THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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'See? Everything All Tied Up Together'

Round Three On The Boulevard

NO hotter issue confronts the new City Fathers than the cross-town boulevard controversy their predecessors thought they had settled once and for all. A legal technicality regarding the spending of City street improvement funds for the boulevard right-of-way has served to re-open the question, and the old familiar pressures are building to force a reversal of the original decision to go ahead with the City-State-Federal project.

Opponents of the project fall into two classes—those whose property along the route of the new boulevard would be affected by its construction, and those who have no direct interest but regard the boulevard as either unnecessary or improperly placed. They constitute a small minority of the citizenry, we believe, but they are organized, militant and effective. They all but stampeded the old Council in its earlier deliberations.

Proponents of the boulevard are, significantly, the Planning Board, and the State and Federal Highway Commissions. On the advice of traffic experts and engineers, they have urged that a new thoroughfare traversing the city proper be opened to accommodate the flow of east-west traffic. A perimeter route will not serve, they argue, because 90 per cent of Charlotte's traffic originates, terminates or pauses in the downtown area of the city. Moreover construction of the new boulevard will serve to lighten the traffic burden on existing streets, which is a prime consideration. The proposed route is the most economical of any surveyed, and fits into the Planning Board's master street plan.

All these arguments, coming as they do from disinterested sources, seem to us to outweigh the sincere objections of the boulevard's opponents. The old Council recognized, finally, that it faced a choice between following the recommendation of a group of experts and heeding a group of private citizens who, however sincere they might be, based their protest on instinct rather than information. The same choice now faces the new Councilmen, and we hope they will follow the precedent set by their predecessors. A few citizens have a stake in preventing construction of the boulevard, but all Charlotteans have a stake in seeing it put through at the earliest possible date.

The Bureaucrats Can Be Efficient

THE *New Yorker* once reported a political conversation between two purple-visaged members of the Yale Club in the course of which one thundered: "Our first mistake was when we let the Government take over the postal service!" All but the hardiest exponents of free enterprise, however, now admit that delivery of the mail is a proper function of the federal establishment. And most will agree that the bureaucrats handle it quite efficiently.

Executive Vice-President Robert Ramspeck of the Air Transport Association recently tossed a handsome posy to the Post Office Department. Discussing the development of airlines in the United States, he emphasized the major role the Department has played through its air-mail subsidies. In the early days of commercial aviation, these flat payments by the Government largely financed the lines, and they still provide a margin for profitable operation.

The Government would have been justified if it had written off the entire investment (some $515 million since 1918) on the grounds that development of air transport has been in the public interest. But Mr. Ramspeck makes the point that the Post Office Department has recovered 94 per cent of its total investment and eventually will recover it all. Revenue from the sale of air mail stamps has brought in $484 million over the years, and the rate of increase is steadily climbing even though rates have been drastically reduced.

Certainly this is an impressive record of sound management. An invaluable public service has been provided at minimum cost, and a major new private enterprise has been developed on a healthy competitive basis. All of which goes to prove, despite the dismal evidence on the other side of the ledger, that neither intelligent bureaucratic action nor effective co-operation between government and private business is impossible.

A Job For Vittorio

REMEMBER Vittorio Mussolini? He is the youngest son of the late Benito, and a veritable flower of Fascist youth. When his father set out to restore the Roman empire Vittorio rode with the first wave of the black-shirted legions, and he became, indeed, a sort of juvenile prophet for the cause.

Vittorio was a pilot in his father's air force at a time when the Italians looked pretty good in combat. His first taste of glory came in Ethiopia, although, since the Ethiopians had no air force of their own, it could hardly be called a test of skill. All Vittorio had to do was find his target—usually a handful of defenseless Ethiopians—and unload his bombs.

He enjoyed this tremendously, and he perfected his aim so that later when he flew against the equally defenseless Spanish Loyalists he was considerably more effective. There the Italian bombers had an impressive box score among the women and children of Spain, and Vittorio got his share.

