THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Highway Safety Can Be Legislated

THE experts who prepare the actuarial tables for the insurance companies are unsentimental men who know about all there is to know about the national death rate. They have now found that all the casualties of World War II haven't thrown their long-range calculations as to life expectancy off at all. The reason is as simple as it is depressing: the curtailing of automobile travel in the United States during the war reduced the accident death rate enough to compensate for battle casualties.

This is frightening evidence that the slaughter on the highways is rapidly becoming our number one legislative problem. Educational campaigns designed to promote safer driving are underway on a dozen fronts, and certainly these are worthy. But there is also urgent need for remedial laws that will produce immediate results.

It is encouraging that the North Carolina Legislature now has under consideration a variety of bills aimed at reducing the annual toll of highway deaths and property damage. A more rigid system of licensing drivers, a safety inspection system for vehicles, increased appropriations for traffic law enforcement agencies, increased emphasis on highway construction designed to promote safety, additional teeth for the drunken and reckless driving laws—all these things are important.

But perhaps most important is the bill sponsored by the Carolina Motor Club aimed at guaranteeing the financial responsibility of every automobile owner. Although it avoids compulsory insurance, the measure has much the same effect—requiring drivers involved in accidents to demonstrate their ability to pay for any resulting damage and leafing to automatic revocation of their licenses if they can't. Carelessness is a state of mind, and a driver who knows that he is immune to financial penalty by virtue of insolvency is quite likely to be a major highway hazard.

None of this flood of highway safety legislation is perfect, perhaps, and all of it should be examined carefully by the Legislature. But it is aimed in the right direction, and it aids up to a positive attack on one of the most immediate problems facing us in this motorized age.

What A Difference A Week Makes

THE persecution of David Lilienthal had been in progress for two weeks when, in its edition of February 17, *Time* Magazine felt it necessary to bring a curt, clear, complete account of the hearings to its millions of devoted readers. *Time's* renowned standards of journalistic objectivity somehow required the coupling of the report on the Lilienthal investigation with the report on the investigation of Gerhart Eisler, an avowed Communist. The piece was succinctly entitled: "Democracy & Security."

It didn't seem necessary to *Time*, on February 17, to enumerate the charges against Mr. Lilienthal; a simple notation that they were designed to prove him a Red, or a lover of Reds was sufficient. Nor was it necessary to identify his chief accuser, Kenneth McKellar, other than as "an old enemy". Mr. Lilienthal's rebuttal, an eloquent statement of his democratic faith, was reduced to eight lines of tortured excerpts. And *Time* concluded:

> Americans could applaud Lilienthal's statement. It had the ring of truth. But the problem was not simple. There is at work in the U. S. an active, aggressive, malignant thing — conspiratorial Communism—which must be rooted out. It is fairly easy to recognize it in men like Gerhart Eisler.
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> But beyond Gerhart Eisler there are a host of other men—fellow travelers, confused liberals, "totalitarian liberals", letting New Dealers—who owe muddled allegiance to the idea that Government should be omnipotent responsible for the lives of its citizens even to the point of benevolent despotism. They fail to understand that despotism, which has a way of beginning with benevolence, usually ends by merely being despotic. Few of them even understand the incompatibility of their views with democracy, or that it is just such views that make them so sympathetic to Soviet Russia. But the mass of Americans is beginning to understand this very well.
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> If the Congressional investigators achieved nothing else, they were dramatizing one fact: A man can be a Communist or a "totalitarian liberal" and call himself a good American—but he cannot expect his fellow-Americans to agree. All Americans could heartily echo David Lilienthal's "great belief in civil liberties." But if they believed in democracy and Soviet Russia too, as Henry Wallace did, then it was time they had their heads examined—or their hearts.

