

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



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FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1958

Crisis In Education: Quality Vs. Quantity

GOV. LUTHER HODGES tipped around the edges of one of higher education's stickiest controversies yesterday when he urged U. S. colleges to raise their standards and limit student bodies to "qualified" youths.

Colleges are indeed at a crossroads. The wartime boom in the national birth rate has created a greater demand for higher education. That demand is rising daily by leaps and bounds.

In addition, there is the challenge of the Sputniks and the cry that more and more college-trained youths are needed to match Soviet Russia's postwar gains.

The colleges, meanwhile, are already experiencing space problems. If they wait until they are equaled by the expected "burst" wave of youths the best that can be expected is that some youngsters will get a poor education while others get none at all.

That is the problem. One solution would be to limit enrollments to those with the highest aptitudes. Surely the governor has not succumbed to its deceptive allure. We are already prodigally wasting the brainpower our youth has to offer. Of the top 10 per cent of America's young people (in terms of college aptitude), less than half go to college. Fewer than one-third of North Carolina's promising high school graduates attend college.

The governor is absolutely right in recommending that college education be improved. But admission standards should not be so high that truly deserving youths would be denied educational opportunities.

The recent report of the President's Committee on Education Beyond High School made an excellent point in this continuing argument.

"If an unwelcome choice were required between preserving quality and expanding enrollments, then quality should be preferred, because it would do neither individuals nor the nation any

good to masquerade mass production of mediocrity under the guise of higher education. But the choice between quality and quantity is not mandatory. The nation needs more of both and it can have more of both if it decides to do so.

The decision rests much more with the public than with the educators, and the public's decision must be expressed in terms of greatly increased financial support for colleges and universities."

We would agree that it would be a serious mistake for colleges to restrict their enrollments to something like their present level by steadily basing admission standards. This would obviously mean giving narrower opportunities to tomorrow's youth than those enjoyed by today's youth. The device would simply be self-defeating.

We would agree with the President's committee that the proper policy for the nation would be to balance increased support of colleges with a steady strengthening of student aid programs, giving priority of course to students of highest ability. We further believe that vigorous efforts should be made throughout the nation to remove barriers to the pursuit of education by talented youth and we would urge that no new barriers be put up.

The crisis in higher education is serious but not incurable. There are remedies and they are known. Money alone will not be sufficient. Teachers must be enabled to increase their effectiveness. Buildings and other educational resources must be used more efficiently. Student aid plans in the form of loans, jobs and direct scholarship grants will be needed. Too finally, the further development of two-year college programs such as the Charlotte Community College System must be encouraged.

The overall aim should be the expansion of educational opportunities—not contraction.

The Courts Need Visits By Citizens

SINCE Charlotte Recorder's Court became engulfed in its own scandals, there have been many hearings and pressions of concern by private individuals and groups.

These include the local bar association, which has offered proposals and counsel in devising administrative reforms, and individuals who have made their interest known in communications with City Council, their neighbors in the newspapers. That there is a deeply felt community determination to lift the court to a new plane of dignity and efficiency, there cannot be the slightest doubt. Official delays has added to private determination.

Now comes the Westminster Fellowship Class of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church with the laudable declaration that a community's government should be a concern and a responsibility of its Christian citizens. The class, which has 15 college-age members, is trying to

interest other church youth groups in the operation of local courts, in the provision of adequate facilities and in the quality of justice. Class members have visited Court Recorder's Court, coming away favorably impressed.

Active citizen interest of this sort can be quite as important to the proper administration of justice as any number of expert studies and foolproof filing systems. Particularly in police courts, which have to deal with some of the untidest disorders of society, and which have so much effect on the public's opinion of all courts, is citizen interest helpful. Visits by individuals and groups can serve as encouraging reminders to court personnel—and to defendants—that the community is concerned that justice should be dispensed with fairness and with dignity.

The Steele Creek youths have undertaken a mission of importance to the entire community. May it prosper mightily.