He might have remained no more prominent than any other Fascist aviator, however, if he had not elected to preserve his impressions for posterity. The bombing of civilians, he wrote, has an esthetic quality about it. The pilot gazing down from his height cannot see the disintegrating bodies and the splattering blood. Instead he sees a lovely, multi-colored pattern of smoke. This, Vittorio said, resembled an unfolding rose, a thing of beauty that touched him deeply and appealed to his finer nature.

We don't know how Vittorio fared after the Italian Air Force ran into competition, but at any rate he survived. He dropped from view, along with most of his other near relatives, about the time his father was discovered, hanging head-down alongside his mistress, in an Italian square. But now he has turned up in the news again as the recipient of a handsome offer to move to Argentina and accept a post with a wholesale butcher.

The position in a slaughterhouse is highly appropriate, of course, but there is no reason to believe that the offer represents Argentine humor. Rather it must be taken as disturbing evidence that there are still those who feel sympathy and admiration for the likes of Vittorio Mussolini, and that some of them must be counted among our "good neighbors".

Another Voice

Nailing Some Lies

IN yesterday's issue of *The Durham Sun* appeared an advertisement by the Communist Party, U. S. A.

The "U. S. A." designation was necessary, of course, since Communism is an international movement and the advertisement signed by Sam Hall, the North Carolina commissar for the organization, represents the Carolina Soviet of only the United States division of the Communist Party.

The Communists, through Sam Hall, are complaining that they are being abused politically, being denied their civil rights under the Bill of Rights. "Lets nail some lies," invites Sam Hall. Okay, let's nail some lies.

Take the advertisement, itself, as a beginning. It is significant of the difference between the American democracy and Communism that the advertisement was accepted and printed. Although it is a laughable and ridiculous appeal, the advertisement may win some "suckers," there always seeming to be some weak-minded people around; but it was printed nevertheless, in keeping with the American principle of free speech and free press. Personally, we believe we stretched a point; because we feel free speech and free press are privileges to be used, not licenses to be abused.

The point is that Communism offers only one actual and factual laboratory where Communism is in operation. That laboratory is Soviet Russia. In Russia we see exactly what Communism intends and what it does. In Russia, an advertisement as divergent from Russian thought as Sam Hall's diatribe is from American thought could not have been printed. Indeed, it would, even at this late day in "The Revolution" mean Siberian exile or death to attempt the dissemination of any thought not promulgated, first, from the Kremlin.

The Communists, who fancy themselves as being infernally clever, are attempting to play on the fears and arouse the resentment of trade unions and "all progressive organizations." Ask Sam Hall how many trade unions there are in Soviet Russia. Ask him how many "progressive organizations" the Communistic Russian dictatorship permits within the reach of its power. Let's not be "dopes." Communism is not an advance. It is a recession into bondage and slavery for the many and it does not matter a tinker's dam, except to those in the ruling gang, whether the tyrants are Czars, Fascists, Nazis or Communists.

When the "advanced thinkers" debate your "backwardness" and your "grievances" with you, ask them to see the hooks hidden away beneath the something-for-nothing Communist bait. Tell them that when you buy an automobile, you want to see how it runs. Tell them that if you are going to "buy" their "little red wagon," you want to know whether the wheels really turn. Ask them how Russia compares to the United States for the poor man, the rich man or the in-between man.—*The Durham Sun.*

In Philadelphia a demand of U. S. Mint employees for more dough is under consideration. In the meantime, boys, you know the rule: You can't take it with you.

It took the NRA and its high-flying Blue Eagle to lift prices. Let us now therefore get up an ARN, with a Klwi, the bird that never leaves the ground.

People's Platform

. . . Where You Find It

PHOENIX, ARIZ.

Editors, THE NEWS:

SOMETIME ago I wrote an article for your valuable paper in which I mentioned that I contemplated going on an extended prospecting trip—looking for gold and other mineral wealth, and would, perhaps, be able to take enough with me to stand the rough life of living in the open for a spell and eating beans, salt pork, jackrabbit stew, etc.

