THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Brodie S. Griffith ..... Editor and General Manager
Cecil Prince ..... Associate Editor
R. L. Young Jr. ..... Managing Editor

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Rockefeller Foundation Chooses Well

It is historically just that the Rockefeller Foundation grant of $190,500 for a three-year study of "the changing position of the Negro in the United States" will go to Chapel Hill's Institute for Research in Social Science.

No more thumping task could be given; but it could not be more appropriately given than to the Institute which the late Dr. Howard Odum and Dr. Rupert Vance made great.

It was a quarter century ago, when today's foundation outpourings were unheard of, that the Institute mustered its own depression-crippled resources and a splendid fortitude to bring a new spirit of analysis and criticism to the "Negro's position." With a ruthless, yet human, compound of science and disinterestedness, unique for their day in the South, Odum and his circle moved in. They soon had dream, romance, and Sir Walter Scott in a full retreat which continues to this day.

Yet then, as today, many said that in asking the South to look at itself and its legends objectively they were asking no less than the serpent asked of Eve. Knowledge would surely unlock a casket of escaping evils that would destroy the South's legendary repose forever. An opposition developed who would have preferred southerners to dream on, concealing from themselves the tortures of truth. Let Dixie's imagination range on undisturbed, they said, seeing in the Negro by shifting moods Uncle Tom, Uncle Remus, and Jim Crow and not a human being. W. J. Cash tells, in "The Mind of the South," how the more vigorous guardians of the status quo tried to cut appropriations at the state university "in the hope of starving the new spirit out."

Far from being starved, however, the critical spirit endured, to fan out from the Institute to Chapel Hill and from there to the entire South. It exists in greater vigor today in the Institute, which has the tools of 25 years of history and retrospect to aid it in its newest and most challenging undertaking. Possibly the "position" of the Negro in American life today is more nebulous than it ever was; but we are confident that the sociologists of Chapel Hill are more than equal to the task of defining and documenting it for a waiting region and nation.

The Tar Heel From The Afrika Korps

North Carolinians doubtless thought they'd heard the first and last of ex-German Afrika Korpsman Kurt Rossmeisl, alias "Frank Ellis," when he gave himself up to the F.B.I. in May. Rossmeisl told how he escaped from a POW stockade at Camp Butner, 14 years ago, how he lived as a fugitive, making shift as waiter, unskilled laborer, and elevator operator until poverty and arthritis forced him to surrender in Cincinnati.

Nay, not so. This was not the last of Kurt Rossmeisl. Writing in the New York Herald Tribune, he has set himself up as an ersatz Tar Heel — of all things. "I have a southern accent to prove it," he writes.

He used his North Carolina-style "southern accent" first to get a Social Security card in Chicago:

> . . . I told the first person I encountered in the government office I went to I wanted a working card.
>
> "How come," she wanted to know, "a man of your age hasn't had a Social Security card before this?"
>
> I turned on the southern accent.
>
> "Ah'm from No'th Ca'lina. Been working on my folks' farm and jist decided to cut mahself in on the gravy in the big city."

It worked. Rossmeisl tells how he went on from this triumph to make a circle of charmed friends "who seemed to enjoy stories of my boyhood in North Carolina."

"Often I entertained them with tales of back-breaking labor on the tobacco plantations, or lying in the fields at night tending smudge pots. My accounts of shooting and skinning squirrels also were popular. I never touched a squirrel in my life."

We scarcely know what to conclude about this tremendous bamboozlement, except that some Yankees remain as gullible about drawls, tobacco plantations, and smudge pots as any Irishman about leprechauns and blarney. But even an ersatz Tar Heel merits some notice from the state whose voice he assumed as a prisoner here — and at last report this bogus moonshiner of southern lore sadly needed it. The immigration authorities threaten to deport him as an alien. If so, he will be a man without a country, since his original home lay in what is now East Germany and he has no wish to go back.

Surely it would be humane if Gov. Hodges could find a niche for him in the Department of Conservation and Development. If he learned enough about the Old North State in a year to pass for real in Chicago, there's no telling what he could learn in a few years of bona fide residence. A tale or two about "skinning squirrels" would probably gain more Yankee investment dollars for North Carolina in a week than all of authentic offialdom could in a year of brochures.

Who Do Those Apes Think They Are?

Something tugged at our heartstrings when we read of America's pioneering space monkeys receiving medals — one of them awarded posthumously, of course. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals presented the decorations yesterday in Pensacola, Fla. It must have been a touching ceremony.

