THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher — J. E. DOWD, General Manager — HARRY S. ASHMORE, Editor

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There Is Still A Question Of Intent

IN a preliminary statement regarding the test case aimed at South Carolina's "white primary", United States District Judge Waring has indicated that he will reduce the question to minute legal technicalities. He will not send the case to a jury when he hears it on June 3, but will "try the equitable issue first." And that issue, says Judge Waring, is this: "If the Democratic Party can prove it is a private organization with no statutes regulating it, then it is outside the jurisdiction of this or any other court. If, however, it is proved that the Democratic Party is a state-controlled organization, then the Negroes win the case."

It may be that South Carolina's Democrats will succeed in making the legal point that their organization is now wholly outside the law. Certainly they have worked hard to place it there. They have wiped from the statute books all laws governing the Democratic primary, they have reestablished their organization as a private club, they have even gone so far as to avoid use of public buildings for campaign meetings. If they have not slipped up somewhere along the line, they may be able to convince Judge Waring that he is without jurisdiction.

We doubt, however, if the matter will end there in any case. The suit is a test case—although the Democrats would hardly consider it a friendly one. It is heading for the United States Supreme Court, and somewhere along the line the question of intent is certain to be raised. In the face of it, it is difficult to see how all the mass of legal technicalities behind which the South Carolina Democrats seek to barricade themselves can long stand.

For there is, of course, only one reason for reorganizing the Democratic Party as a private club and placing it outside the law. That is to deny South Carolina's Negroes the right to cast an effective ballot in any election.

It can, and we suppose will, be argued that the Negroes are still free to vote in the general election. But no jurist can blink the fact that the general election in one-party South Carolina is meaningless, and has been made so by the same Democrats who now seek to operate a private club which will fill all state offices from game warden to governor. The Supreme Court previously has held that where the party primary is a substitute for an integral part of the general election it is subject to the unequivocal suffrage provisions of the United States Constitution. It seems to us it will take more than the repeal of a few statutes to remove that condition in South Carolina.

Judge Waring himself has said: "I don't know what the answer is, but the issue is whether or not the Negroes are going to vote under the present set-up in South Carolina." It may be that he will rule that they are not, but it will be interesting to see whether, in that case, the Supreme Court will allow "the present set-up in South Carolina" to stand.

Operation Naval Reserve

THE redoubtable Admiral Halsey has issued a statement of praise for the United States Naval Reserve, and, recalling the Bull's forthright manner, we suspect this is something more than a routine response to a request from his old friends in the Navy Department. The Admiral concedes that the magnificent job the Navy turned in in the Pacific was largely the handiwork of a group of seagoing men who learned their craft in a few hurried months under the pressure of a naval war already begun and on the way to being lost.

The professional navy man was indispensable, of course, but he was not numerous. The men who manned the guns and the long supply lines and took command of the smaller vessels were naval reservists. Some of them had never seen a body of water larger than a Minnesota lake when they signed up. None was equipped by prior training for the highly specialized duties they were called upon to perform. But when the chips were down they sailed and they fought and they endured the danger and the boredom of the most arduous naval war in history. And, of course, they won it.

Admiral Halsey and his colleagues do not believe the United States will again enjoy the margin of time that made her World War II "civilian" Navy possible. Its tocsin will go this time, particularly after the crippling blow the Japs struck at Pearl Harbor, and the world is growing steadily smaller.

So the Navy is calling on all its ex-service men to stand by. It's a request, not an order—an appeal to sign up with the United States Naval Reserve and participate in a part-time training program designed to maintain and improve special skills acquired in wartime. Mecklenburg County Reservists have set a goal of 3,000 "enlistments" during their Operation Naval Reserve this week. Any citizen sporting the distinctive USNR insignia in his buttonhole will be delighted to supply the details; if none is handy the Navy office in the Post Office is available to any young salt who cares to come aboard.

Things Are Tough All Over

THE way this communist call was organized one small group directed the operation, sitting back in comfort and living off the communal effort. In normal times it worked out pretty well; the workers were well fed and busy, and if the hours were long they didn't seem to mind.

But things started getting tough a couple of months ago. The weather was wet and cold, which made working conditions bad and cut down the productivity of the workers. Food got scarce, and the bosses had to institute a rationing system. The workers naturally didn't take kindly to this, and finally they got so worked up they pulled a strike. And they didn't rest with simply staying off the job; they kicked their nonproductive superiors right out of their warm and comfortable berths and turned them out in the wet and cold. And threw up a picket line to see that they stayed out.

