



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Local Politics Is A Private Affair

WELL, you could have knocked us over with a goat's whisker. Gov. Hodges was coming to town and naturally the revived and reinvigorated Democrats turned out to hail the chief. On an earlier visit Mr. Hodges had tongue-lashed the boys for laziness and indifference, but that was before the renaissance of party fortunes supposedly signified by the election of a non-controversial party chairman. Now there was an opportunity to demonstrate the party's new vitality.

Democratic legislative nominee John Kennedy had an idea. With an eye on the demonstrated popularity of GOP contender Charles F. Coira, he suggested that the governor issue a statement that "no major (state) legislation passed in the past 50 years has been introduced by a Republican." In other words the rampant local Democrats, facing one serious Republican challenge, are saying to the party strongman from Raleigh: "Let's you and him fight."

Let us disclaim any intention of ridiculing Mr. Kennedy or any other Democrat. Our point is that the situation has some ridiculous features—one of them being the fact that Kennedy's strategy makes sense. There is political mileage in the point that those few Republicans who reach Raleigh, however attractive and able personally, are scaled off into a kind of political limbo in the General Assembly. It is an entirely natural reaction for the majority Democrats to deny the Republicans any credit, prominence or influence, and thus persuade the voter that sending Republicans to Raleigh, while possibly a respectable thing, is wholly unrealistic. It follows that it is entirely natural for

local Democrats to forego a discussion of issues, to avoid replies to GOP attacks on the Democratic record, and merely to send a Republican opponent. "He may be a fine fellow but he can't do anything for you in Raleigh."

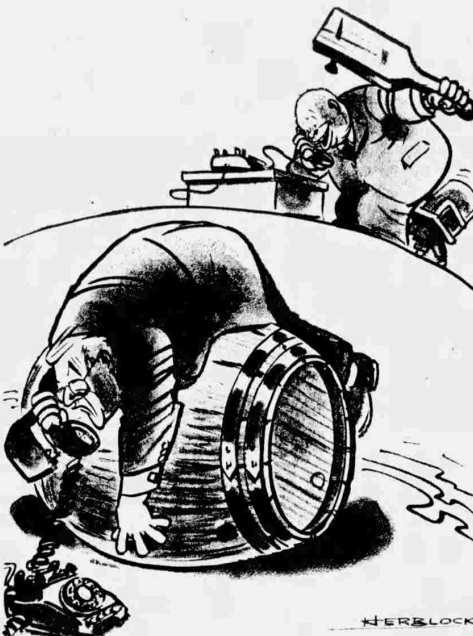
But if this strategy makes sense to the candidates, it does not necessarily make sense to the voters. Some of them are inhibited by a rather strong urge to vote for the man they want, and by a tendency to resent being told what's good for them. They believe the nourishment of the two-party ideal is worth enduring the inevitable relation involved: alliance with the only guarantee of responsible and alert government. They hold that to accept the "practicality" of sending only Democrats to Raleigh also represents the surrender to the disadvantages of one-party rule and the perpetuation of those disadvantages.

There is realism in both arguments. It seems to us: voters can choose either course with justification so long as both sides present reasonably intelligent and alert candidates.

But the overall situation is bad. It leads local Democrats to emphasize their party affiliations rather than their own opinions and records, choking off discussion that provokes public interest in and consideration of public affairs. Politics becomes an internal matter, a private preserve for the politically-oriented, that is neither interesting nor instructive to the public.

It would be much better for all concerned if the competition between candidates could be waged more on the basis of convictions and issues and less on the basis of party affiliation.

'Stay Right Where You Are—I'll Come To You'



The American Seen . . . By Others

What They Say About Us

By TOM TURNER

Editors' Note: What does the world think of America and Americans? Tom Turner, a Tar Heel who has lived in Paris and Vienna, checked foreign publications entering the U. S. this week and routed out these provocative opinions.

AMERICANS ARE AFRAID OF LOVE

This is the distressing conclusion reached by the talented French author and playwright, Marcel Aymé, as expressed in an interview in "Arts," a middle-class Parisian review.

