

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## The 'Latest' Is Too Late For Comfort

THIRTY-FIVE days have passed since the City Council called for an immediate survey of Recorder's Court procedures by the Institute of Government. It took 30 of those days for municipal officials to negotiate an agreement to bring experts to Charlotte for the study. When will the 'latest' be the 'latest,' says Mayor James Smith.

The 'latest' is late indeed for an immediate remedy.

Much was made on June 18 of the City Council's insistence on speed. The Council majority wanted audits and balances designed to protect court funds and records "even while a grand jury is conducting its investigation."

It was Mayor Smith himself who urged immediate action as we're ready to improve the situation as soon as possible. When Councilman Herbert H. Baxter moved to delay the Institute of Government survey until after the grand jury investigation, Mayor Smith snapped: "Your motion impedes progress."

Under these circumstances, it is difficult to understand how City Hall could have agreed to delay the study for what may be another two months or so.

If this is progress, it is progress at an exorbitant pace.

The condition of City Recorder's Court is a matter of vital concern to every citizen of Charlotte. If procedures are faulty and do not provide adequate safeguards they should be remedied immediately.

## The Summit Was Covered With Traps

THE U. S. had presumed quite enough on the affections of Dame Fortitude in Lebanon without risking her wrath at some hastily-climbed summit.

Khrushchev scored a propaganda victory by suggesting a summit meeting. He could double and redouble that victory at a summit by advancing proposals the West would have to reject. The West, already on the defensive before, would not want to appear to have won anything at a conference table. The only practical course was to take its propaganda losses at the outset and avoid the risk of greater losses.

Chilly as the atmosphere may be at the United Nations, the climate there remains the best place for the West to make its stand. This was where the Soviet vetoed a U.S. proposal that would have withdrawn the Marines

## How Many Floods Does It Take?

NATURALLY, North Carolina's water resources must be conserved. But that is only half of the problem. In certain monsoon years — such as 1958 — these liquid assets also must be controlled.

One drought is sufficient to make a crusade of conservation. How many floods does it take to stimulate the governmental conscience similarly on the subject of control?

The May 17 gullywash was bad enough. The weekend washout in the Glenwood Rd.-Beechwood Rd. section west of Charlotte was decidedly worse. Inadequate drainage contributed to the adversity in both areas. In both areas the loss was preventable.

There will be other storms and other floods and more property damage while state and local governments disclaim responsibility. Indeed legal responsibility

From The Manchester Guardian

## ADVENTURES OF A TITLED DIAMOND

THE Dresden Green, the Florentine Yellow, the Star of Kate, the Sancy and the Regent. What do these names evoke? Paintboxes, moths, or racing pigeons? Actually they are titled stones, high, expensive stones. In fact—diamonds. Their social bracket is only a rung or two below the Hope, the Tiffany, the Koh-i-noor, and those royal chips off the old Cullinan. In all there are 40 titled diamonds, and 50 more are being created by the trade for their own convenience. Something of their history is given in a chatty contribution by Miss Dorothy Dignam in the new *Orrisa*, that other quarterly published by the Anglo-American Corporation. Anglo-American, who have a controlling interest in De Beers, are perhaps not so dazzled by diamonds as Miss Dignam. For her gems spell high romance. She regrets that there is no central registry for big-name stones. Her piece provides a good basis for one. She is a masterly detective, even keen like all good American research workers to follow the trail, no matter where it leads. Take her handling of the Dresden Green. Augustus the Strong, she tells us, picked up the 41-carat, almond-shaped, apple-green stone for 60,000 thalers. He used it as a hat ornament. Until the last war it was housed in a Dresden vault. Then it disappeared. (Clues led Miss Dignam to Canada—and a dead end. Then about two years ago she stumbled on a former Dresden museum official living in exile. He told Miss Dignam that the Dresden Green, along with other jewels was hidden in the Koenigsstein Fortress in Dresden. In 1945 the

## Portrait Of A Hero

# Chennault Showed 'Em

By JOSEPH ALSOP

IN these times when greater and greater dangers are monthly born of feebleness and folly, it is very good to think about the old hero, even on his deathbed. The Congress has just thought about him, graciously but belatedly promoting him to the rank of lieutenant general in the U. S. Air Force. But even the Congress cannot really have known much about the old hero. Almost no one knows, for instance, that he was one of the originators of the modern theory of airborne operations. The U. S. Army laughed at his theory, for cavalry was still more popular than airplanes in the mid-1930s. The Red Army offered him a rich contract to test his theory in the Soviet Union; but he refused it and that episode ended.

