



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, President and Publisher  
ROBERT S. GUNTER, General Manager  
ROBERT H. LAMPE, Advertising Director  
Cecil Prince, Editor  
PERRY MORGAN, Associate Editor  
R. L. YOUNG JR., Managing Editor

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1958

### It All Started With A Deputy Sheriff

FOR the censor, nothing succeeds like excess.

Shored up, no doubt, by the satisfying knowledge that 63 publications have already been blacklisted by a Buncombe County vigilante committee, Deputy Sheriff Fred M. Barnett has just decided to nominate 23 other titles for the honor.

What titles? Smut-slut Barnet knows but isn't telling. For all we know they may include some of the Tar Heel newspapers that have been running the collected love letters of Lana Turner.

At any rate, the custom in Buncombe is to censor in secret, passing the word along to distributors and news stand operators who "cooperate 100 per cent."

Barnett's excuse for this serio-comic tomfoolery: "We don't want to publicize obscene matter."

The impertinence of these self-styled arbiters of taste and moral influence has seldom enjoyed a finer flowering.

Smut-slutting is a full-time job for Deputy Barnett. He personally reviews all publications that "look suspicious" and passes along his findings to a five-member committee for action. After the secret blacklists are compiled, he checks all the newstands to be sure that none of the banned publications is sold.

It is no doubt true that many of the publications Buncombe's self-styled sleuth finds objectionable are indeed offensive to a lot of people. Some are certainly offensive to us. But the safest method of dealing with the problem is by ordinary due process. There are penalties for obscenity. They ought to be enforced; but they ought to be enforced by duly constituted authority under which accused persons and firms en-

joy their constitutional rights to defend themselves and their property.

Buncombe's own special variety of blacklisting on advice of a deputy sheriff has unfortunately spread to other counties. A good many magazine distributors have been panicked into blindly accepting the blacklists' judgment that what is good or bad can be determined by titles rather than the contents of individual issues.

If this kind of foolishness is permitted to flourish and spread what is to prevent other kinds of censorship? If sheriff's deputies and distributors can censor a free press photographically, nothing off the racks today they can conspire to freeze a Republican or a Democratic newspaper off the racks tomorrow. That is the real danger—when the individual prejudices, resentments and moral judgments of a few self-appointed vigilantes are permitted to abridge the public's right to read what it pleases.

Freedom to read is a rather precious privilege. Like any other freedom, it can be used wisely or foolishly. There's nothing at all wrong with efforts to improve the quality of choices through which that freedom is exercised. But efforts by individuals or groups to limit, by pressure or similarly distasteful tactics, the freedom of choice of others, or to impose their own standards or tastes on a community at large, should be opposed. Likewise, the reading public should oppose formal or informal governmental actions to abridge the freedom to read, except through enforcement, by due and open process of law, of constitutionally valid statutes not involving elements of prior restraint.

### New Glory For The Garden Clubbers

ONE of the more curious aspects of the current political scene is the power of the women who water the nation's petunias and cultivate its roses.

Garden clubbers are getting a major share of the credit for congressional passage of a bill to encourage state regulation of billboards along the new 41,000-mile federal interstate highway system. The accuracy of this estimate was confirmed when opponents of billboard control began to attack the "asthetic pretensions" of garden club members.

"Agree on how (the defeat of the billboard lobby) happened," says columnist Doris Fleece reported from Washington, "but the home-going legislators feel generally that they have pleased their women constituents."

The curious thing is that billboard control legislation failed even to get out of committee at the last session of Congress. Earlier this year it was announced that billboard interests had gotten up a \$300,000 war chest to fight controls. Yet when the showdown came Congress passed a control bill, partially, at least, to please the ladies.

If this comes as a revelation to any garden clubs hereabouts who have not intervened in the billboard fight, it may also come as a revelation that the fight is not over. Congress has merely offered incentive payments to states which adopt the billboard control standards it prescribed. The issue has not yet been joined in North Carolina.

In neighboring Virginia, the issue was joined in January. Billboard interests sent letters to farmers and other property owners saying "a very small group of people, mostly ladies' garden clubs and city people..." were backing billboard control. "The members of these garden clubs and other similar

clubs have written or talked with every member of both houses of the General Assembly. They have done such a good job that a great many members of the General Assembly think that the rest of the people in the state feel the same way as this small group of ladies."

