THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1948

Dangerous Confusion Over UMT

THAT OLD American habit of taking a positive stand against a proposition before we hear the whole question has worked us into a dangerous situation in the matter of Universal Military Training, which now is tucked away in a Congressional pigeon-hole. The sidetracking operation of the Republican Congress is one of the more glaring examples of the irresponsibility and timidity of Congressmen in an election year. The spectacle of America deliberately turning its back on this vital question in this time of world crisis must make Europeans wonder if the citizens of this country know what year this is.

In addition to the inertia, UMT has encountered considerable articulate opposition, and this comes chiefly from the religious and school groups, traditional centers of pacifistic sentiment. These intellectual and earnest workers for peace cannot be accused of ignoring the UMT issue and they aren't guilty of mental sluggishness but, like all men, they are subject to error. They have been doing a great deal of thinking and talking on military training but the tone of their discussion suggests that very few of them have bothered to read the report of the President's Civilian Advisory Commission on UMT.

For example, Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, chancellor of the University of Chicago, recently delivered a speech on UMT in which he said, "If I understand the proposal correctly—and I may not, for I have not had a chance to read the 188,000 words of the report . . ." That did not prevent him from giving a sweeping indictment of the plan. He is just as positive now that America stands in no war danger as he was in 1941, when he and other isolationists were so wrong.

If a university president can't take the time to study this subject intelligently, perhaps it is asking too much to suggest that ordinary citizens read the report. However, every minister, every teacher, every individual who carries any leadership responsibility and who presumes to speak on this subject owes it to himself and his country to read at least the first 95 pages of the Commission's report.

That course was suggested in Charlotte this week by Dr. Daniel A. Poling, clergyman, religious editor and a member of the Commission, who spoke before various groups on UMT, and we know of no better way to clear up the public confusion on this question which is jeopardizing our national security.

Dr. Poling makes it eloquently clear that our peace advocates are deluding themselves and injuring their own cause when they assume that they are preventing militarization of this country and discouraging aggressive politics by opposing UMT. Blocking of UMT does nothing to affect the international situation except to encourage a potential enemy and increase the chance for disaster in this country in case of an attack.

It is also clear that every possible safeguard has been set up to make UMT a democratic, equitable, constructive training program for our youth. There can be no doubt that we now are living on a thin margin of security which contracts rapidly as our voluntary recruitment program lags, our world commitments grow and we proceed without an adequate trained manpower reserve for emergencies. Unfortunately, this makes no impression on our opponents of conscription who are sure they know more about the subject than Secretary Marshall, General Eisenhower and the President's Advisory Commission, and who won't bother to read the UMT report.

'Expert' Analysis Of The 1948 Man

FOR SOME reason, we derive more cheer than gloom from the declaration that America is on the brink of disintegration, which comes from Dr. Edward A. Strecker, chairman of the psychiatry division of the National Research Council. He spoke out yesterday in Los Angeles, where he currently is engaged in his mission to arouse the country to save itself before it is too late.

Dr. Strecker fails to spread the doomsday mood in this ivory tower because his statement implies to remind us that man has been contending against the forces of disintegration since time began and he still is in there pitching. He has indeed exhibited amazing fortitude in the last century, surviving a couple of World Wars, universal depressions and inflation, and he now is trying gamely to put one world together, undeterred by the thought some zany who needs the attention of a psychiatrist may drop an atom bomb tomorrow or the next day.

We find evidence that Dr. Strecker has liver trouble, or at least that he is going about this psychiatric business in less than a scientific manner, in the doctor's own diagnosis of our crisis. A fundamental inconsistency in his case shows up when he declares that "we have lost our spiritual values" and adds that "people are basically the same today as they were years and years ago, when family ties were stronger." The reason for the seeming difference in man is correctly given by Dr. Strecker when he mentions the conditions, the twentieth century environment, under which man must live.

As we see it, man himself isn't failing or growing worse. He simply is responding normally to conditions created by the industrial revolution, mass communication, the cities, the cars, the planes, the breaking down of the old isolation in which men and nations once found peace for brief intervals. To survive, man must now learn to change his new environment and adapt himself to it. That confronts the 1948 man with more problems than ever faced one generation. Considering the magnitude of the problems, man's performance to date should inspire hope in the human species, rather than despair.

