadership and White House ceremonial.

White House public relations have correspondingly deteriorated. Wide praise for Press Secretary Hagerty has been replaced by the comment that "good ball players make great managers."

The White House staff is getting its wires crossed in a manner

strongly suggesting that Hagerty is not the only one losing his head under pressure.

Once it seemed to politicians that the President had a built-in antenna to the mood of the American people. They do not know why he is not more responsive to the unemployment figures and the Soviet successes.

Some think he knows the facts but is stubborn at the wrong time. Others suggest that his staff sheltered him so long from the political and economic realities that they have difficulty now with their hints that a change is in order.

For example, reporters at the scene believe — though they cannot prove it — that Hagerty blew his top on the Arizona trip because he had tried and failed to dissuade the Eisenhowerers from making it. He had already had a bad week. There was so little work and activity in Georgia it proved impossible to maintain the impression that a "Georgia White House" existed, with the President in touch with the day-to-day pace of ever-present problems.

These humiliations have been falling flat when addressed to general audiences. This one was delivered to an audience of food producers, processors and retailers, a group deeply sensitive to the problems of American agriculture. Only last week Midwest farmers registered their protest most by almost electing a Democrat in a Minnesota House district which has been solidly Republican for 68 years.

A comment that President Eisenhower sounded like Herbert Hoover was one of the more strained reactions from some in the audience.

Incidentally, Mr. Hoover's public relations sense seems a touch wacky, too. He boasts that he delivered at Valley Forge last week virtually the same chins-up speech he delivered there in 1931 during the depths of the Depression.

The White House staff work was embarrassingly exposed by the National Food Conference developments here.

Hagerty told reporters in Georgia last week that the President was breaking his date to speak at

the conference breakfast because his plane might be delayed by bad weather. But Charles Shuman, who is presiding at the conference, angrily told reporters here that Sherman Adams, the assistant to the President, broke the long-standing date last Thursday on the ground that the President had very urgent matters to attend to on his return.

CHINS-UP LECTURE

After the President got back, it was discovered that matters were not so urgent after all and he went over to town to make amends. The amends took the form of a "chins-up" lecture with a call for courage and common sense.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
FEW Cabinet members in history have taken a rougher shelling from their own party than Ezra Taft Benson has received from congressional Republicans. I lose a quart of blood. I've practically been bled dry."

Belcher's Bust

When GOP farm congressmen launched their latest move to oust Benson from the House, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, looked the secretary in the eye and remarked coldly:

Benson Blasted By GOP Congressmen

"Mr. Secretary, the farmers in my district do not like your policies. Neither do I. Every time you issue a statement or make a speech against price supports for agriculture, I lose a quart of blood. I've practically been bled dry."

Resignation Demanded

More recently, after an anti-Benson "protest" meeting by about 25 Republican House members from northern farm areas, two emissaries from the meeting

—Rep. A. L. Miller of Nebraska and Walter Judd of Minnesota — were only slightly less blunt in urging Benson to resign "for the good of the party."

Just as the depression at the time of the 1932 election was pinned on Herbert Hoover, so the current depression in farm income is becoming synonymous

with you, Mr. Secretary," said Miller. "The connection is fixed in the minds of farmers as we face another election, and it can't, unfortunately, be separated."

Worst Yet To Come

"The slump we are in was started by diminishing farm income. If your order to lower dairy support prices goes into effect on April 1, we will have a worse slump."

However, the plain talking of Miller and Judd was a pale echo of what transpired at the secret GOP pow-wow preceding their visit with Benson. House Republican Leader Joe Martin had a difficult time maintaining order as facetious shouts of "Let's take that guy for a ride" and "Let's give Benson a one-way

ticket on a slow boat to China" rent the air.

Among those who managed to be heard above the tumult was Rep. H. R. Gross of Iowa. He asserted: "This is not a question of politics with me. It is a question of right and wrong. Benson is wrong. And President Eisenhower was wrong in appointing him. I said so back in 1953."

Death To GOP

Declared Iowa's Rep. Ben Jensen: "I first came to Congress, Iowa had the reputation of being a Republican state. It still has that reputation. But if Ezra Benson is the secretary of agriculture next November, Iowa will not have a single Republican representative in the House."

Another Carolinian

Remembers When Clinton, S. C.

Editors, The News: I who remembers the family of 11 children and only one way of gum? —TELLER SUTTLE

—JAMES McLAIRD

—JAMES McLAIRD