



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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### The Honeymoon That Wouldn't Quit

LIKE the chorus in a Greek tragedy, North Carolina's oldest "old pols" were standing just offstage again this week, wringing their hands and chanting their complaints.

Onstage was Luther Hartwell Hodges, the poor man's Agamemnon, who was being given up as a goner again.

Spoke the chorus: "This is absolutely, positively, without any doubt (and no fooling this time) the living end of the honeymoon."

To Tar Heels unacquainted with the peculiarities of Greek drama and state politics, this may seem to be where they came in.

It isn't.

But it should be.

It is just that the old pols have been predicting the end of Mr. Hodges' fantastic political luck ever since he ascended to the high chair in Raleigh. The forebodings have always been darkest before a new session of the General Assembly is to open. But never have the forebodings come so early as they have this year.

Here it is only May. The legislature won't be rapped to order until next February. Yet along comes the RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER this week with a report from the chorus (it calls them in the true Sophoclean manner "the political prophets") about how the 1958 General Assembly is going to be "a hum-dinger." Then, the traditional augury: "Implicit in the predictions for a rough-and-tumble legislative session is the suggestion that Gov. Hodges' long honeymoon with the legislators may be headed for a bitter end."

Ah, that "honeymoon" again! The expression if anything is durable. But isn't it about time for the chorus—or the political prophets, if you like—to adjust their offstage murmurings to realities?

The length of Mr. Hodges' "honeymoon" has been too much attributed to the luck of an artless amateur. We ourselves have been taken in by this pleasant mythology and we have divined the honeymoon's "bitter end" more times than we like to remember. But the fact is that artlessness and an amateur status are as far removed from the world of Luther Hodges as the Congo is from Alabama. The governor is a seasoned professional politician who leaves nothing absolutely nothing to luck. He is wise enough to bet only on sure things, depending not so much upon the advice of his lieutenants as upon his own un-

canvassed sense of timing and judgment. Despite outcries from the press and from the Branch Head Boys, he weathered the senatorial appointment storm admirably. He emerged from the battle over his high-way commission reforms last year with nary a hair out of place. He merchandized the Peasall Plan earlier with similar ease and success. He has sold more governmental reorganization to Tar Heel conservatives than any governor in recent memory.

None of this was "luck." The success



Gov. Luther Hodges

was planned—coolly, carefully, consciously—planned. Furthermore, it was planned not by an artless amateur but by an artful professional. The fact that Luther Hodges was not a wardheeler at 16 does not mean that he cannot be a superb politician at 60.

Because he is a superb politician—far better suited for the role than, say, Dwight D. Eisenhower—he makes his own luck and to a large extent controls the duration of his own "honeymoon." If it can be properly called a honeymoon at all, it surely must be the longest in history. It is more likely that the honeymoon ended normally and naturally in 1953 and that what followed only resembles a honeymoon because the governor, the legislature and the people are so admirably adjusted to each other.

That is why the aimless chattering of the chorus sound so plaintive. No. This is not where we came in. But it should be.

### Step Right Up And Take A Stand

PULLING an issue into the open for debate during the current political campaign is a good bit like pulling teeth. In fact, some candidates are known to rather have a tooth pulled than face the necessity of committing themselves in public on an issue.

It is altogether proper at such times for the voters themselves to take the initiative to toss out a question and demand an answer.

A contributor to today's PEOPLE'S PLATFORM accepts the challenge. ("Do Candidates Favor 'Two-Corner' Zoning?") He wants to know how Mecklenburg's would-be legislators feel about a zoning law that has already written a particularly painful page in the history of planning in Mecklenburg.

It's a fair question and deserves a straight answer.

But the query is also properly directed to members of the City Council. This

was the law that was involved in a thorny dispute over rezoning corner lots at Park and Woodlawn Rds. This was the law, too, that prevented Councilmen from making what they thought was a proper decision on the basis of a thorough study of the facts of the case.

But what is not too well known is the fact that the City Council landed in its difficulty by failing to heed a suggestion from the City-County Planning Commission that Charlotte be exempted from the state law so that it could make its own decision on how its street corners should be zoned.

In fairness to 1957's legislative delegation, it must be noted that legislators customarily draw up such measures only at the request of local governing bodies.

Charlotte can be exempted from the state law by a simple amendment. Obviously, it should be.

