THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Eisenhower And The Republicans

GENERAL OF THE ARMY EISENHOWER came to North Carolina yesterday, spoke at Raleigh last night, made a highly agreeable impression on everyone and dropped no hints concerning his 1948 Presidential aspirations, if any.

Despite the General's reticence, a real boom for him now is under way. It apparently has its base in his own Kansas and neighboring Kansas City, Missouri, but has received encouragement in New York and Washington. It has drawn major attention in the press and in certain national magazines, includinug Henry Luce's *Life*, which has thumped the drums lustily for Eisenhower as the Republican candidate. Since the General hasn't closed the door to a draft, there is a growing feeling that the movement for him will continue.

Perhaps the best measure of the General's political appeal is given in the Gallup Poll. To the question whether they would like to see General Eisenhower a candidate, 35 per cent answered yes, 48 per cent no, and 17 per cent had no opinion. The significant point is not found in this negative majority but in the breakdown of the poll showing that only one class, manual workers, favored the Eisenhower candidacy, while professional and business men, farmers and white collar workers voted against him. The vote was: Farmers, 24 per cent yes, 54 per cent no, 22 per cent undecided; professional and business man 25 yes, 64 no and 11 undecided; white collar, 31 yes, 54 no and 15 undecided; manual workers, 44 yes, 37 no and 19 undecided.

This sampling of public opinion supports the conclusion of virtually all observers that political sentiment for Eisenhower comes largely from the laboring man and the independent voter, and that he holds no attraction for the Republican Old Guard. (Incidentally, the Gallup Poll disclosed that 22 per cent of those who answered thought Eisenhower was a Republican, 20 per cent guessed he was a Democrat and 58 per cent didn't know).

This fresh evidence that Eisenhower as a Presidential candidate stirs no enthusiasm among conservatives provides food for thought when it is considered in connection with the growinug weight of the boom for him in the Republican Party. The individuals and interests supporting him are less noted for their liberal sentiments than their political acumen. In other words, they are not out to liberalize the Republican Party. They are looking for a sure winner. The earnestness with which they are promoting the General suggests that some important elements of the GOP have become alarmed over the deterioration of the party's strength and do not share the confidence of the standpatters that they can win with any candidate.

Eisenhower's one chance now seems to lie in a convention deadlock between the Taft and Dewey forces which would create the situation for a stampede to a compromise man. The General's backers obviously hope to build him up for this role by tactics similar to those used for Wendell Willkie in 1940. A Taft-Dewey deadlock is in prospect but most Republicans expect that their situation in 1948 will be vastly different from what it was in 1940 when Willkie staged his blitz on the Old Guard. The horrid thought that they might have to accept another independent and comelately Republican champion, perhaps a Democrat in disguise, apparently has occurred to but few of them. However, if we read the signs correctly, the progress of the Eisenhower boom in the Republican Party means that certain astute party leaders are taking a much darker view of GOP chances in 1948.

A Start On The Traffic Problem

CHARLOTTE finally is beginning to do something about its traffic accident problem, which has given it the tragic distinction of leading the state in number of persons killed in the first half of 1947.

Re-institution of a special traffic enforcement squad in the City Police Department, which was announced Wednesday, is a move in the right direction but it should bring no relaxation of public pressure for more safety measures.

Traffic Captain Lloyd W. Henkel has recommended an increase in fees for traffic violations. This is certain to bring an outcry from car owners, who will never learn the lesson that traffic law enforcement must be painful if it is to be effective, and that the little added cost to violators has the effect of saving the entire community a great deal in property and lives.

The increased penalty on overtime parking is particularly desirable, for the congestion that is produced by such parking is one of the large factors in traffic accidents. While the Police are working on the problem of clearing the traffic lanes, they could profitably devote more attention to better synchronization of traffic lights.