I received many letters from men from all parts of the country. Most of them could have qualified only they had large families, and did not want to remain away from same, or they wanted to take their families with them. I might say that prospecting for gold and other valuable metals, minerals, etc., is not a week-end picnic. Neither can one engage in same on a shoestring, and the odds are decidedly against getting rich. It can be readily seen that to "go prospecting" is not just a hastily arranged jaunt into the desert or hills. Jellybeans, drug store cowboys, or fellows who have to have cough syrup and arthritis or asthma medicine with them, won't do well on one of these trips. There are snakes, especially rattlers to be reckoned with. Rattlers are not too numerous in Arizona, but there are some, and they mean business when they strike. They don't always give a warning either and one must watch out for them, and be familiar with their habits. There are also scorpions, centipedes, and venigaroons, which like to become chummy and crawl into one's bedroll and when angered, will sting and sting hard. While these stings are hardly ever fatal, it certainly won't make one very happy.

It might be also in order to say, that in the writer's own personal experience in prospecting and mining adventures, only about one dollar profit out of every ten has been realized so far. That applies to about 75 per cent of all prospecting expeditions throughout the country, but one keeps on and on, picks up more and more experience and, maybe, if he is lucky, he makes a strike that fixes him on "easy street" for life. That's what all prospectors look forward to. Then most of them live in hopes and die in despair. But there are other compensations; among which are the great open spaces, away from the crowded city and the "chiselers" profiteers, money-minded parasites, soldes, gasoline fumes, dazzling lights, and giddy dames, neighborhood rumors, and other stuff one gets tired of. You're out there on the desert or in the hills, close to God, and the air is pure and when you work hard all day and lie down at night under the stars, you sleep like a log and wake up the next morning, shake off the scorpions and insects and dive into a stack of pancakes with vim and vigor. You can really move mountains. There's no taste in your mouth of the night-before highballs, or memories of stale juke box music and "moon" stuff. You don't get cover charges in some night spot, where the food is not fit to eat and the entertainment is lousy. You get sorry for the mountains who have to put up with that kind of civilization, and begin to envy the Indians in the days of old when they roved the plains and deserts looking for some white man to scalp. The howl of a coyote sounds better to me than all the joke box music I ever heard. In fact, I'm sour on most string music since they discarded the five string banjos and started to playing so and so's arrangements. The best music I have ever heard was once when I found a nugget weighing six pennyweights. That little dull thud when I dropped it in a frying pan, certainly sounded good to me. I almost tore down an entire mountain, but guess somebody else had beat me to the gold, if any more ever was there.

I could use the right partner of the following qualifications: Big and strong, healthy, age between 30 and 60, a good shot, enough finances to pay his own way, no family ties to demand his presence at home for one to ten years, no drinking habit, good eyesight and a good shot with all kinds of shooting irons, and not be afraid of a pick and shovel or sleeping on the ground and an appetite for beans and salt pork. If there are any like that, write me c o Box 425, Phoenix, Ariz.

—W. BILL WILLIAMSON SR.

Anti-Christian

HIDDENITE

Editors, THE NEWS:

DON'T fool yourself about Communism. It is absolutely anti-Christian. In fact it opposes all religions. I have in my possession a leaflet from New Hope Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, N. C., which I would like for every American citizen to read in regard to Communism. Let me suggest that you address this church and get a copy, and do it now. I am quoting from its pages. It says "The Manifesto of the Communist Party by Marx and Engels is the bible of all the Communists throughout the world." On page 29 it says: "Communism abolishes eternal truths, abolishes all religion, and all morality."

This leaflet quotes Lenin as saying, "Atheism is an integral part of Marxism. Consequently, a classconscious Marxist Party must carry on propaganda in favor of atheism . . . Down with religion! Long live atheism! The dissemination of atheist views is our CHIEF task."

This leaflet likewise quotes Stalin as saying in Communist' Worker's Voice, published in Chicago: "The party cannot be neutral towards religion, and does not permit anti-religious propaganda against all and every religious prejudice." From the United States Report No. 2290, page 52, the leaflet quotes: "The Communist Party and Soviet Government have done everything in their power since 1917 to mock, destroy and outlaw religion. Churches have been pulled down, or turned into clubs, religious shrines despoiled, burial grounds desecrated, and the clergy persecuted and slain. The denial of religious liberty and the wiping out of all religions are an important part of the Communist program."