The Law's Delay Averts A Disaster

TO THE divided personality of the brooding Prince Hamlet, the law's delay was a matter of bleak and depressing despair.

To a nation divided on a sensitive domestic concern such as race, the law's delay can avert imminent disasters and give common sense another chance to avert future ones.

This at least has happened at Little Rock where a critical delay in desegregation which an appeals court refused to grant has been regarded by the working of the court's machinery.

Time required for appeal of the decision which had seemed certain to provoke new violence, troop movements, and provocative political posturing, will be sufficient to keep the damper on for the time being.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

WHITE SAILS OVER WHITE HULLS

THE arrival in New York of SCREECH, the British challenger for the America's Cup, reminds sailors on these parts that Alton Lake, Ill., is but a mile and a half from the Mississippi river. It offers sailing of a sort, but not the sort to be seen these days on the Atlantic off Newport, R. I. There four American yachts, Vix, Columbia, Weatherly and Eastman, are competing for the honor of defending the "old mug," and SCREECH is preparing to do what 14 other challengers have not been able to do in 107 years—or since the schooner America won the ugly silver cup in a race around the Isle of Wight in 1851.

Nobody tried harder to prove that British seamen rule the waves, whether on men-of-war or yachts, than Irish Sir Thomas Lipton. He is said to have spent \$15,000,000 on his five Sixteeners—when a dollar bought more kelp than it does nowadays—before deciding in 1920 that sailing, after all, was not his dish of tea. Tom Sopwith made two more attempts, the last in 1937. After

that, it seemed the fun of racing the big boats just wasn't worth the cost.

SCREECH and her American opponent are a scant 40 feet long. In fact, the English challenger's mast is exactly as high as the SHAMROCKS were long, 90 feet. Here must be one of "the lessons of the times," but we cannot say whether it is a demonstration that inflation swells everything but, perhaps, the size of whether yachtsmen have shed ostentation for modesty. Or maybe it is just an attempt to create an illusion of greater speed since the wind willing, these boats will be doing rather well if they make 10 knots.

A midlands sailor for whom even a 12-meter boat approaches the Titanic, however, will go into no deep decline over the passing of the giants. He will wish only that he might see those white hulls under their white sails thrashing to windward and then gliding majestically along the homeward reach—for they are beautiful as man has made few toys beautiful.

Comfortable America Lacks 'Seriousness Of Purpose'

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON
A WEEK ago Sen. John S. Kennedy made a powerful and impassioned speech about the predicament which is widely supported among experts, that within a few years the Soviet Union will be far ahead of us in the big strategic missiles. The period of our inferiority is estimated to be from 1960 to 1964 when the Soviet Union will according to these estimates

have the power to destroy our Air Force and to devastate 75 per cent of our industry, 45 of our 50 largest cities.

Sen. Kennedy's speech was applauded by the Democratic senators who took part in the debate. But it was attacked by Sen. Captain of Indiana who objected to it on the grounds that such a public exposure Mr. Kennedy was selling America short

and giving aid and comfort to the Russians. This charge was easily disposed of because the fact of the matter is that the speech contained nothing that could be news to the Russians, nothing that has not been said publicly many times before. The not notable occasion when it was said before was on Jan. 23 of this year, during this session of Congress, in the unanimous report of the so-called Preparedness Subcommittee.

This subcommittee heard some 70 witnesses, interviewed some experts, and took about 7,000 pages of testimony. It reported unanimously that the Soviet Union leads in ballistic missiles and in the number of submarines, that it will soon surpass this country in manned bombers. It reported that it is even more significant and portentous, that "the Soviet Union has a system which enables it to develop new weapons in substantially less time than the United States" and that "the Soviet Union is producing scientists and technicians at a rate substantially greater than our own country."

If this is true, the lead of the Soviet Union will increase and the "gap" will not be closed.

SEN. JOHN S. KENNEDY
After The Alarm, Slumber

Indeed, so far as I know, there does not exist an agreed program of what the disagreeable remedies are. Mr. Kennedy made a few suggestions but offered no program, and although the Democratic opposition is very critical of President Eisenhower, there is no alternative Democratic program before the country.