Traffic studies have spotted two points where Charlotte may make improvements in providing protection for its citizens. One is the matter of street lighting. The other is driver education and training for young people. A program for such training is being advanced in the Charlotte schools but it needs to be pushed much more energetically. It was announced yesterday that new street lights, which have been on order two years, will soon be installed here. Whether we will get them in sufficient numbers remains to be seen.

Sixty per cent of all fatal traffic accidents occur during the hours of darkness. Special studies conducted by the National Safety Council show that the night fatal accident rate per mile is three times as high as the daytime rate. There has been a steady increase in the number of night fatal accidents, which totaled 19,700 in the 12-month period covered in the 1947 edition of the Safety Council's "Accident Facts". Daytime fatalities in the same period totaled 14,000.

Emphasizing the need for driver training in the schools, traffic authorities say that the fatal accident rate for the 16-20 year group of motorists is nine times as bad as it is for the 45-50 age group.

The cost of our failure to pay more attention to this problem cannot be computed but it is a large item in the nation's traffic accident bill for one year—33,700 deaths and property damage of $900,000,000.

Research For 'National Survival'

JOHN R. STEELMAN, the Presidential Assistant, has presented an impressive case for the Administration's program for scientific research on a scale adequate to maintain America's leadership in the Atomic Age.

The Steelman proposal, contained in his first report as chairman of the President's Scientific Research Board, gives more concrete form to President Truman's objections to the National Science Foundation Bill that was passed at the last session of Congress. In vetoing that measure, President Truman contended that it centered too much authority in a proposed committee of scientists. Steelman's report, with its emphasis on "national survival" and the scientific knowledge required for pushbutton warfare, makes it crystal clear that the objection came from the military.

The new program, if it is carried out, will mark another defeat for civilian scientists who have opposed extension of military control. In his statement, Mr. Steelman has reminded Congress and the public of the hard facts that make this regrettable outcome inevitable. Arguments against a science geared to military needs, like objections to universal military training, simply break down in the face of evidence that Russia wants no peace and is placing all emphasis on science in her effort to outstrip the United States in military and industrial power.

Considering the circumstances and the times, the Administration's policy seems to have given maximum consideration to all factors. A balanced program, giving substantial encouragement to scientific research and training in every field of our national life, while maintaining military research at "high levels" for at least five years, is being evolved. The cost figure advanced—1 per cent of the national income, or an estimated $2,000,000,000 a year—seems to be a very modest one considering what we stand to gain from the program.

Another Voice

Crusade Against Tobacco

YEARS ago a crusade against the use of cigarettes—then called "coffin tacks"—failed. The failure was accelerated when doctors and women added their testimony against the charge of injury and practiced smoking to such an extent that 327,000,000,000 cigarettes were consumed last year—an average of 8.34 cigarettes a day for each person in the nation over fourteen years of age.

With the almost universal consumption, the few opponents have diminished in number and in influence. However, *The Church Militant*, which calls itself the "unofficial organ of the Protestant Episcopal Evangelicals," has inaugurated a crusade against what it calls "the tobacco curse to the nation" which it calls "a world blight."

Though this new crusade starts out with much condemnation of following in the footsteps of Sir Walter Raleigh, it recognizes it is "up against it" in trying to induce the church to fight the use of tobacco. It recalls that in the Lambeth Conference "three noted bishops got down before the chimney and smoked so the smoke could go up the chimney and prevent any odor getting in the palace." It says "royalty, both men and women, indulge freely", and American bishops and clergy smoke almost without exception, and that "our seminaries are warmed by fierce smokers."

The church paper thus admits that "it is up against it" in an attempt to arouse the church and the people to eschew all chewing and smoking. It is not only that the habit has a strong hold on millions, but that millions and billions of money are invested in growing and the manufacture. The Government derives hundreds of millions in taxes, and the industry is strongly entrenched.

The crusaders recall the impotent gesture of Sir Walter Raleigh's servant who doused him with water in the belief that he was burning up, only to find he was enjoying his pipe. The crusaders have a hard road to travel.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

Jack The Giant Killer

People's Platform

Puzzle In Taft-Hartley Law

ROCK HILL, S. C.

