THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

60th Anniversary Year

THOMAS L. ROBINSON ..... Publisher
J. E. DOWD ..... General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH ..... Executive Editor

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1948

THE GUINEA PIG GETS SELF-CONSCIOUS

CERTAIN screen-writers out in Hollywood, we understand, look on the downfall of the poll-taker as something heavenly.

The creative talent out that way has been harassed too much lately by the public opinion expert who presumed, after the fashion of the day, he could measure what the movie-going public wants to see. Like some medicine man on the Gold Coast brewing his magic and handing down his edicts, the great percentage gatherers rule the day with the front-office. Audience reaction in Glendale — not the writer's sense of unity—decides whether Pidgeon or Peck gets Paulette. Lana Turner pours herself into a swim suit as often as the San Bernardino audience gets restive.

Now in the post-revolution atmosphere some of the Hollywood hired help think Harry Truman's victory over the poll-taker may swing the tide back to the old fashion system. And they love it.

Dudley Nichols, one of the better writer-directors, had some torrid comments for *The New York Times* on the subject last Sunday. Audience Research Inc., a Gallup enterprise, bore the chief brunt of his attack.

"I understand," wrote Mr. Nichols, "that the romance between Dr. Gallup and Governor Dewey has cooled, and if so, I hope Hollywood's entrepreneurs will take note. Movie-making is a sadly uncertain affair, and naturally, film industrialists were overjoyed when Dr. Gallup turned an art into a science — something predictable . . . This new scientific era in movie-making was sometimes tough on writers and film-makers, who can work with enthusiasm on something they personally happen to like and can grow strangely apathetic when told to work on 'public demand'. But I now suspect that Hollywood is going to be dropped right back into the pre-scientific dark ages, when movie men had to work by hunch, experience, intuition and sheer blind enthusiasm. We shall have to go back, alas, to testing movies by public public opinion instead of Dr. Gallup's private public opinion . . ."

And the debacle threatens not only the movie-makers. A certain party of our acquaintance, when called by the Hooper Service, got furious because it wasn't Stop the Music, and told Hooper he was listening to Fred Allen — just for spite.

Anything can happen with the poll-takers' great audience now self-consciously aware of his status as a guinea pig. Norman Thomas might sweep the poll-takers' delicate percentages to smithereens in 1952; housewives might start saying they prefer *The Literary Digest* over *Time*; and Orson Welles might become a box-office favorite with the bobby-soxers in Pasadena.

The great big percentage-perfect world of 1948 has been rudely torn apart by the little man from Missouri.

UPHEAVAL IN KANSAS

IN the middle of all the excitement of the election dry old Kansas took the first step toward repealing her 68-year-old prohibition laws. This was a revolution no less impressive than Harry Truman's important victories in the Middle-Western Corn Belt.

Already the Licensed Beverage Industries say they detect a trend — which in these post-revolution days is a dangerous thing to detect. The facts are that Kansas, in spite of her wet majority, will find it hard to carry a legalized liquor bill through her rural-dominated legislature. But the majority vote for repeal shows that a fight is forthcoming, and since a similar Tar Heel battle is envisioned in Raleigh early next year, the Kansas contest should be interesting to watch.

Kansas is one of the very few "bone dry" states left, and her rigid prohibition laws, now well into their second half century of life, make her symbolical of the standard opposition to legalized liquor. "Dry as Kansas" was a national simile earlier in the century when national political parties rose and fell in popular favor with the liquor issue.

Kansas has plenty of laws on the books to keep liquor out. The State Constitution bans the manufacture and sale of liquor; laws passed by the Legislature prohibit the transportation and possession of liquor. So the state has a long way to go before repeal is an accomplished fact.

Meanwhile it might be noted that only two other states in the Union — Mississippi and Oklahoma — now entirely prohibit the sale of distilled spirits. The folks who manufacture whisky would like to believe that prohibition is indeed "on its way out as a political issue, even at the state and local level."