## LEADING AIR ACE

Almost no one knows, either, that he was almost certainly the leading American air ace of the Second World War—and this is hardly surprising, because the old hero suffered his score of 40-odd aerial victories shot down before we ever got into the war. That happened after they threw him out of the Air Force in the mid-1930s, merely because he was much, much too tactically right about the need for a balanced air force, and too far ahead of things. All the same, the Army doctors who certified that he was no longer fit for active service had quite good arguments on their side.

In fact the old hero was already dead as a post and over 40 years old, when he turned up at Nanking just before the big Japanese attack on China. Possibly the Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek did not know enough about modern medicine. At any rate, they found him fit enough to improvise the brilliant air defense of Nanking, which utterly destroyed the first squadrons the Japanese sent in. And when the Chinese had no more planes of their own left, Madame Chiang whom he loved, led the old hero on after the Japanese, in his specially adapted Curtiss Hawk, on a straight piecework basis.

## NEST EGG

That nest egg he made by shooting down Japanese bombers at \$1,000 per bomber was the "foreign money" the Army general staff used to drop unpleasant hints about, when the old hero came to Washington to organize the American Volunteer Group — the "Flying Tigers" — they called the group later, but I never liked the silly name. Out of little more than string and chewing gum, the old hero had devised the Chinese air warfare unit, that sustained China's resistance through the worst years. Out of little more than string and chewing gum and some fine American pilots, he also devised the AVG.

One can see him now, sweating it out in the awful heat on that awful air field in Tounghoo, Burma, in the pre- Pearl Harbor summer. Franklin Roosevelt had

boldly given him 100 P-40s that even the beleaguered British did not want, and he had ground crews of 100 U. S. pilots of every imaginable sort. (Seven were actually Navy flying boat pilots who first tried to land their P-40s about 15 feet above steamers, running with unfortunate consequences.) But he did not have any staff worth mentioning, or any spare parts at all, or even for a while, any ammunition for his P-40's machine guns.

## MIRACLE ODDS

Nobody but Diana Cooper and old Air Marshal Brooke-Topham, whom they later unjustly blamed for Singapore, really thought for a moment that the old hero could succeed in Burma. But there at Tounghoo, he invented the radically new P-40 tactics that successfully defeated the Japanese Zeros. (They later decorated someone else for the invention.) Within a fortnight after he took the AVG into China, no more Japanese bombs dropped. It was as simple as that, though he and the AVG faced miracle odds of about five to one.

Again, one can see him now, as was in those tangled, ugly war years at Kunming. By then you would have called him an old man — the skin of the deep-lined face was like the surface of long-used oak — but the tremendous, telling tug of the jaw was still there all the same. He needed what that jutting jaw

implied for his bitter wartime battles with the air staff, and that brave old fool, Gen. Joe Stilwell, and with a lot of other people.

## LAST BATTLE

The battles saved his Fourteenth Air Force, which in turn saved China from coming to piece altogether. In mid-war under the impact of the last Japanese offensive. (Very few people know it, but Stilwell's curious military plans never provided Chiang Kai-shek's worn-out infantry with a single machine gun bullet to use against the Japanese on any Chinese battlefield.) All the same, the old hero lost his last battle, to save Fife China from the Communists.

