



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON..... President and Publisher  
ROBERT S. GRIFFITH..... General Manager  
ROBERT H. LAMPER..... Advertising Director  
CARR PRINCE..... Editor  
PERRY MORGAN..... Associate Editor  
R. L. YORNG JR..... Managing Editor  
JAMES McDOWELL..... Circulation Manager

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1958

### Can Your Third Grader Speak Russian?

IF ONE group of educators has its way, your children and ours will soon be learning foreign languages as early as the third grade.

Such a program has already been recommended to the U.S. Office of Education and a pilot project in teaching foreign languages to gifted third graders has been urged for District of Columbia schools.

It's a noble idea and has a worthy purpose: Improvement of language facility in line with the growing needs of government, diplomacy and business.

Mind you, we're not claiming any expert knowledge of educational techniques or timetables. But it has always seemed to us that, when exposed to it, younger children master a foreign tongue with greater speed and ease than their elders. This is supported to some extent by the results recorded in "European public schools and the U.S. primary school." Elsewhere on today's editorial page, a Greensboro public school principal outlines his own ideas on the subject ("Foreign Languages Come Easier To Grade Schoolers," by David T. Helberg).

This upsurge of interest in foreign language study is wholly welcome. We have a lot of catching up to do. The Soviet Union, for instance, is still far ahead of us in this field. While the ty-

pical U.S. high school curriculum provides only two years of foreign language study, the Soviet curriculum has six—from the fifth to the tenth grades.

High school students in the Soviet Union have four hours of foreign language classwork a week in the fifth and sixth grades and three hours each in the next four grades. English is taught more than any other foreign language. Some estimates of the number of Russian children studying English run as high as 70 per cent or 21 million.

It is interesting to note that Russian was taught in only 183 of the 971 colleges and universities polled in 1955-56 by the Modern Language Association. Four New England high schools have announced they will offer courses in Russian during 1958-59. The total number of U.S. students studying Russian probably does not exceed 10,000.

In the United States, foreign language instruction must again become a basic feature of liberal education. It has a rightful place in all levels of instruction, from the early grades in elementary school to college.

But in the early grades, where it is still a novelty in many U.S. public schools, experimentation is definitely in order. Too much time has been wasted already.

## Foreign Languages Come Easier To Grade Schoolers

By DAVID T. HELBERG

Editors' Note: What are the arguments for teaching foreign languages in the grammar grades? In the article below, Greensboro school principal David T. Helberg discusses the experience of his school, which began experimenting with class, conversational French two years ago. (See editorial.)

FOREIGN languages have been taught in the private grade schools of our country for many years. Today this trend has expanded into the public school system at an extremely fast pace.

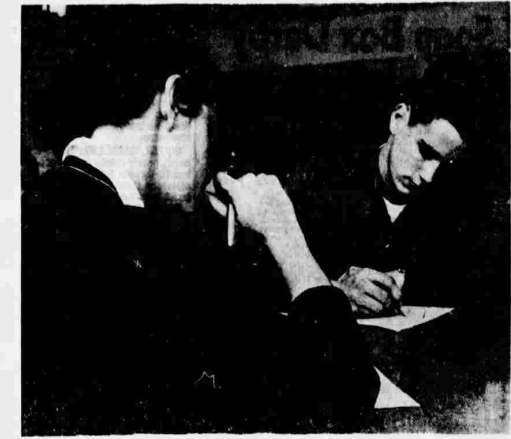
Kenneth W. Mildenberger, research associate in a report for the Modern Language Association of America stated that in 1940 only 2,000 elementary public school children in the country were learning a second language. Today the number is 271,000 plus another 136,000 in the Roman Catholic elementary schools. This makes a total of 407,000 children now studying a foreign language on the grade school level.

#### INCREDIBLE GROWTH

The growth of this movement is incredible. In 1952 only 39 communities had some foreign language teaching in their public elementary schools, compared with 400 cities and towns by the end of 1955. In just three years the numbers of communities increased by 200 per cent. This is no longer a trend but has reached the avalanche stage. Mr. Mildenberger goes on to say that the number of public elementary school children involved—271,000—is already more than one third the enrollment in modern foreign languages in the public high schools that, as yet, has just begun to approach the number of students studying modern foreign languages in all our colleges and universities. Only four states have no language ventures in the grades as yet and these are Idaho, Mississippi, South Dakota and Rhode Island. Therefore, it was destined to come to North Carolina.

TWO REASONS  
Two facts are largely responsible for this trend. The first fact is the growing awareness that, because of America's present role in the world, more American children need to acquire early some understanding of foreign cultures.