"The American," says Aymé, "dominates the world, sends rockets to the moon, flies faster than sound . . . and has invented everything but happiness."

STERILIZED CODE

The drama, the tragedy, in the life of this dominant soul, maintains the Frenchman, rises from the difficulty to cultivate tenderness in "the kingdom of frigidity and hygiene."

Americans are afraid of what ever may distract them from their job, from their mechanical code.

"Their true disease is fear. It's their moral pain. I can't possess a vacuum," unfortunately there are things that even dollars can't buy.

And if Americans cannot love, neither can they play, judges Aymé.

He points to the mobs in Times Square on New Year's Eve, guarded by mounted policemen, blowing in paper horns and shaking wooden clackers.

WHAT FUN!

"It's easy to guess what each one is saying to himself, 'A thousand times what fun, since we're here together making all this noise!'"

"Noise"—it's a sort of production, and production is the true ideal of Americans, served by the high priests of hygiene, efficiency and realism.

"Love live the Americans!" This cry is on the lips of at least under the pen of Nicole Grandin, movie reviewer of "Morgues" of Brussels, in tribute to the American movie musical.

"The musical is to the Americans, reflects Mlle. Grandin, "as the cowboy is to the cowboy."

In the evening, a young man entered one of the coaches, cleared his voice, and inquired politely, "Is there anyone in this car from Albemarle County?" from Albemarle County, Virginia.

"Yes, sir," said a courtly old gentleman, rising from his chair. "I'm from Albemarle County. Could I assist you?"

"Partly," said the young man, in tones at once respectful and confident. "I hate to trouble you, but might I have the loan of your corkscrew?"

Mexican-Negro Bloc
Henry Gonzalez—first Mexican-American ever to run for governor of Texas—is so popular that his name may be spelled his name with two 's' instead of one. His father is editor of the Spanish paper La Pasion in San Antonio. Henry is a Texas state senator who claims to be a record for filibustering on immigration.

His race is significant not because he'll win, but because of the growing Mexican-Negro bloc in Texas. The Mexican population of Texas is approximately one-

million, and a half; the Negro population one million. A lot of them have not registered in the past few years, so there will be an extra effort to vote.

Chinaman's Chance?
"Some people say I haven't a Chinaman's chance," said Gonzalez in Houston the other day. "I don't want a Chinaman's chance. All I want is a Mexican's chance."

Running against Gonzalez are Gov. Price Daniel, a second term, and that old perennial Texas salesman, O. Brien "Boss" Daniel, a second term, and that he may come out ahead of O. Daniel and possibly force Gov. Daniels into a runoff. Daniels, however, will win in the end.

William Blakeley—a millionaire businessman dressed in cheap and shabby clothes—is spending more money to get elected to the Senate than William Vane-

ing, at any time he can remember about the U. S. and "the world in general."

The Canadian feels himself a little overwhelmed by American culture, suggests Underhill, and Canada's national identity is in danger of being swallowed up in the Canadian role of the satellite.

MARCH OF TIME
But America's cultural invasion of Canada (comics, juke boxes, soap operas), and of the world, is merely the march of time, like it or not.

If we persist in looking on these influences as "American," observes Underhill, "we are failing to see the most important thing about them. They are really 20th Century."

The United States has gone further into the 20th Century than the rest of us—that is, that is the point.

Many of the barbed words cast at the United States for its "cultural vulgarity" are aimed at the wrong target, suggests Canadian Frank H. Underhill, writing in the Ontario Library Review under the title of "How to Defend Ourselves from the United States."

SNILERS AND SNICKERS
Most of the sneers and snickers and jibes at the U. S. are not really criticism of a nation, but of a century—the 20th Century.

In Canada at present, he writes, there is more "belly-aching" than anything else.

New nickname for the U. S. A. bestowed by Crapouillot, a Parisian "non-conformist" magazine, "Mater dollars."

Writing on public relations under the title "Let The Tapes Sound," Australian Maj. Gen. A. G. Wilson, CBE, DSO, remarks that Americans know how to blow the loudest.

