



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1958

### The Silly Business About Spencer Bell

J. SPENCER BELL has taken an uncommon amount of verbal thrashing for his support of a plan to change the method of selecting Tar Heel judges. That's fine. As a political candidate, he's fair game. So is the appointive judge plan and any others recommended by his Committee on Improving and Expediting the Administration of Justice. Besides that, a man of Bell's courage needs no one to run interference for him. It is characteristic of Spencer Bell that, while running for public office, he advocated a judicial reform plan he believed in although that endorsement made him a wide open target for misleading attacks.

But any voter tempted to swallow the guff that Bell opposes the right to vote will find beneficial a look at the record. The appointive judge plan would not take away anyone's rights. Higher court judges would be appointed by the governor. It is true—as most of them are now appointed—but they could be removed by the people voting on the ba-

sis of judges' performance. Nor does the plan assume that the people do not have the sense to choose their judges, but rather that they are not likely to have the information on which to evaluate a judge's performance. Knowledge of the law and those personal qualities that go to make up a judicial temperament. It is a defensible position, although there is no chance that it will prevail any time in the near future.

Spencer Bell is guilty of having the courage to back a judicial reform plan, a portion of which turned out to be unpopular, and of doing as much as he could to arouse sincere debate on the issue. It also is true that he did not run for cover when the first opposition was heard.

But no citizen should be taken by the silly business that Bell opposes democratic government. As a state senator during the last General Assembly, he did as much as anyone in North Carolina to demonstrate the value and effectiveness of democratic institutions.

### A Tar Heel Yarn Drove Home A Point

IT WAS inevitable, we suppose, that Sen. Sam J. Ervin would be reminded of a story last week when Defense Secretary McElroy took his turn at bat for the President's Pentagon reorganization bill.

As Tar Heels know, almost anything is likely to remind Sam Ervin of a story. It is his way of sorting out the eternal verities in public. Some verities, being more eternal than others, require two stories.

A medium-length eternal verity was involved last week—namely, the nonsense of attempting to curtail Army, Navy and Air Force press agency by stripping them of their separate public relations and legislative liaison. The administration prefers a "team" approach which would, in effect, gag the individual services.

"I am reminded of a story," said Sen. Ervin with characteristic aplomb, "of a North Carolina justice of the peace who was confronted with a difficult civil suit."

"After hearing the plaintiff, the justice of the peace turned to the defendant and said, 'I'd appreciate it very much if you would not present your case, because when I hear both sides it gets me confused and I have trouble making up my mind who's right.'"

Touche, Sen. Ervin. It so happens that the information

agencies the Defense Department would close down are not propaganda arms of the government. They are there to provide hard facts quickly and efficiently for the press, members of Congress and the public at large. The propaganda comes from individual generals and admirals and their private clichés, not from legitimate channels of information. It comes too, from "off-the-record" press conferences held by the Pentagon's top brass and from highly placed tipsters who "plant" information with friendly correspondents.

To blame inter-service rivalry on the regular dispensing of information-gathering offices of the separate services is as ridiculous as it is unfair. To close down these agencies is to extend the curtain of bureaucratic secrecy over wide areas of legitimate public information and to restrict the public's right to know.

Unlike Sen. Ervin's fictitious magistrate, the public has to have this information before it can judge the issues with any real degree of confidence.

This portion of the President's reorganization bill should receive a merciful coup de grace. If the Defense Department wants the real villains who are engaging in inter-service propaganda battles it knows where to find them. They can be silenced without endangering the people's right to know. They can be fired.

### As Subtle As A Blow On The Head

TO PUT IT bluntly, the humane slaughter bill was bludgeoned by the Senate Agriculture Committee last week with the kind of vehemence the meat packers usually reserve for dumb animals.

Rather than approve legislation similar to the Poage bill passed by the House of Representatives, the committee members voted for a two-year "study" of painless slaughtering methods.

Both the American Meat Institute and the Department of Agriculture were lobbying vigorously for "study" legislation. It is a familiar dodge. Similar delaying tactics have sentenced great bundles of worthy legislation to a lingering death in the past.

The bill is expected to reach the Senate floor in July. Its amendment to return to it the effective language of Rep. Poage's bill, would mark the beginning of the end of slaughterhouse cruelties to animals in the United States.

There is no need for any additional "study" of humane slaughtering methods. They have already been studied in enormous detail and perfected with great care by U. S. universities. Painless killing methods are in use and, in fact, re-

quired by law in civilized European countries. A few U. S. packers find new methods both economical and efficient.

