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Dixie's Reach Should Exceed Its Grasp

WALTER LIPPMANN took a long, searching look at the bedraggled South of the 1920s and concluded that "everything that was ever possible for civilized man is possible here."

A decade later, a geographer was quoted in Howard W. Odum's *SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES* as saying that the South was "one of the two regions on this earth and only two which will outdistance all others."

Above all the other regions, they are the gardens of the world."

In Athens, Ga., last week, another expert made a strangely similar observation about the promise of the region from the perspective of 1948. Said Dr. Harold F. Clark, professor of educational economics from Columbia University:

"There are strong reasons for assuming that the South will become the richest section of the country and consequently the world."

Neither man was talking through his hat. There is abundant evidence of regional excellence still. It is found in natural wealth and human wealth—all yearning to be discovered and exploited.

But the imagination, the drive, the progress have all been strangely limited by the invisible barriers of orthodoxy,

occasional sloth and some strange culture complexes inherited from an earlier era. And here lies the South's tattered dream of global superiority.

The region's conscience must somehow be revitalized, its great promise realized, its resources mobilized.

Dr. Clark, who sees the South as possibly the richest area in the world, is fully aware of what must be done to accomplish this renaissance of the spirit.

Significantly, his recommendations were made at a three-day regional meeting of the governing boards of Dixie's higher education institutions. He spoke of the "critical importance" of educational research in spurting economic advances.

Specifically, he urged that the South's educational and economic leaders join in establishing "peaks of research excellence" concerning such modern industrial assets as climate, water resources, and the technique of expanding human knowledge and training. He sees research as Dixie's "tool of destiny."

His is a worthy challenge. Yet his emphasis on economic gains offers only part of the solution. There are social benefits to be derived from "peaks of research excellence" as well. Institutions of higher learning, such as our own University of North Carolina, still have an enormous contribution to make in exploring the cultural equipment, the behavior, the traditions, the conflicts, the folkways and the motivations of a people battling for mastery over an environment capable of producing a superior civilization. In other words, there is still need for men and institutions to study the South as a laboratory for regional research in the social sciences and for experimentation in social planning.

This is the continuing role we see for the University of North Carolina, and a region struggling so valiantly, and often so ineffectively, to realize its promise in an era peopled with stand-patters and draped with cobwebs. It is a role every southern institution of higher learning might ponder well today.

Smell Of Defeat Pervades The Foggy Streets Of London

By JOSEPH ALSOP

REPORTERS are not supposed to have feelings, or at least not to write about them. Yet it means something, perhaps, that this reporter's latest visit of inquiry in London was one of the most distressing experiences of a fairly long working life.

The wandering Jew, condemned to visit and revisit the same



Is The Empire Doomed?

places in his unending round of the world, no doubt came to feel about places almost as though they were people. I know I have come to have such feelings, at any rate, in my own wandering Jew-like existence. I say London is the place outside my own country that I like best, it has almost the same force as saying "London is the friend I like best."

Seeing a friend's bad luck is always distressing — vastly more so, if you are involved in it — and my London visit was distressing

in just this way. At the end of Britain's twenty years of undeclared struggle against heavy odds, in war and peace, the pleasant London air is now soured with a smell of impending defeat — not defeat in war of course. But defeat of the long, courageous effort to maintain Britain's historic world power position, or so it seemed to me, and so I wrote.

APOLGY DEMANDED

My article was picked up and twisted into an "attack" on Britain by a leading newspaper. There was public talk of an "insult." Apologies were demanded. And now, as I write my last report on current British trends, I have been asking myself whether apologies are really in order.

But if a greatly valued friend and partner is looking really alarmingly ill, it is not an insult to say so. It is not an attack, either, to accept for yourself the largest share of blame for this friend and partner's illness. And this was what I tried to say about Britain, blaming much of Britain's present difficulties on the weakness of American leadership of the West in the last five years.

NARROW MARGIN

The cause and the symptoms of Britain's illness are obvious enough. With resources cruelly depleted by the last war, Britain has ever since been operating on a terrifyingly narrow margin. Britain has also remained heavily dependent on raw materials heavily

in troubled, unstable ex-colonial areas. Hence Britain today is the most vulnerable of the great Western powers.