The cell—strictly speaking it was a collection of cells—was in Columbus, Ohio. And the communists were bees, a swarm being studied by Extension Apiarist Charles A. Reese of Ohio State University. Their behavior was not at all unusual, Mr. Reese reports. This sort of thing happens every time there is a late Spring. As long as there is honey in the horn the worker bees labor long and hard bringing home more nectar and pollen for the community stores and seem to be quite happy about it. But when the flowers are late in blooming and the stores get low and the drones and the queen feel called upon to institute rationing there is almost always trouble.

Mr. Reese thinks there is a lesson in this. Society in the apiary, he points out, is organized along strict communist lines—the queen, although bearing a royal title, is actually a commoner who, along with the drones, performs the necessary function of propagation. Everybody labors, then, under a rather strict discipline, presumably for the common good, but the relationship seems to depend upon continuing prosperity.

Watching his bees, Mr. Reese keeps wondering how Joe Stalin and the boys are making out behind the iron curtain. The Russian workers are laboring night and day to rebuild their battered nation, he understands, but food and consumer goods are scarce and rationing is still the order of the day. He keeps wondering if the boys in the Kremlin are also hearing faint and fateful stirrings in this very late Spring.

Another Voice

'The Play's The Thing'

WASHINGTON

"Oh God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains."

Can it be that some cunning advocates of British "austerity" used the immortal drama as a Trojan horse to smuggle WCTU sentiments into Festung Barleycorn?—*Richmond Times-Dispatch.*

When they begin to write her up as "the lost sex," woman might as well throw away the slacks and start all over.

Even his detractors feel that Hank Wallace is something special among voices, as he seems to carry his own wilderness.

The "United Front", to be maintained by shirt manufacturers in their stand against price boosts, will of course have to have all its buttons.

If the new memorial casting at Washington is correct, Thomas Jefferson was nineteen feet tall and well able to handle $100 worth of food at his birthday spread.

"Lapps desperately need 1,000 reindeer." It is to be borne in mind that from the reindeer the Lapp derives meat, milk, clothing, housing and a useful hatrack.

"Oh Boy—A Spotlight!"

People's Platform

The Cross-Town Boulevard

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

WOULD you get angry if someone stopped you on the street and by force took $20 from you? I believe you would and I believe you'd try mighty hard to get it back.

Well, that is about the situation you face on the cross-town "Boulevard". If that road goes through each of the 100,000 or more people in Charlotte will be relieved, on the average, of $20 each (figuring $2,000,000 as the cost of the project).

Now if a majority of you voters had agreed on a road of this kind there could be no objection but no one has given his approval or even been asked if he wants it or not. It seems that only about half-a-dozen persons want this "Truck Lane". (Even the truckers don't want it at its present location.) Yet, these few persons take your money and put this thing through and you don't let out a peep. (This does not mean the people along the route and a few loyal supporters of their cause.)

If this "PIKE" goes through it means that the streets in Charlotte will go without repairs until you vote more street-improvement bonds. And, by the way, did you know that when you voted for that street-improvement money that it would be used for a highway instead of repairing those streets you had in mind? No, you didn't know that and it never would have passed if you had.

It's not too late yet to stop this straight-through-screwdriver road. Those Councilmen can spend your $200,000 plus if you keep your mouth shut but if you (and I mean everyone of you taxpayers) will let these men know that you want it to be spent only as you voted it to be spent (street-improvements) I believe they will begin to see the light.

So write, wire, phone, or put in an editorial to your Councilmen, who sometimes seem to forget whose money they are spending.

—CARL J. CLINE.

On The Air

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

SINCE your forum now seems to be open to pro and con sentiment regarding Grady Cole, may I please voice my approbation on the stand taken by Mr. A. W. Black. He hit the nail squarely on the head.

That four hour early morning grind of corn and torture known as the Grady Cole Period sets the Carolinas back culturally by 25 years. If it is true that the national standard of radio programs is designed for morons, certainly the Cole program could appeal only to a low-grade moron.

One of your readers has suggested that one doesn't have to listen to the program if he doesn't like it. Nevertheless, radio stations are public institutions and rely on the public's certain standard of quality in the programs they present and the products they advertise. Just because a listener has to get up early is no reason to assume that he can enjoy hour-after-hour the irritating voice of a corn-fed announcer peddling pills, female medicines, and other wares.