Seven days later, in its current edition, *Time* again found the Lilienthal hearings newsworthy. But this time "old enemy" McKellar had become "an ancient knight on a spavined horse." His bill of indictment against Mr. Lilienthal was now made up entirely of "gossip, crackpot letters, unsupported charges." His opponents, even the Republicans, for whom *Time* has a special reverence, came in for the full treatment; Senators Bridges, Wherry, Brooks and Brewster were labeled hatchetmen. And of Senator Taft, who only yesterday, it seems, was graducing *Time's* cover, the news magazine bluntly remarked: "Bob Taft didn't say no to the hatchetmen."

After hinting darkly that David Lilienthal is the victim of a conspiracy among utilities executives and reactionary business leaders, and attributing to some of his critics so simple a political motive as anti-Semitism, *Time* went into an eight-paragraph eulogy of the President's nominee as unrestrained as any it ever published. David Lilienthal's impeccable record as a public servant was reported in detail; he was given full credit for the creation of TVA, and TVA was given credit for winning the war. The fight for his confirmation had become a "moral cause". In conclusion *Time* said:

> Lilienthal was security-minded. Secretary of War Patterson went out of his way to support him. As for the farcial charges of Communism—"absolutely unfounded," snapped Mr. Truman.
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> "Suddenly," said *Time*, "a high political wind blew into the Committee . . . It whistled from the dark caverns of partisanship and prejudice." Suddenly? Well, anyway the wind was high enough to penetrate the upper reaches of the Time & Life Building, and spin a covey of *Time* editors right around in their tracks, leaving them, we trust, in a position where their heads may be readily examined—or their hearts.

Falsetto Voices In The Cheering Section

WE were a little unnerved by the intelligence that the president of the senior class at Central High School became a proud father this week. Not as unnerved as we might have been, however, if we were not a constant reader of the sports pages. The sports boys, who for many years have had precious little pulchritude with which to adorn their columns except for an occasional swimming champion or lady wrestler, are reaping a happy harvest. For every scowling halfback and panting forward on the college teams these days there is a lovely wife in the audience cheering her man on to victory. The photographers, we note, rarely overlook them.

The day when the average scholastic athlete was a youthful celibate is gone, and will not return, we suppose, for another three or four years. It will take that long to process the veterans who have resumed their education at every level from high school upward, and who are likely to be staid old family men whose wives and children help swell the cheering sections.

If this has added to the beauties of the sports pages, it has also added immeasurably to the gray hairs of the coaches. We recall one of Furman Bisher's dispatches from the North Carolina State training camp before the Gator Bowl game. The wives of the Oklahoma team were loaded on a bus and hauled over to the hotel where the State team was staying for a visit with the Wolfpack wives. The State players happened to be lounging around the terrace of the hotel when the bus arrived, and all the Oklahoma wives promptly stuck their pretty heads out the windows, stared at them, and chorused, "Oooh, aren't they *small*." This is a form of psychological warfare no coach is equipped to handle.

Nevertheless, it is good to see the family motif in scholastic affairs, athletic or otherwise. For it means that the veterans, despite their domestic obligations, are still determined to recover opportunities denied them in their years of service. These determined young men will never belong to a lost generation.

Another Voice

What A State Lives By

THE North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development recently received a request for more information about this state from a school boy of Rennes, France, who signed himself "a friend of North Carolina."

How had he become interested in North Carolina? A homesick Tar Heel soldier from Cooleemee who was later killed in the fighting around Nantes had told him all about it—"its shoreline, its great university, its beautiful mountains."

Let us hope that our young friend in France will recognize from the booklets and pictures he gets the state which the soldier described; no land on earth can be as beautiful as that which is seen through the patriotic imagination of a man, homesick in a far country.

But nothing can be more important to a state than this love of the land and all that it implies, memories of the sea and sand dunes, of mountains at sunset, of picnics and baseball games, of little towns and unforgotten faces. It is the feeling which made the late Governor Gardner say, "I am an incurable North Carolinian." This is the impetus from which institutions spring, the source of faith and determination and energy, given without thought of reward, which make a state great. It is not a natural resource of which the Department of Conservation and Development can take a picture, nor is it an asset which can be corralled in a table of statistics, but it is the breath of life to the body politic.—*Greensboro Daily News.*

'Does The Fly Come With It?'

