THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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What Sort Of Job Is The Manager's?

DICK YOUNG'S typewritten profile of new City Manager Yancey done for last Saturday's NEWS made him out to be not only an able man but an agreeable one in the bargain. It was plain to see that our City Hall Reporter, who has watched City managers come and go and who has the further distinction of being one of that vanishing tribe of Charlotteans actually native to the place, was taken with the stranger.

The Council likewise must have been impressed by him, as indicated by its tender of the job and the thumping salary that went with it. But the Council had a place to fill. Dick would have had his story whether its tone was wholehearted approval or something less than that.

We believe it to be evident that the City has acquired in its new manager an experienced and capable person who will administer the complex, and detailed, affairs of the municipal corporation according to the Hoyle of city management. We are just wondering, however—and wondering aloud after the manner of all editors—if in the present stage of self-government in Charlotte simple administration is enough.

The contrast between the methods of former City Managers Marshall and Flack will serve admirably, and without odious comparison, to illustrate the point. Mr. Marshall initiated a good many undertakings in response to his own keen interest in Charlotte as a place to live and do business, putting the matters before Council for a decision which almost invariably was favorable. Mr. Flack stuck strictly to his knitting, doing what was required of him but initiating—certainly after he saw how the land lay—very little on his own hook. Mr. Marshall was constantly on the lookout for things which needed doing. Mr. Flack stuck pretty close to his desk.

Which of these conceptions of City managering is the proper one for Charlotte may be open to argument. It is possible, also, that the Planning Board, now functioning, may play the role of originator, though its province would seem to be limited. With a voluntary instead of a recruited Council, undertakings might be advanced, or, failing that, with a Mayor who is as much of a promoter as is Mayor Baxter, the City Manager might well have his hands full lining up projects in some practical order.

Of one thing we are certain: that a city in Charlotte's stage needs imperatively some official or some official body that is impatient with the town's facilities and services as they are and alert at all times to the prospect of improving them. It will be more than a matter of interest to see, in time, if Mr. Yancey has that conception of his opportunity here.

Salute To A Good Loser

DUE to the pressure of other events we are late in getting around to noting here our appreciation of William Tommy Smith's efforts on behalf of THE NEWS at the annual Soap Box Derby in Akron on Sunday. Tommy lost out in a photo-finish regarded by the 100,000 spectators as a high point in the day's racing.

"I'm going to have a lot of explaining to do when I get home," Tommy said, after his defeat. But he added: "My car was running as good as ever. It was in good shape all right. But I was racing against two mighty good cars."

It would have been easy for Tommy to alibi. One of the cars racing against him almost went out of control and crowded into his lane. But he didn't even mention it. He simply conceded that two better cars nosed him out of the race.

Another thing. After looking over all the cars entered, Tommy picked the winner in advance. "That San Diego boy's car is the best one," he said after watching the test runs on Friday. Two days later the San Diego boy's car won an easy victory over the other 111 entries, although his record time was only a fraction of a second under Tommy's.

Now there are two primary purposes back of the Soap Box Derby. One is to reward the mechanical skill of teen-age boys who build their own racing cars from a few dollars worth of wood, cloth and metal. The other is to promote sportsmanship. Tommy Smith didn't win the Derby but on both these scores he rates at the top of the list; he knew the winner when he saw it, and he displayed the gallantry of a good loser.

Tommy Smith has no need to explain anything to anybody. He wore the colors of THE NEWS in the race, and we couldn't have been prouder of him if he had won by six lengths.

The Lord Must Love Charlotteans . . .

IN passing the other day we referred to Charlotte as a city of 110,000, and *The Asheville Citizen* caught us up with a parenthetical "Grandma, what a big census you have!" A justified jibe, according to the record, and we shall endeavor to amend, revise and extend the remark.