But let us examine more closely such a program in our elementary schools. A primary purpose for teaching a second language in the grades is the contribution it makes to the child's total growth and development, of broadening his attitudes, and of breaking down of our monocultural system of teaching. Unfortunately, and too often, by the narrow-minded person all behavior that does not conform to the pattern



Grammar Graders Go Bi-Lingual While High Schoolers Ponder

into which his own society has molded him he labels "foreign," "odd" or "silly." The child who learns through early experience and before becoming too deeply set in one cultural pattern that there are different cultures, will be less likely to attach the labels of "odds" or "inferiority" to anything that does not fit the pattern set by his own society.

Admittedly, however, most foreign language teaching in the grades is still highly experimental and exploratory.

#### CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

But let us examine more closely such a program in our elementary schools. A primary purpose for teaching a second language in the grades is the contribution it makes to the child's total growth and development, of broadening his attitudes, and of breaking down of our monocultural system of teaching. Unfortunately, and too often, by the narrow-minded person all behavior that does not conform to the pattern

into which his own society has molded him he labels "foreign," "odd" or "silly." The child who learns through early experience and before becoming too deeply set in one cultural pattern that there are different cultures, will be less likely to attach the labels of "odds" or "inferiority" to anything that does not fit the pattern set by his own society.

Admittedly, however, most foreign language teaching in the grades is still highly experimental and exploratory.

But let us examine more closely such a program in our elementary schools. A primary purpose for teaching a second language in the grades is the contribution it makes to the child's total growth and development, of broadening his attitudes, and of breaking down of our monocultural system of teaching. Unfortunately, and too often, by the narrow-minded person all behavior that does not conform to the pattern

into which his own society has molded him he labels "foreign," "odd" or "silly." The child who learns through early experience and before becoming too deeply set in one cultural pattern that there are different cultures, will be less likely to attach the labels of "odds" or "inferiority" to anything that does not fit the pattern set by his own society.

Admittedly, however, most foreign language teaching in the grades is still highly experimental and exploratory.

But let us examine more closely such a program in our elementary schools. A primary purpose for teaching a second language in the grades is the contribution it makes to the child's total growth and development, of broadening his attitudes, and of breaking down of our monocultural system of teaching. Unfortunately, and too often, by the narrow-minded person all behavior that does not conform to the pattern

swers also in a full sentence. Thus, the game for instruction goes around the class teaching sentences and practical ideas rather than mere words. All conversational be in the foreign language with very little or no English being used. The purpose should be for the child to learn to think in the foreign language rather than in the English and then to translate. Again the emphasis is on "acting and doing." Also, by not allowing my written words, since no notebooks or textbooks are advocated, we feel there is less possibility of mispronunciation of terms. Statistics and studies have proven that the foreign language pronunciation of the elementary school child is far superior to that of the older children who use textbooks.

#### BROADENED OUTLOOK

Another benefit of this course could come under the general heading of educational. As we all know, the definition and objectives of elementary education have changed in recent years to include understanding of peoples all over the world. Today our children have a much better knowledge of countries outside of the United States and the English speaking people than ever before. The reasons are obvious. Television, newspapers, international crises, and the overseas G. I. are all factors responsible for this broadening of educational objectives. Therefore, in keeping with this new concept of education, we can see how the second language can benefit our children and their teachers in their regular daily studies.

#### SECOND CULTURE

There are other objectives and benefits of a second language in the elementary school which are important. Two of these: (1) Children are being "eased" into the foreign language rather than having it suddenly thrust upon them at adolescence, when so many physical and mental adjustments need attention. (2) With the refugee admittance policy in the U.S. becoming more lenient and more Europeans entering our schools, those European children who are reluctant to come to school will find more understanding and friendly children among our American schools, with a knowledge of a second language and second culture, which they will come to respect.

### Soft Soap Didn't Work On Dirty Bomb

TWO months ago the Eisenhower administration hotly denied Sen. Anderson's charge that the military was deliberately making some atomic bombs dirtier.

It was at a time when curtailment of nuclear testing was being widely debated that the administration's position was being presented by Adm. Lewis Strauss, then chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Among other things, Adm. Strauss insisted that tests must be continued in the interest of developing "cleaner" and "cleaner" bombs.

When Sen. Anderson said military authorities were actually pulling bombs out of the nation's atomic stockpile and modifying them to make them dirtier, Adm. Strauss replied: "No material is inserted in bombs for the purpose of increasing the amount of fission products or to add to the total fallout."

That seemed to settle it. But did it? In a letter made public this week, Secretary of Defense McElroy informed Congress that some nuclear weapons in the nation's stockpile had indeed been altered in a way that would increase radioactive fallout over a local area.

Mr. McElroy hastened to add that increased fallout was a byproduct of the alteration—a measure designed to equip nuclear weapons for surface and low-level bursts.