People's Platform

Hopeless And Hapless

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THIS week is currently being celebrated as Brotherhood Week. During this week, the radio and the press are launching an extensive campaign spreading the idea of brotherhood, goodwill, and racial and religious tolerance throughout the United States and the whole world.

As a highlight to this week, a black, flagrant deed darkened our sister state and the entire nation as well. This atrocious crime to which I have reference is the lynching in Pickens, S. C. Most of us know the facts of the case.

The unrelenting arm of justice must not pause until the guilty ones involved are apprehended and given a punishment comparable to their crime. If this dastardly crime is allowed to remain unchastised, it might lead or prove to be one of the most disastrous events in the history of the state.

This country of ours is trying to spread democracy throughout the other nations of the world. The best way to spread democracy is to practice it, and "democracy is possibly only through brotherhood". Until these words ring in our minds and reign in our hearts,—until we learn the true meaning of democracy and practice it daily—until we celebrate Brotherhood Week 52 weeks a year instead of merely one—and until we come to the realization of the fact that we are all brothers and equal in the sight of God, this world of ours will be a hopeless and hapless place in which to dwell.

—CHARLES R. GORDON.

The Fight

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I HAVE been listening to the radio broadcasts of interviews with the peoples of various countries in Europe.

People of every country, except Germany, loved President Roosevelt and our GIs. Said they were the best friends they ever had.

President Roosevelt and the GIs made a great name for themselves the world over. These foreign people seemed to love and honor them as much as we do here in our country.

President Roosevelt's and the GI's honor will never die in any part of the world. But all these people don't like our kind of democracy with so much unequality in the name of liberty. President Roosevelt believed and fought for the Constitution, and for living by the Sermon on the Mount. Those who believed as he did must keep on fighting until the fight is won.

—MRS. J. D. BIGGERS.

Which Page?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

WHICH page do you read?

The front-page story of Attorney General Tom Clark's promise of a more concentrated anti-trust campaign was encouraging, but it is doubtful if there will ever be an appropriation consistent with the size of the job.

Then on page three there was the story of the appeal being made by the North Carolina Traffic League for support of the Bulwinkle Bill. This is the same bill that would exempt railroads from anti-trust laws. How about giving us both sides—Senator Tobey's scathing attack on the Bulwinkle Bill would make good reading.

—D. M. H.

Dunkers

NEW YORK

Editors, THE NEWS:

DO you know people who suffer from chronic physiness and timidity—who fall into fits of depression—who are afraid of meeting new people? Do you agree with the National Dunking Association that too many people suffer from anti-social symptoms? That there are too many wet blankets and sad sacks in our population?

According to the NDA, (a non-profit, non-political organization) a world full of wallflowers and frightened rabbits isn't much of a world. One of the manifestations of the way we're heading—toward a slough of despond—is that so many of us are afraid to dunk. If we had more dunkers, we'd have a cheerier world. Dunking shows optimism and a willingness to meet one's fellowman halfway.

That's why this year the NDA's theme is to show people why they should dunk, and how. The slogan is, "Get out of your shell—dunk!" You don't have to do card tricks or play practical jokes in order to make people love you. Just be natural—be yourself—and dunk donuts in company.

NDA surveys show beyond the shadow of a doubt—the very act of dunking together breaks the ice, creates friendliness. People who dunk together can't be shy with each other. That's why dunking was such a strong morale-builder during the war.

The NDA dunking campaign is directed to young and old. Dunking can help combat juvenile delinquency, as well as make old people gals in institutions. Feelings of inferiority—fear—personal inadequacy—none of these can hold up against the congenial atmosphere created by good dunkers dunking together.

