THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1945

"Be Careful, Harry..."

Ever since President Truman assumed office there has been sporadic discussion of the need for a constitutional amendment to change the order of succession to the Presidency. His own presence in the White House gives point to the debate, for if he were to die he would be succeeded by the Secretary of State, a Cabinet member of his own appointment, and the United States would be saddled with a chief executive who had arrived at the Presidency by the side door, not through a vote of the people.

All of this makes the President's health and safety more a matter of public concern than it usually is, and underscores the foolhardy manner in which he chose to go home to Independence for Christmas. The trip out to Missouri, undertaken even though all commercial aircraft and all but the most essential military planes were grounded, was bad enough, but yesterday's return flight of the "Sacred Cow" was utterly incomprehensible.

The President took off from Kansas City in weather so thick airport officials would not clear the planeload of newspapermen who were scheduled to follow him. And newspapermen are not, we must admit, numbered among the nation's indispensable citizens.

If the President had been rushing off to settle some vital matter of State there might have been gallantry in his gesture, but the desire to eat Christmas dinner with his family and visit with his old friends, no matter how laudable, hardly justifies his taking risks that would give any private citizen pause.

His casual disregard of his own safety bespeaks a certain degree of irresponsibility, and a lack of understanding of the nature of the office he so unexpectedly inherited. It is apparent that he still labors under the delusion that the private life of Harry S. Truman, citizen, and the public life of Harry S. Truman, President, can be conducted independently.

The sort of impulsive sentimentality that prompted Mr. Truman to go junketing at Christmastime, come sleet or high water, is rather a charming trait, but it is out of place in the President of the United States. Mr. Truman cannot properly discharge his duties without heeding his own mother's famous admonition: "Be careful, Harry."

The Job Is Done

Since September 21, 1941 more than half a million servicemen have wandered into the Enlisted Men's Club on South Tryon Street, and the great majority of them found what they were looking for—information, a girl to talk to, a party, a game of pool, or just a place to rest. Quite a few of them even found brides there.

The Club, Charlotte's most ambitious wartime service to the men in uniform, started out largely as a private refuge for the men at Morris Field. But after Pearl Harbor, when the entire nation was mobilized and maneuvers brought troops swarming into the area, it became a haven for thousands of transient soldiers, sailors, and marines.

Hundreds of letters on file at the club attest to its success, and pay tribute to the volunteer workers who contributed so much time and energy to its operation. It was, in the best sense, a community enterprise—25 senior hostesses, 50 junior hostesses, and more than 1,000 Victory Belles worked long and hard to rout the loneliness of the servicemen who turned up in droves at 208 1-2 South Tryon.

The Club is going out of business Monday night, and far from being an occasion for gloom, the final locking of the door is good news, indeed. Business has been falling off steadily for months; the throng of visitors has become a trickle.

The servicemen have become veterans, and loneliness is no longer listed among their troubles. The staggering dislocations of the war years are over, and the men in uniform who pass through Charlotte these days are headed for home.

The Club's job is done, well done, and the thousands of volunteers who made it a success will find their reward in the pleasant memories of Charlotte a half-million strangers will retain the rest of their lives.

The Four-A-Day Atom

"Weird and beautiful girls," the billboards announce. "Vaudeville acts. Singing and dancing. Laughs. Don't miss The Atomic Scandals . . ."

It was, of course, inevitable that some weird and beautiful song and dance man would sooner or later seize upon the topic of the day and build a weird and beautiful extravaganza around it. It has been a long time since the local stage afforded an orderly procession of jugglers who simply juggled, chorus girls who merely shuffled around in as little clothing as the censors would allow, and comedians who were content to raise the ghost of Joe Miller. The juggling, the dancing and the jokes are immutable, but they have to be packaged differently these days, hung on some slender peg so that they are at least as topical as the newsreel that precedes them.

As a matter of fact, we consider the right of the vaudevillians to the word atomic far more valid than that of most of the current claimants. We have found the effort of the radio comedians to employ the split and angry atom as a vehicle for their sleek routines extremely unfunny, and we have been more depressed than usual by the atomic perfume advertising, which has served up everything short of Uranium 765 and Evening in Hiroshima.

The atom is weird and beautiful, and it is soothing to view it under a pink spotlight. When the air is full of Indian clubs, when acrobats are swinging perilously from the flies, when tired blondes are trying vainly to get back in step, it is easy to forget the terror of unleashed energy, the looming horror of chain reaction. The ultimate fate of the world, the moment when the planet disappears in a flash of blue flame, fades into a dream, a dream as bad as a song and dance man's taste but no more real than the beautiful girls on the posters in front of the theatre.

