THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Urban Redevelopment Must Be Salvaged

Rep. Charles R. Jonas' pledge to Charlotte that he will work for the salvage of urban renewal funds comes none too early. These are climactic days in Congress, and despite the strong will of Lyndon Johnson legislators' fancies turn to thoughts of adjournment.

If adjournment comes before a suitable bill authorizes crucial urban redevelopment funds, shanty-towns like Charlotte's Brooklyn will be left to roost on the shoulders of American cities for another season. That is a violation of the growing urban conscience, here and elsewhere, that cannot be tolerated.

Urban renewal funds were carelessly jeopardized early this month when Congress attempted to crowd too many passengers into its omnibus housing bill. Rep. Jonas voted against the bill, which passed but finally fell to President Eisenhower's veto. Rep. Jonas felt, as we do, that urban renewal funds must have priority and that other housing expenditures can wait their turn.

At the moment a more modest housing bill pends in both houses of Congress and Rep. Jonas plans to support it. Like most legislative matters in this period when public opinion is clearly conservative on the matter of "spending," housing must be a matter of priorities. First things must come first; and the cleansing of urban blight must take precedence over what Housing Director Norman B. Mason called "a whopping program of public housing." Before Congress passed its omnibus bill early in July, President Eisenhower requested that no more units of housing be authorized at present. Democratic eagerness to test majority strength against the President's "veto-pistol" may or may not have been effective politics. The tragedy is that in the combat the gnawing need for slum clearance was left unattended.

Charlotte's own urban renewal program stands to lose much if redevelopment funds are left to wait on an adjustment between congressional and presidential moods. The Charlotte Urban Redevelopment Commission obtained $1 million from a housing bill passed in 1957. But in a letter to Congressman Jonas this week, Commission Chairman James Glenn warned: "We will only be able to complete a portion of our first project with present grants. . .This will represent a bare 10 per cent of the 'Brooklyn' Area, not to mention many other blighted areas within our city that should receive prompt attention."

Charlotte's own needs, in an era of galloping urbanism, are plain to see on a short trip through Brooklyn. But as bad as that is, a trip through the jungles of upper Manhattan or Chicago's south side make Charlotte's urban blight seem a fairy-land by comparision. The need, then, is nationwide and it is crucial. The sight of shanties cohabiting American cities side by side with skyscrapers and emporia overflowing with consumer goods is one stark witness to the growing imbalance between public and private bounty in this country. Slum clearance is essential to restoring the balance.

Dr. Webb's Prescription Makes Sense

"I would convince the southern people that their future is brighter than it has been in history . . . that they would get so busy in realizing the opportunities ahead that they would . . . revenge the past by becoming the prosperous region of the nation."

With those recent words, Dr. Walter Prescott Webb, the noted historian, has illustrated an old truth: Of writing prescriptions for the South there is no end. Only exurbanites and Yalemen rival the region in the degree to which their tastes, memories, neuroses, and state of health are diagnosed.

At the same time, Dr. Webb has provided an extraordinary condensation of facts for southerners to mull over:

The South is the only region in the United States that fronts the sea on two sides. It has nearly four times the shoreline of the North, more than twice that of the Pacific coast, and nearly 600 miles more seacoast than the North and West combined. If there is a potential fortune in the sea, then the South has the easiest access to more than half of it.

It has one third of the good farmland of the nation, and this land is now being made better by the year.

It has two thirds of all the land with 40 inches of rainfall or more, an asset too great to be measured.

It has a long growing season which gives it an advantage in the production of food, of livestock and feed.

It produced 45 per cent of the oil, all of the sulphur, and has enormous depositions of coal and iron which have hardly been touched.

The industrial revolution is at last entering the South. . .

The petrochemical industry has already made great headway. . .

At last the South is developing capital centers with enough money to develop its own resources. . .The South is slowly becoming an exporter of capital.

