



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1958

### What Is A 'Progressive Conservative'?

THE SEARCH for Sen. B. Everett Jordan's political philosophy goes on but it is a notably bleak and unrewarding ritual.

As expressed in his first formal press conference in Washington the other day, his convictions include a belief in "mutual understanding," the "teachings of Jesus Christ" and other nobly-sounding generalizations. But North Carolina's new senator is still unwilling to let his hair down, to reveal a sound and vital core of ideas, to deal in practical realities.

As Bruce Jolly, one veteran Washington correspondent, put it, "For nearly a half hour he replied to questions that were blunt, frequently barbed and generally to a point. But he adroitly avoided answering most of them."

Sen. Jordan has labeled himself a "progressive conservative." What is a "progressive conservative"? Is it the same thing as a "conservative progressive"? Is he a little bit to the left of the right wing or a little bit to the right of the left wing? The honest truth-seeker is lost in abstractions and quickly reduced to despair.

The statements themselves offer few clues.

"Internationally," says the senator, "I feel we must change our thinking. The thing we must consider first is what we have done wrong in our efforts to do something right."

No one can quarrel with that. And, furthermore, the quotation has a nice progressive ring to it. It contains 28 words, all neatly arranged, all going around in a wide circle like wooden horses on a merry-go-round.

The farm problem, naturally, is a matter of concern for Sen. Jordan for North Carolina is an agricultural state. "I don't

pretend to have the answers," he says frankly. "They must be worked out collectively. But we must get agriculture on a sound basis again."

Sen. Jordan has firmer feelings about the textile situation and that is understandable, but again he suggests no positive answers. "What I can't see is how it is a world threat to us to send textiles to China or tobacco either," he confessed. "Nor can I see why the Japanese should not trade with them." No doubt Sen. Knowland and the China lobby will attempt to enlighten him.

He expressed interest in education and water, both worthy concerns, and went up in fine rhetorical fettle: "Our educational system must continue to prepare our children to carry on a vigorous farm economy and at the same time train skilled craftsmen for the highly technical industries that are looking to the South for an abundance of untapped human and natural resources."

No one can quarrel with that either. In fact, no one can quarrel with any man who is for God, motherhood and country.

But something more substantial is expected of a United States senator. At some point he is expected to shed the cloak of vague nice-nellyisms and stake himself out with candor and with courage on the practical issues gnawing at the nation's consciousness.

The regrettable thing is that the picture the public has been getting of their new senator is possibly misleading. He is not a rambling, platitudinous thinker. He is known to intimates to have firm and wholly honorable convictions on contemporary issues. When, then, is he going to share this image of his better self with the public?

## What Will De Gaulle Be Like? It's Anybody's Guess

By JOSEPH ALSOP

EVERYONE now asks, everyone now has to ask this crucial question, What will De Gaulle be like? Nobody quite knows the answer. But there is at least a chance that the agonizing crisis which has convulsed France for so long will turn out to be the climactic moment in France's postwar recovery.

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from the birth rate to the rate of industrial output, points to the conclusion that France has already experienced a splendid rebirth. But two factors have obscured the vigorous reality of this French rebirth.

### CRUEL DIFFICULTY

One of these obscuring factors has been the incompetence of the French government. It has been charged with a really passion-charged national problem. The other has been the cruel difficulty of the most passionate of all French problems, the problem of France's former empire.

By the unanimous testimony of these two factors have given the reborn France a misleading appearance of impotence and even of futility.

Now, however, Gen. de Gaulle is coming to power, by legal means, for a limited term, and with a specific mandate to do the two things that so desperately need to be done. He is to reform the constitution. And he is to seek a solution in blood-stained Algeria.

### FINAL OUTCOME

Logically, therefore, there is every reason to feel hopeful about the final outcome of this French crisis. It often threatened to take the most appalling turn. But it has ended with a decision to do the two things that everyone has always known had to be done and everyone previously had been unable to do.

Before one grows too optimistic, to be sure, certain important reservations have to be made. The biggest of all concerns the problem that Gen. de Gaulle will certainly tackle first of all, in Algeria, to be blunt about it, is nothing like a ready-made Fascist problem. It has plainly come into existence since the Committee of Public Safety was formed on the staircase of the government general in Algiers. The slogans, the tone, the modes of actions are the same clearly and consciously anti-Democratic.



GEN. CHARLES DE GAULLE  
A Rare Opportunity

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Today every practical index,

### Surrounded South

## The Plot Thickens

By DORIS FLEESON

AN ALLIANCE, still largely unexplored and very informal, is the making between Gov. Averell Harriman in New York, Gov. G. Mennen Williams in Michigan and western Democrats. It is aimed more at insuring a liberal Democratic platform in the next national election than at helping any one candidate.

Both Harriman and Williams will indeed be active candidates for the presidential nomination in 1960 if they are re-elected this fall, as they have an excellent chance of being. Nor can either choose peace with the price of any compromise on civil rights, for that they cannot afford at home.

It adds up to the prospect of another very merry Democratic National Convention, as one astute politico, Harry S. Truman, has already foreseen. It is one fight the former president would like to see avoided and he has, in the past, called it an unwelcome role of peacemaker. Whether he can shine in it is another matter.