There has seldom been a controversy in American public life that had so many sincere people fighting on both sides, or that generated so much confusion of aims and dearth of accomplishment. The News has long expressed the opinion that prohibition many years back proved its inadequacy in coping with the liquor problem. These columns have often declared that traffic in alcohol can be controlled but not prohibited.

This newspaper reiterates that stand as the returns come in from Kansas and as North Carolina's Legislature prepares to wage its biennial battle royal.

PARTNERS IN CRIME

TO WHAT degree is society to blame for four men injured, one fatally, in Gastonia Sunday by a half-crazed youngster with a .22 rifle and a shotgun? Is it our fault that Ray Aldridge, a 21-year-old ex-convict barricaded himself in the house where he had grown from childhood, then shot it out with 40 policemen?

In part, yes.

Yes, because our penal system is still one of punishment rather than education and cure. Ray Aldridge had been in State Prison twice before he was old enough to vote. Once he was sent to Raleigh for larceny—and he served one year of a two to three year sentence. Last year he went up for two years for highway robbery. He served nine months before he was paroled. What did he learn when he first went to prison? That crime doesn't pay? Evidently not, for he stole again. To "hate cops"? Evidently yes, for he shot two of them on Sunday.

Yes, because our parole system is far from perfect. Ray Aldridge was paroled after his second offense. Perhaps the Paroles Commissioner's office examined young Aldridge carefully before he was released, but apparently not carefully enough. North Carolina should grant paroles, but caution should be exercised.

And for a number of other reasons we are partially to blame for four persons shot in Gastonia Sunday. Because we do not stop the illegal sale of such dangerous drugs as "yellow jackets" and "goof balls" (barbituric acid), because we—as a nation —have an affection for violence as indicated by our motion pictures and reading matter and radio programs, because our educational system has not taught youngsters that there are methods other than drunkenness for finding pleasure; and as parents we are also to blame.

This does not mean that Ray Aldridge himself is not guilty. We merely wish to point out that we were partners in his crime.

Bigger Bait—Bigger Catch, Harry

Taft-Hartley Repeal Tops The List

What Labor Wants From 81st Congress

(Summarized by Congressional Quarterly)

AFL and CIO go into national conventions during next two weeks to map strategy to wipe out labor's past defeats by action in the 81st Congress.

Flushed from Senate and House election victories, AFL will meet beginning Nov. 15 in Cincinnati while CIO sessions will open Nov. 22 at Portland, Ore. Leaders of the two major labor organizations won't talk specifics until after the conventions, but priority items on the agenda are Taft-Hartley Act repeal, inflation control, low-cost housing and minimum wage increases.

Other items of particular importance to labor are reorganization of the Labor Department, broadening the Social Security base and raising its benefits. This is how labor stands on major issues:

Key: F—For, A—Against, ?—No stand.

	AFL	CIO	RR Unions
Taft-Hartley Act repeal	F	F	F
Price control, rationing	F	F	F
Low-cost public housing	F	F	F
Rent control extension	F	F	F
Increased minimum wage	F	F	F
Broadened Social Security, increased benefits	F	F	F
National Health insurance	F	F	?
Federal aid to education	F	F	A
Universal military training	A	A	A
Temporary draft	F	A	?
European recovery program	F	F	F
Civil rights bills	F	F	?
Mundt-Nixon Communist registration	A	A	?

Labor leaders say military aid for Europe may come up at the convention—a new issue. All labor has been unified in support of the Marshall Plan for economic aid except a few CIO unions typified by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. All labor opposed universal military training in the 80th Congress; the CIO opposed the temporary draft, AFL went along with it and the rail unions took no stand.

Labor was badly beaten in the 80th Congress. The only major victories it shared lay in the failure of the universal military training and Mundt-Nixon bills and passage of the European Recovery Program and consumer and bank credit controls.

Labor lobbyists plugged for long-term rent control extension and a liberal policy of DP admission but could not avert provisions they disliked in both cases.

Farm price supports will undoubtedly come up for consideration at the conventions. CIO has announced it will back a "reasonable" farm price support program. AFL has been for supports, but says it will review its stand. Other unions are not on record.

