THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Place Where Everybody Benefits

EVERYBODY benefits. . . . Everybody gives," reads the slogan for the sixteenth annual Charlotte Community Chest campaign which gets under way today. The accent is properly on the benefits for everybody, which are enormous. Actually, the only thing you are asked to give is a little of your time in considering what you are offered when one of the campaign workers asks you to sign a check or a pledge card. The money you exchange for a Red Feather is not a gift but an investment, and the return on it is greater than the yield from any other enterprise in which you may take a part this year.

The Community Chest organization is a marvel of democratic efficiency and economy. Its budget for the coming year—$307,283.97—stamps it as the exceptionally well-managed undertaking. That total represents an increase of $28,000 or 9.3 per cent over last year's costs, which is well below the average increase in operating expenses for all other lines—government, private business and individual—in this inflation year. At the same time the Community Chest is not giving less or inferior service, but more and better service.

It does not take any particular imagination to see the logic in the "everybody benefits" theme of the campaign but it requires a little mental effort to appreciate the full extent of the benefits. Such consideration is time exceedingly well spent. If businessmen and other citizens would each devote as much as fifteen minutes to studying the work and the objectives of the Red Feather services, it is safe to predict that they would subscribe the $307,283.97 total in one day and be eager to support an even larger program.

Everyone can see at a glance that without these 22 Red Feather services the community would have to make other provisions to take care of the needy and the misfits, and that the costs would be much higher in terms of taxes if this burden was shifted to our Government agencies, to say nothing of the difference in results. While this saving is important, and is alone enough to justify the existence of the Community Chest, it is by no means the end of the benefits to you.

A saving that grows in size each year comes from the work of the Red Feather agencies in prevention or mitigation of the conditions which create our social problems. In Charlotte last year, 189 out of every 1,000 families experienced some form of social breakdown. Every citizen paid for that breakdown in some manner. It was a large item in our crime bill, and our bill for Government police, welfare and social services. It showed up in the accounts of employers through reduced efficiency in the working population. It would have been a larger bill if the Red Feather services had not been on the job. It will be a much larger bill if they are not supported in their movement to combat juvenile delinquency, illegitimacy, mental deficiency, mental disease, adult crime, divorce and child neglect.

Although it is not possible to calculate the actual saving made for the whole community and for each citizen, it is obvious that the benefits are fantastically out of proportion to the investment you are being asked to make. For the equivalent of a day's wages, you can assure the perpetuation of the most efficient and most hopeful institution we have devised in a generation to meet the problems of industrial society which multiply as the city grows. The man or woman who wears the Red Feather has a right to feel proud, not because he has done his Christian duty or performed an act of charity, but because he is a member of a democratic community that has the intelligence to create a system under which "everybody benefits."

The 'Secret' In The Sales Tax

THAT OLD bugaboo, the sales tax, received its share of plaudits at the Southern Governors' Conference in Asheville this week. The visiting Governors were treated to a profound observation on tax policy by North Carolina's Revenue Commissioner Edwin Gill, who declared that the sales tax not only provides a steady stream of revenue, but "what's more, it lets the average citizen in on a great secret: It lets him know that he is helping to finance his government."

We are sure that tax-burdened Tar Heels appreciate the State's magnanimity in perpetuating the sales levy as a means of sharing this secret with them, and we all should be obligated to Mr. Gill for taking us again into the Government's confidence.

Although his statement was less intriguing than that of Mr. Gill, Lloyd Griffin's remarks were no less provocative. Mr. Griffin, executive secretary of the North Carolina Citizens' Association, asserted that the sales tax should be a cornerstone of the broadened tax base which is necessary to provide more adequate support for Southern schools. "The only source of money for the schools is taxation, and ordinary sources of income, property and privilege taxes are an inadequate tax base," he said, adding that "it would seem necessary to levy a tax on spending—sales and excise taxes."