The letter intimated strongly that if these "few ladies" were successful in promoting billboard control they would next interest themselves in telling farmers what color to paint their barns and outbuildings. Nevertheless, the ladies were successful. The Virginia General Assembly passed a strong control measure.

We're not guilty of forgetting the injunction never to underestimate the power of a woman. Frankly, we're a little amazed at those tributes to their political prowess.

It will be interesting to see how the ladies and the billboards fare in North Carolina when the question comes up. All members of North Carolina's congressional delegation voted against the control bill in Congress and Gov. Hodges has not yet declared himself on what course the state should take.

### Spreading It Thick

THE U. S. Department of Labor has refused to release statistics dealing with military purchases of peanut butter, according to a report on security precautions prepared by a House subcommittee on government information. The startlingly Red, it was argued, would use them to work out the strength of the armed forces.

If the Soviets are that handy with figures no wonder they launched the first Sputnik.

From The Manchester Guardian

### ANTHEMS, ANTHEMS, ANTHEMS

THE ever-lengthening list of the world's national anthems is now swelled by a new anthem for Ghana. It has a tune known to millions of Ghanaians, but how well it is known outside even West Africa? By a strange paradox, the best-known tunes in the world are least known to those outside their tribal ambit. The national radiators are full of "unknown" anthems.

SALVE, LIBERIA, SALVE, OPEN AM DEUTSCHEN RHEIN LEHNET SICH LICHT-ENTSTEN: HAIL! S FOUR LE, FOUR LES ANCESTRES: HAWAII! HAWAII PONO!

Few anthems have been written by great musicians at the last session of Congress. Earlier this year it was announced that billboard interests had gotten up a \$300,000 war chest to fight controls. Yet when the showdown came Congress passed a control bill, partially, at least, to please the ladies.

"Where is my home? Where is my home? Water rushes through the meadows, Breezes murmur in the pine-groves In the springtime full of blooms An earthly paradise to view, This is the fair land of Bohemia, Bohemia is my home."

Contrast the austerity of another Communist land—China—whose traditional anthem has been replaced by SAN-MIN-CHU-I-WU-TANG SO TSUNG, meaning "The Three Principles of Democracy Which Our Party Does Revere."

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN—which traces its ancestry to an old English "galliard" or dance-tune by the Elizabethan composer John Bull, had plenty of critics who have felt it dull and unimaginative.

But it has been adopted by countless famous composers, including Beethoven and Bach.

Of course, it has been parodied in many ways. Three years after it had its first public performance at Drury Lane, with the Jacobites on their way to London, it served as a 1748 advertisement—for fish.

"O may this market thrive, While there's a fish alive, Nature's best treat!"

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN was saved by royal indignation from a sad fate in 1867. Queen Victoria then angrily declared an inventor's gift of bustle in which he had fitted a machine to play the national anthem every time she sat down!

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all by yourself.—GREENVILLE PRESIDENT.

It takes the normal male about two years to learn to talk, and about 60 years to learn not to.—CARLSBAD CURRENT-ANGUS.

You can't judge a man's bank account these days by the size of the car he drives.—BUTLER (GA.) HERALD.

It's always dangerous to operate a machine that knows more than the operator.—FORSYTH COUNTY (GA.) NEWS.

### 'You've Got A—Ha-Ha—Loophole Too, Pal'



### Triumph Without Serenity

## The Marvel Built By Ford

By JOSEPH ALSOP

DEARBORN, Mich. — IF ALL the world there is only one other experience to compare with a day spent at Ford's gigantic River Rouge plant, it is the sight of the most ancient of the world's great irrigation systems.

Out of Central Asia, over high mountains, you fly into the Western Chinese province of Szechwan, which is as big as many a great nation. Twisting between the mountain flanks, deep in their wild gorges, the Gold and many other rivers show as silver ribbons. Then, quite suddenly, the mountains end, the rivers seem to end too, and you are living over a wide, flat, brilliantly green plain. And again quite suddenly, the green plains end, and the third of the mighty rivers of our earth, the Yangtze, appears in another, even vaster gorge.

### GREEN PLAIN

It was rather more than 2,100 years ago, when a Chinese emperor impounded the rushing mountain river, made their waters flow over the green plain in a multitude of life-bringing channels, and then collected the waters again to pour into the Yangtze gorge. For fifty or more generations, the green plain has nourished the people of the no-riar little villages perched upon the channel margins — a people numbering ten millions at the last count.