We have not forgotten those frantic days of '40 when the Chamber of Commerce was beating the underbrush and eyeing the graveyards in a mad effort to shove the count over the 100,000-mark. But there have been some changes since, and even if we have no way of measuring them exactly, they nevertheless crowd upon us. As a matter of fact, our innate modesty showed in the 110,000 figure; the Housing Authority used 112,000 in an official application for veterans' accommodations at Morris Field and the C. of C.'s Clarence Kuester is prepared to fight the man who says we have a soul less than 115,000.

If The Citizen still believes we have injected a whiff of marijuana into our computations, we invite the visit of a committee of the most adversely prejudiced Ashevillians, including any professional skeptics on that journal's staff. Having finally found a parking place somewhere in the adjacent countryside, the inspectors might proceed on foot through our business district after properly fortifying themselves against an attack of claustrophobia. It is a hazardous business, but mountain men are hardy men and on any day except Saturday they would have a slightly better than even chance of getting through without being trampled.

We have investigated the possibility that there has been a shrinkage of streets, busses, restaurants, hotels and houses, but we have been forced to reject it. The fact seems to be that Charlotte is acquiring more and more people each day, although we confess we have no idea where they are coming from or where they are sleeping, unless there is some sort of arrangement for bedding them in shifts.

We leave it to the historians, economists and geographers to decide whether or not the Carolinas really need a metropolis in this particular spot. All we know is that, for better or worse, Charlotte is busting out all over.

Another Voice

Doubletalk In Wilmington

OF all the muddled charges hurled at the Office of Price Administration the local press has put itself in a good position to cop top honors.

While most editorial paces were having a grand and glorious time joking about Paul Porter, the No. 1 man in OPA, removing canned dry octopus from price control, a Wilmington paper accused the OPA of halting the erection of a coffee-roasting plant here.

And how did the OPA accomplish this dastardly deed? Why, they raised the cost of coffee from ten to thirteen cents per pound and that did the trick.

Not only did the OPA sabotage Wilmington's hopes of becoming a coffee-roasting plant center, but the same "price regulators" are accused of tripling the average cost of butter.

It takes a person, with a short memory to have already forgotten the same editorial page's high praise of Rep. J. Baynard Clark for his yeoman's service in removing price ceilings from fresh strawberries.

Now the editorial page which lauded Mr. Clark's role in weakening price control legislation is accusing the OPA of increasing the cost of butter.

It does not make sense any more than the charge of Wilminton's industrial outlook being blighted by the increase in the cost of coffee.

The OPA took great pains in stating why the cost of coffee was being advanced. Not one reason, but three were cited. They were:

1. Discontinuance at the end of June of an import subsidy of three cents a pound.

2. An increase of two cents a pound authorized for importers on June 28.

3. And an increase of about three cents per pound authorized this week as an inducement to increase coffee imports.

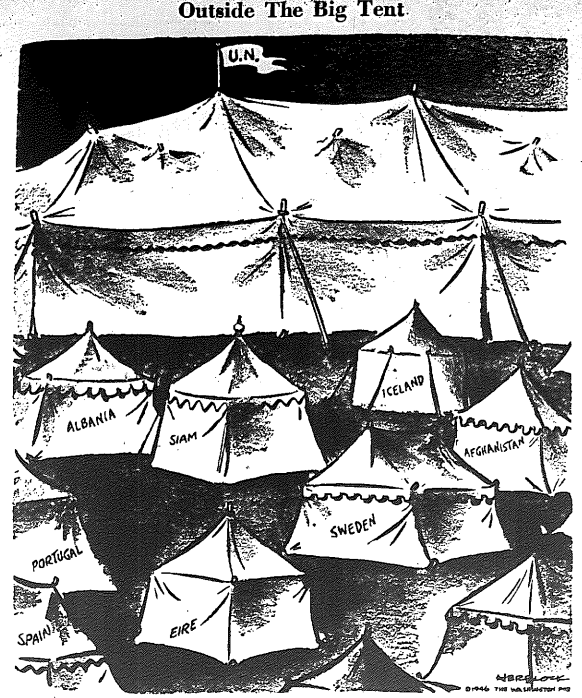
Strange to say, reason No. 4 was not listed as a concerted attempt on the part of the Government "to knock into a cocked hat" one of the local paper's "cherished projects", such as bringing a coffee-roasting plant here.—*Wilmington Evening Post.*

It is years since we last heard the theory of the divine right of kings expounded. All today's anxious monarch asks is a 10-minute start.