After all, in addition to its commercial aspect, radio has the duty to entertain or inform. The Grady Cole Period is 70 per cent advertising, 20 per cent personal opinion with about 10 per cent so-called entertainment consisting principally of hill-billy music.

—ROGER LOVE

Unitarian Society

MOUNT HOLLY

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE Unitarian Society of Charlotte is proud to claim 30 families possessing the mental integrity displayed by Mr. A. E. Bassett, whose last letter in the People's Platform appeared on May 13.

The position of the Unitarian is understood by few people. I see the need to acquaint people in this region with our very positive beliefs.

Unitarian churches are founded upon individual freedom of belief and the democratic process in human relations. We believe in universal brotherhood, undivided by nation, race or creed, and allegiance to the cause of a united world community.

Unitarians believe in following the truth in its advance; thus, there is no conflict with us between science and our religion. The Unitarian church has often been called the scientist's church. We take wisdom from many sources. We take it wherever we find it.

We are quick to recognize the fact that there is good in the other great religions. Christianity has not produced the most peaceful citizens — nor the most tolerant. We are exceeded in both by the Buddists.

To Unitarians, the church must be the most honest and advanced of human institutions, with truth as its highest loyalty, love as its strongest motive and the service of mankind its greatest purpose.

We have no missionaries in the orthodox sense of the word, but we believe firmly in tolerance toward differing views.

There are many Unitarians who are not in Unitarian churches — indeed, they may not even realize they are Unitarians.

I believe we should study the history and beliefs of our churches and really find out where we stand.

—RUTH TEETER, Secretary,
Unitarian Society of Charlotte

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:

To the destiny of mankind, now taking shape in Moscow, it should be easy to give our undivided attention, as bills prevail in several of the more important adventure comics.

Having the British Empire fall apart while you're drawing it is the sort of thing that makes neurotics of map artists.

Stewart Alsop

Can Taft Stop Dewey?

WASHINGTON

WITHOUT much fanfare, Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio is quietly preparing to organize his Presidential candidacy on a business basis. Now that the labor bill is safely through the Senate, there is time to consider such important problems as the selection of a campaign manager — a post for which the astute Rep. Clarence Brown of Ohio is the most likely choice. And thereafter must begin the serious effort to sell Taft to the Republican organization, with which to date Taft's friends have merely been "keeping in touch."

There are several singularly interesting aspects of the new development. For one thing, the Taftites are showing marked signs of reviving optimism, claiming that the passage of the labor bill through the Senate has blunted off their candidate's setbacks earlier in the Congressional session. For another, there is some reason to believe that one of Taft's first moves as an active candidate will be to make a pronouncement on foreign policy departing very radically from his isolationist past. Finally, and perhaps most important of all, it already appears that the organization of a "Stop Dewey" movement will be a central feature of the Taft strategy.

GOP WANTS WINNER

This is inevitable, for perfectly practical reasons. Senator Taft's warmest supporters frankly admit that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey is the front-runner. The New Yorker's candidacy has been organized on a business basis for many months, and the Dewey salesmen are already in the field. The Republican organization leaders through the country dislike Dewey but think he can win. And the Republicans want a winner. After their long banishment from the public trough, they are naturally obsessed with getting back to it.

Taft's situation is the opposite of Dewey's. He is second in the field, and although the organization leaders like him very well, they doubt his capacity to carry the country. Taft's friends admit the existence of these doubts. They even envision the possibility of his withdrawal as a candidate if the improvement resulting from his labor bill success does not continue and become cumulative. Thus what is happening now is tentative and exploratory. Nevertheless, the logic of the situation remains, and is recognized. And that is why one can already discern the "Stop Dewey" movement's embryonic form.

It will center in the Taft camp. If successful, it will take the form of a record crop of favorite sons, ranging from such obvious participants as Governor Greene of Illinois and Senator Martin of Pennsylvania to such obscure and dubious local heroes as Senators Kem of Missouri and Cain of Washington. The egos of these statesmen are already being massaged to encourage their ambitions. As of this writing, it appears that Dewey will be extremely hard to stop. But the theory is that Dewey can be stopped, and thus an opening provided for Taft in the last lap of the race, if enough local Republican chieftains of the Kem-Cain stripe can only be induced to hang onto their states' delegations for their own greater glory.

PERFORMANCE WATCHED

Meanwhile, both Taft and his friends admit that his chances depend for the present on his performance during the rest of the Congressional session. He must end the session with his reputation high in order to continue the race. The essential thing is to put through all the remaining major items of the Republican program, such as the tax bill. But it is also desired to dilute the conservatism of the official Republican program by securing action on such measures as the housing and education bills.