—BERT NIVENS, Executive Sec'y,
National Dunking Association.

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.

Senator Soaper Says:

THERE would be plenty of room for immigrants, says one observer, if they didn't settle in the seaboard cities. None, it appears, wants to step to the rear of the country.

Being a liberal is a condition of the spirit. Try to analyze it and the first thing you know you've joined a committee, and forked over $5.

Merely for the record, was it some time between the first and second divorces that Mickey Rooney went into long pants?

Marquis Childs

The Labor Hearings

WASHINGTON

UNDER the crystal chandeliers and the florid marble of the caucus room in the Senate Office Building, the labor hearings go on. For those with the patience to follow them from day to day, it is an instructive course in the whys and wherefores of democracy at this late stage in America's history.

Opinions on the Senate Labor Committee generally range from A to Izzard. That is to say, from the point of view of those who would chop the unions into little pieces to the point of view of at least one committee member who would probably prefer no legislation at all on this point.

By good fortune, a new member of the Senate is also a member of this committee. Senator Irving M. Ives has spent much of his time as a legislator and educator in New York State studying the problem of organized labor and organized industry. He initiated the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, which is a hopeful contribution in a time of clashing emotions.

ACTION EXPECTED

That is why Ives' approach in these Senate hearings deserves respectful consideration. By his questions he has been trying to find out what area of agreement exists among those who are immediately and vitally interested in this debate. Behind his approach is a recognition of the fact that the public expects some action from Congress. That was one thing the voters were voting for last Nov. 5.

Ives wants a minimum of Governmental restraint. He knows very well that peace in industry depends, in the last analysis, on good relations between worker and employer, rather than on law. But he knows that a minimum of legislation—such as an amendment of the Wagner Act giving employers certain rights—is essential.

In this is the inherent weakness of the labor leaders as they come before the committee. They cannot agree to a minimum program. And their emotional arguments against "Regimentation" and Governmental interference sound strangely like the arguments that big business has used on occasion in the past.

Hearing these arguments, you realize how very late the hour is for organized labor. The leaders of labor have ignored the storm warnings of recent years.

Phil Murray of the CIO was asked what he thought about jurisdictional strikes and about legislation to prevent them. His answer was that, if the committee would recall William Green of the AFL, then he and Green would sit down together and work out an agreement to ban jurisdictional strikes. That would do it, in Murray's opinion.

NOT ENOUGH NOW

Six years ago, three years ago, even two years ago, such a move might have been enough. An agreement between the fiercely competing wings of organized labor might have prevented some of the worst abuses, the nuisances, the injustices and the irritations—although whether it would have prevented the jurisdictional fights between unions within the AFL and unions within the CIO is a question.

Now, in response to an invitation from the AFL, the leaders of the two rival organizations are about to sit down together to try to find some common ground. They may succeed. Certainly they have the most urgent reason for trying.

In a statement which he never had a chance to read before the committee, Murray presented facts and figures on the monopoly concentration of productive wealth in this country. It was a powerful presentation, showing how more and more wealth has been concentrated in fewer and fewer hands.

What Murray did not talk about, naturally, was the pattern of ever-increasing monopoly control over trade unions. If Big Steel dominates the steel industry, then on the other side of the industrial fence, John I. Lewis certainly dominates the workers in coal and he has shown that, through them, he can exercise a veto over the industry itself.

Murray, if he had had the frankness to talk about monopoly on the union side, might have pointed out that the monopoly of labor followed belatedly the monopolization in the control of industry. While that is true, it really does not matter too much.

ROAD TO STATISM

We are faced today with reality. The concentration of control over production has gone a long way. If the CIO and the AFL come together, we shall have one big union. The signposts on that road point to statism. And it is state control that everyone professes to want to avoid, including the members of the Senate committee who have taken on this tough assignment.

