THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Ballot Is Also Confused

WE remarked the other day upon the strange spectacle of Southern Democrats in general, and North Carolina Democrats in particular, shying away from a formal coalition with the Republican Party even though they are consistently following the G. O. P. line in Congress. *The Hendersonville Times-News* finds our reasoning confused.

It is quite true, *The Times-News* concedes, that the national Democratic Party and the Southern Democrats are no longer headed in the same direction. But it is not the Southerners who have deserted the Party, it is the Party which has deserted the Southerners.

> There is no national Democratic party in the United States today. The party which has stolen the liberties of Democracy and is masquerading therein, and which controls what was formerly the organization and machinery of the Democratic party, is a radical, national socialist aggregation. It is no more an American Democratic party than is the aggregation Joe Stalin dominates and dictates in Russia. . . .
>
> We disagree with the conclusion of The Charlotte News in this particular—"then bolting his party is an act of statesmanship, not of political treason" — the point we make being that the so-called Democratic party is the bolter in this case, not North Carolina Senators and Congressmen.

The matter of who's out of step—the great majority of the country's Democrats or a handful of conservative Southerners—strikes us as self-evident. We were not arguing against the conservatism of the Southern Democrats in our original editorial, nor are we now. But we do question the ethical principles of any Congressman who accepts the benefits conferred upon the members of a Congressional majority, and at the same time sabotages his own Party's legislative program. Such action is as dangerous as it is hypocritical, for it threatens the entire structure of party government.

Moreover, *The Times-News* is guilty of historical confusion when it argues that Southerners are the only consistent Democrats. The course charted by Franklin Roosevelt was not a break with Party tradition, but a return to the principles of Andrew Jackson. The wounded cries of the business community in the face of New Deal reforms were as nothing compared to the screams of property-owners in the days when Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren were campaigning against the United States Bank. The first labor unions in this country were organized during Jackson's administration, and were defended violently by the Democratic Party. And even back there in the 1830's many conservative Southerners, who had originally joined the Democratic Party, broke with what John C. Calhoun called "the radical party of Jackson." Before the end of Jackson's second term the Democratic Party was acknowledged as the "common man's party" and regarded with loathing by the gentry, North, East, South and West.

We are all for Congressmen, Southern or otherwise, voting according to their conviction, and we concede that most of them are doing so now. But we'd also like to have that privilege extended to all North Carolinians, including our conservative contemporary in Hendersonville. *The Times-News*, we hope, will agree that there is something gravely wrong with a political system that forces the voter to support a conservative Congressman and a liberal Administration on one and the same ballot.

Approach From The Bottom

THE Case of The Eight Nubian Whisky Bearers affords a neat illustration of the manner in which the thriving liquor trade is conducted in dry old Mecklenburg, and the difficulty of doing anything about it. The Eight, if you remember, were plucked out of the liquor-laden throng that arrives daily from South Carolina and hustled off to the Police Station. Each of the Negroes possessed a gallon or less of Fort Mill's Finest, and was, therefore, within the gallon law which permits possession and transportatibn for personal consumption.

But when the Police began to question The Eight, they glanced wildly around the grim walls and fell back upon a traditional excuse: "Honest, boss, it belongs to somebody else." That, of course, made them technically guilty and they were promptly booked. In view of the heinous nature of their offense, bond was set at $200 and six of the Eight laid out $20 each to a bondsman and departed.

Well, sir, before you could say, "Less than six months old, colored with wood chips," a statement was issued in which the Police promised to get at the bottom of this bootleg business.. But also at this point the $200 bond was lowered to $25. And when The Eight appeared for trial the dwindling process continued; they were fined ten dollars and costs.

Now the odd thing about this is that the Police, who had little difficulty in obtaining The Eight's collective confession that the liquor they bore belonged to somebody else, couldn't pry a word out of them when they attempted to find out who that somebody was. The Police are convinced that they had their hands on the agents of a Ring, or possibly even a Mob, but we are informed that they will be unable to press this particular investigation further. Lack of evidence, it seems, and conspiracy is an awfully tough charge to make stand up.

Oh, well. Back to the Bus Station men—there'll be other Whisky Bearers arriving on the 5:15, and there may be a few greenhorns among them who haven't learned yet when to keep their big mouths shut.

Generals Can Be Great Democrats

"IT strikes me as a shameful thing," wrote Senator Bailey to one of his constituents, "that in the hour of victory there are so many Americans who refer to four admirals and generals) as 'brass hats'." There may be among them an occasional fool, weakling or rascal, the Senator concedes, "but taken all in all there is not a nobler body of men on earth than the men who led this country to victory."