At the present time, the ex-colonial areas which are Britain's economic flanks are more violently troubled than ever before. Flank attacks are being pressed home in these areas with increasing vigor and astuteness by the Soviet Union. The Kremlin's design, very clearly, is to bring down Britain by these hard-to-parry flank attacks; and by bringing down Britain, to bring down the whole Western alliance.

BLIND EAGERNESS

Britain's danger is the West's danger, yet Britain is the more immediately threatened. In this grave situation, Britain is more blindly eager than any other Western ally to hurry to the famous summit. Much of the current British discussion of future summit talks is plainly based on the assumption that the Soviet chancellors are really brutal of well-concealed good intentions. And the same wishful view is also revealed in the hot debate about the nuclear deterrent and in many other ways.

In sum, the next twelve to eighteen months may quite easily become a time of the most severe challenge Britain has known since the turning point of the last war. Yet the response to this grave situation has not yet shown the realism and national unity which are the customary virtues of the British people.



The Gulf Is Full Of Follies

tical system when the going gets rough.

The question remains whether this is a specifically British failure or some other kind of failure.

I think it is in part a British failure. For example, the same newspaper that organized such a line around my unimportant report also printed a brilliant cartoon viciously undermining the feasibility of the Eisenhower administration, with a reminder to me that Britain's difficulties were not unique. There is something sickly and ugly in the frame of mind that can exult over the disorder of a chief ally, whose strength and steadfastness are life- and death-matters to Britain and the West.

By the same token, although no one in America more sharply criticized the Eisenhower administration's policy in the Suez crisis, it seems to me that American follies have been fully matched by British follies in the Middle East and elsewhere. Neither side will gain by mutual recrimination.

PENALTY DUE

But the fact remains that sheer human and economic weight have imposed on the United States the major responsibility for leading the West. In one way or another, the American government is the indispensable ingredient in the solution of great numbers of the biggest national problems of the other Western allies. In the last five years, the indispensable ingredient has been absent, playing as it has at August or indulging in the pleasures of tax cuts, or busy presenting phony defense budgets. And if the results are as grim as now seems likely, we must take on our own shoulders much of the fault, as we shall surely pay much of the penalty.

The Democrats Are Coming!



Has He Repented?

By ROBERT C. RUARK

Leopold's Luck

MINE was one of the loudest voices against the parole of Nathan Leopold, but the parole was granted and it is to be hoped that the statement issued by the thrill-killer of little Bobby Franks will remain as fact.

Leopold, freed after 33 years in the clink, says he has repented of his sins and that he is acutely conscious that his own future hangs in the balance. "I look to my best not to fail in that trust."

It is said that justice must be tempered with mercy, but there is a hanging clause which might define who is eligible for mercy and who is not. A rich homosexual who kills a child for a thrill, together with his other perverted friend, Richard Loeb, and who has spent the last 33 years in the highly inhuman atmosphere of a prison in a sea of men, might be open to question.

BAD BOY

I never knew a jail to improve anybody but O. Henry. He at least managed to stay out of the clink after his stretch in the State academy for bad little boys. One of his fellow inmates, a meek, unassuming fellow, invented a new kind of electric chair, and in recognition for his service to the state, he was eventually paroled. He more or less promptly knocked off somebody and came home for the annual reunion, which they celebrated by loading him to a turn in his own invention.

That Leopold is alive at all is a lucky accident by that old man, Clarence Barron, who apart from Bill Fallon was possibly the best criminal lawyer who ever lived. He got the darling rich boys off with 99 years when a poor guy would have been executed.

GUILTY PLEA

As it was, the case never went to a jury. Darrow made them plead guilty, and Loeb and Leopold drew life as well, for murder, apart from the 99 years for kidnapping. The prosecutor, the late Robert Crowe, said bitterly of his "pair of rattlesnakes" that if the case had gone to the jury, both young gentlemen would have been executed.

Loeb, of course, is not around to applaud the parole of his partner, since he was stabbed fatally in a hospital while in flight from prison. In a way you might say that he was not so much murdered as ironically executed for his crime.