The fact remains that an obvious effort was made by the administration earlier to mislead the public about an important point in the debate over nuclear testing.

No niggling over semantics—such as the delicate shades of meaning involved in the words "inserted." "For the pur-



pose of "and 'total'—disturbs this general judgment.

Facts were suppressed, an issue was purposely distorted and the public was misled. That was the net effect of the administration's assurance.

Suppression of information was a characteristic of the AEC under the administration of Adm. Strauss. He was never one to give the public a clear picture of his own business. This hankering for unusual secrecy did not serve the administration or the public particularly well.

For truth has an embarrassing way of asserting itself in time. The time limit on this matter was just two months. It offers a valuable lesson to John A. McCone, the new chairman of the AEC.

### Deed Charlotte To South Carolina?

WE are in receipt of a suggestion from the good, gray GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS that Charlotte be deeded to South Carolina—perhaps really possible under the terms of some obscure common law doctrine covering public nuisances.

The GDN's Mr. Burke Davis, who trailed sleepily in the editorial vineyards of this family journal before being banished to Indian Territory, also recommended that Raleigh become a duchy under the protection of the General Assembly.

Well, sir, Raleigh's loss to continental North Carolina would be scarcely noted. That much we'll concede.

But let's face the terrible truth bravely: Charlotte's departure would leave the Old North State just about penniless. Stripped of Mecklenburg's taxes the remainder of Tarheelia would be in tatters and patches before you could say Luther Hartwell Hodges. For that matter, without our Mecklenburg Declaration the state wouldn't have any history worth mentioning either.

That leaves but one wholly satisfactory solution, Charlotte will just have to annex the remainder of the state, or at least take it into protective custody pending a plebiscite. All but the Duchy of Raleigh and Greensboro. The latter could be sworn in Ilespedeza and set aside as a national bull preserve.

### Get Police Chief From Local Talent

Charlotte

WHAT DO the common people think about the mess the Police Dept. is in? We can see where putting someone from out of the state in the chief's place or even in the court clerk's office is going to help anything.

Why not select someone from the Police Department to take the chief's place, or at least someone from North Carolina. We don't want the chief to resign. He has been down there most of my life, and it scares us to think of someone else taking his place. But we realize that we have to let him go sometime.

We don't believe there is a person in Mecklenburg County who can truthfully say anything about him except "it's a lot of jobs well done." We say let some guy who knows Charlotte and what we need take his place. Look around the Police Department and the detective division and see what you can find.

There are some mighty fine guys down there. So why not see if we can find our next police chief at home before we look somewhere else. What do some other common people think about it?

—MR. & MRS. J. C. MASSEY SR.

### How The State Seal Was Put In A Floor

Charlotte

I READ with much interest your recent news item concerning the great seal of the State of

North Carolina in a floor in the school for the deaf in Morganton.

I think I can shed some light on this seal. In 1938, Mr. C. C. Benton, an architect of Wilson, N. C., was remodeling some of the buildings at this school and specified a state seal of terrazzo in the floor. We had the contract for the terrazzo work and I asked Mr. Benton for an architectural detail of this seal. He advised that he did not have one and requested that I make a detail and submit it for approval. I wrote either the governor's office or the secretary of state, I have forgotten, and was advised that though there were several versions of the state seal, there was no official version, so I gathered what information I could and made a rough sketch.

I then had an artist to draw a full size detail in color which I submitted and which was accepted. I decided that since tobacco was a more important commodity to the state both from an agricultural and manufacturing standpoint than wheat, the seal's figure representing agriculture should hold a hand of tobacco. As for the word constitution, every state has a constitution, but only North Carolina has a May 20, 1775. I personally supervised the installation of this seal in the floor in Morganton and if I remember correctly, it was installed in 13 different colors.

The McClamroch Co. of Greensboro which is not now in business, requested a copy of the working drawings on this seal which we supplied. They installed a copy of this seal somewhere in the state. I do not know where.

—H. T. THROWER  
Tilerators Inc.

### 'Now, Would You Mind Raising Your Little Finger?'



In the other Ayres' proposal 15- to 13 All Republicans present voted to exempt business, and all Democrats, except Chairman Gordon Bardeen of North Carolina, voted against.

One of them had been stoned and spat upon when he arrived in Caracas. The other, a short time after the Nixon visit, had addressed a crowd of 20,000 people in Caracas and was hailed as a hero.

The difference was that Congressman Porter had campaigned vigorously against Generalissimo Trujillo of the Dominican Republic and against Latin dictators. Nixon, on the other hand, has gone along with State Department policy in every Latin American country and has been photographed some time ago in a fond embrace with dictator Trujillo.



However, Nixon has now come out for a new American policy of disarmament. He seemed delighted to sit down with the anti-communist man from Oregon to discuss future moves in Latin America.