This leaflet says again: "The Communist wants everyone to be dissatisfied with his condition. . . . They would have people be dependent on the dictator in Moscow rather than God."

—WALTER E. ISENHOUR.

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.

Joseph & Stewart Alsop

The Kennan Dispatch

WASHINGTON

THE best way to understand the nature and purposes of American policy is to understand the minds and views of the men who make it. In this light, there is the greatest possible significance in the appointment of George Kennan to head Secretary of State George C. Marshall's new planning section. For Kennan is the author of the most important single state paper on the Soviet Union to be written since the Soviet problem began to dominate international relations.

It is extremely rare, in the nature of things, that a single telegram or dispatch from any embassy abroad achieves special celebrity, even within the highly limited circle to which such documents are commonly communicated. But this dispatch of Kennan's is by now pretty well accepted as the classic statement of the greatest problem confronting the modern world. And this holds true not only for the chief architects of American policy, but also for British and other leaders abroad to whom it has been shown in confidence, as the diplomatic custom is.

ESTIMATE REQUESTED

The dispatch was composed in February, 1946, at the height of the Iranian crisis. In the absence of Averell Harriman, Kennan was then charge d'affaires at Moscow. By reason of his reputation as the senior American expert on Russia and one of the most distinguished American diplomats, he was requested to offer his estimate of the situation at length and in detail.

The first section of Kennan's answering dispatch was keyed to a deeply significant, now almost wholly forgotten, statement by Generalissimo Stalin to a delegation of American trades union workers who visited Russia in 1927. To those Americans, Stalin remarked that "in the course of the further development of the international revolution" there would emerge "two centers of world significance".

The first of these would be "a socialist center (i. e. Soviet Communist center) tending to draw to itself" countries with like systems, and the second would be a "capitalist center (i. e., non-Communist, including governments by ordinary definition socialist, like the British) drawing to itself the countries which tend towards capitalism." Stalin bleakly added that "the battle between these two centers for command of the world economy" would ultimately decide the future of world development.

KREMLIN'S APPROACH

Against the background of the Kremlin's conviction of the inevitability of struggle, Kennan sketched in the nature of the Kremlin's approach to foreign relations. Westerners were inclined to forget that the Soviet leaders began with the basic teachings of their holy books: that the whole non-Soviet (or "capitalist") world is beset by internal conflicts, and that these conflicts hold out both an opportunity and a threat to the Soviet Union. The threat consists, of course, in the possibility that the conflicts of the non-Soviet world will lead to war, and that the war will be transformed into an attack on the Soviet Union. Equally obviously, the opportunity arises from the weakening effect of internal conflict on the forces shown in confidence, as the diplomatic custom is.

Kennan's prescription to solving this problem was as considered and judicious as the statement of the problem was penetrating and bleak. The Soviets have no fixed plans, withdraw before resistance, and are still weaker than the unified Western world.

CHANGE NOT IMPOSSIBLE

A basic change in Soviet policy is far from impossible. Such a change has in fact occurred once already, during the internal struggle after the death of Lenin, and may occur again in the aftermath of Stalin's retirement or as a result of some other Soviet upheaval. The long-range goals of American policy—true world organization and collaborative solution of world problems—cannot be achieved without a basic change in Soviet policy. Thus a change in Soviet policy must be America's chief interim objective.

And the way to seek such a change is as simple to describe as it is difficult to execute—disprove the theories on which Soviet policy is founded.

Samuel Grafton

Newburyport Failure

NEW YORK

THE "Newburyport Plan" for cutting retail prices 10 per cent has crashed, its end receiving considerably less publicity than its beginning. It turned out that the storekeepers of Newburyport, Mass., could not continue to cut their prices 10 per cent, unless their suppliers cut theirs, and their suppliers couldn't, or wouldn't, or anyway, didn't.