Noble is rather a lavish word, but we find ourselves in general agreement with the Senator. Certainly the generals and admirals, who have just won the greatest victory in our history deserve something better than the barrage of dead cats now being hurled at them. As the argument over universal military training grows hotter, professional military men are accused of everything from gross inefficiency to fascism, and it is charged that turning the nation's youth over to them for a year is a certain method of undermining American democracy.

Of course universal military training will imperil democracy; we doubt seriously if free institutions can long survive in an armed camp. But there is a sort of childish confusion of cause and effect behind the charge that the officers of the regular establishment are consciously working for the creation of a fascist state.

If the military system were as intrinsically evil as its critics believe, it stands to reason that the men who succeed under it would be howling reactionaries. Yet, with the possible expection of Generals MacArthur and Patton, the military leaders the average citizen can name offhand—Generals Marshall, Eisenhower, Stillwell and Bradley and Admirals Nimitz and Halsey—are prototypes of democracy.

It is not insignificant that one of the few calm, dispassionate voices raised in the midst of the current Red scare belongs to the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Eisenhower, who said: "We have nothing to gain to start with, and would have nothing left when it is over." And General Marshall, a great soldier recently converted into a great diplomat, has become the white hope of democracy's survival in Asia.

John Hersey, in *The New Yorker*, reports that General Marshall took with him to a critical session of the Chinese Political Consultation Conference a copy of Benjamin Franklin's address to our own Constitutional Convention. To the nervous Chinese leaders he quoted this passage: "When you assemble a number of men to have the advantage of their joint wisdom, you inevitably assemble with these men all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests and their selfish views. From such an assembly can perfection be expected? It therefore astonishes me to find this system approaching so near to perfection as it does."

And General Marshall takes for his own credo this passage from Franklin:

> Having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged, by better information or fuller consideration, to change opinions, even on important subjects, which I once thought right but found to be otherwise. It is therefore that the older I grow, the more I am to doubt my own judgment and to pay attention to the judgment of others.

This strikes us as the complete answer to those who charge that the military inevitably produces arrogance, inflexibility of mind, and contempt for the tortuous processes of democracy.

Tell us where you think the line against inflation could bend a little without results disastrous to the country, and we'll tell you who you are.

With the infants' accessories hung out to dry, a brides' ship en route from Britain was lately mistaken for an old-time square-rigger.

The Pauley episode brings to the fore one of the lesser known laws of physics: Tidewater, it seems, doesn't quiet troubled oil.

Admiral Byrd is homesick for the peace and quiet of the Antarctic, while Rickenbacker thinks it would be the spot to drop an atomic bomb or two. You can't win; civilization is everywhere.

Chain Reaction

People's Platform

Bare Knuckles And The G. O. P.

CHARLOTTE

BECAUSE the Republicans of the Tenth Congressional District have chosen P. C. Burkholder as their candidate for Congress, your editorial of Tuesday, March 12, entitled "A Strange Show For Apathy," predicts an apathetic campaign ending in a walkaway for the opposition candidate.

You may be surprised. When compared with other recent candidates, Mr. Burkholder is not well known in Charlotte Country Club or even Myers Park Club circles. He comes from the wrong side of the tracks according to the way Congressional candidates have been selected here in the past, but he is well known to the rank and file of Mecklenburgers and they recognize the ten gallon hat to which you refer. Have you forgotten that it is the rank and file of the people who do the electing in this country?

P. C. Burkholder was the considered choice of the Republicans because he has something which our past candidates have not conspicuously displayed. . . . the determination to fight with no holds barred. Rest assured that this fight will be anything but an apathetic one. It will be a bare knuckle fight in which the rottenness which has crept into our public life will undoubtedly be clearly exposed.

Both Democrats and Republicans have handled this situation with kid gloves far too long. I do not think that Mr. Jones will have much stomach for this kind of a fight because there are too many things which he will find difficult to explain without losing a lot of votes.

You comment on the apathy among the Democrats. Has it escaped your notice that the political situation in this area has been rumbling ominously for some time and is likely to erupt any day? Could it be that the more astute Democratic politicians have decided that the situation is getting too hot to handle and that they had best stay out of it? There is more to this situation than meets the public eye but it is not apathy which has caused the strange lack of candidates.