—HERB LOCK

From The New York Herald Tribune

### TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE

SINCE we, too, in our modest capacity dabble with words professionally and, like all Americans, struggle annually to decipher the federal document entitled "How to Prepare Your Income Tax Return on Form 1040" we take deep interest in the unsuccessful efforts of 700 television contestants to shorten, without impairing its meaning, a 212-word sentence in said document bearing upon the conditions under which additional charges are levied upon taxpayers who underpay their estimated tax, a situation which obviously cannot be explained briefly and which might even require the intervention of a master of prolixity like James Joyce or William Faulkner to expound, particularly to taxpayers who, like us, are not only unable to understand long sentences but even to finish them, especially around April 15 when we are toiling over Form 1040 and wondering where the money is supposed to come from anyway and why the devil can't they write these things in English, which we expect to go right on doing in years to come, for despite the failure of the 700 would-be editors we still can't

help thinking that whatever the Internal Revenue Service has to say its meaning can be reduced not only to a sentence of one word but to a word of one syllable: pay Period.

Nowadays this is progress. You can twist a dial and see the same thing you saw twenty years ago. — GREENVILLE (S.C.) PLEDMONT.

Alaska seems to be having so much fun about joining the union, that other states may be tempted to get out and come in all over again. — COLUMBIA (S.C.) STATE.

The wise ones claim that the dirty hat will come back next fall, repeating a vague of about 20 years ago and possibly. It's said that the dirty manufacturers took a tip from the recent vogue of the stiff collar straw hats, which showed a remarkable comeback in the first summer weather of 1958. Now if the handle-bar mustache will return, we'll be getting somewhere. Or will we? — DAILY OKLAHOMAN.

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

WASHINGTON

BUT business leaders came within two votes of putting over a "rump" amendment, requiring that labor unions only, and not employers, disclose the financial relations of employee pension and welfare funds. The amendment, offered by GOP Congressman William Ayres of Ohio, was beaten after a hot fight, behind the closed doors of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Democratic Congressman Ludwig Teller of New York and Stewart Udall of Arizona vigorously objected that Ayres was trying to exempt 90 per cent of labor's pension funds, which are operated by non-union employers, from the pension funds. Ayres replied that employers contributed all the money in these pension funds.

#### Off The Hook

Well, that's debatable, shot back Democrat Lee Metcalf of Montana. "Some contributions are indirect," he declared. "That may be all right, but everyone here knows that this proposed exemption is an attempt to protect labor union by forcing them to publicly report their pension and

### Welfare Funds Provoke Political Clash

welfare funds, while letting employers off the hook, by adding employers' contributions to a "rump" fund.

"We ought to know," added Metcalf. "All the members of this committee have been inundated by mail and other forms of pressure from big insurance companies and bankers, urging us to adopt this amendment."

#### Right To Know

Another objector, Democrat Cleveland Bailey of West Virginia, contended that employees have every right to a public accounting of pension funds, whether operated by employers or labor unions. The solvency of such funds, he said, would determine how much money will be available for future retirement benefits.

"It's rumored the National Steel Corporation is using its employee pension fund to acquire control of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company," he declared. "That may be all right, but it's not saying there's anything wrong about it, or that it isn't a sound business proposition. The National Steel employees are entitled to know what's happening to their pension fund, the same as the employees of General Electric or any other company have a right to know

about how their retirement funds are being safeguarded."

In the other Ayres' proposal 15- to 13 All Republicans present voted to exempt business, and all Democrats, except Chairman Gordon Bardeen of North Carolina, voted against.

#### Nixon Conference

Two men who don't agree on domestic policies, Vice President Nixon, Republican, and Congressman Charles Porter of Oregon, Democrat, sat down in a private, personal conference the other day in the interests of improving our Latin American good-neighbor policy.

One of them had been stoned and spat upon when he arrived in Caracas. The other, a short time after the Nixon visit, had addressed a crowd of 20,000 people in Caracas and was hailed as a hero.

However, Nixon has now come out for a new American policy of disarmament. He seemed delighted to sit down with the anti-communist man from Oregon to discuss future moves in Latin America.

#### Speech Proposed

Congressman Porter proposed that Washington go out of its way to encourage democratic movements. First he having Eisenhower make a speech encouraging the new democratic regime in Venezuela; second by having Eisenhower make a speech commending the Colombian government, which has thrown out a dictator to elect a new democratic regime.

Nixon and Porter also discussed the idea of sending the Navy band to Latin America, a noncontroversial gesture to which the State Department has already given its blessing, although it hasn't been able to settle the more controversial problem of raising the money to pay for the band's transportation.

Nixon liked an idea proposed by Porter that first delegate to every Latin American country attend a meeting under the auspices of New York University on democracy.