Statistics from the thirteen states represented at the Conference prove that Mr. Griffin is far off base in his conclusion that the sales tax, one of the most regressive forms of taxation on the books, provides the remedy for the South's school systems.

Six states—Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Oklahome—now employ a sales levy, while Florida, Georgia, Maryland, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia do not. Yet the latter seven states, according to the most recent figures (1942), outranked the sales tax states in average per pupil expenditure by $61 to $50 annually, and by $567 million to $365 million in total tax revenue totals. Florida and Texas have neither sales taxes nor income taxes, another major source of State revenue.

Conceivably, the non-sales tax jurisdictions could saddle their taxpayers with an additional $200 million annually through levies on spending, but what program does Mr. Griffin offer for those states whose school systems are sub-par despite a sales assessment?

One obvious answer is Federal aid, which belies Mr. Griffin's contention that State taxation is the only source of school income. Fundamentally, however, the differential between school expenditures in the two groups of states can be attributed to their relative per capita income. The states using a sales tax have an average per capita income of $610 yearly; the other group reports an average of $797 — thus, the wealthier the states become through balanced industrial and agricultural growth, the broader are their tax bases and the more they can allot to schools.

A sales tax is only necessary when the State has no other sources of revenue sufficient to maintain its essential services. The Governors should devote their efforts to stimulating industrial and agricultural development rather than to consideration of new means for increasing the tax burden of the average citizen.

How To Get Rid Of Communism

ADOLPHE MENJOU, the once gay boulevardier of the Hollywood films, wants this country to outlaw the Communist Party but not to drive it underground. He recommended such a course of action when he appeared this week as a star witness for the House Committee on Un-American Activities which is prying into the Hollywood end of the world revolution.

As the hearing proceeds, it is apparent that it is building up a drive in Congress for suppression of the Communist Party, heightening our interest in the Menjou plan. Our aging screen lover and comedian should be called back to the stand to give more details, explaining how you can suppress a political party or movement and still not drive it underground.

"I am not afraid of communism in America if it is out in the open," Mr. Menjou explained, which strikes us as a sound argument against outlawing the Communist Party. It is a statement which recognizes the fact that Communism can be combatted more effectively in the open than in the dark. It is a statement which seems to say that traditional American democratic methods have not failed and we do not yet need to resort to the devices of the police state in order to protect ourselves.

We are not sure that we understand the process by which Mr. Menjou reached the contradictory conclusion he did but we are certain he is right in thinking that it would do the American cause no good to drive the Communists in this country underground. In the first place, banning the party would involve a very dubious legal undertaking. There is a large question whether the Supreme Court would sustain laws passed by Congress or the individual states, or both, outlawing the party and making membership in it a crime. Even if their party was outlawed by name, the Communists could adopt some other name and carry on their work, fighting through the courts any attempt to interfere with them.

Finally, the effort to outlaw the Communist Party would produce a storm of major dimensions from non-Communist individuals and groups in America who believe we have more to fear from curtailment or civil liberties than from Communist infiltration. The resulting confusion and discord would be exploited by the Communists to the full, and the battle might end with nothing more than that accomplished. Until the House Un-American Committee produces more concrete evidence of Communist gains than it has to date, we will continue to believe that this country's greatest safety lies in fighting Communism in the open.

At the recent opening of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, a Bible printed in English and Norwegian with a handsome Morocco binding, was presented to Secretary General Trygve Lie. Without an instant's hesitation, he flipped open the sacred book to Psalm CXXXIII and read aloud the first verse: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Appropriate? Well, yes; always providing the debates do not give the lie too brutally to the biblical text. — *France-Amerique.*

The trouble about man is twofold. He cannot learn truths which are too complicated; he forgets truths which are too simple.—*Rebecca West, British author, in Harper's Magazine.*

Good Neighbor Policy

People's Platform

Mayor Answers 'Open Letter'

CHARLOTTE

Mrs. Bryon J. Smith
800 Magnolia Avenue
Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

IN answer to your open letter, which I read in The Charlotte News, the original of which I have never received, I am very glad to try to answer your question.