Leopold applied for parole three

times and was turned down. He sought executive clemency from Gov. William Stratton, and was refused. Now all of a sudden he is free. Maybe the justice of the action . . . maybe not. He is not an old man at 33. He started his prison manhood as a convict, and prison does not discourage perversion. We will see . . .

There are several aspects of crime and punishment, vengeance by the state and possible rehabilitation of the sinner. It depends on whether you seek deterrence

or a kind of college education in behaving like a decent human being.

STARK EXAMPLE

I will cite you a stark example of the failure of deterrence in England. Since the hanging penalty has been virtually abolished, the murder rate has jumped, and the motiveless murders have leaped even higher.

I notice that Roger Touhy, the old Prohibition era cohort of Al Capone, also will be paroled after 24 years in the clink on a sentence of 199 years for prison escape. He still has another 18-month hitch to serve before he seems loose.

WHAT'S THE POINT

Personally, I would rather see Roger Touhy, the old Prohibition era cohort of Al Capone, also will be paroled after 24 years in the clink on a sentence of 199 years for prison escape. He still has another 18-month hitch to serve before he seems loose.

Frankly, I don't know.

Sophisticates? Just Fun-Lovers, Suh

IT TOOK ice hockey, first played in rudimentary form in Europe in the 18th century, an inordinately long time to reach Charlotte. Once here, however, it made itself as much at home as camellias, Georgian architecture and the Presbyterian Church.

Not even severance of diplomatic relations with Canada could dilute the devotion of the faithful now. The Charlotte Clippers, having pocketed their second consecutive Eastern Hockey League championship in regular season play, are the town's favorite heroes. The cheers of 7,015 fans at the Coliseum Sunday afternoon offered convincing proof of this.

The Clippers will take the ice again at 8 o'clock tonight to do battle with the New Haven Blades in the year's first playoff game. Massed in support will be

the same wild and woolly rooting section that has given the sport its peculiar you-all accent for two and a fraction seasons.

It is often argued that the fact that ice hockey was so successfully transplanted here speaks well for Charlotte's sophistication. The argument is slightly presumptuous. Charlotteans flock to the hockey games because they are treated to the thrills and spills of colorful athletic competition, attractively presented and promoted. There is a market in any population center the size of Charlotte for such a spectacle. Charlotte itself has demonstrated its readiness for other sports programs—even professional football again—if they are staged with the same care and imagination as ice hockey.

Meanwhile, hail to the Clippers—and may good fortune skate with them in the playoffs.

As far as Mitchell is concerned, the conviction stands as a monument to his courage, vision and patriotism. It attests to his place in history, rather than detracting from it. But to the nation, the conviction stands as a needed reminder of the political and military blindness of his time. The years have vindicated Mitchell. But they have provided no guarantee against recurrence of that blindness. The hair shirt of his conviction, it seems to us, is one the nation can continue to wear with profit.

There are military men battling in the mazes of the Pentagon today for the same sort of bold, "wildly imaginative" ideas that Mitchell championed. Will they be heeded?

Billy Mitchell's Conviction Should Stand

ONE of the great movements deserving to get nowhere is the campaign aimed at overturning the court-martial conviction of Billy Mitchell.

Mitchell, then a colonel, was convicted 33 years ago of making statements to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. The great prophet of the advent of air power had accused the War and Navy Departments of "incompetence, criminal negligence and almost treasonable administration of the national defense." He added: "If the department does not like my statement let them take any disciplinary action they see fit." To this calculated dare, the military found him guilty as charged. He was guilty, and no one knew it better than Billy Mitchell.

To deny the fact now would cause not a whit the burden of pain and sacrifice Col. Mitchell chose to endure for the

sake of his country. The only thing that might be eased would be the conscience of a nation that could not or would not catch the man's vision until it was too late.

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People's Platform

Reader Salutes Platform Writer Editors, The News

IT IS difficult to be less than effusive in the praise of Mr. J. R. Cherry Jr. His letters, written in excellent satire, are a source of great delight to our household, and whenever they appear, they are the best feature in that day's Charlotte News.