A senator up for re-election tells the plain people of the country he is thinking of them. And in revenge, dear fellow, they may be thinking of you.

As expected, an offer of $500 a week to play himself in a film comedy is treated by Bilbo with silent contempt, as a thing like that is above his dignity.

Outside The Big Tent



People's Platform

On Veterans' Education

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

WHEN I finished reading the enclosed item in your newspaper on Saturday, 3 August, 1946, I was astounded to discover how complacent an attitude the Clemson College president possessed towards veterans' education. I am not challenging the impracticability of the proposed plan for a state veterans' university but rather voicing disgust at President Poole's display of superficial, at most, interest in the whole affair.

No doubt veterans throughout the state looked forward with renewed faith toward completing their education after reading President Poole's words of determination "sooner or later we'll get around to them (the veterans) . . . age is not a barrier to education etc." How comforting and reassuring these words must be to any ambitious determined young veteran who is forced to watch those who stayed behind complete their education and go forward in the world while his future, already set back the years he spent in the service, is further retarded due to lack of a degree resulting from overcrowded conditions at colleges and universities.

If President Poole's attitude is indicative of the prevalent spirit among the Clemson College faculty, I'm convinced that Clemson's problem of future overcrowding by veterans will have been solved by the time this fact is learned by those veterans who would have been interested in enrolling at Clemson.

—CHARLES H. MOOREFIELD JR.

(NOTE: Dr. Poole was quoted briefly and out of context. As a matter of fact Clemson has done as much for returning veterans as any of her contemporaries and more than many. Every available square foot of space has been utilized, the faculty has been augmented, and additional emergency housing has been built. Well over half the students at the college this year are veterans, and Clemson was one of the first colleges to establish a priority system for them. But Poole, like most educators, believes that the veteran deserves a sound education for his money, not a haphazard substitute, and this was the basis of his objection to the creation of a temporary veterans' university. He favors the expansion of established institutions.—EDS., THE NEWS).

Federal Program

MYERSDALE, PA.

Editors, THE NEWS:

IF there were a states council authorized to be formed by Federal constitutional amendment composed of three appointees of the governors of each state and empowered to approve, increase, decrease or cancel all Federal appropriations, grants, fraud commitments, loans, proposed taxes, Federal civil service salaries and positions; to establish a mean price and wage allowing a ten per cent increase or decrease beyond which Federal precious metal Treasury reserves would determine the value of money's purchasing power, thus preventing and eliminating entirely by law labor organizations from control of wages; to create a Federal insurance corporation guaranteeing all principal, yearly interest or dividends on all stocks, bonds, notes, mortgages and other commercial paper, this will be the most potent means of employing savings and idle capital, banishing unemployment.

To give to all participants in the war or their heirs ten thousand dollars, and to allow all claims from that war for loss of civilian life and property, theft or other war damage if claim is sworn to within a period of five years by heirs or community leaders where no heirs are obtainable who have hearsay knowledge of same; to allow free Federal money for sewer pipe, water pipe, to construct free Federal purification plants for any industries, free sewage disposal plants for towns and cities, free dams for water supply to towns and cities, to establish a free university in every United States Congressional district, this will create a vast reservoir of highly skilled well-trained professional, fine arts, liberal arts, scientific, trades mechanical and technical men and women from which capitalists may build up greater and better industries with better standards of living.

To create a Federal scientific labor relations board which will have total control of conditions of labor, removing this load from labor organizations. Also equalize the legal liability of all labor organizations with that of corporations under a Federal code where engaged in interstate commerce or interstate labor or organizations exist, to apportion the total cost of Federal Government among the states, according to wealth and population, each state raising its proportionate share by its own tax laws.

