THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Committee Of The South

THIS is not a season of reform, but a season of reaction against reform. It might be expected, therefore, that the planning committees, groups, organizations, societies, etc., that have had a mushroom growth over the South in the past decade would begin to shrivel and disappear. And perhaps they will, but at least one hardy new group of planners has emerged in defiance of the unfriendly political weather.

The Committee of the South was formed this week under the auspices of the National Planning Association, a non-profit, non-political organization "devoted to planning by Americans in agriculture, business, labor and government." The new Committee offers an impressive roster of Southern leaders. It is headed by J. Melville Broughton, former Governor of North Carolina, and its research will be directed by Dean Calvin H. Hoover of Duke's Graduate School. Business, political, educational leaders from each of the Southern states are included in the membership.

The approach of the Committee will be economic. The National Planning Association established it because it believes that "the development of the South is a matter of major national policy. The South still has a great reservoir of undeveloped resources, untapped markets, and manpower available for jobs in new businesses. . . . National policies and programs must provide a favorable environment if the South is to achieve vigorous, rapid expansion."

By and large, the new organization is a businessman's committee, and its interest in social problems will be secondary to its interest in expanding the industry and agriculture of the region. But even the most social-minded Southerners can find no reason to quarrel with that approach, for they have long recognized that social ills stem from economic ills. And the economic problems are basic; once they are solved all the others will soon take care of themselves.

There was nothing startling on the agenda prepared for the organizational session in Birmingham. Industrial expansion, diversification of agriculture, the absorption of workers displaced by mechanized farming, adjustment of national policies to stimulate Southern development, a continuing survey of Southern resources—all these things have a familiar ring. But familiarity does not reduce their importance. The fact that we are beginning to understand the shape and the nature of the Southern economic problem does not mean that we have yet begun to solve it.

The Committee of the South may very well turn out to be the most valuable agency that has yet undertaken the complicated task of freeing the South of its status as an economic colony. Certainly it is off to an excellent start; it could have found no Southerner better qualified for its chairmanship than Governor Broughton. Not long ago Governor Broughton expressed his personal panacea for Southern ills: "The South needs more cows and less demagogues." That philosophy might very well be adopted by the Committee as its basic policy; we can't think of a better one.

The Cheerful Vacationer

THE thing to do in a coal crisis," they're saying, "is go to Key West where it's warm." This gag has obtained great currency in the past week; it seems to be almost as popular as the "Don't shoot the piano player, he's doing the best he can" of a few months ago.

This is another product of the bad press President Truman enjoys, a bad press that is in large part a product of consistently faulty judgment, his own or that of the men who surround him. It may very well be that the piano player is doing the best he can, and there is really no reason, in this day of instantaneous communication, why he should not direct the Government's campaign against John L. Lewis from Key West as well as from the White House.

It might even be argued that the President had to go through with his previously-announced vacation in order to prove that the Chief Executive doesn't change his plans to conform with the whims of John Lewis. This argument, of course, is predicated upon the assumption that the Presidency still retains enough prestige to be worth protecting, an assumption that many would now consider debatable.

At any rate, it wasn't so much the President's going to Key West, but the manner of his going, and the reports that came back after his arrival, that have produced an adverse public reaction. With characteristic cheerfulness he brushed off questions about the impending coal strike at his last Washington press conference. No reason for him to stay in Washington, he said airily, Lewis won't dare defy the Government.

And then along about Tuesday, as the crisis grew, there was that picture of the happy vacationer, wearing a floppy linen cap and a broad grin, disporting himself on the sands. On Thursday there were the black headlines: COAL MINERS WALK OUT; SOFT COAL INDUSTRY SHUT DOWN; LEWIS FACING PROSECUTION; RAILROADS MOVE TO CUT SERVICE. And mingled with all this there was: PRESIDENT GOES FISHING.

A few firm statements to the accompanying reporters, a few pictures of a grim and serious President studying reports from Washington or talking on the telephone, the cancellation of a party or two on the grounds of "urgent official business"—this would have been enough to assure the people that their President, wherever he was, was paying attention to their business. Instead there has been created a picture of a President who either doesn't understand, or doesn't care to be bothered with one of the gravest crises his Administration has yet faced. His announcement yesterday that he is returning to Washington to take "personal charge" of the legal campaign against Lewis is one of the most remarkable anti-climaxes on record.

Not long ago Drew Pearson began a column of criticism of the President's public relations with a want ad: "WANTED: One competent and experienced newspaperman to serve as press secretary to the President of the United States." We wonder sometimes if he hasn't already got one who is competent, experienced, and in the pay of the Republican Party.