From The Louisville Courier-Journal:

Petrillo Builds A Wall

In recent years the public has grown so accustomed to lofty ukases from James Caesar Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, that indignation will outstrip surprise at his latest autocratic gesture. With an arrogance worthy of the czars of old Russia, he notifies American radio stations that after January 1 they will not be permitted to broadcast musical programs originating in foreign countries, with the one exception of Canada.

America was once foolish enough, during World War I, to deny itself the pleasure of hearing music by Wagner, Mendelssohn and the other important German composers because they had been Germans. The Nazis themselves banned Mendelssohn and other musical immortals of their own land on the grounds of their Jewish origin.

The world has repudiated this sort of outrageous nonsense, and Mr. Petrillo's decree conflicts with the whole trend of enlightened opinion in America and abroad. Music is now recognized as a link between nations, an international language which makes it easier for disparate peoples to understand each other. Exchange between countries of the best in music has been foreseen as an integral part of the United Nations program.

World harmony is obviously of little concern to Mr. Petrillo, however, if the instruments are held by non-union hands. He lumps all foreign musicians save the Canadians, who are affiliated with the A.F. of L., in a non-union heap, and instructs American radio stations "under no circumstances" to broadcast their music except as a part of religious programs. It will be only natural for foreign countries to retaliate and refuse to broadcast music originating in America, so the world will have no opportunity to observe that phase of our national culture.

Mr. Petrillo has already made himself the most potent ally of Westbrook Pegler and the whole generation of labor-baiters, for his excesses are charged up against the score of all organized labor. He now appears in spiritual alliance with the extreme right wing business hierarchy of the Twenties which helped to blockade the country with the Smoot-Hawley tariff. He proposes to erect a wall around America, in the name of protection for American musicians. It remains to be seen whether public opinion will permit one man to erect such a barbarous edifice.

We're for leaving the Fuehrer's name entirely out of this Nuernberg testimony. We don't want to spoil the clear impression left by Eva's diary.

It is nice to know a Clevelander has invented a brake which will outlast the car. However, we have not yet worn our tires down to the brake.

Artful dressing and a smooth paint job will take 20 years off her true age. But you can't fool a long flight of stairs.

A Georgia infant has five teeth at the end of its first week. Are we to understand evolution is catching up with the utility steak?

Drew Pearson

The Russians Wanted UNO Site In U. S.

WASHINGTON

THIS columnist has now obtained a transcript of the first secret debates inside the United Nations Preparatory Commission regarding the future capital of the United Nations.

The document shows how millions of people throughout the world are looking to the USA for leadership in keeping the peace.

The sessions opened at the Church House, Deans's Yard, Westminister, next to the historic Westminister Abbey. Inscrutable Soviet Ambassador Andrei Gromyko was in the chair. Dr. Victor Dzi-tsai Hoo, the Chinese delegate, opened the discussion with a blunt attack on putting UNO headquarters in Geneva.

"We believe that the memory of the seat where all attempts to maintain peace have failed would influence the whole atmosphere of the organization," Dr. Hoo said.

"The 'spirit of Geneva,'" he maintained, "became almost similar to the 'spirit of Munich.'"

French delegate Rene Massigli vigorously opposed the Chinese, arguing that placing the seat in Europe would inspire the European nations to keep the peace. Massigli also suggested Denmark or Austria as alternatives to Geneva.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO

At this point, Australia's External Minister Herbert Evatt sprang to his feet.

"What we are required to do," he said, "is ask what place is most suitable for the seat of the United Nations. Australia favors San Francisco. I think it is obvious that the peoples of the world expect a fresh start to be made in the world organization; we consider that that can best be done by choosing a new site.

"San Francisco is a city which breathes the very spirit of freedom," he continued. "Freedom of expression is guaranteed in the country in which San Francisco belongs, freedom of expression is enforced by the courts; nowhere in the world is freedom more strong. It is a city of progress. It looks with courage and confidence to the future. In drawing up the Charter at the Conference in San Francisco, we all recognized with gratitude and admiration the debt we owed to the city of San Francisco and its people. In fact, the Charter was worked out in the spirit of San Francisco—the spirit of freedom and tolerance."

But Philip Noel-Baker delegate of Great Britain, did not agree. He said that Britain had no objection to going back to Geneva — scene of failure.