Who would not marvel at this wonderful work of men, which is surely the best symbol of China's glorious and immortal civilization. In the same way, the Rouge plant is also a marvel, the work of only three generations, yet the prototype and symbol of modern American industrialism. And in these last days, the middle East, a visit to River Rouge gives almost too much food for thought.

### ENGINE PLANT

Every building is close to a quarter of a mile long, and each wing space has its own sound and rhythm. The relentless, repetitious downward push of the huge stamping presses make the rhythm of the stamping plant. In the assembly plant, there is the rhythmic, continuous, intricate dance of the workers, the finished parts that make a fin-

ished automobile. All are overwhelming, but the most overwhelming is the vast plant where Ford engines are made.

This is a fantastic place, with its long automated lines where a cylinder block, for instance, goes in at one end, is rough and comes out at the other end machined to a tolerance of three thousandths of an inch.

### NOISE AND GREYNES

The overhead motors that carry parts from one line to the next look like vast processions of gently agitated moles. In the noise and greyness, the color code system strikes notes of brilliant lightness. Thunderbird engines are peacock blue, for instance, while the engines for the Ford Fairlane are jade green. And there are miracles, like the fantastic lathe that simultaneously machines all the many counter-rotated surfaces of a crankshaft — the lathe that made Chris Boonies, the young plant manager, beg his father's desk and began his struggle against Henry Ford and the rest — the struggle which revived the Ford company, now presided over by Henry Ford II.

There was the even more famous overseas bridge, the scene of "The Battle of the Overpass," in which Walter Reuther's union was effectively born. There was the immense work's car-park, in which Walter Reuther's union thought a fraud and finally there was the Rouge plant itself — the wide harbor with its ore-ships; the mountains of red-stained iron ore; the blast furnaces and furnaces; the coke ovens and power plant; the sky with its tall stacks; the glass plant and tool and die works and assembly plant and so on, seemingly forever.

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### Drew Pearson's

### Merry-Go-Round

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Reluctantly Rountree admitted that the State Department had no plans.

### No Pipeline

"What about that pipeline you were going to build from Turkey from Iran to the Mediterranean?"

"We aren't building it."

"Why not?"

"The oil companies say it's too expensive."

"What?" shot back Senator Humphrey. "You're letting the oil companies run the country?"

"I want you to know that the Senate of the United States does not want oil policies dictated by a few oil companies on the basis of money."

"We have given all kinds of support to the oil companies. We have practically supported the country of Iraq. There

is no reason why we should have them tell us what to do."

"Our pusillifugous, procrastinating policies have let the whole Near East fall away from us," continued Humphrey. "and now you tell me that the oil companies say we can't build a pipeline from Iran across Turkey to safeguard us in case of war."

### Top Executive

Note—State Department policy in the Near East has almost always been dominated by the oil companies. Henry A. Wallace, who was undersecretary of state during the Suez crisis, was the former top executive of Union Oil of California, and various oilmen serve in the State Department to advise on Near Eastern affairs. It was the oil companies which devised bringing King Saud to Washington. This worked all right until Saud was virtually ousted by his brother who hates the United States.

### Fooling The Public

A report on how the American public has contributed millions of dollars allegedly for handicapped veterans is about

to be issued by Congressman Olin Teague of Texas.

Teague will tell how the National Association of Veterans Employment Councils sold ball-point pens through the mails, and how they used the money to help disabled veterans find jobs.

Teague's investigators found that the NAVEC, headed by Harold Kauls, had raised jobs for only 180 veterans—though in 2½ years it collected a cool \$3 million.

### Stern Words

Teague will have stern words also for the Disabled American Veterans, which last year collected \$4 million from American people by selling miniature automobile license tags for key chains. After collecting the \$4 million on the grounds that it would be used for charity to disabled vets, the DAV used part of the money to produce the Hidden Treasures television show on which \$300,000 was lost.

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## Texas Rightist Poses Threat To Johnson's Moderate Role

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON — SUDDENLY Texas has come up with a potent threat to the role of the Democrats. The conservative and wealthy William Blakely of Dallas announced this week that he would run for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate. At stake is the seat he held briefly by appointment in 1957 from the then Gov. Allan Shivers.