Editors, THE NEWS:

WELL, I see by the paper that Mr. Taft and Mr. Hartley figure on changing the old American tradition which says a good citizen is innocent until proved guilty. They want all the officers of our unions to swear that they are not Communists before they will let the NLRB listen to any union complaints.

Seems like the 13,000,000 union members of the AFL and the CIO are being bossed by Communists. Did you ask what a Communist looks like? Dogged if I know, but they rag that handle on Joe and Tom from out our way unless they sign a piece of paper, saying that they ain't.

Seems that the real Communists would be real willing to state that kind of a paper, but I'll bet right quick that Joe and Tom will kind of buck before they put their John Hancock on that paper. It's right insulting, I figure.

Next thing, I expect to read in the papers, will be a law asking the men who run the mills and factories to sign a paper saying that they ain't Fascists or Nazis and then you can perk your ears up to hear the loudest howls this side of the Mason-Dixon line.

—JOHN EMIS.

A. E. Bassett Is 'Converted'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

TAKING occasion to remark on two very noteworthy letters appearing in Tuesday's People's Platform, that is, Mr. Mulwee's cheering message to us sinners that there isn't any burning Hell (no matter how devoutly some of the saints secretly hope there is), and (gulp) Stella Aston's timely reference to the anarchistic drivel of one A. E. Bassett.

I am inclined to agree with Mr. Mulwee that there is no burning Hell. I (gulp) sincerely hope he is right, at least about this particular part of his philosophy. I hope he is wrong about there not being a Heaven, but if he has got to be either 100 per cent right, or 100 per cent wrong, I hope he is "cooking with gas", as the saying goes.

Now, to get back to Miss Aston's spirited defense of the non-bus smokers. I think there is a lot in what she says, and I am serving notice right now, I am quitting the bus smokers cold. And I am going to take my prescribed punishment, that is, I am going to ride a bus to work tomorrow morning. I am going to get myself pinned up next to a cigarette fiend and get smoke blown in my face for about twenty blocks. Then I am going to have the fiend arrested, because I want to show the (chuckle) mythical Miss Aston that I am willing to do the right thing, even if it's wrong.

—ALTON E. BASSETT.

For 'Hands Off' In Palestine

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE recently published Jewish War Veterans' solicitation for United Nations interventionin Palestine not only indicates illogical reasoning but also suggests a scheme or device designed to implement illegal entry of European Jews into Palestine, and thereby appreciably contribute toward strengthening the outlaw Jewish military arm for the ultimate venture—seizure of the juicy Palestine prize package.

The evidence is clear and decisive that the 50,000,000 Arabs and their 230,000,000 Moslem sympathizers are intent upon preventing invasion of their homeland, and neither will they bow the back or bend the knee in submission to what is regarded as an alien minority. Careful observers agree that Arab-Moslem resentment in this respect runs high, and it is only the restrain of British authority that has prevented the Moslem-Arab world from rocking the entire Middle East.

Remove British authority—troops and police—and the smoldering embers of antipathy and reprisals will burst into flame.

Zionists and the Jewish War Veterans know this, hence the suggestion if the United Nations could not maintain an adequate police force in Palestine upon British withdrawal the necessary force "be recruited from among veterans of all faiths". The Jewish War Veterans realize that few if any veterans of other faiths would volunteer for such a hazardous venture, and therefore proposes that the "total resources" of 600,000 Jewish War Veterans would their aid in maintaining "such force". This would give them the advantage of approximately 50 to 60 militare divisions, which in round figures would equal half the full military force of the United States Army. Such a force parading around Palestine would serve only as an invitation to armed conflict in which countless lives of innocent people would be neoparadized.

America's best course in the Palestine disturbances is a strict handsoff policy.

—A. W. BLACK.