Do not count Burkholder out before he has climbed into the ring. He knows the issues and he has the ability to explain them so that anyone can understand his meaning. He owes nothing to any man or group. . . . he has made no promises which may tie his hands in telling the whole truth, no matter what it uncovers. He has farmed most of his life, and farmers are seldom cream puffs. He has a hard uphill fight on his hands because the opposition will spend money like water to keep him out of office but he is equal to the fight and the outcome may surprise you. Don't forget that it has been a long time since we plainer people of the Tenth District have had the chance to vote for one of their own and I think we are going to like it.

—ERV PRESSER.

(NOTE: As a staunch supporter of the two-party system, we would like nothing better than the wide-open, rough-and-tumble General Election fight Mecklenburg Republican Chairman Presser predicts. We will, however, believe it when we see it.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

The Policeman's Lot

CHARLOTTE

SO another Negro is dead, as I believe, due to ignorance or lack of training of officers. It seems to me that the first thing an officer does in making an arrest or investigation, would be to search his prisoner or the maybe prisoner, for weapons.

In the case of both recent killings, had the officer or officers done this, both killings could have possibly been avoided. A prisoner couldn't cut at an officer after or while being put in a car if he had been searched at once. As for the theater case, if the officers had been warned of a weapon or danger as soon as putting hands on the prisoner he should have searched him. There being two officers and one had the prisoner leading him out, the officers could have easily been killed had the bullets of the prisoner's gun not gone wild, or the lives of a number of the patrons been snuffed out by, let us say, lack of training or forethought on the part of arresting officers.

Police are fine—more power to them—but they too, should know their jobs and avoid unnecessary killings or getting killed.

—T. H. SMITH.

Of Jobs And Food

FORT JACKSON, S. C.

TO The American People:

It seems that everyone is looking for a job. Well, you can get one in the army, cleaning latrines and officers clubs.

There is a food shortage in Europe, it seems. I understand that some Germans, who just shot my brother, are not being well fed. Well, if they would save what goes to waste in one G.I. mess hall in one day, it would feed a lot of Germans.

But that is all right. Congress will find some new tax so we can keep a large army and waste still more food.

Why don't the American people wake up?

—SIGNATURE WITHHELD.

Two And Two Equals . . .?

JACKSONVILLE

THIS is the first time I've ever allowed myself the indulgence of writing a letter to any publication. But co-reader S. R. Hutto's low-blows definitely supplied the stimulus.

". . . principles never change)," says Mr. Hutto—and then follows up that profound statement with a brilliant display of his Euclidian powers in asserting that two and two still equal four. Please don't let the forthcoming revelation jar your simple faith in the Dagwood and Blondie school of thought, Mr. Hutto; but Einstein (you've heard of Mr. A. Einstein?) has demonstrated that two and two aren't necessarily, nor absolutely, four. In fact, two may not even exist realistically—only symbolically.

As for Mr. Hutto's sarcastic remark about children knowing "so much more than their parents," may I refer him (and others of his ilk) to Robert Louis Stevenson's essay "Crabbed Age and Youth." "Oldtimer" Hutto seems to infer that our morals are static. I was under the impression that the mores of the group were dependent upon various factors, i.e., geography, climate, type of industry, the prevalent theology,-etc. So there does exist an Absolute Right and Wrong does there?—tut tutto, Mr. Hutto!

Ever since discovering that there is actually a Southern newspaper that tries to tell the truth, I've been a News reader.

—DAN GRIFFITH.

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.

Marquis Childs

GOP's Birthday

WASHINGTON

VERY soon now, the Republican Party will have a birthday. The Grand Old Party will be 92 years old.

Human beings at that advanced age usually have suffered the ravages of senility and decay. But the Republican Party is just now looking as coy and hopeful as a debutante gazing past the stag line.

The reason, of course, is the shimmering prospect of party triumph that seems to grow out of Democratic errors long compounded and the general confusion and unrest in the wake of the war.

At the same time that the GOP celebrates its birthday, the men who control the destinies of the party must agree on a new national chairman. The new chairman will direct the Congressional campaign on which Republicans are staking so much hope. Even more important, he will set the tone for the party for 1948.

According to all present indications, the choice lies between two members of the House. They both typify the alliance—now formalized in a working committee—between Republicans and Southern Democrats.

BROWN OF OHIO

One is Representative Clarence J. Brown of Ohio, an aggressive, hard-driving, old-line Republican. He's never had an unorthodox thought in his life. Or if he has, he's quickly suppressed it.

The key to Brown's role in the House is his position on the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee is the No. 1 bottleneck which keeps progressive legislation from a vote.

Brown makes adroit use of the Rules Committee. When it will most embarrass the Democrats and show up their helplessness and inner division, he gets the Republicans on the committee to go along with the Southern Democrats.