Our Omniscient Representatives

THE other day at Lake Success United States Delegate Eleanor Roosevelt confessed to United States Delegate Tom Connally that she didn't feel adequately prepared to discuss the question of narcotics control being taken up by a committee of which she is a member.

"I simply am not qualified to talk on that subject," she said. "Maybe I'd better not say anything."

"Nonsense," said Delegate Connally, "When you don't know what you're talking about just talk louder and pound the table harder."

This remarkable conversation has been duly reported by one of the press services, and we have no reason to doubt that it took place. Recognizing that Delegate Connally was making a joke, son, we still find it mildly disturbing. We are not, in fact, quite sure it's at all funny.

There is ample evidence that the technique prescribed by Delegate Connally is a common practice, not only in the United Nations but in the United States Senate, where he first learned it. And we're not so sure the blame belongs entirely to our politicians. The voters seem to expect omniscience of their representatives. The one thing a politician can never do is confess ignorance, no matter how complicated the subject under discussion. He may dodge an issue, or straddle it, but he can never admit that he doesn't understand it without serious loss of face.

Thus, the Congress of the United States is today made up of experts on atomic energy, notwithstanding the fact that the secrets of the split atom involve the Einstein Theory, which only a handful of high-domed scientists are supposed to be able to follow. The gentlemen are also authorities on the care and feeding of children, the gold standard, the migration of game birds, the mining of soft coal, the manufacture of synthetic rubber, and the education of page boys.

We wonder, sometimes, if we might not get a little more out of our representatives if we expected a little less of them. If we granted them the fallibility which we now reserve only for ourselves, they might not have to take refuge so often behind the loud voice and the hammering fist. They might simply call a halt to the world's work, call in the experts, and find out what's going on before they make up our minds for us.

Another Voice

The Buying Of Athletes

IT is heartening to hear a high school athletic league in Texas raising its voice against the growing evil of "buying" promising boys for the so-called amateur teams of our colleges and universities.

The league says that subjecting these boys to bids from all quarters—to give them "jobs" that involve no work, to pay them fees, to furnish them spending money at college—isn't good for them. It certainly is not.

Our colleges and universities, and their well heeled "old grads," have, since the war, inaugurated the worst wave of subsidizing that ever engulfed amateur athletics. And they seem to have no inclination to correct the situation. It is getting worse all the time on the university level.

This is why we are glad to hear some voices raised on the high school level. Teachers and parents of these youngsters ought to join the chorus from Texas in a crusade to force colleges and universities to clean house.

We do not want to reach the point where, when a promising baby boy is born, the first person to come into the room after the doctor leaves is the football coach or an "old grad" with money to spend.—*Milwaukee Journal.*

Treed

People's Platform

Boulevard Or Housing?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

ACROSS-TOWN boulevard has been the subject of much controversy during recent weeks. If it isn't too late, I should like to add another small voice in dissent.

First, is a cross-town boulevard really needed in Charlotte? In the report of the experts it was brought out that 90 per cent of traffic entering and leaving Charlotte either was destined for, or originated in Charlotte; that only ten per cent is through traffic. If this is true, it would seem to prove that a cross-town boulevard would not appreciably help the traffic situation, since 90 per cent of the traffic either begins to disperse upon entering the city or to converge at the highway outlets upon leaving the city.

Second, if a cross-town boulevard is needed, existing streets can be used without any major changes. Monroe Road traffic could be routed through the city by way of E. 7th St.—Hawthorne Lane—Queens Road—Sharon Amity or some other necessary route to prove Cecil St. from E. 4th St. south to Morehead St. Parking and left turns could be prohibited on Morehead St., thus providing a four lane artery of fast moving traffic.

The project, as proposed by the engineers, would involve an expenditure of at least two million dollars under present building conditions. This two million, which the politicians will have authorized, of public funds which the taxpayers lack two hundred and sixty-five billion of having, would be a good start toward providing the thirteen hundred housing units needed by Charlotte veterans. This would be a self-liquidating project.

Of course there would be obstacles to diverting the money that has been allocated for the boulevard to veterans housing, but these veterans overcame obstacles, real obstacles. They also drew pictures in the sand on Pacific Islands of the homes they hoped to have.

—JOHN O. GAITHER JR.
(A veteran who has a home, thank God).

In Other Words . . .

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IN answer to an article by Cory L. Markuad, I'll admit my English is not together a little odd-shaped at times, but I wanted to say most of my readers understand what I am talking about.