### When Man Bites Dog, That's News

IT happened at Washington's National Airport when Dwight D. Eisenhower turned up to welcome Vice President Nixon home from South America.

"Hi, Mr. President," shouted Congressman Sid Simpson of Illinois. "You gonna play golf this afternoon?"

"No," Mr. Eisenhower replied. "I'm going to work."

Then, according to the WASHINGTON Post's George Dixon, the President

swept his glance over the assembled newsmen and noted that not a pencil was in motion.

"It always gets into the papers when I play golf," grumped like. "Why isn't it mentioned when I stay in the office and work?"

By George, he's right. Don't those Washington reporters know a news story when they see one?

Condensed From 'The American Teenager'

### THESE ARE OUR TEENAGERS

ONLY 45 per cent of the nation's young adults believe that newspapers should be allowed to print anything they want except military secrets.

Thirteen per cent believe that religious belief and worship should be restricted by law.

Twenty-six per cent believe that the police should be allowed to search a person or his home without a warrant.

Fifteen per cent would refuse to some criminals the right to have a lawyer.

Twenty-five per cent agree that some groups should not be allowed to hold public meetings.

Seventeen per cent say that it may be right for police to jail people without naming the charges against them.

Thirty-three per cent say that people who refuse to testify against a known

Nine per cent believe one can't be a scientist and be honest.

Fourteen per cent think there is something evil about scientists.

Twenty-seven per cent feel that scientists are willing to sacrifice the welfare of others to further their own interests.

Thirty per cent declare that one can't raise a normal family and become a scientist.

Thirty-five per cent believe that it is necessary to be a genius to become a good scientist, and 45 per cent think their own school backgrounds are too poor to permit them to choose science as a career.

Fourteen per cent declare that foreign countries have very little to contribute to American progress.

Thirty-seven per cent say that immigration of foreigners into this country should be greatly restricted since it may mean "lowering national standards."

## All France Prepares For The Hero's Return To Power

By MARQUIS CHILDS

ALL OVER France committees for Gen. Charles de Gaulle are being secretly formed, and while their existence is screened by the censorship applied by the government in Paris, they are preparing for the return to power of the hero.

They are made up of small businessmen, farmers, some upper civil servants and older people living on pensions. They share not so much a sense of hero worship as a deep disillusionment with things as they are and a conviction that de Gaulle may be able to do what has to be done for France.

### ACCEPTED BELIEF

They assume the general is coming to power. This is the widely accepted belief here in Paris despite the large majority given in the Assembly to the Pompidou government. No one professes to know just when or how it will come about, but the fatalistic acceptance of the event is expressed in the shrug of the taxi driver who says, "Oh, well, we had better see what he can do."

The Rightist parties are preparing for it, and particularly the Peasant's Party of former Premier Antoine Pinay and Joseph Laniel. They might even pave the way for the general to take over legally by putting together a coalition of Rightist parties that would vote against higher taxes or the constitutional reforms that Premier Pompidou has said are essential.

### 'POPULAR FRONT'

In that event the Communists would vote with the other Left



"Somewhere A Voice Is Calling"

parties and with some of the Center, and the specter of a "popular front" would precipitate a new crisis and Pompidou would fall.

The relationship of the Communists to de Gaulle and de Gaulle to the Communists is one of the mysterious unknowns in this weird political tangle. The line out of Moscow has become increasingly moderate, with stress on the fact that it was, after all, de Gaulle who as Premier after the war went to Moscow and reached an agreement with the Soviet Union. Plainly implied is the possibility that something like this could happen again.

But what of the general himself during this time when France is in a state of suspended animation, waiting for one system to expire and another to be born? He is working, with the calm view of destiny, which is the dominant element in his tempera-

ment, on the completion of the third volume of his memoirs. Those close to him say that he is adding a final chapter which will prophesy the future for France.

It will be an apocalyptic vision of the decline and fall of the system of political parties and the return of a savior to restore the glory of France. That savior, it is hardly necessary to add, is the general, who at the head of the wartime resistance movement did not remove hero worshipers who identified him with Joan of Arc.

### MODERN SYMBOL

For de Gaulle, the history of the past 20 years is de Gaulle. This identification is both his strength and his weakness. It is his strength because it underwrites his unshakable confidence that he has the capacity to lead France

out of the wilderness of confusion and conflict.