Christians On The Sabbath

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

SOMETIME back a Mrs. Barges presented a letter in which she stated that people who attended amusements on Sunday were sinners and would be punished in the hereafter.

Mrs. Barges has taken it upon herself to condemn another Christian faith. For her information there is a Christian faith whose following outnumbers all the rest of the Christian faiths put together. On Sunday afternoon these people rest; rest in the best way possible, by indulging in some activity directly opposite to the week's work. Rest to the modern business man and workman doesn't mean sitting and thinking. According to Mrs. Barges all these people are doomed on Judgment Day. I don't believe it.

If Mrs. Barges would take a trip out through the Middle West at this very time of the year, she would pass very few churches that didn't have a banner out announcing their annual Fall carnival, county fair or chicken dinner. Sunday was always one of the days on which these events took place. Are all these millions of people doomed? Of course not.

R. GRANEY.

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.

Life In Soviet Union

Goals Vs. Results

This is the last of Paul W. Ward's articles in the series, "Life In The Soviet Union," reprinted from The Baltimore Sun.

By PAUL W. WARD

THE following tabulation compares actual Soviet production achievements in 1940 with the production goals the Kremlin hopes USSR industry will reach in 1950. It also includes comparable figures on Soviet production in 1945.

The latter figures — actual ones where official data exist and, otherwise, estimated—include one which suggests Soviet invasion losses did not cut Russian industrial production more than eight per cent. That is the figure for 1945 industrial production, which is valued, like the corresponding ones for 1940 and 1950, in 1926-27 rubles.

	1940	1945	1950
Total industrial production (rubles)	137,500,000,000	127,000,000,000	205,000,000,000
Motor cars and trucks	147,000	100,000	500,000
Tractors	31,000	8,600	112,000
Railroad cars (2-axle units)	*49,100	15,000	146,000
Electric power output (k.w.h.)	11,000,000	10,700,000	22,400,000
Number of workers	30,400,000	27,300,000	33,500,000
Wool cloth (meters)	123,000,000	62,000,000	159,400,000
Rail transport	415,000,000,000	300,000,000,000	532,000,000,000
Pig iron (metric tons)	15,000,000	9,000,000	19,500,000
Steel (metric tons)	18,300,000	13,800,000	25,400,000
Aluminum (metric tons)	60,000	86,000	172,000
Nickel (metric tons)	8,700	15,000	38,500
Coal (metric tons)	166,000,000	147,000,000	250,000,000
Peat (metric tons)	31,800,000	19,800,000	44,300,000
Oil (metric tons)	31,100,000	18,400,000	35,400,000

*1938. †Ton-kilometers hauled.

The automotive production goal for 1950—500,000 units—is two times the best prewar production recorded in this field by the Soviet Union. The total is to include only 65,600 passenger cars.

DUBIOUS PROGRAM

Even if achieved, the 1950 production goals would leave the Soviet Union still far behind the 1940 American production record in key industries and the history of past five-year plans doesn't suggest the quotas will be met.

One Western engineer has a word of advice for Western propagandists: "We should encourage these people to stick to Communism. We should tell them they're doing fine. So long as they stick to their present system, they aren't going anywhere; they'll never be a danger to the rest of us." This was supplemented by another, who said:

"To whatever extent the Soviet system works, it works in spite of the 'planners.' There are two Russian economies, the official one—that is, the one that exists on paper in Government plans and regulations—and the actual one that goes on beneath the surface.

"GRAFT"

"The manager of a shoe factory, for example, can't produce shoes for lack of coal. The manager of a mine can't produce coal for lack of shoes. The two get together outside the rules, or 'plan', and make a barter deal—coal for shoes. That way things finally get done. But that way is, of course, 'illegal', and whenever the authorities want to 'get' some plant manager or minister of industry, they lift the lid just long enough to expose some of these dealings which are denounced as 'corruption' or 'graft'."