It is plainly absurd to postpone action in the United States merely to confirm the proposition that cruelty is cruel.

All that proponents of humane slaughter legislation want is a system in which the animal is rendered quietly unconscious before it is killed. It is a reasonable enough goal in a civilized society.

### The Sixth Digit

WE ARE AS thrilled as the next fellow about Charlotte having 100,000 telephones, and yet...

Let's put it this way. The day before yesterday there were only 99,999 opportunities to dial a wrong number, 99,999 bells to ring at inconvenient times, 99,999 busy signals, 99,999 numbers anyone could possibly want to memorize, 99,999 ways to transmit bad news quickly and 99,999 reasons an escapee can never really escape any more.

Life was so simple then.

If the Russians launch 'em much bigger, they'll be able to put Sputniks in orbit around their Sputniks—New Orleans States.

Now we're getting to the point where all letters are illegal, illicit, or expensive—Raleigh News and Observer.

## Doctrine Is 'Truth' For Two Hundred Million Russians

By MARQUIS CHILDS

AFTER YOU are settled in your seat and the Soviet airliner has gained altitude, a pretty hostess, Russian model, offers the passengers magazines. There are two, the Soviet Union Illustrated Monthly, a fairly professional picture magazine, and Culture and Life, containing articles on a variety of subjects from choosing a career to decorating an apartment.

The note struck repeatedly and consistently throughout both magazines was, first, the happiness and well-being of the Soviet people and, second, their desire for peace and their abhorrence of war. To one visiting the Soviet Union for the first time, this was the initial impression of what appears inevitably as the outstanding difference between the two worlds of East and West. It is the total and complete indoctrination of the Soviet citizen.

**DOCTRINAL CAGE**

There is nothing new in this. It corresponds with the fundamental belief of the Communist order. But to the visitor from the West, seeing for the first time how 200 million people are enclosed within this doctrinal frame, it must seem to be an astonishing phenomenon.

For the great mass of the Russians, it would appear to be taken for granted. There are some who look longingly out and perhaps a few who stray. But in the great mass of those who work so hard, so intently, so fiercely, the number must be very small.

**PROPAGANDA?**

This reporter on his first day in Moscow had an exchange with Nikita S. Khrushchev that was proof to him that in discussing the Russian position on the issues dividing East and West, it is wrong to use the word "propaganda." The exchange took place

at one of the big embassy receptions where the members of the President of the Supreme Soviet, ordinarily so seclusive, make themselves available to all comers in a crowded cocktail party atmosphere.

Khrushchev spoke with the half-literate, half-literate manner characteristic of him about the truth which should be evident to everyone, the great Soviet Union of war and peace. But there was, the reporter suggested, a truth that lay somewhere between the Russian perspective and the American perspective, and wasn't it necessary to try to find that truth?

**HOMEY ANALOGY**

But Khrushchev would have none of that—going around in circles. As he so often does, he had recourse to a homey Russian analogy about the "White Bullock." This is a story of an old peasant who was forever taking his white bullock out to graze and forever coming back to the village to report that the bullock had strayed away.

To this observer, Khrushchev seemed to believe every word that he spoke. This was not "propaganda" that he was putting out for a circle of reporters and diplomats in an embassy drawing room. Far in this solid affirmation, this short, thick man in a nondescript gray suit was the center, the core, of national conviction as beamed to the farthest corners of the Eurasian land mass by every means of modern communication.

**CULTURAL TRIUMPHS**

Van Cliburn was a huge success, enchanting a people who love music and for whom the tall, dramatic young Texan represented something new and spectacular. The joyous vigor and vitality of the Moscow dancers have been similarly captivated America. The Bolshoi Ballet has been appearing in Paris, where even seat was sold out months before,



Moscow's Red Square: An Enigma Lurks Behind The Walls

only the outsider who may speculate about what happens behind the Kremlin walls.

But what this great, solid, seemingly impervious mass means for the future and a negotiated settlement is something else. The first tentative step—cultural exchange—has been taken and the heralds of culture and learning are flying back and forth as though the great divide did not exist.

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and the ballet and Russia's other prize cultural exhibits are being sent to the Brussels World's Fair in a lavish display of what this country can offer.

The Philadelpia Orchestra has just won wide acclaim here, both from audiences and from reviewers, who are often critical not only of foreign artists but their own.

**A QUESTION REMAINS**

All of this must make for greater goodwill, but whether it alters in any way whatsoever the political climate is the question.