But because it colors his judgment of contemporary events, it is a great weakness. Part of de Gaulle's distrust of the United States and American policy is based on his experience as commander of the Free French during World War II when he was often in contact with Roosevelt and Churchill.

### VIVID MEMORY

Living in the past so much, as he has done in his years of retirement, de Gaulle has a vivid memory of the dispute in North Africa after the American landings in 1942 when the American commander, Gen. Eisenhower, denied authority to de Gaulle and his faction in Algiers.

De Gaulle and many others in France put the blame for Eisen-

hower's decision on the American diplomat, Robert Murphy. Therefore when this same Robert Murphy was sent by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles on a good offices mission to try to reconcile the differences between France and Tunisia over the French bombing of a Tunisian border village, all of de Gaulle's suspicion was stirred anew. In his remarkable press conference last week, his strong feeling was most evident when he spoke of "a diplomatic Dienbienphu" coming out of the good offices mission.

### FRENCH SURRENDER

In short, de Gaulle and a large segment of French opinion that takes the Algerian war with the utmost seriousness had been convinced that Murphy meant a catastrophic surrender from the French in North Africa.

While the two generals, Eisenhower and de Gaulle, are utterly unlike in temperament, what de Gaulle is saying to the French people today has some similarity to what Eisenhower was saying when he gave up the command of NATO to run for President in 1952.

### GREAT UNKNOWN

He is saying that unity and national confidence are more important than the divisions of the parties. He is saying that he can be the father of all the people above the quarrels of the parties, that this is why the people look to him for salvation.

But whether de Gaulle understands the nature of the deep divisions in France and whether he has the political capacity to heal them and to weld the French people together is the greatest of all unknowns.

## What Is Behind The Sudden Surrender To De Gaulle?

By JOSEPH ALSOP

NO MORE curious situation could be imagined than the present situation in this deeply troubled country.

Virtually the entire army, a large part of the permanent civil service and ever-increasing numbers of influential people in all the other key sectors of French life now believe that Gen. de Gaulle's return to power is "the only way out."

Yet only a very small minority feels the slightest enthusiasm for the experiment they now ad-

vocate. No one doubts the general's greatness. But no one has any clear idea of what he will do with the power so many people wish to give him.

### UNAVOIDABLE

Most of those who most strongly believe that France now needs de Gaulle have just resigned themselves to this great change. They regard it as risky but unavoidable.

This sudden surrender to the huge, remote, mysterious, even mystical figure that is Gen. de Gaulle demands an explanation.

The explanation is obviously a growing rejection of the French National Assembly. But why is the elected Parliament so despairingly rejected?

This reporter's private key to the great puzzle of the French Parliament was acquired in the very darkest days of the last war, in 1940. A member of the personal staff of France's war-premier, Paul Reynaud, had just made his way to the United States after notable adventures.

In those days, the question everyone was asking was why Reynaud had not led a French government in exile to those same

North African provinces where France's agony now centers. It was known Reynaud had wanted to do so. His intelligence and courage were questioned by none. When he and Reynaud had walked over the government to the advocates of surrender, Petain and Laval.

In being asked this question, Reynaud's former staff-assistant offered the following explanation. Reynaud had wished to lead a government into exile, that would represent "a parliamentary majority" which had dissolved in the last disaster. He therefore handed over to the advocates of surrender in the belief that the Adolph Hitler's surrender terms would prove "unacceptable." The idea was that Hitler's unacceptable terms would cause a parliamentary majority to rally to Reynaud, after which the departure for North Africa could be organized in proper style.

### ASTIGMATISM

If this account is indeed correct, Paul Reynaud in fact rejected the opening of surrenders to Hitler as a parliamentary maneuver. You could have no more astonishing illustration of the peculiar astigmatism that is caused by the French parliamentary career.

In the last year and a half, this reporter has observed the same phenomenon at first hand and on many occasions. For example, he has heard two successive prime ministers discussing the Algerian problem at length and in detail.

### REALITIES SKIRTED

Both of these very able men hardly once touched on the crucial

realities of the situation in Algeria. They talked, rather, of the quite different realities of the situation in fact, a nation in full renaissance, bursting with regained vigor. It is this strange state of affairs which has ended by so sharply alienating those who live the real life of France from those who live the parliamentary life. And it is this state of affairs which Pierre Pompidou is belatedly, obstinately, desperately seeking to remedy with his constitutional reforms.