To end old Federal appropriations and state the purpose of each expense and creating a special tax for example Federal administrative expense, Federal legislative expense, Federal departmental expense, Federal foreign loans left unpaid, Federal domestic loans, and so on. To build at Federal expense tunnels for roads through mountains of more than five hundred feet elevation to aid transportation.

If something like this were done it would create a better condition upon which to build our future welfare.

—BENJAMIN MEYERS.

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.

Quote, Unquote

A REASONABLE spell of unemployment that eventuates in the retirement of the worker at his highest skill is more productive in an economic sense than immediate placement in a job at a lower skill.—Ewan Clague, director Employment Security Bureau, Social Security Board.

The trouble is that in Austria the ration is practically all that the normal consumer can get. There is no free market and almost no black market that I could discover.—John Wraight, UNRRA representative in Vienna.

The seeds of peace, of democracy, of a decent respect for the rights of others can have no healthy growth in a soil that is starved and soured by despair. —Dr. Everett Case, president Colgate University.

I used to say of Hitler, and I say it now of Stalin, that every concession made to an outlaw is not an appeaser but an appetizer.—Chief Justice George W. Maxey of Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

What would the world say in these days of difficulties if even we, in the field of health, where international co-operation is easiest, couldn't cooperate?—Dr. Karl Evang, Norwegian Delegate, UN World Health Assembly.

Marquis Childs

Billion Dollars Saved

WASHINGTON

BY one of those small miracles that sometimes happen in the last-minute rush, a bill became law which may save the Federal Government a billion dollars in the next four years. It all occurred so quietly that only just now have the professional veteran lobbies begun to realize what has happened.

The new law closes a gap through which hundreds of millions of dollars in Veterans Administration funds were draining away. It corrects a major perversion of the GI Bill of Rights. Uncorrected, the cost to the taxpayers would certainly have been measured in billions.

OPEN SCANDAL

As first told in this column, the so-called on-the-job training program of the Veterans Administration had become almost an open scandal. Thousands of employers were taking advantage of the law to "train" soda jerkers and elevator operators, paying less than living wages. The veteran made up the difference with his on-the-job training allowance of $65 for an unmarried veteran and $90 for a veteran with a wife. Men earning $10,000 a year were "in training" for $20,000 jobs and drawing down their subsistence allowance as a kind of bonus.

Because of the peculiar way in which the GI Bill of Rights was originally drafted, Gen. Omar N. Bradley, VA Administrator, believed he could do nothing to check these abuses. The law seemed to leave all the authority up to the states.

In the beginning, the number of on-the-job trainees was small. But it grew rapidly, going from 25,000 to more than 400,000 in six months. And the end was not in sight.

About this time Senator Wayne Morse, of Oregon, introduced a bill which has allowed the VA to provide funds to the states so that they could establish training standards. Morse sent the bill to Bradley for his opinion.

Working with some of his top assistants, Bradley drew up a series of new recommendations. He sent them to Morse, who incorporated them in his bill. Among the sponsors who joined Morse in offering the revised measure were Senators Hill, Fulbright and Stewart.

Approved by the Senate Finance Committee, the bill passed the Senate with hardly a word of debate. Chairman John Rankin, of the House Veterans Committee, reported it out without hearings and the House passed it after a brief explanation, by Rankin, of its objectives.

Besides providing funds for the states, the law lays down specific training standards which must be followed. Moreover, it provides that the subsistence allowance may not be paid to a single veteran earning more than $175 or a veteran with dependents earning more than $200.

ORIGINAL INTENTION

This is in accord with the original intention of Congress when the GI Bill of Rights was first adopted. The subsistence allowance was intended to be just that—a modest sum to help the returning veteran learn a new way of life. That is how some 650,000 veterans will use it this Fall when they stampede the gates of America's colleges.

Similarly, veterans in training for skilled trades will make excellent use of the allowance. But it was never intended to be a bonus for returned veterans with adequate income from regular jobs.

This sweeping revision of the GI Bill has already produced political repercussions. An estimated 150,000 vets earning more than $110 will have their allowance cut. They will all, you can be sure, write to their Congressmen. Veterans' organizations have begun to make a noise.