Maybe he would have convinced more people more easily, maybe he would have to fight fewer battles, if he had fewer faults and weaknesses. He was almost wholly self-educated for one thing; and when he did his own logistical calculation on the back of a dirty envelope, the results did not impress conventional-minded officers with staff training. For another, he had the touchy vanity that self-educated men with very great capacities always develop. If they are patronized and slighted as the old hero had been in his years in the peacetime U. S. Army.

There were some other wars to provide contrast in the portrait, but I have called him the old hero because he always remained a hero to me, although I studied the wars at closest range. His name is Claire Lee Chennault. We shall be poorer without him.



The General And His Lady

# People's America's Social Security Program Is A Farce

Editors, The News:

SOCIAL Security, as it was first enacted in 1934, was a good program for the basic welfare of the whole country, and at that time the act, as passed by Congress, had no snares and delusions. It was assurance and insurance for the aged, for the unemployed, for those reaching old age who might otherwise have no "security" during the greatest time of necessity for financial resources. It was a means by which the government could receive aid in overcoming the financial crisis which were encountered during the Great Depression which had come about in 1929, and on a long-range policy could insure aid in the future in avoiding some of the economical pitfalls.

The cost was then to be borne by all taxpayers, and only on any one class of citizens, and the federal outlay of cost for the general welfare was to be drawn from the general funds of the federal Treasury.

The federal government had learned that part of the burden of caring for the unemployed and others in need of financial assistance must come from the federal funds, and not the sole burden of the states alone for these conditions spread throughout the country, doing harm to the whole nation.

It was an honest program at its inception, and today most people believe that Social Security still operates under that same program. IT DOESN'T.

The average citizen today still believes that Social Security is a program whereby what is deducted from his or her earnings is kept in a fund for his land there is suddenly an uncontrollable urge to return to the wonderful world of great-grandfather and to things American. THE AMERICAN HOME.

In 1934, the American had become a nation so committed to the present that it had lost touch with the past and future. —Norman Birnbaum in COMMENTARY.

The salesman who was trying to sell a home freezer to a housewife pointed out, "You can save enough on your food bills to pay for it." "Yes, I know," the woman agreed. "But you see, we're paying for our car on the carfare we're saving. Then we're paying for our washing machine on the laundry bills we save, and we're paying for the house on the rent we're saving. We just can't afford to save any more right now."

## Rebels Barred

Chennault has conferred with his Army Chief of Staff, Gen. F. V. Shahab, telling him that he has been picked to be the new President of Lebanon but that he must form a government of outstanding people which will not include rebels. Shahab has replied that it is impossible to form a national government without including rebels. There are some rebels, he points out, who are against Nasser and should be in the new cabinet. An election day approaches there has been no agreement.

According to Social Security: "You would build up rights to retirement by payments for yourself and your family in old age, and monthly payments to your family in case of your death." The citizens were told this, although they were never given the right to vote for or against Social Security.

It was compulsory, whether the taxpayer wanted it or not. All well and good, if Social Security lived up to its promises, but it does not have to. You cannot have your rights as a citizen upheld, even though officially promised, because your government upholds the right to withdraw its consent to be seen in the courts, even when there is a contract.

We may well ask, then, would our government decide to make people, and dislodge an obligation to its own citizens which had been made to them by act of Congress?

Americans are considered fundamentally honest people, and as believers in their government, they consider the government as honest, interested, fair-minded men, trying to protect their rights and their future welfare. But, if you will take the trouble to examine the many years of

## 'Catch A Rising Star And Put It In Your Pocknik'



Social Security since its inception, you will find that many changes have been made from the time it was originally conceived and enacted as law, and that it has abandoned practically all of the promises and programs in the original bill.

You will find that it is no longer a savings, investment, and annuity plan for the individual contributing, but it is now a public charity program. If you, or your family, do not qualify for benefits under the existing program, all payments made by you

are kept in the Society Security. One taxpayer might contribute for 20 years or more, and his family not get back any payments. If a head-of-the-house taxpayer dies before age 65, instead of giving his widow the payments he has made over a long period of years, Social Security gives her \$25 for funeral expense, and nothing more until she reaches 65 and able to qualify for 62 for women as of this date, and if the widow doesn't live until age 62, all of the remainder of this taxpayer's funds are kept by Social Security. Her heirs will help towards benefits for some stranger who has contributed little or nothing.