Your City Council and I have to consider the various phases of our civic life in equalizing our efforts to make Charlotte the best place in which to live, work and play. We are proceeding on a very definite program to do something for all phases of our daily lives and necessary facilities to take care of our people.

As you know, we have an extensive educational program already voted upon for new schools. We have a large program already voted upon and money appropriated for extension of our water and sewer lines for the next 25 years. We have a master plan drawn for the City of Charlotte, covering the opening of new streets, the repaving of the necessary ones, and two new thoroughfares—one the so-called Cross Town Boulevard and the other one the opening of Caldwell Street from Morehead Street to North Charlotte.

We have drawn plans and have the money for two new fire stations with the necessary personnel. We have recently hired 25 new policemen to augment our police force. We have appropriated $35,000 and will start construction immediately on a new recreation building for our teen-age group at Independence Park. It is contemplated that if this proves successful, two more units will be built from next year's budget elsewhere in Charlotte.

We are now in the midst of a very detailed study with definite recommendations from our Planning Board to furnish off street parking elevated areas.

The above is the answer to your first paragraph. We feel that we have this program so well along we can turn our attention to another facility of our city; that is, to furnish a building where proper entertainment can be furnished and where we can interest business conventions to come to the City of Charlotte. After all, Mrs. Smith, we have to do something to keep abreast of the times with the industrial side of our lives as it is only through the furnishing of jobs for our citizens that we can pay any tax at all.

The contemplated plans, if voted favorably, will not in any way interfere with veterans' homes and with the construction of schools, nor will the work be started any time in the near future. In city planning we have to look way ahead to take care of the necessary legal phases and slow municipal procedure necessary to complete a given obligation.

The youth centers and schools will be completed long before a corner post is started for the auditorium.

You may rest assured, Mrs. Smith, that we are keeping "first things first" and that our efforts will be to hold the tax rate as low as possible to provide our lives the proper things to live with and enjoy.

Sincerely yours,

—H. H. BAXTER,
Mayor.

'A Figment Of Fantasy'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

CHALLENGING certain opinions contrary to those espoused by the United World Federalists, Mr. James B. McMillan has succeeded only in demonstrating how swiftly some people can destroy the intrinsic value of their own arguments.

Boldly admitting that the desire for World Government is based "on selfish interest", Mr. McMillan asserts that the primary objective of the World Federalists is to strengthen the United Nations into a federal world government".

Mr. McMillan fails to recognize that the veto has effectively paralyzed the UNO, and that a federation of "all nations" is only a fond "hope" nourished in the fertility of "faith" which, as Mark Twain once said: "is merely believing that which you know ain't so". Federation of all nations is but a figment of fantasy propagated by peace dreamers, and so remote from realization that realism forbids speculation.

This is especially true at present, when it is realized that the Communists have prevented peace, converted every Communist dominated country into implementation of war, and the Moscow Government has sworn to destroy the United States.

Mr. McMillan contends that it is not possible to determine whether Russia would join a federation of world governments. That this is evidently a deft evasion of the irrefutable fact that Russia would not affiliate with such an organization, is made clear by the current fact that Russia has served notice on the world that she renounces all pretense of international co-operation and intends to throw the world into a convulsion at the earliest opportune moment.

In the face of these carefully calculated estimates, it is an unavoidable conclusion that the United World Federalists are either attempting to lull the people into a false sense of security, or else, imitating the proverbial antics of ostriches are hiding their heads in the sand to avoid proximity with reality.

—A. W. BLACK.

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 profanity 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.

Joseph Alsop

We're Sleepwalking

ATHENS

ON ITS craggy height above this ancient city, in unimaginable loveliness, stands the Parthenon, whose colonnades knew Pericles. In the bay below lies Salamis, where Themistocles licked sluggish Sparta into the attack on the Persian ships. And at the mid-level between, amid the modern squalor of the King George Hotel, sits a former budget commissioner of the state of Pennsylvania, briskly dealing with the Greek budget as though he were back home in Harrisburg. It is an odd contrast, but one which accurately conveys the character of the American mission to Greece headed by former Governor Dwight Griswold of Nebraska. And it is crucially important to understand the character of the American effort here, if only because it indicates how deeply, completely and inescapably we have become involved in the political affairs of Europe.