"Because you have failed in a place," he asked, "do you not go there again? That, at my mind, is very like saying that because the British Parliament was obliged, in defense of parliamentary rights, to cut off the head of King Charles I, we ought to have moved away from Westminister Hall when we restarted parliamentary government in 1660. But we went back to Westminister Hall and we restarted a Parliament far stronger than it was before we cut off King Charles' head."

Noel-Baker also pointed out that there was not a single capital of any of the United Nations within 2,000 miles of San Francisco and that there were 28 international capitals within 2,000 miles of the center of Europe.

Ambassador van Royen, representing the Netherlands, then spoke up in support of the British and French delegates, but he didn't get far.

RUSSIAN OPPOSITION

Soviet Ambassador Gromyko, although chairman, rose and blasted the idea of placing the organization's headquarters in Europe. Gromyko's remarks were considered significant.

"As the representative for the Soviet Union," he said, "I wish to say that the Soviet Government has a definitely negative attitude towards Geneva as a possible place for the United Nations Organization. The Soviet Government considers that the United States would be the proper place for the United Nations Organization. The United States is located conveniently between Asia and Europe. The old world has had it once, and it is time for the new world to have it.

STETTINIUS SPEAKS

Former Secretary of State Edward Stettinius, representing the United States, who had remained silent up to this point, then announced that he felt very much like someone who was being elected to a club and was asked to sit with the membership committee while his character was being discussed.

"I wish to make clear the position of the United States," Stettinius said. "We are not seeking the site of the United Nations Organization within the boundaries of the United States.

"If it is the will of the majority of the United Nations to come to the United States and have the headquarters of the Organization within the United States, the United States Government stands ready to extend an invitation to the United Nations to come there.

"The last point I wish to make, Mr. Chairman," continued Stettinius, "is this: Several delegates have spoken for and against San Francisco. We should all keep in mind that there are many possible sites within the United States."

THE FINAL VOTE

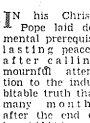
After four hours of wrangling, Gromyko called for a vote. The result was 9 to 3 in favor of placing the headquarters in the USA. Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Iran, Mexico, Russia and Yugoslavia voted for the USA. France, the Netherlands and Britain voted against. Canada and the United States abstained from voting.

An Octopodous Behemoth

Dorothy Thompson

"The Bell . . . Tolls For Thee . . ."

NEW YORK



IN his Christmas address, the Pope laid down three "fundamental prerequisites for a just and lasting peace," after calling monition attention to the indubitable truth that many months after the end of hostilities we have no peace but only "postwar."

No one familiar with human experience can contradict his theses.

First: Motives of hate, vengeance, rivalry will not bring us peace; he who exacts expiation of crime must take care not to do himself what he denounces in others; one who seeks reparations must rest his claim on moral principle; one who asks for security should not forget that it lies in one's own internal forces—safeguarding family, children, labor.

Second: That heed must be paid by peacemakers to the overwhelming majority of men.

Third: That the whole surface of the globe, reddened with blood-shed, cries aloud at the tyranny of the totalitarian state.

MORE COMPROMISES

All reports coming from Moscow indicate an attempt to secure peace, not upon the tri-partite acceptance of these or any other principles, but upon another series of compromises better called deals.

Thus Mr. Molotov seems prepared to compromise on Japan for Mr. Byrnes' recognition of the Jugoslav regime. That Jugoslavia is inhabited by some twenty million human beings, an overwhelming majority of whom, according to all accounts, including official reports in the hands of our Government, do not want this regime, is not considered of the least consequence. They must accept the chastisement of our "peace."

General de Gaulle is desperately attempting to save the chief industrial basin of all Europe—the Rhine and Ruhr—by detaching it from the Reich, and internationalizing it. On the functioning of that industrial complex, and on the guarantee that it shall not be a source of rearmament against the west, depends the economic life of France and her security. But France does not cut out of consideration, despite the acres of white crosses on her soil, marking the graves of American boys who died to save that corner of our common civilization, and it is suggested that if France does not shut up, she will be deprived of her veto in the Security Council.

BEING PUSHED ASIDE

It is well known that Britain with her fundamental interest in the fate of Europe is being incresingly pushed aside. The Big Five reduce themselves first, to the Big Three, next to the Big Two—eventually, perhaps, to the Big One?

The future of Germany remains utterly obscure. James Marshall reported this week from there that the growing aspect of the German mind is less of faith in anything at all. That is nihilism.