Coincidental with the appearance of the Philadelpia Orchestra, the Central Committee of the Communist Party issued a decree "on the rectification of errors" of a judgment passed in 1948 on the work of Shostakovich, Khachatryan, Prokofiev and other prominent Russian composers. That

1948 judgment had condemned them for "formalism" and failing to represent Socialist realism.

These evaluations were found in the new decree to be "inaccurate and erroneous." Construing this doctrinal difference, some Westerners believe the fact that the Philadelpia Orchestra played the music that had been criticized may have helped to bring about the new evaluation. Others have interpreted it as merely a new rebuke to Molotov and Malenkov, who were removed in Khrushchev's rise to power, and presumably the introduction of a less rigid outlook in the arts.

Perhaps, as these things go in this society so utterly different from our own, this may be a significant change. But if we are to wait on this kind of alteration to bring eventually some adjustment of the perspectives of the East and the West, we are likely to wait for a very long time.

single member of last fall's Little Rock rioters has spent a day in jail but all have gone scot-free.

Federal Judge Harry J. Lemley's decision to halt "Little Rock integration for 2 1/2 years will be appealed by Negroes to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis. It would be rash to predict the outcome or even to speculate on the likelihood of a great experience and legal acumen called the roll of the court and made these comments:

**NO 'CONFEDERATES'**

Although the court's jurisdiction embraces Eastern and Western Arkansas, there is no "Confederate" among its six judges. They come instead from North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. It is an able court containing men whose forbears sat on it, too, and they guard jealously its reputation.

The fact suggests the utter absence of such a sentimental mood as that proclaimed by Judge Lemley, who has said that love of the South is a religion with him.

**IT IS EQUITY**

Nonetheless, the Lemley ruling has been hastily grounded on a rock which has afforded perfect safety to many causes in the long development of the law. It is equity. Equity stems from the old but ancient courts and operates largely on general principles and maxims of which the most fa-

mous is: "Where there's a right, there's a remedy."

Judges traditionally enjoy enormous latitude in equity cases and are allowed much more reliance upon the simple plea that their aim is to see the ends of justice served. One authority has likened them to the "impartial chairman" or arbitrators who function to an increasing degree in labor disputes.

**STORMY WEATHER**

It appears from the foregoing that the integration symbol which Little Rock has become may continue to encounter stormy weather. Liberals in Congress see only a steady handing of tension, no matter what happens.

In the confusion it will not be easy for any politician to make vote capital that can be sure will be in the bank for him on Election Day this fall or in 1960.

**FRESH CHALLENGE**

No present inducement appears possible that would incite a northern Negro exodus from the Democrats, though the role played by the Democratic government of Arkansas does not, of course, help them.

What the ruling certainly will do is arouse the extremists again, harm the country in its international relations and furnish the already mired presidency with a fresh challenge.

## Lemley's Little Rock Decision: A Political Bombshell?

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

A FEDERAL judge's suspension of school integration in Little Rock, Ark., confronts the harassed Eisenhower administration with still another political time bomb. No immediate remedy is in sight. The President spoke fairly to

Negro leaders who called on him, and they in turn spoke politely of him and of Attorney General William P. Rogers, who joined the President in the ordinary course of events, see. And it is

any kind and that absolutely nothing is being done.

The same stories quote the Negro leaders as saying to the President that Negroes are becoming "frustrated and angry" over the federal government's failure to protect them. They stress that no

### 'We Have A Report That A Newspaperman Asked You What Time It Was—And You Told Him'



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paper, the Boston Post, when its former publisher, John Fox, testifies. Fox, a former friend of Bernard Goldfine, knows the case and has already supplied the Harris Subcommittee with important information.

**Hidden Hand**

Fox suffered a series of tax crackdowns from the U.S. Treasury Department which he blames on some mysterious hidden hand high up in government.

First, the Treasury discovered that he had \$200,000 of whisky in a bonded warehouse and demanded that he pay taxes on it then rather than later because it was eight years old. Though Schenley is protesting this eight-year tax ruling, Internal Revenue at first considered smashing all Fox's whisky.

This was finally stopped by a ruling that the whisky could be sold at auction for the benefit of the government, could not be smashed.

**Next Adams Witness**

In the background of the Sherman Adams case are ominous reports of attempts to squeeze two Boston newspapers.

Testimony has already been officially recorded regarding the attempt of Robert Choate, publisher of the Herald and Traveler, to put the squeeze on the Boston Globe by obtaining TV Channel 5. The Harris Subcommittee was probing this when it got diverted into the more sensational relationship between Sherman Adams and Bernard Goldfine.