The facts are, quite literally, staggering in their implications. To begin at the beginning, the present Greek government of Premier Themistocles Sophoulis is American-made. Ambassador Lincoln MacVeagh, Governor Griswold and the chief of the State Department's Middle Eastern Division, Loy Henderson, had to intervene rather forcefully to secure its formation. Their intervention directly prevented the selection of a Government of the extreme right, and secured agreement on the present Cabinet representing all parties except the Communists.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Intervention in the formation of a Cabinet in itself constitutes acceptance of an unprecedented measure of responsibility for the affairs of another country. But the process has by no means ended there. The way the budget problem is being handled is illustrative of the immense further steps that are being taken.

As originally prepared, the new Greek budget amounted to a little less than four trillion drachmae. The Greek revenues amount to about two trillion drachmae. In the present situation in Greece, balancing the budget is the only means to prevent further and absolutely crippling inflation. The Griswold mission has assumed responsibility for balancing the budget. They have indicated broadly what cuts in expenditures must be made. They have insisted on the discharge of 15,000 superfluous civil servants. They may add another 10,000 to the list. They have obtained the approval of the Sophoulis Government for their measures. And they have further arranged to place Americans in key positions in the more important ministries, in order to see to it that the approved measures are in fact carried out.

It comes as something of a shock to find American men performing this sort of role in all the major spheres of Greek governmental activity. The men who compose the Griswold mission are chiefly former state officials or business men or Federal civil servants. They are utterly unchanged by their transplantation to an unfamiliar environment. They are even untroubled by their lack of experience in foreign affairs. And this is natural, and indeed unhopeful. All of them are thoroughly experienced in practical affairs at home. They understand the job they have to do, and they are doing it.

GREEKS ACCEPT POLICY

What is more important, the Greek leaders accept and appear pleased by this decidedly novel approach. The war left Greece economically disorganized and politically in chaos. All wise men have long known what ought to be done. But no individuals or groups have had the strength to do it. The men removed from the padded governmental pay rolls may be displeased. But the majority are happy to have the Americans use the leverage of their position to accomplish what is obviously necessary. If this were not the attitude, the Greek Government would not have invited the Americans to extend their responsibilities still more immensely by advising on the military operations of the Greek Army. And if the leading Americans were not satisfied with the record of Greek co-operation to date, they would not be anxious to accept this remarkable invitation.

Samuel Grafton

Peace And Freedom

NEW YORK

TO work for freedom, we must work for peace. War and freedom do not go very well together. I do not mean this in the corny way in which isolationists used to argue that the sugar ration, or some other such necessary wartime restriction, killed freedom dead. There is a deeper sense in which war, or the expectation of war, many slaughter freedom.

If we can have peace with Russia for 50 years, we can have a true testing of systems, under the cracking pressures of time. In fifty years Communism would have to show whether it can produce the goods or not. But in the present state of tension, Russian leaders do not have to argue Communism, even with their own people. They can argue nationalism instead. They can rally the Russians to the defense of the motherland, as well as to the defense of Communism. They can drag out malodorous ancient czars, give them a dusting with ideological DDT., and make them non-political national heroes and defensive symbols.

* * *

In one sense, American pressure lets Russia's Communist leaders off easy. We give them the simple job of defending themselves, instead of the historical task of proving themselves and their system to be best. Throughout Europe and much of Asia the Soviet line of the moment is not that Communism is good, but that America is bad.

Thus war, or a state of tension, paralyzes whatever evolutionary trend might otherwise be at work within the Communist fold, and endows the defense of an ideology with an emotional quality the ideology itself might not necessarily engender.