But already, in the Assembly, they are talking of replacing the Pompidou government with a government headed by Guy Mollet. And even if Pompidou endures and his reform is voted, it is hard to see how this will restore the authority of a government which no longer has any real authority either over the army or in Algeria.

### A WEAK NATION?

It is this strange state of affairs which makes the outer world think France is weak, whereas France is in fact a nation in full renaissance, bursting with regained vigor. It is this strange state of affairs which has ended by so sharply alienating those who live the real life of France from those who live the parliamentary life. And it is this state of affairs which Pierre Pompidou is belatedly, obstinately, desperately seeking to remedy with his constitutional reforms.

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### 'Could You Just Tell Me, Is There Ever A Good Time?'



## People's Platform

### Do Candidates Favor 'Two-Corner' Zoning?

Charlotte

Editors, The News.

I should be repeated for Mecklenburg County. This North Carolina statute makes it mandatory for two corners of any intersection to be zoned for business if the other two are already zoned for business. This means business establishments can lawfully "cross the street" in spite of objections by local homeowners and local planning or zoning commissions.

Our primary elections come up this week. The candidates will be summarizing their platforms in their bid for election. We urge them to make their feelings known on this important piece of zoning legislation.

We hope the mayor and City Council will help make this an issue by expressing themselves before the primaries as being in favor of repealing the "Two-Corner" Zoning Law.

We also urge your newspaper to continue its efforts to have this legislation changed so that Charlotte zoning can be done by the Planning Commission and City Council and not be hindered by this "Two-Corner" Zoning Law.

S. W. JOHNSON  
Legislative Committee  
Madison Park  
Homeowners Assn.

### Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Editors' Note: Drew Pearson reports further today on life behind the Iron Curtain.

THIS is a beautiful city of strange paradoxes. In the middle of the city, roosters crow in the morning. Around its most ornate public square you can hear the rain crowd calling in the afternoon. And in the evening you hear the rhythm of a jazz band and the wail of a gypsy fute.

It is a city where the strict doctrines of a Communist regime have clashed with the lackadaisical corruption of down-at-the-heel royalty, and the Communists have won. It is a city where the Russian Army took over from the Nazi Army, and where the landmarks of German energy still stand out—an airport far more modern than New York's La Guardia Airport. And a Council of Ministers Building, stern in design but in a way beautiful.

## Rumanian Reds Live For The Future

It is a city whose parks are delightful, whose children are well cared for, whose streets are almost empty of automobiles, and whose interesting museums, built by the monarchy, are well managed by the Communists.

### Promoting Marxism

It is a city where you sometimes think that free enterprise is confined to the tapping of the bootblack outside your hotel window every morning. He puts his brush on his box to try to drum up trade—his way of advertising. Aside from this there is little advertising in Rumania. The billboards don't promote tooth paste, or hair lotion, or under-arms deodorants. Instead you read billboards promoting the virtues of Lenin and Marx, and the link between Russia and Rumania.

Whether you agree with the Communists or not, they have cut out sensuousness and they seem to have eradicated a certain amount of sin. But not even the Communists can eradicate sex. They have been harsh and ruthless in taking over the palaces and estates of the old regime, and crowding one-time nobility into small rooms with no bathrooms. But they have given these confiscated homes to workers. There is little resentment from the old nobility and there are cases of genuine suffering. In the store windows, set aside for the sale of personal keepsakes, you will see pathetic relics of the past—a statue of a czarist cavalryman, an old photo of Charles Chaplin and Lilian Gish, a set of china, a sword worn by one of King Ferdinand's courtiers.

One was a nursery school attached to a state factory which manufactures clothing. Mothers working in the factory paid for their children to be sent to the nursery. I found it excellent. In fact it was better than any American nursery schools which my grandchildren have attended.

### Future Communists

I also visited a Pioneer Place, a special relaxation and training school for children, to keep them off the streets and incidentally get them started as young Communists. This one was in the King's old summer palace and it was beautiful. The houses which once housed the nobility had been revamped into classrooms for study of radio, electronics, telephone, painting, theatre, manual training. All were extremely well done. There was a political motive in it. But on the other hand I could find no juvenile crime in the satellite countries.

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