I try to avoid words that I think the average reader does not readily understand, and when I have occasion to use them I try to break them down to everyday understanding.

I don't think Mr. Markuad scored so high in putting his thought of discrediting me over to the readers. He said Congress did not lose a great rhetorician, and that my state papers may have been quite a boon for high school teachers in English No. 2.

I asked fifteen people ranging from laborer to college graduates to pronounce and define the word "rhetorician"; only one could define it and two could pronounce it.

Now I say to Mr. Markuad: During my campaign I was an itinerant, but in no jactation do I try to jargon you. This is not exactly a jeremiad, but I should have isometric in juxtoposition so that my lucubrate was not in vein.

I am not pachydermatous for I have too much philanthropy and philharmonic to buy myself in a lacustrine. I am not trying to be loquacious, neither am I lycanthrophy, but to answer your vituperate in a vivacious manner by superrogation.

Now if you are not overtaken with voluptuary, and you are not too pusillanimous you will yield to ratiocination and resuscitate your good judgment and lay aside supercilious talk. If this is too sudoriferous for you, get your dictionary and see what it is all about, and in tercentenary you can't tell the difference.

—P. C. BURKHOLDER.

Who, John L.?

LINCOLNTON

Editors, THE NEWS:

I HAVE been a reader of your valuable paper for a long time. I enjoy your editorials and Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Around so much and Mr. Pearson's writing of 15th inst. in regard to John Lewis is in line with my thoughts exactly, and I would like to shake Mr. Pearson's hand on that article.

That low-brow Communist John Lewis, should be deported to Moscow, where he could be with his buddy Joe Stalin, or sent to Alcatraz, where he couldn't interfere with our conversion plans and molest our industries. Shall we continue to allow this common BRUTE to dictate our policies and run our Government? Down with him. Throw him out.

John Lewis, has caused more suffering and loss of time and money to the common class of people in this country than the war did. Why don't Mr. Lewis take over the Thomasville Chair Co., of Thomasville, as he has had a strike on there since last July 26th involving 1,500 employees. I worked for the Thomasville Chair Co., 12 years, in the office and these are the finest people to work for and treat their help better than any business people in the country. Their help were satisfied, except a very few, and this class is never satisfied, until this Lewis came along to organize the South's most important industry, the furniture manufacturing business, and now he has this fine organization torn up and the employees dissatisfied.

—J. P. LONG.

(NOTE: Mr. Lewis is guilty of a good many offense against the public welfare, but he has nothing to do with the strike at the Thomasville Chair Company which is the handiwork of a CIO union Mr. Lewis would probably look upon as a blood enemy. The great John L. is a leading light of the American Federation of Labor. And he is not a Communist, but a Republican.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

The Slackers

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I NOTICED the DAV wants draft board files on public record. The DAV feels that slackers should be prosecuted for their act just the same as war profiteers. That they are as great an enemy to the American way of life as were those men tried, convicted, and hanged by the International Court in Nuernberg, Germany.

The draft boards, I should think, will co-operate in full with the DAV to make a public record of Selective Service in the same way that the records are now available of those who served in the armed forces during the war. Disloyal people have no rights in our country.

—MRS. J. D. BIGGERS.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Byrnes Blocks Investigation Of Germany

WASHINGTON

FOR some strange reason, Secretary of State Byrnes has become awfully jittery about having a Senate committee probe what's going on in Germany. He is putting all sorts of obstacles in the path of the old Truman Committee's investigation of the reported breakdown of American morale in Germany and the secret flirtation of some U. S. business firms with Nazi cartels.

Several members of the old Truman Committee, now the Kilgore Committee, flew up to New York for a session with Jimmie Byrnes regarding this, but he remained adamant. Behind him sat GOP Leader Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, smoking a cigar, quietly giving Republican support.

Significantly, the Senators who interviewed Byrnes were all Republicans: Brewster of Maine, who will soon be the new GOP Committee Chairman; Ferguson of Michigan, who has usually co-operated with the Democrats; and Knowland of California, who recently defeated Will Rogers. Tom Connally of Texas, an inactive member of the Committee since the various peace conferences, was also present. Senator Brewster carried the ball.

"When Claude Pepper gets up on the floor to criticize your policy with Russia, we are the ones who pin back his ears," Brewster told Byrnes, referring to his colleague, the Senator from Florida. "But an investigation of what goes on in Germany is not deserting our nonpartisan foreign policy. After all, it was Harry Truman who sent both Republican and Democrat Senators abroad to probe various phases of the Roosevelt Administration all during the war."