In a special election last April, Texas loyalists at long last succeeded in electing their favorite, Ralph Yarborough, to that seat. They had tried three times and failed to make Yarborough govern-

Democrats to huddle under the same tent, civil rights included, firmly to suit the Northern and Western Democrats. Johnson's personal problem is not to get too far from the right for Texas. His liberal colleagues,

### YARBOROUGH SWITCHING?

Blakely had been assuring his friends that he would positively not run for Yarborough. A report promptly came current that he had learned Yarborough was switching to his old love, the race for governor.

Those who credit the report declare Blakely could not beat Yarborough for the Senate but would be a powerful contender against any other candidate the liberals could put into the Democratic primary.

Blakely came here as an Eisenhower Democrat but is now a disillusioned conservative with the President and Washington trends. It is in the possible success of a right-wing southerner from big Texas that trouble lies for Democrats generally and another Texas, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson, in particular.

### RALLYING THE RIGHTISTS

For several reasons Democrats have been able to believe and hope that they could minimize their regional differences as the next presidential campaign approaches. Nearly all the strong-willed leaders who fostered anti-Truman sentiment have faded from the scene. Sen. Yarborough's victory encouraged all the southerners of more liberal views.

A Blakely victory will re-emphasize the party's differences and rally the right wing to new efforts in 1960. Whether he himself possesses capacity for political leadership of the kind once held by such men as former Sen. James F. Byrnes could not be determined in the few months he was here but his practical abilities are much admired by Texas.

Sen. Johnson is the leading congressional advocate of the kind of moderation that will enable all

### JAMES F. BYRNES

A Strong Will

Yarborough is a boon to him in that respect. Beside Yarborough, Johnson seems to Texas more conservative even though he must sometimes yield to North and West sentiments in the party.

### OPPOSITE EFFECT

The effect of Blakely in the Senate would be the exact opposite. He would make Johnson seem more liberal at home and at the same time make it more difficult for the majority leader to take more conservative positions nationally.

The apprehension of liberal Democrats that the Johnson policies will hurt them in a presidential contest against Vice President Nixon would be quickly sharpened by any move Johnson might make in the direction of the Blakely be-

### NO ADMISSION

The senior senator from Texas does not admit for a minute that he is a candidate for President. Reporters interpret his actions as meaning that he is, knowing him, they would not expect him to be resigned to his fate but to take action.

Some of the answers from Texas will be available soon, since the final filing date for the party primaries is May 3 next.

## People's Platform

### Mr. Dulles Deserves Praise For Frankness

Charlotte

Editors, The News: I NOTICED recently in this column that Mr. A. C. Buckle seems to object to Secretary of State Dulles' practice of telling the American people that cer-

tain Russian pronouncements are believed to be mere "propaganda" or "lies"—the latter two words Mr. Buckle chose to interpret synonymously.

Now, I commend the secretary's honesty and forthrightness in advising the people of his opinion, and hold that if he was any less honest and forthright with us on this score, it would amount to a betrayal of sacred public trust.

Of course, most Americans already know that Russian spokesmen are liars, and not just the ordinary garden variety type either. I understand that in the trade they are known as "diplomatic" liars. But even if Mr. Dulles becomes derelict in his that fact from time to time, we should have sense enough to know it anyhow.

As part of his criticism of Mr. Dulles, Mr. Buckle states that no one was a debate "by simply casting his opponent a liar," that usually true, but even I ask the gentleman here to even a debate to be won by one who simply concedes that his opponent speaks the truth?

And as for the contention that calling someone a liar who is bigger than you are is "damned foolishness"—well, isn't it more so, I feel Mr. B. and all readers to the memoirs of the late Ethiopian sage, Seneca. Sam. It just happens that this early, practical old dandy commented specifically on this subject, thus: "If you call a man a whate biggish than you is a lie, just as a u is to a two-foot piece of pipe, an den u mos likely will gaway with it."

J. R. CHERRY JR.

### Did You Notice Date On Nuclear Test Ban?

Harve De Grace, Md.

Editors, The News: "THE atom-bomb 'halt' announced by the Soviet government through the mouthpiece of Andrei A. Gromyko appeared in newspapers all over the world and was read by hundreds of millions of people. I wonder how many of those readers noticed the date on the newspaper: April first, April fools' day, an institution well known in Russia?"

—MONTGOMERY M. GREEN

### Quote, Unquote

"... love is not and should not be in the foreground of life; it should remain in the back room."—Gustave Flaubert.

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