This same coalition functions in the House. Republicans plus Southern Democrats were responsible for defeating the vital provisions in the veterans' housing bill.

The other Congressman mentioned for the Republican national chairmanship is Representative Carroll Reece of Tennessee. A small-town banker, Reece has a milder temperament than Brown. His record is somewhat less narrowly Republican.

BORDER STATE MAN

The significant fact is that he comes from Tennessee, a Border State with many of the characteristics of the South. This would be an extraordinary departure for the party of Lincoln, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt and Coolidge to turn to the Southern Tory chairman.

It suggests that a new party alignment may not be impossible—an alignment which would make the party labels mean something.

Today both parties—Republican and Democrat—are just big circus tents that take in everything. That is why, when they come to write a national platform, it invariably is reduced to the lowest common denominator.

By formalizing the Republican-Southern coalition, the GOP has assumed what amounts to public responsibility for legislative action. If price control is scuttled by the same coalition and we get more inflation, then the Democrats can make a case for putting the blame on the GOP, which is numerically the most important partner in the combine.

On the question of premium payments to stimulate house construction, the House deliberately avoided a record vote. But those who sat in the gallery and checked members as they voted estimate that 130 Republicans and 30 Democrats joined to kill the premium provision. That is one indication of the numerical superiority of the GOP in the combine.

NEW PARTIES NEEDED

The way is wide open for two new parties, one progressive and one conservative. The voter would have a choice. He would have a reasonable assurance that the label on the package told the truth.

Of course, we have come to use political terms very loosely. Brown and Reece would probably call themselves conservatives. So do the Southern Democrats.

A conservative is one who wants to conserve the system we have today. That does not mean standing in the path of all change. To conserve the essentials of our system—what is truest and most vital—it is necessary to adjust to the great changes that have happened in the world we live in.

Too often our image of a conservative is that of a large, determined individual saying "No!" in a loud voice. We need conservatives who know how to conserve, just as we need progressives who know how to progress.

Samuel Grafton

Red Wagon-Hitching

WASHINGTON

EVERYBODY here is walking on little cat feet around the Russian issue, and much of the local talent is busy trying to find some way to exploit the crisis on behalf of pet objectives that have little or nothing to do with the international situation.

Thus among the anti-price control pressure groups, you hear that we ought to defend the free enterprise system, like Mr. Churchill says, and that the way to do so is to give up Government regulation of business, and hit Stalin on the snoot with a big healthy dose of American inflation.

Mr. Rankin of Mississippi, is also trying to make Mr. Churchill his baby. He has just delivered a curious oration saying that while he does not agree with Mr. Churchill on the matter of an Anglo-American alliance, we ought to listen to the Great Britisher's warnings on the subject of Communism and throw every "subversive" off the Federal payroll, and — indeed, off the soil of the United States, and replace them all with ex-servicemen.

TYPICAL MANEUVER

All this is typical of the manner in which some of the lesser lights here are trying to hitch their little wagons to the Churchill star. Mr. Rankin's definition of what constitutes a "subversive" is, of course, very broad and sweeping. He launched into his tirade after hearing a Congressman named Buffett attack Winston Churchill for conducting a "war dance" on the American radio. Mr. Rankin leaped to his feet, shouting "That sounds very much as if it had come out of Moscow."

It hadn't. It had come out of Nebraska, which is Mr. Buffett's home state.

Meanwhile, a subcommittee of the House Military Affairs Committee is pressuring Secretary of State Byrnes to remove men of "Soviet leanings" from the State Department intelligence service. The subcommittee does not claim that these men are Communists, but only that they are friendly to the Soviet Union, and so this attack has already gone one step beyond being a drive against the Communist Party. There may be such men in the State Department (though it would perhaps be difficult to convince the Kremlin that the American State Department is shot through with Soviet sympathizers) but the real point is the manner in which the Russian imbroglio is being used to change the political balance here in Washington.

ENEMY OF REFORM

Mr. Cox of Georgia was heard chortling the other day: "The Reds are on their way out in Washington," and in his case too, we are dealing with a man whose definition of what makes a Red is extremely elastic. Mr. Cox is a famous enemy of reform, of any kind however light, and when he declares, as he just has, that he suddenly "feels better about the chances of purging the Government bureaus, a great many strictly-non-Communist liberals here in Washington suddenly feel worse.

It is all very confused, for much of the support for Mr. Churchill here comes from members of the bi-partisan conservative bloc, many of whom are sore at the isolationist, and bitterly opposed to an alliance with Britain; it is what might be called the domestic application of the Churchill line which mainly appeals to them.