Mr. Cherry is an American who values highly his heritage, and battles constantly against that which would destroy it. He is an intellectual, not "egghead," and there is quite a difference, one

in whose views I find complete accord.

—LILLIAN P. MCGRATH

List Of Stompers

Was Real Complete Charlotte

Editors, The News:

MAN, I don't know how you put in the "Jovoy Tower" got by—but the bit you laid down on March 10 ("Jazz Came from the Carolinas Too") was the most to say the least.

As I jumbled the names of the stompers you listed I was sure somebody would get left out—

but daddy-o they're all there.

Your parting shot (The defense rests.) did leave me somewhat cold (not to be confused with cool).

I mean—like man—don't quit while you're ahead.

—JERRY RECKE

Quote, Unquote

"In the great matters men show themselves as they wish to be seen, in small matters, as they really are." —Camille Bradford.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

CONTRASTING moves to remedy the business slump have been made at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Here are some of them:

At the east end of Pennsylvania Avenue, Sen. Lyndon Johnson of Texas moved with amazing efficiency to ram a series of public works, housing, highway measures through the Senate. They include:

Speed Sought

1. A new housing bill totaling nearly two billion to pump new life into the construction industry. It should become law within a matter of days. Another housing bill will follow shortly.

2. Two resolutions urging speed on civil and military public works. Though a Democratic resolution, 10 of them are Republican candidates for re-election.

3. A new speed-up highway bill, which will concentrate highway construction in 13 years instead of more than 20 years as desired by the administration.

4. A farm bill relating to take Secretary Benson's farm program. This will probably have enough votes to overcome a White House veto.

5. A reclamation bill, though still in Senate committee, will be passed soon.

Johnson Shoves Public Works Plans

WASHINGTON

Johnson, a past master at parliamentary procedure, is determined that most of the above legislation will speed through the Senate within a week or 10 days. It will be the biggest lull in the overall national economy this year.

At the west end of Pennsylvania Avenue, the Federal Reserve Bank gave the banks a green light to expand their loans \$3 billion in order to inject new life into business. This was done by lowering Reserve requirements 1 per cent.

However, the Federal Reserve could have accomplished the same result by buying government bonds from the banks in the open market. By lowering the Reserve requirement, however, the Federal Reserve enriched the banks by \$500 million that could have been made available to the government.

Such are the contrasting moves at each end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Brucker's Red Face

Reddest face in Washington last week was that of Secretary of the Army, Louis B. Brown. He was in the West German Minister of Defense, Franz Josef Strauss, Brucker announced.

The second United States satellite is feeling good and going strong. I'm going to hurry back in the telecom room and track its progress."

From The Jackson (Miss.) State Times

... AND ADD GRAVY

AH YES, 'tis among the most unfortunate of Americans who have not learned to appreciate that southern standby, white, fluffy rice, the product of dearest cultivation, nectar of the Dixie dinner table.

He who has not reverence for this morsel is lacking the mark of a true gourmet, missing one of life's greatest pleasures.

In that mind, Rep. E. C. Gathings (D-ARK) has introduced a bill to encourage the consumption of rice. It would channel into the armed forces and other federal agencies surplus rice from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

How that billion pounds of rice stacked up in the CCC bins escapes the grasp of a southerner. But that it ought not stay there is elemental to anyone concerned with sharing a rich blessing with the less fortunate.

"The purpose of this bill," Rep. Gathings said, "is to reduce those stocks and to acquaint more of our citizens with the

delicious and nutritious grain that is the basic diet for more than two-thirds of the world."

You take a southerner to the North or Midwest, the spuds and cottage cheese belt and he's lost, simply because of the rice vacuum. Rice in those parts, if seen at all, is confined to milk and sugar cereal treatment. Add gravy and they think you're crazy.

Rep. Gathings, if he passed, would prove that two-thirds of the world couldn't be wrong.

Elderly man's sage comment after being caught in middle of street by cars while crossing: "Looks like they'd leave them things at home. They ain't paid for anyhow." —TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT.

The government acts to end a monopoly in fruit imports from South America or in soft fountain terms. Uncle Sam orders a banana split.—COLUMBIA STATE.