Even to achieve what is regarded as essential, Taft must surmount considerable obstacles. The Senate Democratic leadership is planning, for example, to move to set the tax reduction plan aside until the completely stymied joint Congressional budget commission can produce a report. And it seems quite possible that the Democrats will recruit enough Republican votes to succeed in this maneuver.

CANDIDATES' MISERIES

As to the effort to secure action on the housing and education bills, Taft has his own party to contend with here. The greedy and unscrupulous real estate lobby has almost as much power in the House of Representatives as the House leadership. The present Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill cannot pass the House. Taft tried to make it more palatable by amending it in the Senate Banking & Currency Committee, but was defeated by an odd coalition of the progressives like Senator Tobey and the extreme reactionaries like his own colleague, Senator Bricker of Ohio. To get the bill through the Senate in suitable form, and then to jimmy it through the House, will be a downright herculean task. Such are the miseries of candidates.

Samuel Grafton

Three Price Prophets

NEW YORK

IT IS a terrible thing to hear Chester Bowles, Paul Porter and Leon Henderson warn us that there is going to be a "bust" unless we roll prices back at least half the ground they have gained since last June, and raise wages a trifle. For these men have been right; it is a kind of dreadful fact about them that they have been right. All three have had terms as National Price Administrator; all three have warned that if we allowed prices to rise they would stay up and make trouble for our economy; all three have been proved absolutely correct and all three are out of Government.

They are dead right, and they are on the sidelines. They have called events correctly, and not one has a desk to his name.

Our economic policy is still being shaped by Senators and Representatives who told us, wrongly, that once prices were set free, they would swiftly become reasonable. With unabashed mien, these false promisers continue to direct and lead, while these three miserable sons of truth have to find unofficial platforms (in the present case, that of the Americans for Democratic Action) on which to stand while they continue to address us.

JOKING SENATORS

I remember the jokes that were made on the Senate floor about Bowles last June, and the joking Senators are still fixtures of our Government. But Bowles himself, who warned at that time that to weaken price control "would be to increase the cost of living by 20 to 25 per cent by next March," and whose figures turned out to be uncannily right, is without place in the management of our affairs.

It all adds up to a pathetic story of a year in which we could not afford to be right, because we were in too much of a passion to make some money by being wrong. The strange reward, that these three men, Henderson, Porter and Bowles, have had, tells a rather remarkable story about the true meaning of the rightward drift which has crept over us, and indicates that that movement has perhaps been motivated by something other than an impatient love for truth.

TRUMAN DISAGREES

President Truman, poor prisoner of the rightward swing himself, finds that he has to disagree with Henderson, Porter and Bowles; he tells a press conference severely that he is sure there is no danger of a bust. Of course, on other recent occasions, as in his speech of last month to the Associated Press Convention, the President himself has warned us of the danger of a recession unless prices come down. But he cannot reissue that warning now, after Henderson, Porter and Bowles have done so; in these days of rightward tendency one must be careful what company one keeps.

So the President, who told us on April 21 that "the economic skies are not entirely clear" and that we need "prompt, preventive steps" to avoid an "economic cloudburst," now says austerely that he is perfectly sure there is no danger.

And the Republicans are sure, too, and most of Congress is sure, and there is little declared concern among them over the right to power to take action. The revolution of those who were wrong against those who were right is still in effect; it controls Congress, and, by intimidation, exerts great influence on the White House.

PERFECT FOOTNOTE

But there has rarely been an odder sight in the annals of government than that of these three men, Henderson and Porter and Bowles, sitting on the curbstone, and wondering how it is they happened to get there by being right. Their plight makes the perfect footnote to the short-range politics of this blustering, grabbing period of inflation.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

: Modern U. S. Art Appreciated Abroad

WASHINGTON

IN all the sarcastic cross-examination of the State Department's art program, it is interesting that no Congressman ever bothered to inquire about the effectiveness of these art exhibits in building friendship abroad.

Actually, had any Congressman inquired, he would have found that in Prague, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk personally opened the exhibit with a speech praising American art, while President Benes spent several hours studying the pictures. Apparently they appreciated the State Department's selection, including the fat circus lady, even if the Republican Congressmen from the wide-open spaces of Norfolk, Nebraska, or the famous prison-city of Auburn, N. Y., didn't.