CRISIS COOLS OFF

Perhaps that is one reason why there has been a noticeable cooling off, in top circles, of expressions of alarm concerning the Russian crisis. Mr. Truman was quite emphatic at his last press conference, which I attended, in expressing his optimism on the Russian matter; it seemed to me he was really trying to put over a hopeful view, and not just throwing in a remark for the record. And Mrs. Roosevelt has just been down, to speak against alarmists and those who peddle war scares. Perhaps Washington liberalism is suddenly beginning to realize that it is in danger of being run over, mauled and mangled, by a political stampede which, though based on the Russian issue, has in truth, little to do with it, and is aimed at domestic results which will not solve our international problems, nor, indeed, are they intended to.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Harriman Warns Of Danger With Russia

WASHINGTON

EX-AMBASSADOR W. AVERELL HARRIMAN gilded no lilies in his talk on Russian relations at that hushed-up session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was candid and realistic about the prospects of another war—so candid, in fact, that he had his dignified listeners sitting on the edge of their chairs.

"Let's get one thing straight," Harriman told the committee. "Russia does not want war, especially with the United States. However, that doesn't mean that war can be averted."

The big danger, he declared, lay in Russia's over-reaching herself in Iran, Turkey and elsewhere. In other words, Soviet expansion in these areas can't be ignored by the United States and Britain without making a mockery of their prestige and the whole concept of the United Nations.

In the present international "poker game," Stalin controls most of the cards for peace, Harriman told the closed-door session. He could make himself one of the greatest figures in history by asking for another conference of "Big Three" leaders and clearly stating his ideas.

It will be necessary for Russia to clarify to the rest of the world that she doesn't plan to devour the little nations of Europe, Harriman continued. Unless Stalin demonstrates this brand of statesmanship, however, there can be but one result:

Destruction of the United Nations organization and, in time, another war.

The United States has a vital responsibility in its dealings with the Soviet Union, Harriman said, and advised:

Urges Firm Patience

"WE must be patient, we must be understanding, but we must also be firm."

He expressed the opinion that internal problems in Russia are partly dictating Stalin's actions at the present time. Many different tongues and about 300 dialects are spoken in the Soviet Union. Russia lost between 7,000,000 and 8,000,000 people in the war; her territory was devastated, much of her manufacturing facilities ruined. The problem of welding the country together and keeping down political unrest has its effect on Russian foreign policy.

Home-front problems and the necessity of bolstering the morale of the Russian people, however, are only part of the story, Harriman explained. The Russian leader has a very efficient intelligence service which keeps him informed of conditions all over the world.

"Stalin knows that the people of the United States do not want another war," the ex-ambassador told the Senators. Undoubtedly Stalin's intelligence experts have reported this fact to him and it has contributed to Russian bluffing and belligerency.

No Truman Road

FOLKS back in Jackson County, Mo., usually are willing to go the limit for any honor to their native son, Harry Truman. But a recent proposal to change the name of Van Horn Road, an important traffic artery named after an early county pioneer, met with a storm of protest. Some of the rural citizens balked at stealing one person's tombstone to honor another.

Van Horn Road was named after Col. R. T. Van Horn, who settled in the county in 1855 when Kansas City's population was about 455. He became mayor of Kansas City, was active in Missouri politics, and bought the county's first newspaper, later the Kansas City Journal, now defunct.

The move to honor the President was first suggested by a group of Kansas City Negroes associated with the 15th St. political factions. They proposed that 15th St. in Kansas City be renamed Truman Road. Later Mayor Roger T. Sermon of Independence suggested that Van Horn Road, which runs from the east city limits of Kansas City to Independence through a five-mile inter-city district, also be renamed in honor of the President. The road runs past the Truman home in Independence.

Businessmen Cool

BUT businessmen along the road throughout the inter-city district didn't think so much of the idea.

"It's been Van Horn for years," they protested. "Why change now?"

Some recalled the effort by the Chamber of Commerce at Grandview, Mo., home of the President's mother, to build Truman Hall, a $25,000 war memorial. The plant was closed when J. Vivian Truman, the President's brother, said Harry didn't want his name used in the collection of funds for the project.

So finally the proposal was shelved—at least temporarily. Van Horn Road will not be Truman Road.

NOTE—The President probably would have frowned on this proposal anyway because of a Government appropriation to repair that part of Van Horn Road which runs past the Summer White House. Mayor Sermon has announced that Federal and State funds totaling $156,666 have been made available to the city for widening this road which passes the Truman home.