BACK TO SLEEP
Why is it like that? I think it is because the real problem—the relatively greater speed of Soviet technological development—cannot be overcome by a spending program alone. It would be quite easy to push Congress into new and bigger expenditures. But what the experts call the missile gap is essentially a weakness in American education and a lack of seriousness in American national purposes, when there is a choice between private pleasures and the public interest. We are in competition with a new society which is in deadly earnest, and there is no use pretending that amidst our comforts and our pleasures, we are serious enough.

That when the alarm is sounded, we turn over and go to sleep again.

'Could You Fellas Try Learning A Couple Of New Words During This Recess?'



People's Platform

City Council Should Explain

Editors, The News: Charlotte
THE CHARLOTTE City Council gave a public explanation to Charlotte citizens as to why Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn was called on to resign his position on Aug. 12.

It is no secret that the chief and certain councilmen have been at odds for quite some time. The newspapers have reported on much of the bickering between Littlejohn and councilmen.

Undoubtedly, however, there has been much behind-the-scenes activity in the city council—city police department situation. Much of this activity has not been—probably will not be—brought to light. The only

knowledge which the people of Charlotte have of the situation is that which they have picked up from the newspapers. While the newspapers' reporting of the squabble has been commendable, it obviously cannot be complete.

Unless the Council sees fit to offer reasons to the public as to why it took such drastic action and to remove a man from a public office who has held for almost 10 years, just two weeks before his announced date of resignation, does seem drastic, then the public must draw its conclusions from the knowledge at hand. To this writer at least the information at hand seems to indicate that certain councilmen believed like small

children determined to have the last word in an argument which was beneath the dignity of both councilmen and the chief in the first place.

Chief Littlejohn had made known his intention to resign on Sept. 1. What possible harm could there have been in letting him continue in his post for another two weeks and retire with pride and dignity?

Is the City Council desecrating Littlejohn because he had the temerity to disagree with and sharply criticize the Council? Perhaps Chief Littlejohn is a superior officer. From the Council's attitude in its dealings with various members of the Council, however, that is hardly a valid grounds for the Council's action. Maybe the Council has other reasons—good ones—for asking the Chief to resign.

If so, let's hear them. What goes on in the City Police Department is as much the business of the public as making a cup of tea. From the Council's silence can only be drawn the inference that such was not the case. If they are "protecting" the chief and under the circumstances this seems highly unlikely, then they are not acting in the public interest.

Some may say that the entire mess is "water over the dam." This is true to a certain extent. However the dignity and prestige of a public official cannot be so easily brushed aside. The integrity of the city's ruling body remains a question mark.

It is a matter of principle. —ERWIN POTTS

Chief Littlejohn: Why Was He Relieved?

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
JESS McDonnell, assistant secretary, came up to Sen. Richard Neuberger, Oregon Democrat, on the Senate floor the other day and whispered: "Nixon wants to see you."

Neuberger went over to the rostrum where the vice president was presiding. "I was playing golf with Bill Rogers the other day," said Nixon, referring to Attorney General Rogers, "and we decided that you and John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky are the most courageous men in the Senate."

Nixon was voting to the fact that Cooper and Neuberger were the only members of the Senate who had voted against the Russell amendment condemning any study of "surrender" by the United States. President Eisenhower had protested that no such study was being

HUMAN PROPENSITY

The bi-partisan reaction to the discovery that the Soviet Union is forging ahead in the race of armaments has been governed, I think, by the human propensity to prefer a disagreeable fact which is still in the future to a disagreeable remedy in the present. The danger period, according to these calculations, will not be for at least two years. The remedial measures to cope with it ought to have been laid down in this session of Congress. The bipartisan leadership has avoided the disagreeable remedies, hoping that somehow the alarming prospect of the Soviet Union, Jack Kennedy, and Mr. Joseph Alsop, will not come true.

For Shame!

Junk The Big E?