But General Bradley can be counted on to hold his ground. He knows that if the 14,000,000 veterans out of World War II get in the habit of leaning on the Treasury, any hope of a balanced budget and solvency will be out the window.

The General knows history. He knows what it meant when the victorious legions of Rome returned to the capital bent on spoils. It meant the beginning of the end of Rome's greatness.

Each time the Treasury is tapped, the gauge on the inflationary boiler jumps up a notch or two. Only by a narrow margin did President Truman win his fight to pay GI terminal leave in bonds instead of cash. If the estimated $2,700,000,000 of leave pay had been handed out all at once, the result would have been registered immediately in the telltale indices of inflation.

SHRINKING VALUES

Rising prices have already taken a lot from the value of the subsistence allowance. To pass out the allowance like a bonus would cause it to shrink still further. That was not what Congress meant when the generous provisions for the GI were first adopted.

Peter Edson

Tremendous Trifles

WASHINGTON

TREMENDOUS trifles shape the course of current events.

Foreign LaGuardia is greeted with a stein of beer in Prague—and the food supplies of the Czech nation are imperiled.

A GI whistles at a Latin American beauty of high degree—and the relations between the United States and Peru become strained.

Secretary of State Byrnes, presiding over the Paris peace conference, makes a ruling that denies Russian Delegate Vishinsky the right to speak when he wants to—and the whole Soviet Union is insulted.

HAND PATTED

Again, Secretary Byrnes pats the hand of Italian Premier de Gasperi after his appeal to the peace conference — and the touchy French protest that an agreement that no sympathy shall be shown the defeated enemy nations at Paris has been violated.

A few hotheads in Jerusalem plant a bomb in British headquarters—and the future of tens of thousands of refugees is hung in the balance.

Chinese grafters and war-lords insist on their traditional saving of face—and the noble cause of peace in China is all but given up as hopeless.

A delegation of clergymen protests the official representation of the U. S. Government at the Vatican—and one of the best listening-posts in the world may be closed to U. S. diplomatic ears.

Bigness in men seems gone out of the world. The major objectives in making a durable peace are lost sight of in concentration on what should be trivialities.

Do the newspapers overplay these little incidents in the making of history? Perhaps. But these dramatic asides, played by the star actors on today's stage, are the bits of business that the average folk in the audience can understand, even though the meaning of the issues in the world may be easily lost in the momentary excitement over what are really inconsequentials.

It takes a sequence of seemingly-broken scenes to make an act. It takes a series of acts to show which way the plot is developing and what the play is all about.

The dispatch of an American aircraft carrier to the Mediterranean may in itself be not lost of importance. Yet if memory serves aright, the battleship Missouri recently concluded another of these good-will tours to the same region.

PLANE FORCED DOWN

Then there was the little incident of an American transport plane being forced down by military aircraft of Yugoslavia. There was another little incident in which a few American soldiers were ambushed at Trieste.

There is fear of a Yugoslav coup in the territory around Trieste, bordering on Italy. There is increasing participation of the United States Government in the affairs of Palestine.

There is consideration of a proposal to have the United States replace Japan as one of the governing nations of the Montreux convention, under which the Dardanelles are controlled. There are American loans to Greece and Saudi Arabia.

No less a figure than Assistant Secretary of State James C. Dunn, now sitting with Secretary Byrnes at Paris, is to be the first U. S. Ambassador to Rome.

In the light of all these other incidents, the Secretary's pat of encouragement to Premier de Gasperi takes on significance.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

Add up all these incidents and what is the answer? Is the United States becoming more involved in Mediterranean affairs than it has been since the days when the Algerian pirates were cleaned out by the infant American Navy? Did the landing at Casablanca plant Uncle Sam's shoe so firmly on the shores of the Mediterranean that it can never be withdrawn?