This perky little scheme perfectly expressed the contemporary American faith that the laws of economics can be set at defiance by a couple of speeches and a large number of pictures. And if Newburyport had only been a little nearer New York, the model agencies would have been called upon for help, in an exemplification of our modern folk belief in the talismanic value of the bare knee in moments of acute national crisis.

NEXT BLOW

I firmly expect that the next deadly blow against inflation will take the shape of a monster parade. This is our ultimate form of psychological big magic, demonstrating our faith that any problem which cannot be solved by a speech, or by a picture of a cutie cutting a ribbon in front of an archway, must obviously yield to a column of high school students sweating down some main street in the noonday sun.

On a higher level, the fact that we are still engaged in a kind of psychological war against inflation is shown by a statement from an economist of the National Industrial Conference Board, who says that consumers are unfair in expecting 1939 prices. These ungrateful characters, he indicates, are demanding prewar prices, though they certainly wouldn't accept 1939 wages. He believes the trouble is due to a lack of perspective, and to a lack of educational efforts by management.

The argument is well presented, and some balky consumers, reading it may turn hot-eyed with embarrassment, and hardly know which way to look.

NO BUYERS' STRIKE

But, somehow, I don't believe there is a real buyers' strike. I don't believe it's because of figures such as those which show that department store sales for the week ending May 10 were 13 per cent above sales for the corresponding week a year ago. That doesn't sound like a strike. The consumer is still behaving well, flinging himself quite gaily against the counters, and dropping 13 per cent more dollars out of his hot little hand than he did last year.

The trouble is that, at current prices, he can't quite meet counters as he used to, and if he refrains from buying certain articles, that is not due to a lack of perspective, but to a lack of scratch, or moo.

None of these psychological approaches is going to work. We are not going to solve our problem by lulling consumer discontent a few more contented, and we're not going to solve it on any voluntary small town basis, as if the attack on inflation were as easy to organize as a church supper.

SEARCH GOES ON

But the search for gadgets will go on, because the alternative is that dreadful thing, a national plan. The alternative prices at least halfway to the level of a real price credit as a weapon a Federal agency equipped with every device for publicity, investigation and exposure. That, plus a special Congressional committee to throw the light on the more shocking price increases, might do a great deal of good. It's a little late now to keep coming forward with partial plans, or cute ones; we need a more complete approach. Let's organize our fingerpointing.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

: Truman And Advisers Anticipate Slump

WASHINGTON

YOUR Pocketbook—Privately, Truman and his advisers are still upset about a depression. Recession hasn't set in yet, but costs haven't come down and the price-cut campaign proved a washout. The Council of Economic Advisers told Truman that layoffs—not reflected in unemployment figures—are mounting. Unemployed now total two and one-half million. . . . The landlords are ready to nick at the pocketbook again. Truman fears a last-minute rent-control extension bill which he'll be forced to sign like the OPA bill last Summer. The rent bill Congress has in mind means increases of from 15 to 80 per cent in rent costs.

New Homes—Making no housing progress for the veteran is the whole Administration housing program. Economists say six billions' worth of new homes were necessary by 1947. Figures show less than half of that will be built. This means your chances of new house and apartment are almost nil, also that continued high demand puts renters at mercy of landlords. Truman plans special Cabinet meeting with Council of Economic Advisers to work out solution.

Society News—Passing of Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean leaves Oklahoma oil heiress Mrs. Perle Mesta as No. 1 reigning queen of Washington society. Mrs. Mesta wined and dined Mr. Truman before H. S. T. became President. Runner-up in society sweepstakes is Mrs. Morris Cafritz, with Mme. Carlos Martins, wife of the Brazilian Ambassador, top entertainer among diplomatic group. Charming Greek-born wife of French Ambassador Henri Bonnet a close second. A beautiful dancer. Some dowagers are unkind enough to suggest that because of serious French food shortage, Secretary Clinton Anderson's wife Gretchen has been getting plenty of practice on the dance floor. Others say it's just because he's a good dancer.