The planning of labor's strategy in the battle to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and put across the other measures in its program likely will be launched also at the convention sessions.

In the original 1947 fight against Taft-Hartley enactment, the AFL fought on the national level with a large-scale national radio and newspaper advertising program. CIO put its main efforts into pressure on Congressmen in their home communities. What the 1949 strategy will be is not yet clear.

Lesser labor objectives for 1949 include a continued drive by railroad unions to fill what they charge are gaps in rail safety legislation. The United Mine Workers are pressing for legislation to permit U. S. mines inspectors to close mines they consider hazardous. Such authority is now vested only with state inspectors.

United Auto Workers (CIO) is much concerned with legislation covering allocation of scarce materials to avoid work stoppages in the auto industry. United Steel Workers (CIO) is giving close study to the basing point question in the pricing of steel, to determine how it may affect workers.

A Word For Romance

(From The Roanoke (Va.) Times)

ADVOCATING more secluded nooks for courting couples in public parks, Lewis Mumford, speaking recently at a meeting of city planners, asked, "How many hiding places have you allowed for lovers in your park plans? How many nooks and crannies are you providing for romance?"

Mr. Mumford does not look with favor on broad, open expanses in city parks. He thinks that romance plays an important part in people's lives and that city planners who fail to take human nature into their calculations are overlooking a primary need of mankind.

Agreeing that "Mr. Mumford has something there," Funny Man H. I. Phillips, turning serious, comments:

"The more you look at the world and the behavior of its people today, the more you realize that what it needs more than anything else is love. There is not enough necking, locally or on a global scale, and the cities have been so indifferent to its accommodations that the whole business has become furtive and difficult."

Iron Curtain Wit

(From The Cleveland Times)

A NUMBER of jokes which are supposed to be in vogue behind the iron curtain have been making the rounds. One of the best goes as follows:

A Soviet purchasing agent named Krish was sent to a number of countries to buy goods. Arriving in Belgrade, Krish cabled home: "Arrangements made. Long live free Yugoslavia!" He went on to Bucharest and cabled: "Arrangements made. Long live free Rumania!" And from Prague he cabled: "Arrangements made. Long live free Czechoslovakia!"

Finally Krish arrived in the United States. His final cable read: "Am in New York. Long live free Krish!"

People's Platform

Children's Nature Museum.

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I SHOULD like to thank The Charlotte News for the splendid coverage given the Children's Nature Museum during its formative period.

As you know we have recently celebrated our first anniversary and yet it was long before our actual beginning that your paper recognized the possibilities inherent in the movement which brought Charlotte's Nature Museum into being.

Your loyal support in the pages of The News is deeply appreciated.

—LAURA OWENS,
Director.

Marquis Childs

The Military Listen

WASHINGTON

ALL during the week top industrialists together with a few educators, editors and labor leaders have been meeting at the Pentagon in a "joint orientation conference." They came at the invitation of Secretary of Defense Forrestal, who addressed the group just before he took off on his surprise mission to Europe.

Within its rather narrow limits, such a conference undoubtedly is useful. Men with heavy responsibility for the re-armament program and its effect on the economy are hearing at first hand and off the record the generals, the admirals and the Government officials directly concerned with the program.

One aspect of the conference, however, has caused a certain sly amusement among some of the conferees. On the invitation list were several who were slated to be key figures if Gov. Dewey had won the election, among them Winthrop Aldrich, head of the Chase National Bank, who was frequently mentioned as Secretary of the Treasury in that mythical Dewey Cabinet.

The top ranking labor leader invited was John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers who denounced President Truman and gave Dewey at least a backhanded endorsement. The suspicion is that in planning the conference, Forrestal, who seems to have had no more confidence than the poll-takers or "experts" that Truman would be re-elected, intended it as a transition to the new Dewey regime.

GUESTS DO TALKING

As it turned out, the invited guests did not do all the listening at the closed sessions. One of the trade union executives attending was Joseph B. Carey secretary of the CIO. When a general displayed a large chart mapping off areas of responsibility, with a conspicuous patch labeled "security," Carey raised a problem that has many people worried.