The roster of crimes against humanity solemnly read at Nuremburg as the protest of outraged conscience rings hollow, for what crimes do not continue? Now, it is the turn of the Allies. Tens of thousands of men are carted off for forced labor; millions of women and children, expelled from their ancestral homes, without ration cards or shelter, in plundered lands and freezing weather, die as did the victims of Hitler's concentration camps; no attempt is made to separate the guilty from the innocent, and one of the very highest American authorities has said that the administrative burden of trying to divide innocent from guilty is almost insuperable.

TASK OF JUSTICE

But the division of innocent from guilty is the whole task of justice. The massacre of the innocents—the children at least—is criminal. Will no one heed the noble words of the Chief Rabbi of Berlin, Dr. Leo Baeck, who languished for years in concentration camp, and was saved by what seems a miracle?

"The right to punish is only incumbent on man if he is willing to aid. To punish and to aid belong together. Only together do they represent justice . . .

"Every wrong committed against somebody, a group or a single person, is a wrong committed against the totality of men, against every single man. Only where the consciousness of this is alive, a real righteousness results . . . some force of law."

So spoke centuries ago, John Donne. "Never send to ask for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee."

The consciousness of righteousness being dumb—it is not dead; it sleeps—no justice can be done even to Hitler's victims. The Nuremburg criminals are tried, but all the great victorious powers cannot find a haven for a hundred thousand Jews still in concentration camps, while in Indonesia Great Britain makes new Lidices.

AND THE GUILTY

Who is guilty?

I am guilty. You are guilty. We are guilty. Shall I, who never failed to protest the monstrosities of the Hitler regime, or to protest it would bring no peace, believe now that measures flaunting every human right will bring happiness and security to mankind. Sail we, so sensible of the guilt of others, be insensible of our own?

There is no right for any man that is not the right of all men. There is no injustice to any man, which is not an injustice to me.

That is the essence of the sense of justice, and only through justice, is there peace.

The People's Platform

Poll Tax Abolition

By KATHERINE SHRYVER
Executive Sec'y, National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

For 55 years the people of the South have tried to get rid of the un-American, discriminatory poll tax, assessed as a pre-condition of voting in seven states, which successfully disfranchises ten million Americans.

Abolishing the poll tax is not a race issue. It is an issue of the American way of life. Seven million of those disfranchised Southern citizens are white people—70 per cent.

In 1944, 16 U.-S. Senators and 79 U. S. Representatives were elected with two and a quarter million votes—about the same number as the single state of California cast. The effect is that one poll tax voter has as much voting power IN CONGRESS as four voters in free states—actually, more power, because of the control of vitally important Congressional committees their long tenure gives them.

There is before the Senate a bill, H. R. 7, to abolish the poll tax as a prerequisite of voting. The House passed the bill overwhelmingly, 251 to 105. A majority of Senators is in favor of passing H. R. 7.

But a little bitter minority wants to keep irresponsible, unelected active, minority government, and has threatened to filibuster H. R. 7 to death.

Every American who believes in the Four Freedoms, in universal suffrage, and in the American way of life and government will join with the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax in urging their Senators to vote for H. R. 7 and to vote for cloture, if necessary, to pass the bill and eliminate the poll tax, and guarantee to all Americans the same free ballot we have guaranteed the Poles and the Bulgarians.

"—And stop telling the customers there ain't nothing wrong that they can't fix themselves!—this ain't no automobile school!"

Why Worry Over Pearl Harbor Probe?

By FANNIE C. WILLIAMS

ROCK HILL, S. C.

Why should you worry so much about the Pearl Harbor investigation?

Nothing that these poor beknighted Republicans can do will further besmirch the memory of our martyred President.

Either Roosevelt knew what was going on, and did nothing about it, which makes him a criminal—or he did not know what was going on, which makes him an imbecile.

(Note: It's oversimplified conclusions like these that make us worry so much over the Pearl Harbor investigation.—Eds, The News.)

Marquis Childs

Nazi Resources Still A Threat

WASHINGTON

THE sound of the guns had hardly ceased after the end of World War I when Germany began to re-arm for a new war. Almost everyone was deceived. Most people wanted to forget all about the terrible conflict and get down to their own peaceful pursuits.

The record shows that the new drive for world conquest got its start for the most part outside the borders of Germany. By a secret agreement with the Soviet Union, for example, the Germans were able to carry on not merely research and experimentation in defiance of the terms of the Versailles Treaty but actual manufacture of armaments.