The arresting feature of Dr. Webb's parade of evidence is that so much of it points to routes of economic development seldom mentioned when the architects of the future foregather to dream. Too often, when they do foregather, it seems that the historic bent of the region to be enthralled by stereotypes has us still in tow. The new stereotype, of course, is "industrialization." It is all too rarely that the dreamers of the new southern dream explain precisely what is meant by "industrializing" the South. Certainly, industry is a crucial source of future development in the region. But it needs to be said that "industrialization" does not mean the South must force herself into ancient molds which have borne as much disadvantage and ugliness as benefit. Industrialization, surely, does not mean merely the luring of worn-out antiques from other regions which have rejected them. It should mean that the South intends to look within its own potentialities to see **what kinds** of industry fit her resources and traditions.

For example, the long growing season and plentiful rainfall cited by Dr. Webb point to pasture lands and thus to meat-packing, just as the long stretches of seacoast point to shipping, trade and port development, and export-import industries. The still unexploited farmland raises the question why the South seems to be surrendering her agricultural supremacy so rapidly to the Midwest.

With an instinct more prophetic than professorial, Dr. Webb seems to warn the South not to abandon old fixations to gain newer ones equally narrow. In an era of rapid change, the much-examined South needs careful choice as much as ever.

And Don't Forget To Use The Word

We read, recently, an article by a California sociologist, Seymour Lipset, in which the learned gentleman twitted American "intellectuals" ever so dryly about their neuroses.

Mr. Lipset's fascinating discovery (yes, it is that, since he is a sociologist and therefore a scientist) accords with one of our own purely unreasonable notions — which is that the "intellectual" is the captive of his own image of himself. He thinks himself sinned against, he becomes a political rebel. He thinks himself underpaid; he cries out against a materialist society.

But alas, Dr. Lipset failed to do what we've always hoped a super-qualified "intellectual" would one day do — that is, advocate an end to the use of the monicker itself. In days past, the word "intellectual" had a fairly restrictive meaning. Recently, it has become so sickeningly bent and stretched to cover so many different poses and postures that its usefulness is at an end.

As proof of this, we offer a primer on how you, too, can qualify as an intellectual: Have at least 12 feet of bookshelves, well filled and on prominent display. Read the Partisan Review. Frown dogmatically upon TV. Be able to bandy about such okay names as C. S. Lewis, Jean-Paul Sartre, or Rilke. Like "Lolita" for its "remarkable use of the English language." Prefer Bach to Tchaikowsky.

In college circles, the list of requirements is somewhat more formidable but requires little originality, really. Have a Ph. D. (Never mind whether your mind has expanded or been shrunk; the degree itself suffices.) Publish a textbook. Be able to refute a fascinating argument with a single minute "fact." Explain away genius, saintliness, or implacable evil with a deft smattering of psychology.

And, by the way, don't forget in any case to use the word "intellectual" at least 50 times a day.

From The Chapel Hill Weekly

SORRY, WRONG NUMBER

An irate Londoner suggests that telephone booths be designed for use by men or by women, a practice that long since has been necessary for razors, trousers, golf clubs and, in some areas, suburban pool halls.

"Why not booths for men only?" the Briton demands to know. "Women occupy them for 20 minutes at a time while men rarely take more than 2 or 3 minutes to make a call. Let the women keep each other waiting. I'll guarantee some of those marathon calls would be curtailed."

At grave risk of seeming to side with Colonel McCormick, the consensus here is that the Briton is a bit balmy.

Imagine, if you can, a telephone booth designated FOR MEN ONLY up to which would wind a long line of impatient women, and next to it a telephone booth designated FOR WOMEN ONLY into which would sneak a nervous male, guilt written all over his face. This would be the inevitable result.

To this suggestion—along with the bowler, the walking stick, recognition of Red China and the Teddy nonsense —a firm no, but with thanks.

However, we still like Winston Churchill.

Nixon's Junket Will Not Change Relations With Russia

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON

Mr. Nixon's trip behind the iron curtain has, as everyone knows, been planned and prepared as a triple wager. It is a flyer in propaganda, a flyer in diplomacy, and a flyer in his own personal presidential politics. As of the moment, with the Moscow visit concluded, it appears that there has been no triumph, and no disaster, and that no money need be paid.