He brought up the case of the two employees of a Westinghouse Electric Co. plant at Essington, Penn., who were taken off Government work because they were judged by the Government to be "poor security risks." This dismissal last Summer of Herbert Lewin and Francis Carner shut down the plant when several thousand employees walked out in protest.

Later, the two men were put on non-Government work and the plant resumed operation. Only this week, however, word was received confirming the security order against Lewin and Carner.

Carey pointed out that the two men were known to be ardently anti-Communist, and members of the left-wing Workers Party, they do hold unorthodox political views, as Carey made perfectly plain. But they have consistently fought the Communist faction dominating the United Electrical Workers at the national level and this was widely known to the men in the Essington plant.

NO SATISFACTORY ANSWER

From both security officials and Westinghouse Vice Chairman George H. Bucher, present at the conference, Carey wanted to know what was behind the security charge. He declared that known Communists were working at Essington today, apparently with the company's sanction. No satisfactory answer was forthcoming.

Back of all this is a complicated quarrel that cuts many ways. Carey, a former executive of the electrical workers before he became Phil Murray's chief lieutenant, has for years waged an unsuccessful battle against the Communist in the UEW. UEW, incidentally, was the only major union to support Henry Wallace.

Carey now is convinced that under the guise of security, the very existence of the union is being threatened. Both Lewin and Garner were active in the UEW.

The real stake is the position of UEW in plants operating under contract to the Atomic Energy Commission. The Commission has announced that because officials of the union refuse to take the non-Communist oath in the Taft-Hartley Act, the union no longer will be recognized as the bargaining agent.

This, too, Carey and Murray regard as union-busting. They insist that known Communists—and security officials do know who they are—can be fired individually as agents of a foreign power which is a potential enemy. In this way, they argue, any threat to security can be eliminated.

As with so many other phases of the defense program, this is kept pretty much under wraps by officials. The meeting of a few top men is useful in its way. But we all need to know more about the whys and wherefores of what is happening.

Joseph & Stewart Alsop

Manhattan No. 2

WASHINGTON

ANOTHER Manhattan District is needed. That is the only possible conclusion from the shocking results of the Navy's recent Newfoundland war exercises. For those who missed the all too brief stories from the scene, the Newfoundland results may be summarized as follows:

The plan for the exercises was for a strong task force of 100 naval vessels to establish a bridgehead on the Newfoundland coast. The defensive role was assigned to eight Schnorkel - equipped submarines, modelled on the high-speed, long-range, radar-proof German Type 21. The eight defenders "sank" virtually the entire Naval task force, and of course theoretically prevented the landing.

The significance of these results lies in a single bleak and simple set of facts, first reported in this space many months ago. The Soviet Navy is now primarily an undersea fleet. Under reparations the Soviets secured from Germany component parts, complete submarines and equipment for building the Type 21. According to the most sober official estimates, the Russians already have 100 of these craft in operation, as well as 100 short-range submarines for coastal defense, and 100 long-range submarines without Schnorkel or "breathing" equipment. Their program for building additional Type 21's is known to be important.

RUSSIAN MENACE

Russian Naval planning is of course hampered by restriction to the Baltic, Black Sea, Arctic and Manchurian ports and Vladivostok. Even so, however, the Red Fleet is estimated to be capable of maintaining thirty-five Type 21's continuously at sea. But the Schnorkel-breathing device, radar-proofing, and great speed render these craft almost wholly immune to the old methods of anti-submarine warfare. Hence the fate of the Newfoundland task force. Hence, also, the conclusion that if war should come soon, thirty-five Type 21's would come perilously close to severing the vital sea supply lines across the Atlantic. Until this threat has been countered, all American strategic planning must be considered a mere gamble.

The picture is not all black, to be sure. A small number of vessels in the Newfoundland task force were especially equipped with new submarine detecting and destroying devices experimentally developed with the Type 21 in mind. Only all but a small proportion of the total task force was "destroyed," all but a small proportion of the specially equipped vessels escaped the wolf pack's attacks. Thus there is already hope that the American Navy can regain the capability of defending itself and the sea supply lines that are its first responsibility.