### SOUTH'S COURSE

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Western Democrats have already begun their conferences at a two-day session of 14 national committee members and it is likely officers from Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Nevada and Alaska. They say frankly that they want to emulate the cohesiveness the South has always shown on issues affecting that area.

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### People's Platform

## U. S. Inflation Has Nine Lives, Too

Charlotte

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### What Happened To All That Urgency?

SEVEN months ago President Eisenhower, quoting his scientific advisers, identified "the most critical problem of all for the American people."

It would be interesting to know how many Americans remember. The problem was not the sack, South America, the recession or even segregation. It was and is a Soviet education system geared to the prolific production of high quality scientists and engineers. At the time the President's words gripped the consciousness of Americans staring up at the first of the Sputniks and looking askance at leaders who had misled them.

But what has been the result? "So far it has been just talk, talk, talk," according to the National Education Association. "The Sputnik was launched last fall. Winter, spring and now summer—and we have yet to hear of a state legislature or the Congress of the United States doing anything more than talk. Congress is proceeding as though the space age were a thousand light years in the future."

Maybe the NEA is excessively gloomy. Talk itself is an improvement over the blissful apathy that was shattered by the Sputniks. But it certainly is time to ask if the talk is leading anywhere—if there is going to be any intent and sustained effort to improve the schools beyond adding rooms to accommodate the

growing school population. It is not possible to say. The administrative units of U. S. schools are too numerous and diverse to show a clear trend at the present time.

But it seems painfully clear that the sense of urgency that prompted the President's warnings, and attempts by congressional leaders to outdo him in solemnity, has been eroding steadily by the pressure of succeeding events. The recession and other issues have moved to the foreground of politics and public concern. Sharp attacks on the frilliness of school curricula apparently has united the educational establishment in a determination to resist the infidels demanding change. There is little, in short, to suggest that anything besides "educational-as-usual" will be going on in the schools next fall.

Change in school curricula and methods cannot be made in urgency, of course, but it also is true that a sense of urgency is the required seedbed of any basic change in the methods of a democratic society.

President Eisenhower is capable of sparking a little urgency on occasion, but on most matters does not take the trouble to cultivate it. Perhaps he, the Congress and local school boards should take another look at the warning he issued last November on the nation's "most critical problem."

### The Englishman Got A Fair Answer

STORYTELLING is an ancient and important part of politics and, if we're lucky, perhaps the relaxing and warming effect of the art will spread eventually into diplomacy and international relations.

This story, told by Illinois Rep. Sidney Yates to the Washington Post, carries more pointed sense about the necessity of people understanding, rather than fearing, the differences that divide them than a bale of proclamations and speeches.

"An Asian cabinet minister said he

was going to attend the funeral of a friend. An English diplomat asked: 'Will there be food placed in the grave, as is customary in funerals in your country?' The minister replied that he supposed there would be. The diplomat smiled condescendingly and asked: 'Tell me, when will your friend eat that food?' The Asian paused a moment and then replied: 'I would say, sir, that he will eat as soon as the friend who buried last week will smell the flowers that you put on his grave.'"

Fair question, fair answer.

### From The Christian Science Monitor

## APRIL CAME HIGH THIS YEAR

SINCE the cost of living has decided to climb to a new level, it could not have chosen a more appropriate month than April in which to do it. As our old merchant friend used to say: "Yes, it costs more, but look what you're getting."

The high price of living in April covers a multitude of items well above the so-called "subsistence level."

As per invoice: an interesting variety of weather, enough rainy days to make the sunny ones seem especially golden; lilacs promising to hang purple banners against the faded brick wall; an almost pervasive insistence by robins, chaffinches, cuckoos, song sparrows, thrushes that Browning rather than Barnum was right and all's right with the world, the expectation, not necessarily to be fulfilled but pleasant to cherish, that the approaching Maytime would be even more delightful; red camellias on a shapely tree that makes you pause long enough to notice the music-box imitations by a nearby brook; the stubborn difference of

opinion between two frogs, one expressing his views by a hasty plop into the pool, the other by a skeptical but unfeeling gaze as he continues to occupy the sun-warmed rock.

There was a time—when Greek was a required college course and economics was not—that all such things could be had, as the poet calculated, "for the asking." But of course he was writing about June. Our statistics are for April, an expensive month apparently, "but look what you're getting."

Frequent visitors at newspaper offices are students who don't like English, but would just give anything to be a newspaperman. —MATTOOS (ILL.) JOURNAL-GAZETTE.

"You mustn't pull the cat's tail," a mother warned her small son. "I'm holding it. Mom," the youngster replied seriously. "The cat is pulling." —FORT MYERS (FLA.) NEWS-PRESS.

WASHINGTON

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ocr, military man, who was all the British could find to carry on resistance against the Germans, confided to President Roosevelt that he was to be the Joan of Arc of France. They met at Casablanca. Roosevelt found De Gaulle a Frenchman, unyielding. Roosevelt came back to Washington to ridicule De Gaulle privately in his meetings with congressmen.

Retirement

Time passed. The Free French moved back to France. The president of the American Army, General Eisenhower, a brief period of power, then retired to his village 150 miles from Paris. He remained there, waiting for the call to come back. The conditions of recall would be a new constitution giving

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