On our own side, too, we can see that freedom and international tension do not march well together. The current Hollywood investigation is a child of the international situation, and its chief characteristic is its nervousness, the to-do which is made about who said what, and when, and who wrote what line, and who stuck it into what film, as if a revolution could be made by sneaking a phrase into the fifth reel.

The investigation has already shown that a man can fall under suspicion merely for ridiculing the rich; as if the manufacture of ironic comment about the rich were not a traditional American sport, indulged in by almost every writer of consequence we have had in the last fifty years.

* * *

I don't believe the Russians want war, any more than we do, but in a sense it is true that war is a trap into which capitalism falls, almost always landing on its head, and almost always breaking some thing important. It is a matter of high Communist theory that capitalism means war, and Communism rises a double gain from these disasters, by blaming capitalism for them when they happen, and by picking up the pieces after they have happened.

It is true that war is sometimes clearly necessary in defense of freedom, and when that is so, Americans have long known what to do. But in the present case the friends of freedom will be those who insist on clear, powerful ways to organize the peace, and for a relief of tension, so that truth can show its face; the truth about us, and, gradually, the truth about the other side, too. To be stubbornly, furiously, for peace is the way to cross the dope, and to cut the burden of proof on the Soviet system.

He who bellows for war thus helps the opposition, in a curious way; it can use him in its bellowing down to his last squeal and warble.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round • Ambassadors See No War With Russia

WASHINGTON

THREE top ambassadors reported to the President last week that there would be no war with Russia, though a serious incident in Germany where U. S.-Russian troops are cheek-and-jowl could start almost anything. . . . The ambassadors were: Lou Douglas from London; Walter Bedell Smith from Moscow; Bob Murphy from Germany. . . . All three urged a special session of Congress. Truman countered that Congressmen couldn't be back from European trips before Dec. 1, and it must be accomplished during the Christmas holidays. However, he promised to consider it further. . . . The ambassadors reported that the European food situation was so critical that even a few weeks saved by a special session would be important. . . . When U. S. Congressmen called on swaggering Dictator Franco in Madrid, he was dressed in a glittering admiral's uniform with crucifix and Bible on desk. He gave the Congressmen a lecture on the necessity of appointing priests for democracy. The solons who bearded the dictator in his den were Karl Mundt of South Dakota, Walter Judd of Minnesota, and Lawrence Smith of Wisconsin. . . . Latin-American diplomats to the United Nations who usually get plenty of advice from their North American diplomatic brethren so far haven't received any tips on how to vote on Palestine. Quoth U. S. delegate Herschel Johnson: "Search your hearts and minds and take your own moral position." . . . Secret cables to the State Department report that the Norwegian Government has its own way of dealing with Commies. The Cabinet has decided to abolish the Communist Party if Norwegian Communists join the nine-power Comintern.

Purely Political

THE Democratic National Committee has now engaged 500 rooms in San Francisco hotels for next July. This means that for the first time in two decades the Democrats will move to the War West. It was President Truman himself who insisted on this. Democratic leaders argued that Eastern radio listeners couldn't hear the speeches after 8 P. M. Pacific Time, which would be 11 P. M. Eastern Time. . . . Truman, however, ruled that in order to win, it was necessary to carry California. So he has decided California is to have a good look at the Democrats. . . . Michigan's prosecuting Senator Ferguson wouldn't mind finding a loophole to crawl out of the Howard Hughes investigation. Reason: Army tests show that the XF11, recommended by Elliott Roosevelt and built by Hughes, flies better than some other Army photo reconnaissance planes. What's more, it looks as if Hughes' giant Herculean will fly after all.