In other countries—Holland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium—German experts worked in laboratories and factories filling in the details of the secret general staff plans. It was a calculated, far-reaching, brilliantly resourceful plot to build back Germany's domination, first, of Europe, and then, if all went well, of the world.

Germany can do that again in spite of another and more overwhelming defeat. This is the view of the experts of the Foreign Economic Administration who put together the recently issued three-volume report on how to destroy the Reich's war-making capacity.

ALL OVER AGAIN

Germany can do it again with the resources and the experts she has managed to get out of Germany and into concealment in neutral countries, say FEA's specialists on Germany. And up to now almost nothing has been done to bring these external resources under some form of control.

How extensive they are can only be estimated. But it is believed that at least a billion dollars in physical assets, concealed stock ownership, bank accounts, and so forth is in Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Argentina. Some of this was secreted in 1943 and '44 when insiders in Germany foresaw defeat.

Even more important are the key technicians who found haven in some of the neutral countries. Out of their knowledge may come the new German arms. Several thousands Nazi experts are working in Spain today.

"Most of the equipment recently purchased by Spain has come from Germany," the FEA report points out. "Naturally German technicians supervised its installation and often remained as technical managers. But technicians are not the only Germans in Spain; managerial and administrative personnel abound. One has only to glance at a list of the directors of Spanish companies to realize the influential position of Germans, a large number of whom are fervent Nazis."

CARTEL CONNECTIONS

Several large Swedish firms had close cartel connections with German industry. Banking connections with Switzerland were extremely close and they were protected by a law assuring secrecy for bank transactions.

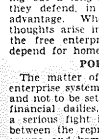
The FEA report makes a series of recommendations for establishing control over these resources outside the borders of the Reich. They urge especially that whenever possible personnel of German nationality should be forced to return to Germany.

It may not be possible to carry out all these recommendations. But they should be carefully considered if we really intend to avoid a repetition of the post-1918 pattern.

Samuel Grafton

Horror Stories At Year's End

NEW YORK



THE "year-end reviews" are making their appearance, and a theme running through some of them is that we must get rid of price controls in 1946 to save the free enterprise system. But one wonders whether it really helps the free enterprise system very much when the price of oranges jumps from a ceiling of $3.25 per box, to $10, as happened recently when controls were dropped. Is it a real boost to free enterprise to have the prices of homes triple, as has been happening in some cities? One of the most articulate of the anti-controls spokesmen for free enterprise aren't selling out a long-range belief in the system they defend, in exchange for a short-run advantage. When prices skyrocket, what thoughts arise in people's minds concerning the free enterprise system on which they depend for homes and oranges?

POPULAR FAITH

The matter of popular faith in the free enterprise system is an extremely delicate one, and not to be settled by a shout. One of the financial dailies, for example, reports that a serious fight is going on in Washington between the representatives of certain store groups, and home builders, over the allocation of building materials. A few small store groups, anxious to rebuild and redecorate, are fighting the order setting 50 per cent of building materials aside for home construction. Suppose they win? Is that good or bad for free enterprise?

A sound man does not ordinarily trade away a profitable long-term relationship for an immediate advantage. And it seems to me that a professed enemy of free enterprise (granted only that he were not concerned about the present welfare of the people) might quite logically join some of its friends in demanding an instant end of all controls; he might do so in the hope of promoting scarcity, profiteering, inflationary business, an unsound boom, and other developments which could, in the end, become a crisis of faith.

A HORROR STORY

But some of the year-end reviews are quite unsparing. One of them tries to tell a little horror story: It starts off by saying that, first, we had war-time controls; then, it says, we had a policy of wiping out all controls; but now, it concludes, controls are being established all over again, and it points to recent priorities orders on building materials as the example. The reviewer, thus to show that the administration has embarked on a wilful peace-time control policy; that it is substituting a "peace emergency" for a "war emergency."

But it is all the same emergency, quite obviously; the large, inflationary accumulation of cash in the hands of the public, and the shortages of housing and building materials are all the direct result of the war, part of the war. It does not make them into something different to call them by a different name; you cannot wipe out the effects of the war, and make them the effects of peace by a change of labels. I wonder whether free enterprise is really helped or hurt by arguments such as those above, and why any of its spokesmen should want to commit semantic excesses. For we live in an age in which the only safety for any of us is to learn to look squarely at the face of reality; it is far too risky a time for any other approach.