In the Western Hemisphere, the art show was equally well received. In Haiti the public streamed to see it. One Cuban art critic said the show demonstrated that the United States was able to contribute to the cultural riches of man as well as to his material riches.

Even before Congress cut his appropriation, Assistant Secretary of State Bill Benton, worried over the scowls of Auburn, New York's Congressman Taber, sacrificed LeRoy Davidson, one of the nation's outstanding art collectors, who was in charge of the State Department's art project. Now both Congress and the State Department are being bombarded with protests from leading museum artists and laymen all over the country, many of whom charge that the attack on modern art is identical with similar moves by totalitarian regimes in Italy and Germany before the war.

Note—President Truman, who thinks no art after 1800 is really worth considering, has hung two paintings in the White House Executive Office lobby referred to by some visitors as "Harry's hideous delight." Truman paid $10,000 of the taxpayers' money for what many considered artistic atrocities. But anyway they aren't modern; so no Congressman is likely to be critical.

Truman's Birthday Friend

WHEN a group of Presidential cronies gathered at the White House to wish their friend a happy 63rd birthday, ex-Senate Secretary Leslie Biffle arrived a trifle late.

"Mr. President," Biffle said, "I've got a note here from my secretary, Betty Kraus, wishing you a happy birthday. It's Betty's birthday too, and she's proud to have been born on the same day."

Truman smiled, said nothing. About five minutes later, he excused himself, went into the next room, called Biffle's office, personally thanked Miss Kraus for her thoughtful note, and wished her a happy birthday too.

Two 'Impartial' Senators

IT looks as if the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad is wasting money by hiring lawyers. It seems to have two lawyers in the persons of Senator Capehart of Indiana, the music master, and Senator Willis Robertson of Virginia, who took the place of Carter Glass.

One a Republican, the other a Democrat, both have been acting as defenders of the B. & O. in Senate Tobey's probe of the railroad's heavy loans from Jesse Jones' old Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Chairman Tobey of the Senate Banking Committee at first was dubious about the pro-railroad questions asked by Capehart and Robertson. He had reason to be. For it was soon obvious that their questions were being ghost-written by B. & O. men attending the hearing. In fact, there was no secret in Robertson's case. Frederick E. Baukats, B. & O. attorney, openly and brazenly gave the Virginia Senator little slips of paper with jotted questions to ask witnesses.

Capehart has been more discreet. He uses a middle man. One of his office assistants, Dewey Waas, takes the questions from B. & O.'s Baukages in the corridor outside the hearing room and later passes them to the Indiana Senator. Senator Tobey ground his teeth when he discovered what was going on, but said nothing.

However, the New Hampshirite's pent-up rage exploded on Baukages the other day when he interrupted Tobey several times during the cross-examination of a witness.

"You've been making yourself a little too prominent around here," Tobey shot at the B. & O. representative. "Suppose you go over there and sit down—and shut up!"

So Mr. Baukages, who draws $18,500 a year from the B. & O., has now been more silent.

Note—Senator Tobey is interested in the peculiar way the B. & O. gave juicy jobs to RFC officials at the same time it obtained lush RFC loans.

Capital Chaff

THIS comes under the heading of "strange as it seems."

Today it's very hard to find anyone in Congress who will admit that he ever voted for abolishing the OPA. They're all for it now—just one year late. Surveys by the Council of Economic Advisers indicate that, despite Truman's price program, there's been no real reduction in the cost of living. However, Truman should be given credit for having halted the trend toward even higher prices. . . . Congratulations to Senator Russell of Georgia, fellow Democrat, who pounded the President Truman before they passed the labor bill rather than passing it first and risking a veto afterward. . . . Truman is afraid the 80th Congress may do to rent control what the 79th Congress did to the OPA. Under Senator Taft's legislative agenda, Congress will not act on the rent-control bill until just a few days before adjournment. The real-estate lobby, which is convinced that it has enough votes to destroy control, then hopes to put over a watered-down rent-control bill, which will be passed so late in the session that the President will be unable to veto it without getting blamed for destroying controls completely. That's exactly what happened to the OPA last year. . . . Mayor O'Dwyer of New York is not only cleaning the dirt out of Tammany Hall, but he is rubbing the Tammany tiger's nose in it. This week Mayor O'Dwyer arranged for the new Tammany Hall to give several thousand dollars' worth of forsythia bushes to be planted along Park Avenue—a tribute to GIs who died overseas. Mayor O'Dwyer's new slogan for Tammany is: "Tammany no longer takes from the city; it gives to the city."