This is not due to the charm or to the failings of Mr. Nixon. The real situation of the U. S. and the U.S.S.R. has long since passed the point where an amateur diplomat can alter it by word and gestures. Yet all that Mr. Nixon took with him in his brief case were a collection of words and gestures.

Nixon, Stevenson, Eastland: Odd Figures In An Eventful Trip

BEST AND WORST

At the best he might persuade Mr. K. that the President wants to go on talking. At the worst, he may still say or do something, perhaps when he goes to Poland, perhaps because he has been needled, which for a while will put the Russians in a worse humor than they are in most of the time anyway. But the substance of things will not be changed.

As regards propaganda, our exposition in Moscow and the Soviet exposition in New York undoubtedly have an influence on those who visit them or who hear about them from their friends. The main influence lies, I think, in dissolving nightmares — which are compounded of distance, fear, and verbal excitement — and in replacing them with more familiar objects seen by daylight. There is something disarming in the spectacle of the two nuclear giants going to so much trouble to show each other what lovely kitchens they manufacture. This kind of contact does undoubtedly relax popular tension and act as a kind of wet blanket on the fire-eaters.

But these results are not much affected one way or the other by what Mr. Kozlov and Mr. Nixon say and do in opening the expositions. That is because the Soviet Union and the United States are both much too large and too set to be influenced by a propaganda of words and gestures, such as patting babies in American super markets or handing out chewing gum in Moscow's streets. There may be some who wait breathlessly to hear whether in their tit-for-tat, Nixon gives better than he gets. But trying to measure the effect on Soviet and American public opinion would be like measuring how much lower is the level of the ocean after drawing out of it a bucket of water.

DIPLOMACY

As regards diplomacy, we are in a deadlock over Berlin because the Soviets will not give us what we want except at a price that the Western allies, if united, will not pay. We want to have the status quo in Berlin guaranteed to us until that distant day when the two Germanys are reunited. It is not entirely clear whether the Soviet Union will give us that guarantee at any price. But her present position appears to be that she might negotiate such a guarantee if in effect the East German state is recognized as juridically and politically equal to the West German state.

TAKING REFUGE

Neither side is prepared to concede what the other wants. But neither side looks forward with anything but reluctance and anxiety to what would happen if the negotiations were broken off. The U.S.S.R. has made certain commitments to East Germany and we have made commitments to West Germany which involve risks that neither of us wishes to take.

As we may not be able to agree on the settlement, and as we want to avoid or at least postpone a showdown, it may be that we shall take refuge in a protracted series of conferences and negotiations. It may be that here Mr. Nixon and Mr. Khrushchev are not too far apart.

As for the presidential politics of it all, my view is that Mr. Nixon should feel well satisfied if he can depart from behind the iron curtain without making any serious blunders. The trip as such can do nothing whatever to prove that he ought to be President of the United States, or that he possesses any peculiar magic for dealing with the Russians. Nothing he can do will make anyone believe that he knows more about how to conduct foreign relations than do, let us say, Gov. Rockefeller or Gov. Stevenson. And indeed, if anyone in his circle thinks that it might be possible to prove his superiority by a flying visit of this kind, the vice president badly needs to find more adult advisors.

BAD BLUNDER

His greatest chance to make a bad blunder, and to prove that we have sent a boy on a man's errand, is in his unexpected, and in the nature of things his not considered, decision to visit Poland. This cannot do any positive good and it can do much harm. For the position of Poland is in the highest degree delicate, and, given the fact that Poland is surrounded by the Red Army, the most tactless thing that the United States can do is to make an ostentatious public display of its friendship for Poland and of its sympathy with the grievances of the Polish nation.