DEMOCRATIC Dots and Dashes—Democratic Party headquarters began sprouting "Truman in '48" buttons this week. They say that it's no longer a secret that Truman will run. What is a secret is that he hasn't been paying much attention to recommendations from his Democratic National Committee. The party chieftains urged veto of portal-to-portal bill, but were ignored. They also asked Truman to soft-pedal get-tough-with-Russia; instead, emphasize that Greek-Turkish aid bill was "not relief in uniform." All Truman gave them was the silent treatment. Party leaders didn't cotton to Herbert Hoover's recent pro-Truman remarks. Anti-Hooverism has been strong Democratic talking point in recent years. Now Truman wants it stopped. You'll hear little more about "Hoover depressions."

War and Peace Dept.—General Marshall now finds State Department is no bed of roses. Marshall is worried about everything from Congress to the decorations of his new offices. Senator Vandenberg won't budge on confirmation of Francis Biddle to be American delegate to UN Social & Economic Council. This is a very important job. At San Francisco Social & Economic Council was given wide powers to insure economic security and "full employment" to guarantee a peaceful world. Vandenberg's Wall Street adviser, John Foster Dulles, fought bitterly against this, even insulted small nations who plumped for full employment. Vandenberg wants more business-minded man in job. . . . Marshall refuses to throw his prestige on the table in all-out fight for Biddle. Even the art journals at State Department worry Marshall. New State Department building was designed for War Department and entering diplomats are confronted with murals of flaming guns, fiery tanks and diving bomber planes—hardly a motif for peace.

Republican Worries—GOP becomes more and more disturbed about licking Truman. Old political axiom, "You can't lick someone with no one," still holds good. At least ten Republicans are running against Truman and they have no unified policy, frequently step on each other's toes. Republicans now have smooth-running headquarters staff, ably manned, but there's no surgeon to prune out all the hopefuls who think lightning may strike next year at Philadelphia.

Bradley's Battles—Two-fisted Gen. Omar Bradley, Vets Administrator, has his hands full with Congress. Bradley took the rundown Veterans Bureau, remodeled it almost by sheer will power into the most efficient veterans organization in the Nation's history. Yet, he gets almost no recognition. He makes few enemies, gets into few fights, does his job. Slogan around the White House is "Omar can take care of himself." Bradley does, even with such millstones around his neck as White House Military Aide, Gen. "Bumbling Harry" Vaughn. Bradley handles Vaughan with courtesy, firmness, lets Vaughan take all the credit. He has one friend in Congress may cut Bradley's appropriation, but it it does, there'll be real trouble.

AGRICULTURAL Outlook—One Cabinet member with few headaches is able Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson. Farm outlook this year is bright. Surpluses will be ample to restock nearly bare cupboards, but not large enough to be alarming. Even sugar outlook is improving at home with drop in foreign demand. Dairy prices disturb experts who don't know what level they'll settle at. Foreign cotton demand has may ease pressure on cotton prices despite short crop. Farm labor outlook is still bad, with city jobs offering sharp competition in way of easier work, more greenbacks.

Unles: New—Biggest question still facing AF of L and CIO is "union now." Should they team up or not? Both groups are willing, but they can't agree on terms. CIO wants one big union. AF of L wants everyone to come back into the Federation, take their lumps.

Justice Dept. — Attorney General Tom Clark plans whole series of speeches pledging safeguards to civil liberties in new "loyalty" investigations. Democratic Party leaders want him to make first speech in Detroit, where the issue that followed World War I. Clark won't promise. The other night FBI agents swooped down on former aides of Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, quizzed them for hours at FBI headquarters about Morgenthau's "Communist connections." G-men even warned Government workers against being seen with "suspected radicals." Morgenthau made a stiff private protest to the White House, asked how many years a man has to be a Cabinet member before being immune to "witch hunting."

The Navy Dept.—Navy Secretary James Forrestal is talking about quitting again. He finds peacetime Navy isn't sufficient challenge to his ability, wants out. He'll hang around in hopes of being named Secretary of National Defense. Failing that, he'll resign. Forrestal wanted to be Governor of New York but Democrats won't let Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York is now a cinch for the nomination, leaving Forrestal standing in the cold with his bellbottom trousers.