But before we had an opportunity to telegraph any congratulations, we began to brood about all those other little heroes who have gone undecorated and unhonored during man's long quest for scientific enlightenment. Nobody got up any medals for the mosquitoes who helped Maj. Walter Reed with his yellow fever experiments in Cuba in 1899. There were no decorations for either the rats or their deadly fleas in the Bombay experiments to determine how plague was transmitted. The mice who lost their lives in the nose cones of earlier rocket firings were not even accorded the courtesy of a one-cent commemorative postage stamp. And how all those fruit flies who invented heredity?

Rank discrimination.

Congress should investigate.

A Society for the Advancement of Mosquitoes, Wharf Rats And Other Unsung Heroes ought to be established.

The Supreme Court should be alerted.

It's just like George Orwell said. All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. They get medals.

Higher Education

The Soviet challenge in education is still being met brilliantly on this side of the Atlantic. Teachers College of Columbia University recently awarded the Ed.D degree (Doctor of Education) to a candidate whose dissertation was titled, "The Nature of the Sports Page In Relation to Intercollegiate Athletics." That'll show 'em.

Major Discovery

After considerable personal research we are prepared to announce to the world a scientific discovery of no small moment:

A dandelion is another thing which, if given an inch, will take a yard.

From The Louisville Courier-Journal

A RIGHT TO WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK

The world is a drab enough place these days, and few parts of it are more dismal than the commuter trains that convey New Yorkers by the hundreds of thousands to and from their work. Suburban travellers resort to all sorts of devices to relieve the tedium of their daily ordeal. Some carry on continuous card games. Others bury themselves in a book or newspaper. Many gaze out of the window onto a featureless landscape, enduring in solitary boredom the minutes of travel that add up to a total of months and even years in the course of a working career.

Into this situation plunged a railroad conductor with an instinct of human pity. Ed McCarthy, whose daily run is on the cars of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, possesses a talent for whistling. He indulged it as he went about his duties on a commuter special. His captive audience heard a series of warbles, trills and birdlike chirps, reminiscent of the innocent countryside that used to exist where the iron rails and the endless box-like buildings now prevail.

Most of his customers liked his efforts, or at least tolerated them good-humoredly. His woodnotes wild were even known to soothe fretful babies to sleep. But there were some misanthropes among his clients who disliked his daily performance so much that they complained to the management of the road. An official quietus was put on the conductor.

Then human nature came hopefully into play. Dozens of the New Haven's customers wrote to the head office to say that they missed the impromptu entertainment and wanted it restored. Top management decided to defy the few sourpusses who had complained. The welcome word was passed along to Ed McCarthy, who announced with relief: "I intend to start whistling again." By that one effort, that one break in the dreary wall of conformity, the world is a happier place.

A small boy walked up to a movie box office during school hours and the cashier refused to sell him a ticket.

"Why aren't you in school?" she asked.

"It's okay, lady," the little one replied. "I got the measles."—Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.

—A LEGISLATOR GRADES THE LEGISLATURE—

Why Court Revision Failed In '59 General Assembly

By REP. WATTS HILL JR.
(Second In A Series)

Editors' Note: One of North Carolina's most brilliant young legislators tells today how factionalism and lack of courage combined to kill Tar Heel hopes for constitutional revision in general and court reform in particular. This is one of a series of candid commentaries on the record of the 1959 session written exclusively for The News by the Durham representative.

DURHAM

Many members of the General Assembly, when first studying proposals for revision of the Constitution and its major subdivision, court reorganization, shared the reaction that, "It is a shame that revision of the Constitution attempts so little and that court reorganization attempts so much."



HILL

It is perhaps this reaction which brought about the death of both though many other factors also played their essential roles. For usually the Senate's action in tying constitutional revision and court reorganization into one package assured its death in 1959. The demand for court reorganization in the urban areas as great as it may have been, was not enough to make the large population counties swallow the loss of representation which would have been forced on them by the Senate.

When the House endorsed the one-senator provision and further weakened the court proposals, there was no alternate but to put off consideration of both constitutional revision and court reorganization.

'IMPROVED TO DEATH'

It may well be that the low population counties which control both the House and the Senate will prove to have been shortsighted in their demands and will come to regret the day they "improved to death" constitutional revision and court reorganization. The true extent of rural control of the legislature is now better understood by the urban majority of voters and one might well ask how long it will be before they react against the minority which actually controls.

BIG-COUNTY POWER

The big cities could elect both U. S. senators today if they were to become sufficiently aroused, even without controlling the state legislature. And they could defeat any statewide bond issue which does not give sufficient emphasis to their needs. On the other hand, they would probably have settled for lack of fair representation in the General Assembly in order to get court reorganization but they would not have agreed to going backwards on representation, as would have been required by the one-senator amendment.