PRIORITY FIGHT

On the other hand, a crucial question of investment priorities is obviously raised. The Navy staff asserts that the capacities of the Navy are being strained to the utmost, both to modernize the anti-submarine defenses of the fleet at sea, and to improve the new anti-submarine methods. But in fact modernization is not like mere inventory, it is a continuing job for the fleet. Each vessel must be rebuilt at great cost, and since the new anti-submarine devices are still experimental, only a few vessels are being modernized. Furthermore, the authoritative Joint Research and Development Board by no means shares the Navy staff view, that enough is being done about this most urgent of all our defense problems.

The funds being spent on anti-submarine research are invidious—compared with the funds allocated to certain other projects, such as the Navy's giant carrier (which will be utterly useless, of course, unless it can be defended against anti-submarine attack). But the real differences of viewpoint between Navy and JRDB apparently lies in the phrase above, "the capacities of the Navy." The Navy is undoubtedly doing all that any reasonable man could ask, under danger underseas. Unfortunately, however, any purely Naval effort of this

Continued on next page

From The Washington (D. C.) Evening Star

MAYBE CANES WOULD HELP

THE MEN of Washington ought to give at least a moment's thought to the acorn heaped upon them by Mrs. Veronica Dengel, a stylish lady who teaches personality at New York University and writes books telling people how to look smart and be successful. According to her, all too many of us males in the Nation's Capital are full of mental confusion, and because of that we are about the worst dressers she has ever seen.

What especially irritates Mrs. Dengel is the way we go around in sloppy coats of one color and unpressed pants of another, or the way lots of us put on nothing but stripes—"striped suit, striped shirt, striped tie, striped socks"—and top everything off with no hat, which probably would be striped, too, if we wore one. In a word, as she sees us, we are sartorially disgraceful—a kind of blight on this city of otherwise magnificent vistas.

It seems to be a fact that the men of Washington, in pleasanter and less fevered times, used to be pretty particular about their dress. Their coats and pants matched; they did not overdo stripes; they wore things like pearl gray spats, derbies, Prince Alberts, shining top hats, and a good number of other fancy items. Above everything they carried canes.

The canes were important. Besides being silent and satisfying companions on a lonesome walk, and weapons to be used in self-defense against mad dogs and truculent ruffians, they imparted a special air of grace and dignity to all who carried them. Why do we carry them no more? Why must we fear ridicule if we wear them? What does Mrs. Dengel think? Perhaps if we got back to them, we would rise in her esteem, but what about the esteem of other people? The sartorially disgraceful Washington male must pause for reply.

Just after the shower Monday morning we saw Dick Davis on the streets complaining that the rain kept him from his cotton field—that he could have picked at least 100 pounds by that hour. That sounded plausible until a neighbor of the Davis farm came up and assured us that Dick hadn't picked a hundred pounds of cotton this year—and he doubted that he had ever picked that much. — *Coffeeville (Miss.) Courier.*

One thing about the first cold spell of the Fall, it relegates the lawn mower to the garage "archives".—*Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.*

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

French 'Thank You Train' Gets Big Load

WASHINGTON

JUST one year ago this week the Friendship Train traveled across the American continent gathering food for the then hungry people of Europe. Today, one year later, a similar train is traveling through France gathering gifts for the American people.

The French train is called the "Thank You Train," and consists of 49 boxcars ("40 men 8 horses")—the kind American troops rode in during World War I.

These boxcars are being filled with gifts for the American people and one car will be left in each of the 48 states. The 49th car will go to the District of Columbia for transmission to the Territory of Hawaii, which contributed an average of eight bonds apiece from every man, woman and child in Honolulu to the original Friendship Train.

The French Thank You Train is coming not from the Government of France but from the French people. It is being organized by Commandant Guy de la Vasselais, who served as liaison officer on General Patton's staff and is an old friend of American reporters. Several French war veterans are contributing to make the Thank You Train a success.