Byrnes Says No

SECRETARY BYRNES countered by suggesting that Lt. Gen. Lucius Clay and other officials in Germany could come to the United States and be examined by the committee.

"We've always found it far more efficient to examine people on the ground," countered Senator Ferguson.

Byrnes, however, stuck by his guns. He was absolutely opposed to a Senate Committee's going to Germany. This caused Senator Knowland to remark:

"I was not particularly interested in the reported sexual aberations of American troops in Germany or of black market porch-climbing until I found you were so anxious to keep us out. But since there have been several carefully conducted tours of newspaper men through Germany, I see no reason why U. S. Senators should not have the same privilege."

Knowland, whose family operate an Oakland, Calif. newspaper hinted that he did not think his colleagues of the press had been permitted to see anything in Germany, except what the Army wanted them to see.

Finally Brewster brought up one of the most disturbing situations in Germany, the rumor that Secretary of the Navy Forrestal's old banking firm, Dillon, Read, has had its officials working in Germany to arrange tie-ups with Nazi cartels. Before the war, links between I. G. Farben and U. S. companies caused serious damage to American defense.

"As you know," the Senator from Maine reminded Byrnes, "the charges are that Dillion, Read was a very great factor in Germany in the 1930s, that General Draper, former vice-president of Dillon, Read, is similarly identified, and that the connections and operations are the subject of bitter attack from our left-wing friends."

Byrnes Complains Of Pearson

BREWSTER was referring to Gen. William H. Draper, former Wall Street partner of Secretary Forrestal, now head of the Economic Division of the American Military Government in Germany.

"I know nothing about these matters," replied Byrnes. "I did not know that Dillon, Read had been mentioned in connection with them at all. I haven't heard any rumors about it."

He went on to say that even if the Senators held closed-door sessions in Germany, their findings were sure to leak out.

"I can't keep anything secret in the State Department," he complained. "I can bring in the FBI to try to find out where the leaks come from. I have done it. I have had Drew Pearson send me word that he knows I am investigating him and that I am on the wrong track. He even knows if you try to find out where he gets the information.

"I think all of you have had that experience," continued the Secretary of State. "You know that next Sunday night he will have that fact that we had this meeting here. I will be surprised if he waits until then. He will know it. You can't stop it."

Both Vandenberg and Connally stuck by their friend, the Secretary of State, contending that a Senate investigation in Germany would make us look bad in the eyes of the Russians. Final decision is now up to the full Senate War Investigating Committee.

Marquis Childs

World Atom Problem

WASHINGTON

THE other day the London Daily Express printed the report that Great Britain had asked the United States for atomic bombs. It was the first time this had come from a British source.

Behind this fact is an extraordinary story, which is told here for the first time. It is told because it reveals something of the tensions surrounding the issue of atomic control. So vast is the power and so shattering are its implications that the slightest word about it is registered, just as a distant earth tremor is picked up on the sensitive instruments of the seismologists.

When the rumor was first printed that the U. S. had given atomic bombs to England, it caused a profound shock within the American atomic-energy delegation to the United Nations in New York. Bernard M. Baruch, head of the delegation, had given his solemn pledge to all the delegates that each nation would be treated exactly alike and none shown special favors.

Baruch's first step was to get in touch with the highest authority in Washington. He was satisfied, after talking with President Truman and Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, that there was no truth whatever in the report.

ASSURES GROMYKO

His next step was to go at once to Andrei A. Gromyko, head of the Russian atomic-energy delegation. Baruch asked Gromyko to leave a meeting so that he could give him his solemn assurance that the rumor was false.

At first, Gromyko was skeptical. It was apparent that Russian suspicions, always on the alert, had been stirred by the false report. But between Gromyko and Baruch—so dissimilar in point of view, in background, in every respect—a friendly relation has grown up. Gromyko was finally inclined to accept the assurances of his friend and co-worker.

It is no secret, as the Daily Express now has confirmed, that Britain sought to obtain a stockpile of bombs. British representatives argued that they were entitled to special treatment because of the contribution that the Empire made to the creation of the bomb.

Canada is the chief source of uranium. India is the principal source of thorium, another fission-able material. British scientists worked actively and extensively alongside American scientists in the various phases of the process that led up to the revolution over Hiroshima.

But the U. S. said no to Britain's request for bombs, insisting that all nations should be treated with complete impartiality. The answer was also no to a request for technological information which is still an American secret.