It is difficult to see how further and heightened conflict between urban and rural legislators can be avoided in the immediate future. In a totally different area, is it not only a matter of time before the cities realize that they are the ones who pay for the farm to market roads and not the farmer with his comparatively limited use of the roads and hence limited financial support through gas taxes? Would not any future state bond issue for roads have to include major allocation of funds to urban areas to obtain support from voters in urban areas?

SPLITS UNNECESSARY

Replacing the "east - west", "conservative-liberal" and "pro and anti-administration" splits in the legislature in the future may well be a sharp line drawn between large and small population counties. Such a split is totally unnecessary but representatives of the small population counties, by demanding short-term advantages, may well bring it about.

Not only did the constitutional revision as finally recommended by the Senate — though not by the Constitutional Study Commission — represent a step backwards but even the study commission recommendations ignored most of the basic questions facing the state in its transition from a rural to an urban economy.

GOVERNOR'S POWER

No action was recommended which affected the governor's powers and yet this is one if not the major issue in the minds of every legislator. It may be that our governor has so much power that he should not be given the additional power that the governor of every other state possesses, the power of veto. Or it may be that he should have the power of veto and have other powers reduced accordingly. The Constitutional Study Commission report studiously avoids this issue though it must have been considered.

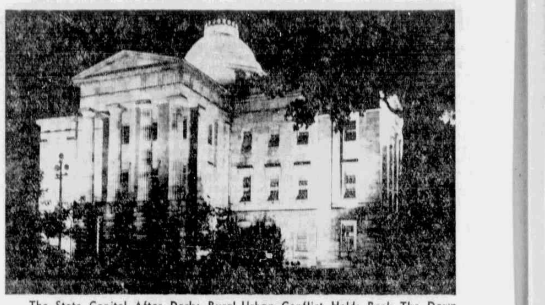
It also avoids the question of the so-called "short ballot" — an appointed commissioner of insurance and of labor, superintendent of public instruction—though this is a basic policy question which must be resolved sometime and should be soon —the sooner the better.

LACK OF COURAGE

The whole effort of the Constitution Study Commission is remarkable for its lack of courage in pointing the way and more to be remembered for what it did not do than for what it did. This, in itself, may be the major factor in the defeat of constitutional revision.

The people of the state and their legislative representatives so sorely in need of clarification of the issues, are thus left to try again to do a job which has yet to be done.

TOMORROW: How the buck was passed on education.



The State Capitol After Dark: Rural-Urban Conflict Holds Back The Dawn

'Wait—Let's Think About This A Minute'



Fulbright's Advice

Bring Bohlen Back

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

Bring Charles E. Bohlen back from the Manila embassy to the State Department. Use his incomparable knowledge of the Kremlin's ways. Above all, give Bohlen special rank, as the President's personal representative, for instance; and then let him carry the day-to-day burden of negotiating with the Soviets, instead of dropping all your other tasks to talk to Andrei Gromyko for weeks on end.

ADVICE

This advice to Christian A. Herter came from Sen. William Fulbright of Arkansas. It was not offered as advice from the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to the secretary of state, but simply advice privately passed on by one friend to another friend.

The good sense of Fulbright's idea can hardly be challenged. As secretary of state, Herter has authority next to the President, and responsibilities covering the whole world. It is monstrous to allow the Kremlin to checkmate Herter for a month and a half, as has just happened, by the simple device of sending Andrei Gromyko to Geneva with no more real authority than an upper-bracket government clerk. Having special standing both with the Soviets and with our allies, Bohlen could easily carry the day-to-day negotiating burden, under Herter's continuous direction, of course, and after Herter had formally opened the discussions.

LONG CHANCE

The chances are against Fulbright's idea being carried out in full. Ways to avoid the secretary of state being interminably checkmated in future are being discussed by Herter and his highest subordinates; but the use of Bohlen as Herter's substitute is not being currently considered. But the other half of Fulbright's advice — bringing Bohlen back to Washington and making better use of his deep knowledge of the Kremlin — jibed exactly with Secretary Herter's own desires and intentions.

Bohlen's prestige as a wide judge of Soviet purposes is so high with the other Western allies that more than one of the allied negotiators at Geneva pleaded with Secretary Herter for Bohlen's recall to Washington. If there was to be a summit meeting, it was said, Bohlen ought to be there. To this suggestion Secretary Herter replied that he had already decided to bring Bohlen back to the State Department if he could be induced to come. This was more than a month and a half ago.

TRANSFER

In the interval, the department offered Bohlen a transfer from Manila to another important embassy. The offer was made without Secretary Herter's knowledge, apparently in the normal course of the unending departmental game of musical chairs. It was refused by Bohlen, who wishes to retire from the foreign service and enter private business.