Harold Ickes

Satan And The Angel

WASHINGTON

THE attacks of Senator McKellar upon David E. Lilienthal have been reckless and intemperate. No one believes seriously that the Senator himself, that Mr. Lilienthal ever has been a Communist or possessed of sympathies for Communism. And yet what can be done but be impressed with the injustice of the attacks upon Mr. Lilienthal, we are entitled to be free from gossip about the extremes to which his devotees have gone, although, of course, it may really be true that Mr. Lilienthal is a citizen whose loftiness of soul, whose exclusively unique abilities, and whose noble characteristics can be compared to the greatest in the pages of American history only to the disadvantage of the latter.

Perhaps Senator McKellar is a black political devil, with never a redeeming quality, but he has made our choice easy for us by taking the pastel shadings out of our political life. We like an issue to be black or white; a man either devil or angel. We insist on being on the side of the angels, and since McKellar is a devil, Lilienthal is necessarily an angel.

INDISPENSABLE MAN

Many of our newspapers, exercising their freedom to be abuse discrimination, day by day throw more fuel on the pyre around the poor old man from Tennessee, depending upon spontaneous combustion to supply the flash of consuming flame. At the same time, they exalt ever higher the white-robed figure of David E. Lilienthal, with lyre in hand and eyes straining upward to see his ambrosial. Any man who does not accept Lilienthal as the indispensable man (at long last!), necessarily believes in Army control of atomic energy, believes in the cause of liberalism, seeks to destroy our democracy, and wants to share the secret of the atom with Russia.

I hope that Mr. Lilienthal, who admittedly has a monopoly on practically all of the virtues, is not as good and as pure as his hysteria would have us believe. I hope this Tri Senator will quickly settle this issue. I do not feel comfortable living on the same earth with a man who is conscious that he possesses all of the virtues and not a single fault. I am ill at ease in the presence of this radiant and transcendent human being. If he could permit himself to boast, would acknowledge all of the spiritual qualities that have been generated from Thomas a' Kempis to Aimee Semple McPherson.

Some time ago, when McKellar was smoking Lilienthal and smoking a rock and brought forth a book called "Democracy at Work" which was a paean of praise of the works of the TVA, and, of course, of Lilienthal. In it, he described how the TVA has improved the land by planting trees, improving soil conservation methods and the like. He states proudly that the farmers of this area were indicted to accept these better methods by "gifts of free fertilizer". This is the system that he hails as democracy. Only the hyperactive would suggest that paying someone to do something is a poor description of democracy. Just so, "Honest John" Kenna was used to slip the human derelicts in Chicago's First Ward a dollar on election day to vote his ticket, was more—far more—democracy.

BELIEVES IN SELF

Mr. Lilienthal doubtless believes implicitly in the frequent words of democracy of which he delivered himself so glibly (considering that they were supposed to be extemporaneous) but he knows how selfless he is and how superbly equipped to serve the people, even in spite of themselves.

As for me, I am going to listen to the voice of God, as filtered through the newspapers, and be on the side of Lilienthal. I want him to remember me when he hands out free samples of atomic power.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Marshall 'Filibusters' On Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON

GOP Congressmen are accusing General Marshall—half-jokingly—of being just as good at filibustering as Senator Bilbo. Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee say that in their closed-door session with the new Secretary of State, he kept on talking until just before the bell rang calling Congress into session. By that time there was no chance for them to fire any embarrassing questions.

Several Republican Congressmen came to the secret committee session primed with questions on Palestine and Russia. However, Marshall, with one eye on the clock, gave a brilliant monologue on foreign affairs for more than an hour. Members listened, eagerly waiting to ask questions, but had time to fire only a few hasty shots before running to answer the roll-call.

Marshall's monologue, however, gave a well-rounded picture of U. S. foreign policy. Here are the high lights:

Russia—The Byrnes policy of being fair but firm with Russia will be continued. Marshall has drawn this policy careful study and is convinced Byrnes was right.