Secretary Snyder Sits Tight

JOHN SNYDER, the Arkansas banker, now happily sitting in the seat of the Secretary of the Treasury, is also sitting tight on a French offer to pay for her own food. France is trying to cash in her hidden assets in the U.S.A., provided Secretary Snyder will tell France where they are. But Snyder won't tell. . . . Before the war, the Treasury Department surveyed all foreign holdings in this country. U. S. banks burned the information over to the Treasury, asking that the names of French stock and bond holders be kept confidential. That's why Snyder won't tell the French Government where Frenchmen are hiding their money. . . . If France could get this list, it could offer these stocks and bonds as collateral for a loan large enough to tide them over for the Winter. Meanwhile, Americans are footing the bill instead of Frenchmen.

Must We Fight Russia?

MOST significant talk newspaper editors had in Washington last week was an off-the-record conference with George Kennan, General Marshall's chief Russian policy maker. Here are the highlights: Russia's tough talk is nothing new. It's been going on for 160 years, under both Czars and the Soviets. It was soft-pedaled in the 1920s and 1930s because the Bolsheviks were too weak to talk tough. . . . The main problem in Europe is the vacuum in France and Italy. This vacuum has to be filled. Big question is whether Russia or the United States will move in. . . . The vacuum was recognized by Russia at the end of the war, and Stalin prepared then to fill it. The USA doesn't want to fill it, but does want to see it filled by democratic Frenchmen and Italians themselves. . . . Whoever first fills this hole in Europe will be successful in dominating all Europe. . . . The People of Europe are afraid of Russia but not of the United States. Because they are scared stiff, they would appease Russia before they helped the United States. . . . Inside Russia, the people are cynical, don't take Moscow's propaganda too seriously. Vishinsky's barbed thunderbolts at the U.N. are nothing new. . . . He's only saying what he has said for two years, only this time it's louder. . . . There is no real worry over war with Russia. Its people haven't recovered. Furthermore, the Russians figure they can get what they want by political means. . . . Most significant key to the fact that Russia doesn't want war is that the Soviets always try to ride out war. They made a deal with Hitler in the last war in order to stay on the sidelines, and the last thing they want is war now with the United States. . . . "We are very far from war," concluded Kennan.

Whisky Boys Retaliate

GOVERNMENT officials sitting in on the secret food talks in Washington say that the whisky boys are tougher than the whisky boys—and the latter are tough enough. . . . After food czar Luckman had obtained a whisky holiday from the distillers, they held a secret meeting in New York in order to retaliate. One of the distillers who weren't consulted by Luckman would continue making alcohol, selling same to other distillers. . . . Distillers had secured a letter from Attorney General Tom Clark permitting them to cooperate for purposes of conserving grain, without violating the Anti-Trust Act. Now they are using this letter to cooperate on other matters. One is a propaganda campaign to show up Luckman. . . . Criticism of Luckman closely paralleling the distillers' line was published last week in George Sokolsky's column. He said: "Why cut the distillers and the brewers and not the soap companies? . . . Not a word is said about reducing the consumption of fats." . . . It is not known how close Sokolsky is to the brewers. He was once exposed by a Senate investigation as having been paid $14,000 by Tom Girdler of Republic Steel, and $6,000 by the National Association of Manufacturers at the very time he was writing for newspapers. . . . Mrs. "Pappy" O'Daniel, wife of the reactionary Texas Senator, also informed a Senate committee that Sokolsky was one of her husband's ghost writers. . . . Incidentally, the fight over hogs and cattle means less fat for Luckman's soap company —and he is relentlessly urging less fattening on the feed lots.

Forgot The Hen

TROUBLE over poultryless Thursday might have been avoided had the White House let one hand know what the other hand was doing. On the Sunday afternoon President Truman made his food-saving appeal to the nation. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson sat outside the door of Press Secretary Ross, waiting for a chance to see the Boss's speech. But the chance never came. Poultryless Thursday was announced without benefit of advice from U. S. agricultural experts who had been studying her majesty the hen for many weeks, were convinced that chicken should be eaten, rather than less. . . . Later, Chuck Luckman, harassed and unenvied food czar, was asked to accept a compromise proposal whereby the public was urged to eat stewing hens. . . . Biggest food problem still remaining grain fed on the farm. It's disappearing at an alarming rate.