Getting more technical, another engineer deplored what he said was a kind of Soviet chauvinism that required Soviet engineers to make some change in any plant or machinery design purchased from abroad. As a result, machines destined to operate at certain speeds break down because Soviet engineers have upped their gear ratios beyond the tensile strength of the metals used, he said.

USUAL THING

Another engineer contributed a story of a plant found using the wrong kind of oil in delicate machines. The ball bearings they produced were consequently rough and useless.

Asked what was done after he had explained the situation to the authorities, he replied:

"The usual thing in Soviet industry. Instead of changing the oil, they called in a party boss who gave the workers a political harangue."

Marquis Childs

New German Muddle

BERLIN

TOO often in working out American foreign policy, the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing. That happened with respect to Germany, and the consequences for a time looked so serious that everything we are trying to do here might have gone for nothing. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, American military governor, felt that the ground was being cut from under him, and a rumor of his resignation was current.

Fortunately, the London conference on the level of German industry seems to have gone more smoothly than anyone expected, and therefore the only harmful result of the situation may be delay.

This is what happened. In March of 1946, representatives of the Big Four on the Allied Control Council in Berlin reached an agreement on the level of German industry. It was based on the language of the Potsdam declaration, which said that the occupying powers were to help the Germans "prepare" for the eventual reconstruction of their life on a democratic and peaceful basis."

SLASHED PRODUCTION

The four-power agreement provided that German steel production in any one year would not be more than 5,800,000 tons, with total capacity at 7,500,000 tons. The agreement meant cutting German production back approximately to the level of the depression year of 1933. Excess plants and machinery were to be allocated as reparations.

Supposedly, under the agreement, there would be an exchange of goods between the four zones. Germany would be a single economic unit.

It did not work that way. An unexpected burden was foisted on the U. S. and British zones. Hundreds of thousands of Germans moved in from the Soviet zone, hoping for a better break.

With great difficulty the average level of diet was kept at 1100 to 1500 calories a day, and last Winter it fell below even that subsistence minimum. This was true although more than $600,000,000 of supplies were being shipped in from outside, mostly from the U. S. A.

CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT

Both British and American officials in Germany were in agreement that the level of industry would have to be raised. They began to work out a program for uniting the economies of their two zones. The idea was to make them more nearly self-sufficient because obviously the British cannot go on footing the bill and the American taxpayer will sooner or later rebel.

Clay was invited by Secretary of State George C. Marshall to attend the conference of Foreign Ministers in Moscow last March. There he had several long conferences with Marshall and British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin. They ordered him finally to go ahead and, in cooperation with the British Military Government, to work out a new level for industry in the British-U. S. zones.

That plan was completed on July 16. Into it had gone weeks of patient work. It provided that sufficient industry would be retained in the two zones so that German production would be approximately at the level of 1936, which was neither a boom year nor a depression year. This level would represent a reduction of 55 to 60 per cent under the wartime year of 1944.

PLAN UPSET

Then Clay learned that a French-U. S.-British conference was to be called in London to pass on the whole question. That would mean certainly a delay. It might mean that the whole plan was out the window.

Faced with another Winter and 40,000,000 hungry Germans, it seemed to Clay at that time that his position was intolerable. Responsibility without power, or with a conflict of powers, led to a stalemate and defeat. But Clay is not the type to take defeat lying down.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Peron Is 'Prisoner' Of His Generals

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
(For Drew Pearson)

WASHINGTON

WHILE the Peron delegation has been jolting U. S. plans for hemisphere defense at the Rio Conference, Peron himself has been experiencing some severe jolts in Buenos Aires.

According to confidential dispatches from the Argentine Capital, he is cowed by ultra-Nationalistic Army elements. Peron has been stripped of real power and made the virtual prisoner of this clique.

Leaders of the clique are Generals Filomeno Velasco, former Chief of the Federal Police, and Oscar Silva, former Peron military aide. The secret coup took place in Peron's home Aug. 14, in the presence of his full Cabinet.