It is another form of taxation, and you pay twice what you think.

Your employer has to pass his Social Security payroll deductions due to be made by him for his part of payment on you as an employee along to the public as "grossing up" expense. It results in another "sales tax" on goods and services sold to the people. You end up by having your part of Social Security deducted from your payroll check, and in paying "hidden taxes" to cover corporations' operating expenses.

If you could hope to get your money back, or part of it, then the more that is paid in the better, perhaps. As of this writing, there is no assurance that you will get it, or that your immediate family will get it.

That is the unfair thing that Social Security, and something that the general public does not know.

Social Security, to a great many people, has already proven to be a farce. It was something they believed in and had faith in, and when the time of need for it came about, they had nothing but a rude awakening. Used by times such as this are after the death of a breadwinner, or some other time of trial in life, when people need all the help they can get, instead of the added cost of finding out that their own government will shut the door in their face.

Until Social Security is drawn up again on new lines that it was first intended for, or on even better lines, perhaps, then it is paid in Social Security, and I decline making this statement against my own government, because I have faith in its essential honesty of purpose, except in this one instance.

I think it's time the public was informed, before they get this "mouse" tighter around their unsuspecting necks!

—MRS. WINIFRED MCCRAY

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

HERE is the latest on the fast-moving Near Eastern situation, based on exclusive diplomatic dispatches. President Chennault has told American commanders that U.S. troops are not to fire on the rebels. American commanders have been told that the U.S. troops are to be in the area to help bring order if they are to be treated as rebels as sacred. President Chennault's reply has been, in effect, "Give me until July 24 when we hold elections and then everything will be straightened out."

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# Marines Ordered To Hold Their Fire

3—Some of President Chennault's own people who have been loyal to him are now split over the landing of American troops. A unofficial tabulation of the Lebanon Parliament shows approximately two-thirds of its members against the landing of American troops. The rest of the parliament is unable to get the cooperation of all his military subordinates in working with U.S. troops. Even the Lebanese ambassador in Washington, Nadim Dirhembe, has been opposed to our troop landing.

## Business As Usual

The new Iraqi government has called in the West German ambassador and told him that Iraq is ready to carry on business as usual. The German was the first ambassador the new government contacted, presumably because Germany does a tremendous business with Iraq.

## Israel Serves Notice

The German ambassador was told that the new government would not be pro-Russian, as before to sell oil and carry on as before—except as a republic.

## Will Troops Stay?

There has been definite consideration given to the retention of British troops

notice that if King Hussein falls and there is a turnover of government in Jordan, Israel will not be bound by its previous agreement. In other words, Israel will invade Jordan in case Jordan falls into Nasser's hands.

## Ambassadors Briefed

6—The ambassadors of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, all members of the longtime Baghdad Pact alliance, were called to the State Department and given the results of the Dulles-Selwyn Lloyd conference. The gist of the Anglo-American talks was that American Marines would stay in Lebanon and British troops in Jordan for the time being. There would be no Anglo-American attempt to intervene in Iraq and it was doubted that King Hussein of Jordan had the military strength to intervene. His Arab Legion is the best army in the Near East but he could not be sure of its loyalty on any campaign outside Jordanian borders.

## Flat Ultimatum

7—The State Department is considering calling in the representatives of friendly governments, especially those receiving foreign aid from the United States, and asking them to use their influence either they vote with the United States for a U.N. police force in Lebanon or we consider them members of the pro-Soviet, neutralist bloc.

## U. S. 'Friends' Bolt

A surprising number of so-called friends whom the United States had aided with millions of dollars have suddenly decided to become aloof and vote with the Arab bloc on the question of a United Nations police force. President Eisenhower had been banking on a U.N. force to take over from the Marines.

in Jordan under a plan similar to that operating for years under Gen. Glubb Pasha, the British military adviser.

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