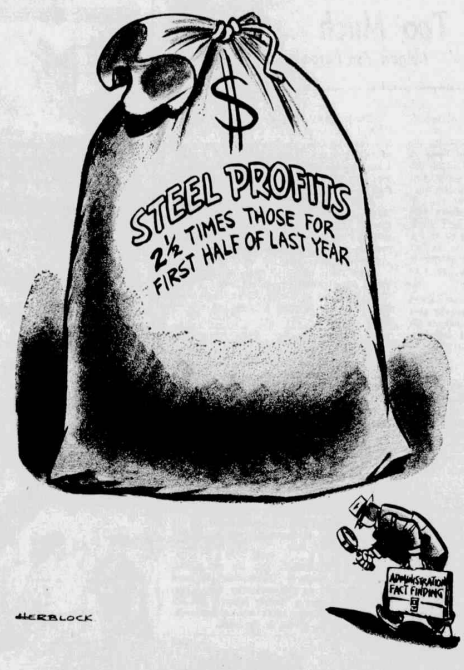
BUMBLE

What complicates the matter seriously is that the vice president is a politician running for office, and no matter what he does, he is certain to be charged with caring not so much about the fate of the Poles in Poland but about the votes of the Polish Americans in Illinois, Michigan, New York, and elsewhere. Mr. Nixon will be all the more open to this charge after the absent-minded bumble of Congress and the President in proclaiming this week, of all weeks, "Captive Nation Week."

The resolution on the captive nations was adopted without debate by the Senate on July 6. The resolution had not come to the Senate from the Foreign Relations Committee which would be concerned with such matters. The resolution came from the Committee on the Judiciary, of which the chairman is that notorious lover of liberty, Mr. Eastland of Mississippi. Mr. Eastland had promoted a resolution, believe it or not, which says among other things that the United States has "been able, through the democratic process, to achieve a harmonious national unity of its people, even though they stem from the most diverse of racial, religious, and ethnic backgrounds."

The hypocrisy of the resolution is embarrassing to this country. But what is worse, is the irresponsibility of Congress which, without consideration, without debate, votes a resolution that it has no intention of doing anything about. This insincerity is a cruel hoax on the captive peoples, who may not yet have learned when to take seriously the Congress of the United States.

Fact For Today



People's Platform

Negroes And Whites Should Make Peace

Salisbury

Editors, The News:

Most of you have observed that North Carolina Negroes have the same names as the prominent white people in the state. Those of you who have taken a closer look find that these Negroes have many of the same characteristics as their white cousins . . . isn't it time that the Israelites and the Samaritans made peace and lived for each other in the place of against each other?

—J. W. JEWEL

A Note Of Thanks For 'Fine Coverage'

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

Both personally and on behalf of the Church of God of North Carolina, I want to express our appreciation to you and your staff for the fine news coverage given our July Camp Meeting in the pages of The Charlotte News.

Your co-operation was indeed a great help, and we appreciate this most sincerely.

Best wishes for continued success for The Charlotte News.

—JOHN L. BYRD
State Supt.,
Church Of God

Poodle Dog Cars Are Not For Him

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

The little foreign cars are no good. I noted one on the street yesterday. It looked like a poodle dog. They crowd in and out of traffic lanes like cockroaches. In 1932 I owned an Austin. Sitting cramped up all day nearly put me out of commission. I sold the thing and recovered.

They promised 40 miles to a gallon of gas. That was a lie. I hope the City of Charlotte doesn't fall for that stuff. Our city employes ought to have good American standard makes.

Give our police officers good, fast cars, the best uniforms, equipment, etc. It would be a disgrace to write "City of Charlotte" on one of those little foreign pests that crowd in and out of traffic like insects. When muddy they look like hell. . .

—W. C. McINTIRE

McCarthy's Dead, So Bury Him

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I agree with your estimation of Sen. Joe McCarthy and the "ism" he founded. But the fellow's been dead for quite a while now. Isn't it about time we buried him for good? When you keep reviving his memory all you are doing is giving the crackpots something to rally around.

—LES MARTIN JR.

Parental Love Is The Secret

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I have been reading so much about teen-age boys and girls lately. I know that our new chief of police, Jesse James, will do his best to make them better young people. But the root of all the trouble is a lack of parental love. Mothers and fathers simply don't spend enough time with their children.