After a stormy argument with the two generals, Peron announced his intention to resign the Presidency.

"You will not," Velasco shot back. "You are not going to pull an Oct. 17 on us. You're going to stay right here and do as you are told."

(The Oct. 17 reference was to the day in 1945 when Peron was freed from jail by huge street demonstrations after eight days' arrest on conspiracy charges).

Orders From The Generals

PERON has been following the general's orders since Aug. 14.

It was on their order that he abruptly ousted his close friend and economic czar, Miranda, from the Cabinet last week. This was the first change in the Peron Cabinet since he became President. Miranda, who is reputed to have become immensely wealthy since he tied up with Peron, is strongly disliked by Argentine business interests and large landowners.

Other Cabinet changes will be announced shortly. Intention of the military clique is to create a super-cabinet; a small group made up of generals and admirals. Admiral Castro, dominant political figure in the Navy, is slated to be in this ruling band.

Underlying the "palace revolution" is the belief of the military that civil war impends in Argentina. Labor, formerly backbone of Peron's support, has become increasingly hostile in recent months as a result of a combination of repressive measures and failure to make good his promises.

Plan of the generals' clique is to set up a form of police state with far-reaching totalitarian controls in order to be in a strong position to combat a mass revolt if and when it occurs.

NOTE: Significant fact not reported by the Rio press was that Pegon's glamorous wife, Eva, did not go to Buenos Aires upon her return from Europe. She went direct to the Rio Conference.

Revolt Over 'Bell Cycle'

THE "bell cycle" may not be a threat to world peace, but it has thousands of American women angrily shooting from the hipline.

"Bell cycle" is the trade name for the latest feminine fashion trend—those long, tapered skirts with the "hip accent" decreed by style arbiters.

No one in the Government is experiencing a bigger headache from the controversial innovation than Mrs. Virginia Collier, attractive chief of the Apparel Branch of the Commerce Department's Textile and Leather Division. She has to read the flood of brickbats rolling in from all parts of the country demanding that the Government "do something" about the latest skirt edict.

Chief complaint of the indignant letter-writers is over the expense of buying new wardrobes.

"In general," reports Mrs. Collier, "youth is accepting the change more amenably than older women. Also, judging by the sales of higher-priced garments, the upper-income brackets aren't too antagonistic. But, generally speaking, dollar-volume sales of women's clothing are, below last year's. And that's the best yardstick of how women feel about this new style."

General Patton Vs. General Lee

SIGNIFICANT in the uproar over Lt. Gen. John ("God-almighty") Lee is the fact that no U. S. battle commander in Europe has come forward with a single word in his defense, Lee was Chief of Staff to Eisenhower.

While a number of combat officers, some of them regulars, have spoken out caustically regarding him, not one has yet said a good word for him. The reason is that Lee was widely unpopular.

The late great Gen. George S. Patton Jr. repeatedly clashed with Lee over the failure of Third Army to get urgently needed battle supplies and reinforcements. Patton's personal history of Third Army, relates this illuminating incident of Lee's relations with Patton:

On one of Patton's rare visits to SHAEF in London, prior to the invasion, Lee noticed that Patton had brass buttons on his battle jacket. Several days later Lee issued a directive banning brass buttons and ordering that only bone buttons be worn. He sent a copy of the order to Patton with a handful of bone buttons.

After reading the order, Patton threw it in the wastebasket and the buttons into a draw in his desk. He continued to wear his brass buttons until the day he died.

Gun Shy Republican Trend

THE House Small Business Committee's probe of farm cooperatives has shrewd Speaker Joe Martin worried.

From his home in North Attleboro, Mass., he sent this warning telegram to Committee Chairman Walter Ploeser, St. Louis Republican: "Take it easy. Don't be rash. Wire me your plan of procedure. Investigation may backfire."

Significantly, Martin sent his wire the same day Senator Owen Brewster, head of the embattled War Investigating Committee, visited him.