Austria—will be the first treaty to be taken up in Moscow, largely because it is "in the nature of a liberated area."

Germany—within three years the German people should become economically unified and self-sufficient, requiring no more loans or food from the USA.

Palestine—The United States must be more cautious regarding Palestine now that Britain has agreed to lay this problem in the United Nations' lap. Instead of giving advice regarding Palestine, the USA will now have to act.

European Relief—Food continues to be the greatest stabilizing influence in the world, and the United States must continue to feed the world—perhaps for some years to come.

China—"I am somewhat disillusioned about the Chinese situation," Marshall commented. He spent more time on this subject than any other, remarking with a laugh that he felt more at home when talking about China. His off-the-record discussion, however, included little he had not already stated publicly.

Purging Red Diplomats

WHILE the clock ticked and the committee fidgeted, Marshall brought them to attention by suddenly whipping out the draft of his sharp answer to Russia regarding Dean Acheson's statement that Russia was an aggressive nation. The tone of Marshall's blunt reply was unanimously endorsed by the committee.

Finally, as the monologue ended, Michigan's Bartel K. Jonkman (Rep.) had time to criticize the State Department's purge of alleged radicals.

"They're supposed to have a security committee down there purging the Communists," Jonkman said. "But from what I hear, the Security Committee has been fired instead."

"I hadn't heard that," Marshall replied. "I've given Assistant Secretary Peurifoy strict orders to co-operate with you and the committee on security matters. I'm sure he's following through."

Jonkman said he and several other committee members planned a showdown with Peurifoy on the Red issue.

New York's former committee chairman Sol Bloom then shoved several questions at the Secretary of State on Palestine, but Marshall backed away. He said he would stand on what he had already said. Minnesota's Walter Judd, himself an expert on China, then prepared to level a barrage at Marshall on Far Eastern matters, but was frustrated as the bell called Congressmen to their noonday session.

During his talk, Marshall remarked that homing up on America's foreign policy was the toughest job he'd had in years. The minute you think you know a situation cold, he explained, something else is added, thereby changing the situation completely. He said he still didn't know all the answers, but would continue studying until he learned them.

As the meeting broke up, committee chairman Eaton of New Jersey pointed out that many Congressmen still had unanswered questions, and asked the Secretary of State if he would return for a further discussion. Marshall said he would try to make it, but carefully left himself a loophole by pointing out the pressure he's under to prepare for the German treaty negotiations in Moscow.

Higher Cost Shoes

IF the American housewife has to pay more for shoes, she can thank Senators Pat McCarran (Dem.) and George Malone (Rep.), both of Nevada. The two solons are vigorously pulling wires to permit the export of hides, despite the fact that these are badly needed at home where the price of shoes is higher than at any time in twenty years.

Ever since the rationing and price control ended, the prices have continued on the upgrade. Actually, more cattle are being marketed and leather should be in greater quantity.

But Senators McCarran and Malone, who received large campaign contributions from Nevada cattle ranchers, have now succeeded in persuading the Department of Agriculture to authorize the export of 60,000 hides in February alone. This was inspired by the fact that prices of hides are higher abroad and naturally the cattle ranchers are anxious to export as much as possible.

On top of this the two Nevada Senators are trying to go even further, and lift export controls on hides altogether. If this is done, the price of some types of shoes will go even higher than the present record level.

Note—It was heavy contributions by Nevada cattle ranchers which largely helped McCarran in the Nevada primary two years ago. And it was similar contributions which put Republican Senator Malone ahead of Democratic Congressman Berkeley Bunker last November.

Merry-Go-Round

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT and son Jimmy have signed contracts to help in scripting and give technical advice for a screen biography of the late President. Producers will be Kennedy-Buchman Productions, affiliated with Columbia Pictures. . . . Allen Dulles and his brother, John Foster Dulles, of the New York law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, have been retained by Eric Johnston's Motion Picture Association as advisers to the Geneva International Trade Conference in April. . . .