YOU HAVE to start at the cradle to train a child to be a respectable person. Parents cannot run around and play cards and drink and expect their boys and girls to take care of themselves and behave themselves. I really think the home is where the trouble lies. If parents would spend their time seeking God's help to be better parents less juvenile crime would be committed and fewer tears would be shed.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER

Memos To Americans

Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest. . .

To do good is noble; to teach others to do good is nobler; and no trouble. . .

There are two times in a man's life when he should not speculate: when he can afford it, and when he can't. . .

Let us endeavor to live so that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

The man who is a pessimist before 48 knows too much; if he is an optimist after it, he knows too little. . .

Power, money, persuasion, supplication, persecution — these can lift a colossal humbug, push it a little, weaken it a little, century by century; but only laughter can blow it to rags and atoms at a blast. Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand. — **Mark Twain (Harper & Bros.)**

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

History Shows Moscow Ice Is Breaking

WASHINGTON

Those who get discouraged over deadlocked U.S-U.S.S.R. relations should take a look at history.

The late Wendell Willkie once told me of the difficulties he had presenting a presidential message to Josef Stalin during the war. He had gone to the Soviet Union, as the special representative of President Roosevelt at a time when the United States and Russia were vital allies against an enemy which so far had been winning, and at a time when Russia was being kept alive by U. S. supplies.

Waiting A Week

Yet Willkie was kept waiting for over a week, finally delivered an ultimatum that he would leave next day unless he was given an appointment with Stalin. At about midnight he was finally ushered into the sacred presence.

Democratic Debate

This was standard procedure for most Americans no matter how important. They were taken to the Kremlin anywhere from midnight to 3 a. m. for one long-delayed, hard-to-get secret session with the man who ruled Russia.

In contrast, Vice President Nixon saw Khrushchev immediately and saw him five times in the first two days, even spent the weekend at his dacha. The fact that they engaged in a no-holds-barred verbal battle in public actually was one of the healthiest developments of modern Russia. It was democratic debate, which can occur in a western country, but never could have happened in the old days of communism, with Stalin or anyone else. If a lesser official had got into a verbal slugging match Stalin would have liquidated him.

Liquidation

I recall the Soviet naval attache in Washington, Vice Adm. Paul Yurevich Oras, a frank and charming officer who became dean of the naval attaches in 1938 and held a luncheon for U. S. naval brass at which he jokingly chided them for giving foreign naval attaches so little information. I wrote the story. Unfortunately, Adm. Oras was recalled to Moscow and liquidated.

The fact that Khrushchev adopted the hand-shaking, back-slapping technique of the American politicians, both in his talks with Nixon and elsewhere, is also something of a victory. Also important is the fact that Nixon is visiting Poland; even more so, the fact that the Inter-Parliamentary Union is being held in Warsaw this summer. To have members of elected parliaments and congresses from Democratic countries stage their annual convention in a so-called "captive" country indicates that country may not be so captive after all.

Kremlin Laughter

Equally revolutionary is the fact that an American exposition is allowed to be staged in Russia at all. A few years ago this would have been impossible. The idea would have been laughed out of the Kremlin.

A few years ago also, the Bolshoi Ballet never would have been permitted in the U. S. Repeated requests were made to bring it over here. They provoked a succession of emphatic Russian "nyets." But this year the ballet has packed 'em into theaters from San Francisco to New York and turned crowds away from Madison Square Garden.

Strictly Capitalistic

This, like the Harlem Globetrotters' tour of Russia, has been on a strictly capitalistic, profit-making basis. There has been no socialism about it. Abe Saperstein's famous Negro basketball team was paid $4,000 for each game in Russia, and packed the Lenin Sports Palace with 130,000 spectators for nine games. Even U. S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson had trouble getting a seat.

Quite A Change

When you consider that criticism of American race prejudice has been the No. 1 propaganda slogan of the Moscow radio, the fact that a Negro basketball team was allowed to play a mixed-color group of Americans inside Russia is quite a change.