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain
THEY are beating the Big E into plowshares these days and I resent it. I imagine a lot of people apart from me and Bull Halley resent it, too.

The Enterprise, that magnificent aircraft carrier, has been sold for scrap for \$561,343, and is being broken into its constituent parts.

The fact that the Big E cost around \$50 million when money was money is not the case in point.

The stark disgrace is that the greatest ship in American history is being cut into shreds, and this ought to make somebody in the government bitterly ashamed. She should be a shrine—not a plowshare. The good Lord knows we waste enough tax money on junk human and otherwise. The Enterprise wanted and needed a grand home, so that our grandchildren could stride her ancient decks with pride.

HEROIC HISTORY
You remember the Enterprise? There was a time when she literally was all we had as bastion against the Japs. She was a partner with the Hornet when Jimmy Doolittle mounted his surprise attack on Tokyo.

She was part in such mid-century incidents in the Pacific as Midway, the Solomons, Guadalcanal, Leyte, Luzon, Okinawa, the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, the Iwo Jima strike, and was en route to the battle of the Coral Sea when it ended. It was the only one she missed.

She collected 20 battle stars. Her planes accounted for 175 Jap aircraft in the air and 300 on the ground, and some will say the figures are higher. She sank the first Jap sub off Pearl Harbor on Dec. 10, 1941. She produced 173 hours of continuous air cover over two, which is a lot of air cover.

REAL BUSY GIRL
In 1942 off the Solomons her people sank a battleship, a cruiser, three destroyers and it annihilated. She was a real busy girl.

After Coral Sea with the Lexington irretrievably in the deep, she was the only ship that could

have sent an extra frigate on any tax to have kept her aloft, in safe harbor, honored and tended and beloved.

In terms of what this country owes a ship, I rate the Big E over the Mayflower or Old Ironsides. Why, oh why, couldn't they have taken her out to sea and scuttled her gently and lovingly if she was not destined to be, instead of rendering a lovely, fading lady into that horrendous wreck.

Junk, Junk, Junk. The Big E is junk. For shame!

Naive Signers
The naive signers of these "form" telegrams, that thousands of these letters and wires poured into Capitol of letters during the 48 hours before the House vote on the House vote.

How phony they were was demonstrated when the bills two sponsors, Democratic Sen. John Kennedy of Massachusetts and Republican Sen. Irving Ives of New York, received several identically worded telegrams, urging them to be on the House floor to vote against their own bill.

John L. Lewis at least was not devious. His lieutenant buttonholed congressmen in congressional corridors after first advising them by telephone.

John L. Lewis made strange bedfellows. But it was this alliance which really sealed the fate of the Kennedy-Ives anti-surrender bill in the House last week.

The U. S. Chamber cracked the whip over southern and GOP conservatives, while the fear of the United Mine Workers delivered the vote of liberal congressmen from coal mine areas almost in mass.

The Chamber, careful not to show its hand, showered Congress with pretended

Nixon Congratulates An Old Enemy

WASHINGTON
Note—In 1954 Nixon made a special trip to Great Britain to defend Neuberger, and afterward Neuberger made a speech at the Women's National Press Club in Washington concerning Nixon's unimpaired political and military tactics. In politics, however, the wheel of fortune spins incessantly, and nobody knows when it will make former enemies allies.

Strange Allies
The U. S. Chamber of Commerce and John L. Lewis make strange bedfellows. But it was this alliance which really sealed the fate of the Kennedy-Ives anti-surrender bill in the House last week.

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Intelligent Electorate
The electorate in Oregon is pretty intelligent, replied Neuberger, but I'll never shed those credentials. If I'll call on you?

Courageous Vote
Nixon was voting to the fact that Cooper and Neuberger were the only members of the Senate who had voted against the Russell amendment condemning any study of "surrender" by the United States. President Eisenhower had protested that no such study was being

made, but 88 senators voted against the study anyway. Sen. Cooper and Neuberger, in voting against an amendment which they felt focused undue attention on the "surrender" issue, were the only two to vote against it.

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