The tremendous trifles are well worth watching. Taken together, they make the history.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

U. S.-British Alliance Frustrates Soviet

WASHINGTON

THERE is reason to believe that at the end of the war, Soviet Russia looked forward to a virtual alliance with the United States. The world's two greatest powers, the Russians felt, had no conflicting interests which would work together. Great Britain, the Russians figured, did not count. She was out of date, wiped up, finished.

However, no two nations can run the world without reaping the ill will of the rest of the world and eventual catastrophe. So, fortunately, the United States did not become an ally of Russia.

Unfortunately, however, we have veered so far in the other direction that foreign diplomats generally consider us not only an ally of Great Britain but owned body and soul by the charming gentlemen in the British Foreign Office.

This not only snarls up our relations with Russia, but lessens our effectiveness with other members of the United Nations. For it is by playing our cards straight across the United Nations board, with absolutely no big power alliances that we can maintain the world leadership which is ours for the asking.

Ever since Britain and Russia combined to stop Napoleon in 1815, their armies and navies have been looking down the muzzles of each others guns. For 100 years they have been the two most powerful, most suspicious, most opposite rivals in all Europe. And today England, weak, old, and fighting for survival, figures that her only salvation is playing off the USA against the USSR.

Atlantic Charter Flouted

THUS at a time when the Allies were pledged to the principles of the Atlantic Charter and world co-operation, Britain has gone back to the outmoded, trouble-breeding game of power politics. And she has played her cards so skillfully that she has just about euchred the USA into being the No. 1 enemy of the USSR.

One trouble with the British is that our bond of sympathy with them is so close that they know they can take advtange of us. Like an old man with a weakness for going on benders, the British know that when they get into trouble, their indulgent son will always bail them out.

Palestine is a case in point. The organization which mandated Palestine to the British—the League of Nations—is now non-existent. The British have absolutely no legal rights in Palestine other than the power of armed force. Yet if they had any regard, whatsoever for American friendship, which they so badly need, long ago they would have turned Palestine back to the United Nations—where it belongs.

British Undercut U. S.

IN an earlier column, this writer proposed that the United States adopt a definite, categoric policy of not appeasing Russia. It was argued that no country takes the first step toward war if it knows it will have to suffer a major retaliatory war. It was pointed out that Hitler never would have invaded Austria and the Ruhr if he hadn't shrewdly banked on Anglo-French dissension and appeasement.

If we are to follow a non-appeasement policy toward Russia; if we are to crack down on the first belligerent move she makes outside the United Nations, then Great Britain, judging by past performances, is our worst ally.

In 1932, Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson, realizing that Japan had started on major Asiatic conquest, did his best to enlist British co-operation in stopping the warlords before they got started. To this end he thought he had a British promise to deliver a strong identical note of protest to Japan.

But U. S. Ambassador Cameron Forbes discovered that after he delivered the American protest note, the British Ambassador paid two calls at the Jap Foreign Office. One was to deliver the formal note of protest. The other was to tell the Japanese Foreign Minister informally that Great Britain had promised the United States to deliver a note, but nevertheless the British understood and sympathized with the Japanese position in Manchuria.

Again, in 1936, when Hitler walked into the Ruhr, it was the British who hung back, told the French that if they resisted Hitler, they would have to fight alone.

Again, during the Spanish Civil War, it was the British Foreign Office which secretly played ball with Franco and sabotaged the Loyalist Government, despite the fact that the world knew Hitler and Mussolini were staging a curtain-raiser to the world war.

Again, prior to the Munich crisis over the Czech Sudetenland, Lord Runciman spent weeks in Czechoslovakia passing out secret word that Hitler could have the Sudetenland as far as we was concerned. So by the time the Big Four met in Munich, the surrender of the Sudetenland was a foregone conclusion—agreed to in advance by British appeasers.

Historians already are recording the probability that if we had checked the Spanish Fascist, if we had stopped Hitler in the Ruhr, if we had prevented his carving up Czechoslovakia, or even if we had blocked any one of these moves, the terrible tragedy of World War II would not have happened.

And if we are going to prevent World War III, the gentlemen of the British Foreign Office, with their silk-glove policy of appeasement, may prove our most dangerous, though charming allies.