EDITORIAL PAGE
THE CHARLOTTE NEWS
W. C. DOWD, Jr. Publisher
J. E. DOWD Editor
BURKE DAVIS Associate Editor
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1945

Veto For Peace

Our Ivory Tower sensors (there are eleven in all) may deceive us, but we imagine that we detect a national disillusion over the San Francisco Conference. We don't know what our people expected of the session, but what has come out apparently doesn't satisfy them. Perhaps they expected to hear less of the squabbling (as over Poland, Argentina, the chairmanship, the veto power) and more of the dignified unity (as the aim to band together permanently, to combat aggression to patrol the world with vast police forces, to boost reciprocal trade, to promote common freedoms of press and speech).

Whatever was expected it hasn't come out in the open. The man on the street corner can't put his finger on the foundations of peace. Perhaps, for example he doesn't see the business about the veto power. Perhaps he is excited just that Russia has given in and accepted the right of the United Nations council to "freely discuss and write notes" about any dispute. Perhaps he doesn't understand why the great powers still insist on the right of the big nations to any one of them to veto group action against aggressors.

Well might he puzzle. The veto power as it stands today might be applied to any of several crises of the past 14 years. Suppose we'd been working under this scheme, for example, when Italy invaded Ethiopia — at a time when Italy was recognized as a major power. We'd have written notes, and talked it over. Britain, France, Russia and the United States would have castigated Italy, much as the infant League of Nations did. And then it would have come to a showdown. All the United Nations would have voted (say) to declare Italy an aggressor (except Italy. After conscientious and profound deliberation, the Italian delegation would have cast its vote. So three gentlemen would have said No. Italy is not the aggressor. And so no group action could be taken. Settlement would be left to regional powers, down in Italy's domain.

And if that sounds like a pretty poor start all we can say is that the big powers are going to have to be united, in any event. It is they who must do the fighting, who can ill afford the idealism of small nations. And external criminal nations like Germany and Japan might enter into an international council, promise everything, and make steady progress toward war at the same time. Despite this apparent weakness of the veto power, we suppose, the very fact that the Big Three have refused to promise more than they feel like they can deliver is a good sign, and evidence of good faith.

The little man, whether he can see a sound peace before us or not, must accept the fact that we have made a start, anyway.

Highest Bidder

If anyone has puzzled over the obstruction of Chairman A. L. Fletcher of the North Carolina Unemployment Compensation Commission to President Truman's $25-a-week plan for unemployment relief, let him look no further than the state wage tables. Mr. Fletcher fears federalization of the unemployment compensation program. He especially does not approve the uniformity of relief payments in all states. For example, he asks, what will happen in North Carolina?

If the average wage in this state should fall back to the 1939 level (and who's to say it won't?), what could the President's $25 a week look like then? Well, the average Tar Heel wage of '39 was just $17.44. We aren't proud of that; it looks mighty slump beside the national average. But it happened to be our pre-war average, and the chances are that we will drop back to that again. Suppose we do. And while the average [illegible] is around $17.44, the unemployed [illegible] drawing $25 a week. [illegible] didn't use to predict the [illegible] of labor force.

Mr. [illegible] tours of [illegible] dangerous. [illegible] unprejudiced [illegible] by the [illegible]

Still Moderate

It is unfortunate at a time when elections are coming up on such desirable facilities as the War Memorial, library and parks, that the City tax rate should take a jump upward. The Council's fixing of the rate for advance payments at $1.40, as against the present rate of $1.30, is notice that a sizeable increase is in the cards.

Main item responsible for it is the $100,000 the City must put up as its share of the retirement plan for the benefit of City employees, and that is an essential item. Neither the last nor the present Council has spent money for other than necessities (couldn't have, up to now, if they'd wanted to). But in the offing there is considerable money to be spent.

A tax rate of $1.40 at that is no higher than we have had within late years. Back in 1937 and 1938 the rate was $1.50, on the nose. For three years following it was $1.45. Neither standing by itself nor in comparison with similar cities is a $1.40 tax rate or something in that neighborhood out of line. Nevertheless, when the rate takes a decided jump just before elections on issuing bonds for new community facilities, the timing, at least, is regrettable.

We are not of that school which believes in spending and taxing (and electing). We do hold, however, that a city which does not from time to time have the desire to branch out, and the willingness to tax itself accordingly, will get nowhere fast. And we are all for getting somewhere.

U. S. Propaganda

They caught Representative Everett Dirksen, Republican, in India, perhaps on the very banks of the odiferous Ganges. They were Indian political leaders who waylaid the Illinois obstructionist, the ex-isolationist. They bombarded him with questions, eager questions. And Rep. Dirksen, expecting that, was ready to answer—he thought.

But the Indians didn't ask for the American views on Indian independence, nor yet for more meat to fight famine. First shot out of the box they peppered him with questions about the Tennessee Valley Authority. Rep. Dirksen was properly astounded. He must have suspected, for a dark moment, that Dave Lilienthal had spies behind every banyan tree, and so he asked questions himself. And it happened that the Indians knew almost as much about TVA as he did.

Oh, the OWI had shown them, they said. They'd seen OWI movies about America, and one of them was about TVA. Rep. Dirksen couldn't get over it. He found more startling news in Turkey. He discovered that almost all of the pictures in Turkish newspapers, and almost half of the news itself, was furnished by OWI. The Turks, for the first time, were learning what America was like.

When he got home Rep. Dirksen, the Republican torpedo, couldn't restrain himself. He'd been 30,000 miles, all around the world, but the most amazing thing he'd seen was OWI in action. And in a secret session with his GOP colleagues, says Drew Pearson, he poured out his heart: "Here's something you fellows may not agree with, but I want to tell you OWI is doing a great job for us abroad. . . . I came to the conclusion that OWI is something we've got to keep after the war."

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record)

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Mr. BUFFETT: [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]