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## People's Platform

Mayor Missing When Over Forty Club Met

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

HAVING read what purported to be a news item in your paper, I am having been present at the third anniversary celebration of the Over Forty Club Inc. and being a member of same as well as a supporter of your paper ever since I came to Charlotte to live, I am in a position to say several things about it.

In the first place it was rather brief and not to the point.

In the second place the popular young lawyer and politician Bud Coira was there and introduced the main speaker, our Con-

gressman Jonas, whose name you did mention in a most perfunctory manner.

In the third place, unlike you printed it, our mayor was neither seen nor heard at the meeting. Nor even heard from, I may add.

Finally, it being Flag Day, the congressman, Mr. Jonas, made appropriate mention of the fact as well as doing the job he came to do, namely the problem of ending discrimination against those over forty of which we are many, both we and the problems that it.

Aside from being half pitched, too short and badly fictioned, we of the Over Forty Club were glad to occupy such space as you could grant.

—RICHARD F. BASS  
Over Forty Club, Inc.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

### HONEYSUCKLE

THE folks who have not been deeply intimate with honeysuckle have cheated their noses of a seasonal thrill, have deprived the spirit of a pulsating tonic so overpowering as to make a banker leave the counting room door wide open.

The sporadic honeysuckle that tries so valiantly to perfume the town is wonderful but it isn't all the subtle and intoxicating poetry of the random vines that grow along the sides of old roads. The exquisite vines are the monarchs of the old roads and byways wherein no one is ever perturbed about keeping a right-of-way cleared. The dedicated pilgrim, and surely he is all of that, drives out with his family after dark. He goes slowly as if speed will somehow break the spell. He sits quietly, absorbed by all the night music and the scent of the honeysuckle. The latent poet in him prompts an effort to reduce to words the sweep and majesty of the aroma.

But there aren't enough words, nor is language flexible as to bend in and over the tangled network, or steal the secret and put them on paper. The best of some of the professional poets

have tried long and ardently, but the task is hopeless. The best thing is to sit quietly and to be subtly enchanted. The night bird sings a requiem for spent sunbeams. The crickets fiddle raucously, as if driven delirious by the moon. Near by in the creek the bullfrogs are booming and you think of cannon firing across a bay. Through all the music the honeysuckle fills the air with something approaching a divine tremor. You want to steal this substance and take it home as an antidote against subsequent travail, but it is right and proper that it remain by the side of the old road.

The children in the car will forget much, but you know beyond peradventure, this impeccably beautiful night will last them a lifetime, will return amid the gloom of fifty winters to give shape and promise to existence.

If the Russians launch 'em much bigger, they'll be able to put Sputniks in orbit around their Sputniks—New Orleans States.

Now we're getting to the point where all letters are illegal, illicit, or expensive—Raleigh News and Observer.

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

WASHINGTON

CONCEALING the truth continues to be the studied policy of official Washington.

When it leaked out that Mrs. McElroy, wife of the secretary of defense, was getting free dental work done at the Army's Walter Reed Hospital, dental authorities refused to comment. The press relations officer at Walter Reed referred inquiries to the secretary of defense. There it was officially explained that Mrs. McElroy's dental work was a "unimpaired kind of thing."

**Whole New Set**

The real truth, learned from other sources, however, is that all her teeth were pulled and she received a completely new set of dentures. It was also learned that the top dentist at Walter Reed came in after hours to work on Mrs. McElroy's teeth.

**'Normal Procedure'**

Army dentists are not permitted to work on the teeth of their own families. They are also not permitted to work on the teeth of any service dependent. Despite this strict ruling, it was officially

stated by the secretary of defense that it was "normal procedure" for wives of Cabinet officers to receive free dental treatment at Walter Reed Hospital.

Note—Mrs. McElroy's husband until recently was head of one of the biggest soap empires in the world—Procter and Gamble, makers of Ivory Soap—"It Floats."

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**Improper Claims**

In June, 1958, the Treasury slapped tax liens on him for \$1,700,000. This again he claims was persecution, and he supported his claim by showing that 67 per cent of the tax claim was later dropped by the Treasury on the ground that it was improper.

**Double Squeeze**

Fox has taken his tax battle to the U.S. Tax Court where he has won most of the preliminary rounds. He says he has turned down a Treasury offer to settle for \$15,000.

Fox's Boston Post has now folded. He blames a local economic squeeze applied by Choate of the Boston Herald and Traveler and a tax squeeze applied by a hidden hand in Washington.