For the Australian Army Journal, he observes, "All the books and most of the articles on the subject, I was able to find in the U. S. army. The U. S. A. has led the field in public relations for many years."

"He's Invented Everything But Happiness . . ."

Mumbled Prayers

Where We Stand

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THIS is a moment when it is important to know just where we stand now, and for this purpose it is essential to note the great gap at the very center of the picture. We have troops in Lebanon. The British have troops in Jordan. But the United States and Britain do not have a Middle Eastern policy.

This is the only way to sum up the unhappy results of widespread inquiry in authoritative quarters. You cannot get an answer to the question: "Where do we go from here?" or rather, you only get vaguely mumbled prayers that somehow or other, some day or other, the combination of the Marines and special Ambassador Robert Murphy will achieve a political compromise in Beirut.

A good many people seem to believe that this is a workable Middle Eastern policy, fit to compete with the crudely shrewd, arrogant, but bold policy of Nikita Khrushchev. But this widespread belief is only a testimonial to the administration's success in blurring or concealing all the facts that count.

MISREPRESENTATION
It is hard to believe that President Eisenhower purposely misled the congressional leaders, at the July 14 meeting when he first revealed his intention to send troops into Lebanon. A President who leaves the entire, day-to-day task of policy-making to his secretary of state can quite easily misconceive the choice he has to make, when he must suddenly make a very hard choice with great speed.

At any rate, the misrepresentation of the Middle Eastern situation began the day that the President, at this first moment of disclosure, Three different kinds of false impressions were conveyed to the congressional leaders. The President first of all said that he had received an "ultimatum" from President Chamoun, threatening the effective abdication of the Lebanese government if the Marines were not sent "within 48 hours."

Secondly, both the President and secretary of state bragged that Allen Dulles to the wolves, by intimating that they had been taken by surprise by the coup in Iraq. Hence the Senate is now busily investigating the CIA.

What SURPRISE?
But in reality the President and secretary of state had long been warned that indecision about Lebanon would lead to a coup in Iraq. The warnings had come, not from the CIA, but also from the murdered Iraqi leader, Nuri al-Said, from the governments of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, and from many other sources. All the CIA

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"I Smell Smoke!"

failed to do was to say: "On this particular day, in this particular regiment, a military coup will be organized." This was the extent of the "surprise," and this much "surprise" all governments must expect.

Finally, and perhaps worst of all the President also indicated to the congressional leaders that the American problem centered in Lebanon, rather than in Iraq. It was true, of course, that he had to make an immediate choice between keeping his promise to Chamoun or dishonoring this country's word. That was the first part of the problem, which could only be solved as it was solved.

ATTACKING THE HEART
But the heart of the problem lay, and it still lies in Baghdad rather than in Beirut. The British and American governments jointly decided not to attack the heart of the problem in Baghdad. The consequences of this decision must be faced, therefore, before the two governments can fill the great gap in the center of the picture, which is their present lack of any real Middle Eastern policy.

The first consequence concerns Lebanon and Jordan. No matter what compromise is reached in Beirut, and no successful compromise seems unlikely, it can only offer a pretext for the withdrawal of our troops. After Nasser's success in Iraq, no government in Lebanon can survive his pressure, once the Marines go out. By the same token, King Hussein cannot survive in Jordan, if the British paratroopers depart. And Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Coast oil-shedders are planning birds for the next conspiracy. Nasser comes to halt.

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Oil Is An Ingredient Of Freedom

SHOULD the U. S. be ashamed of trying to preserve the West's access to the vast oil deposits of the Middle Eastern countries?

Some critics suggest that the small word "oil" is what John Foster Dulles has in mind when he discourses on the necessity of "preserving the independence and territorial integrity" of the Middle Eastern nations, and that the fiscal integrity of the oil companies is the real force behind the majority Democrats to deny the Republicans any credit, prominence or influence, and thus persuade the voter that sending Republicans to Raleigh, while possibly a respectable thing, is wholly unrealistic. It follows that it is entirely natural for

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