The gifts in the 49 cars will not include food, luxuries or wine. Instead, they will be chosen from products which are typically French and will include several monumental portraits, wood carvings, china, pottery, bells and native costumes. While the French are leaving it to the individual Friendship Train committees in the United States as to how the gifts will be disposed, it has been suggested that some of them may be suitable for American museums, colleges and schools.

The American railroads, which were such an important factor in making the Friendship Train possible, have patriotically offered to carry the French train free through various parts of the United States.

Apologies To Pat Hurley

ON Oct. 25, 1948, this column published an account of how ex-Secretary of War Patrick J. Hurley received a decoration for "gallantry in action" on the morning of Nov. 11, 1918, the day World War I ended.

Further information has now come to hand regarding this decoration, and we now wish to apologize to Mr. Hurley.

The information comes from Col. Wilbur Rogers, formerly of the 119th Field Artillery, Third Division. Col. Rogers is the officer who stopped Hurley en route to the front lines and told him the war was practically over and that he was not needed at the front. Hurley was a member of the Judge Advocate General's office—in other words, an Army lawyer whose duty was behind the lines.

Col. Rogers now points out that Hurley knew that the "cease fire" order had been called and circumstances prevented he ever went up to the front in order to get his decoration for "gallantry in action." Therefore, concludes Col. Rogers, Hurley actually got the medal for action after he knew the war was over.

Col Rogers also reports that Hurley later applied for membership in the Third Division Association in Washington, because his medal came from the Third Division. However, Third Division headquarters refused to accept the ex-Secretary of War for membership.

Our apologies to Mr. Hurley therefore for underestimating his gall in accepting a medal for "gallantry" after the war had virtually ended.

J. Parnell Thomas

A FEW readers have chided this column for its original expose last August of how Chairman J. Parnell Thomas of the Un-American Activities Committee received salary kickbacks from employees—an expose which has now led to Thomas's indictment.

Some readers apparently confuse salary kickbacks with nepotism. Both are to be deplored, but the latter is not illegal.

Nepotism is the employment of relatives. In fairness, it should be stated that some relatives, such as Arthur Vanderberg Jr. and Mrs. Glen Taylor, wife of the Senator from Idaho, work long hours on the job. On the other hand some relatives merely draw the salary, never come near the office, and let the rest of the staff do the work. This, however, is not against the law.

But it is against the law to hire a clerk or stenographer and then require them to kick back part or all of their salary to the Congressman. Clerks and stenographers are paid not by the Congressman but by the Government. Therefore, kickbacks merely mean that the Government—without its knowledge—is increasing the salary.

A Congressman's salary is fixed by law. In fact, he himself votes to fix that salary and recently Congressman Thomas and others voted to give themselves a wage increase of $2,500 a year, plus $2,500 a year for expenses, making a total of $15,000.

The result of Congressman Thomas's kickback deals meant that he was paid considerably more than his legal salary. Thomas has a long record of kickbacks going back to 1940, plus two known instances when he kept soldiers out of combat for $250 and $500 from their families.

The Merry-Go-Round makes no apologies for its expose of Congressmen Thomas's activities.

Merry-Go-Round

THERE was a good reason why the Voice of America so consistently informed Europe that Dewey was going to be elected. Charles Thayer, New York manager of the "Voice," was in constant touch with Allen Dulles, brother of John Foster Dulles, and one of Dewey's right-hand advisers. Diplomats are wondering what will now happen to Thayer and the many other Deweyites inside the State Dept. Probably nothing. . . . When Gov. Kim Sigler of Michigan, the man who did not refer the Senator Hooper murder case to Police Commissioner Toy of Detroit, was defeated, he jumped into his plane and vanished. Sigler ran 180,000 behind his own Republican ticket. . . . Mrs. Truman thinks that Jude Styka, world-famous Polish-American portrait painter, is the only artist who has been able to reproduce the elusive blue-gray color of her husband's eyes. . . . The teachers voted almost 100 per cent against Dewey. They did not forget Dewey's diatribe against the teachers' lobby at the Governors' Conference in Portsmouth, N. H., last Summer.