THORIUM CUT OFF

While it may have been no more than a coincidence, not long afterward the supply of thorium to this country from India was shut off. Thorium comes from the state of Travancore in Southern India. The shipments were shut off on the order of the Maharajah of Travancore, Sir Bala Rama Varma.

The British have said that, since the Maharajah is an independent ruler, they cannot order him to resume the thorium shipments. Travancore is one of the most modern of the Indian states and the Maharajah is regarded as a progressive who believes in encouraging industrialization. His reason for refusing to send out more thorium is extremely interesting.

What the Maharajah says, in effect, is that his own country should be allowed to build plants for refining the thorium and even for creating atomic energy from it. In other words, he does not want to be merely a supplier of the precious raw material. He hopes that his own people would benefit by the kind of industrialization that is coming in the atomic era.

Regardless of the merits of the Maharajah's argument, in relation to the present industrial development of Travancore, it serves to throw into the sharpest focus one of the most dramatic facts about the new power. Everywhere in the world the realization is slowly dawning that here is a force which eventually can transform the earth. Therefore, it is more plain than ever before that no one nation can keep a monopoly on the knowledge and the process of atomic fission.

DANGER INHERENT

It is more than ever plain, too, that a danger is inherent in such a monopoly. Inevitably it produces intrigues, conspiracies and cabals. Inevitably it will lead to the kind of alliance which will mean war.

That is the awful weight pressing on the delegates in New York responsible for trying to work out a system of international control. They know that they cannot ignore a single avenue which might lead to agreement. That is the terrible urgency they labor under as the days of grace slip by.

Samuel Grafton

The GOP's Left Wing

NEW YORK

IT would not be right to say that controversy is developing among the victorious Republicans, but a kind of sorting-out process has begun. There is even a left-wing, headed by, don't gasp, Senator Taft. In the Republican Party of today Senator Taft is (as the Alsop writing team has pointed out) the progressive. His name is on the Wagner-Ellender-Taft housing bill; he is against cutting everybody's taxes wildly within the first five minutes after the opening prayer at the next session; and while he does indeed want to tinker with the labor laws he is not really convinced that this country can abolish the free labor system (hey, that's a good phrase) by passing a statute in Congress assembled.

And the fact that the unsmiling-by conservative Mr. Taft is about the best we can hope for in the way of an effective Republican left wing is, of course, one of the scariest news items to come along since the first announcement of the existence of the Loch Ness monster.

MEASURABLE DIFFERENCE

However, it is true; there is a measurable difference between Senator Taft, and, say, Speaker-to-be Martin, of Massachusetts. You could not quite drive a truck into the space between them, but you might get a sharp knife in. The difference is that Mr. Taft believes in using program and method, in mixing a little conciliation with his conservatism, a bit of honey with the aquinine; while Mr. Martin would seem to represent those Republicans who are getting set for a fast, gay ride, who consider that their business is, first, to cut taxes, and, next, to lop off anything else they don't like, without fretting too much about the total picture.

The main body of the Republicans may begin to mutter soon about Mr. Taft that he is a good fellow, but that he believes in planning; if this evil word gets around, the Senator from Ohio may find himself much alone in the cloakrooms.

Yet it is along this line that the sorting-out process is taking place, and that the first, faint signs of Republican division manifest themselves. Professor John Hanna, of Columbia, has suggested, in a letter to the New York Herald Tribune, that the Republican Congressional delegation ought to assemble a staff of experts, in effect a braintrust, to help it in its deliberations. The Herald Tribune itself endorses the suggestion, though even it puts quotation marks around the word expert (like this, "expert") as if there really were no such thing, a strange mannerism on the part of a newspaper which has been well aware of anti-intellectual trends in this country, and of their dangers.

Perhaps it is too late to try to bend the Republican Party in the direction of using expert help, or of planning its way even on the Taftian level; perhaps the pent-up emotions of the last fourteen years make it inevitable that there will be a Walpurgianacht, a wild evening of knocking things over, for the sake of release and inner satisfaction. The trouble with being guided by bookish people is that they are too full of sound reasons for not doing what you want to do. To call in the experts is to face reality, and to take a vow of restraint, altogether an unpleasant business.

GOP WAITS

But it is interesting that only after the election has this division manifested itself in the Republican Party for victory has meant contact with reality, and in the conflict of attitudes now slowly emerging, we begin to see some of the fruits of that abrasion we embrace. The party waits, poised unhappily between making some sort of try, however fitful, at solving our problems, or escaping from them; much like the nation itself, torn between the thoughts of the expected recession, and its enjoyment of what may be the final, Christmas phase of the splurge.