But another embassy is altogether different from a post at the center of affairs, where Bohlen's special knowledge of the Soviets would be used to the full. The State Department high command therefore hopes that Bohlen will at least agree to put off his retirement, in order to become one of Secretary Herter's highest staff officers for the duration of the present crisis.

SYMBOLIC MEANING

Bohlen's return to Washington, if it occurs, will have symbolic as well as practical meaning. It will imply the wise reversal of the worst error ever committed by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Wishing to be a one-man State Department, Secretary Dulles distrusted and even feared independence of spirit and boldness of imagination in the Foreign Service of the United States. In Dulles' eyes, moreover, Bohlen was the summation of these disturbing qualities. He was known to complain that "there were two State Departments, a Dulles State Department and a Bohlen State Department."

Even at the end of his career, therefore, Dulles gave his confidence to very few of the abler foreign service officers. Assistant Secretary of State Livingston Merchant and State Department Counselor G. Frederich Reinhardt belonged to this tiny group, whom Dulles was willing to use as technicians.

People's Platform

A One-Act Comedy: After Roof Fell In

Gaffney, S. C.

Editors, The News:

A comedy in one act. Scene: Yankee Stadium. Flashback, a few days before the fight. (You know which one.)

Cus D'Amato: Floyd's a champ all right. A tiger. A hungry fighter. Greatest since — er—John L. Sullivan. Or somebody.

Ingemar Johansson: Uh huh.

Rocky Marciano: Floyd's the fastest heavyweight ever.

Ingemar: Uh huh.

Various sportswriters: Floyd is too much for the challenger. Poor guy hasn't a chance; four-to-one odds.

Ingemar: Uh huh.

Floyd: I was 45 per cent for the Brian London fight. Now I rate myself 100 per cent — I'm ready for him.

Ingemar: Uh huh.

Max Muhleman: One punch, and Norkus got the gate.

Charlie Norkus: (barroom bouncer — for obvious reasons) Johansson's a bum. Fired me 'cause I hit too hard. He's amateur. Floyd'll cool him in five.

Ingemar: Uh huh.

B. Lo...on: (second-rater) Floyd's the fastest thing on two feet.

Roy Harris: (second-rater) Darn!

Tommy Jackson: (second-rater) Dadblast it!

Pete Rademacher: My first pro fight and I hadda lose!

Cus D'Amato: My boy's a real champ. This time he'll prove it.

Ingemar: Uh huh.

Floyd: (after the roof fell in) Wha' hoppen?

—CHARLES L. MORRIS

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Will Trujillo's Forces Invade Cuba?

WASHINGTON

While most U. S. diplomats are worrying about Geneva and Berlin, the powder keg in the Caribbean becomes more explosive. Approximately 800 Spanish mercenaries, supplied from Dictator Franco's military jails, are now in the Dominican Republic, ready for an attack on Cuba. With Fidel Castro already having launched an attack on Trujillo in the Dominican Republic, Trujillo now has an excuse for a retaliatory invasion.

Blood Bath

Also churning the cafes and streets of Trujillo City are a great many Cuban army officers, exiled by Castro, with more arriving every day. They are determined to stage a comeback. Paradoxical development is that they have been demanding that ex-President Batista, now in exile in the Dominican Republic, lead them, and he has refused. As an old army commander, he has shown them, in terms of detailed strategy, how an attempt to retake Cuba would only lead to a blood bath.

The other day Batista was given a veiled threat by a Trujillo emissary that he would either have to help lead an expedition to invade Cuba or be surrendered to Castro to stand trial. Batista refused to encourage the expedition. What happens to him at the hands of his own ex-army officers and Trujillo remains to be seen.

Battle Over Bonds

There was bitter, closed-door debate inside the Ways and Means Committee over the question of whether the Treasury shall be allowed to increase interest rates on the government's long-term bonds to the highest point since World War I in order to persuade big investment houses to buy them.

Attack

Speaker Sam Rayburn came in for attack by Republicans because he had held a secret caucus with Democrats regarding Eisenhower's request for increased interest rates.

"I thought it was the province of this committee to deal with this question," complained Republican Rep. Dick Simpson of Pennsylvania.

"But there seems to be little point in the committee discussing it here if you fellows have already decided to reject the President's plan under orders from Speaker Rayburn and John McCormack, your majority leader."

Lot Of Conferring

"Sure," we met with the speaker and John McCormack," shot back the committee chairman, Democrat Wilbur Mills of Arkansas. "What's wrong with that? You fellows seem to do a lot of conferring with Charlie Halleck (the House GOP leader) on legislative policies, but we don't complain about it."

Note—The Republicans didn't know it, but the Democratic caucus with Sam Rayburn came to no definite agreement, except that Rayburn seemed anxious to help his fellow Texan, Secretary of the Treasury Bob Anderson, increase interest rates.