The people of the world today are marching in a political, social and economic wilderness which contains more unknown terrors and higher mountains than were faced by our blithe pioneers. For the most part, the people look ahead in the pioneer spirit. They seem to be short mostly in psyahiatrists and prophets who have the pioneer's faith in man and his destiny.

Bob Taft On The Price Decline

WE SEE THAT the market experts and the qualified economic authorities can't get together on why the price spiral is beginning to unravel itself. We also note that some observers nervously are recalling our big plunge in 1929, which carried us from the height of the Stock Market boom to the depth of the Depression. We seem to remember that the world situation was somewhat different in 1929 and we wouldn't be surprised if our markets turned upward again before long under the spiraling effects of the universal inflation of 1948.

Meanwhile, our attention is divided between the price quotations and the behavior of Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Republican aspirant for President, defender of the free enterprise or erratic price system. Naturally Mr. Taft is happy about the price downturn, which he considers a "healthful adjustment." He is happier than the housewife who finds bacon marked down a dime a pound because this market trend promises to get Brother Taft off the painful hook on which he has been dangling with his policy against price controls.

The Senator accuses the Administration of issuing statements and doing things to check the price decline, saying that Mr. Truman needs continued inflation in order to justify his program for price-wage controls and rationing. The Administration indignantly defends itself against this political aspersion.

It is true that the market break, if it continues, will knock the Truman inflation control policy into a cocked hat and make it a political liability in the November election. It is also true that the Administration has a difficult duty to perform in this situation. It must use all available powers to prevent the price adjustment from turning into a rout that would bring on unemployment and depression, and it must not be kept from serving the national interest in this matter by fear of political attacks.

Quite obviously, a sharp recession would wreck Mr. Truman's election chances in November. Equally obvious, reckless political charges can heighten the public nervousness and turn the price softening into a stampede. Our concern over Taft's talk is heightened by the knowledge that the Senator would oppose Government relief measures in a depression with as much fervor as he attacks price controls for inflation.

From The Providence (R. I.) Bulletin

Whistling Critics

IT IS to be feared that nothing but utter confusion will result from the formal ruling of the Paris Association of Drama and Music Critics in the case of the brother who expressed his disapproval of a new play by whistling. The association takes the stand that a critic who gives a play the toot—whistling is the European equivalent of hissing—is within his rights as a citizen but is using a method of criticism not customarily employed by members of his profession.

This is but a weasel ruling. Our view of the matter is that one is either a critic or one is not, and that one cannot sit in a free seat on the aisle and whistle the protesting whistle of a paying customer. At the same time, we're inclined to think that the whistling critic had something and feel that the custom might well be transferred to this country.

Far from forbidding drama critics to whistle at plays which their artistic consciences will not permit them to indorse, we favor limiting the whistling to critics and limiting adverse criticism to whistling. Furthermore, we would ban all oral whistling and equip all critics with tin whistles varying in strength and tone according to the individual critic's professional standing — deafening, pontifical whistles for top-flight critics and little pipsqueak whistles for second-string critics and exhibitionists.

A boon will thus be conferred on both audience and critic. The audience will not have to read the critic's review next morning and the critic will not have to write it. He can go home to his wife or stay around with the boys awhile. He has whistled. The only reviews will be written by critics who have signified approval of the show by not whistling.

'Feel Anything Yet?'

People's Platform

Get Together For Peace Now

DAVIDSON

Editors, THE NEWS:

DESPITE the fact that 1948 is a Presidential election year is there not enough patriotism in the leaders of the Democratic and Republican Parties to forget for the time being politics in House and Senate and forget the two to call a joint assembly and reach an agreement that both sides will work in perfect harmony and all will be governed by majority vote (secret ballot if necessary and advisable) in regard to foreign relations and like policies to be pursued, especially as concerns monetary, economic and military affairs? This course will go quite far toward eliminating politics, till peace be more firmly established.

As I see it, world peace, and especially peace throughout Europe and Asia Minor, not to mention Manchuria and China, is of such transcendent importance in these critical times that all of the questions on which the two parties differ widely sink into comparative insignificance, such questions as taxes, inflation, wages and price controls, labor disputes, national debt reduction, reciprocity, tariff reduction, the St. Lawrence waterway and many other problems. Let us as one united people, as one great national unit by a majority vote in joint assembly, proceed at once to put in final form the Marshall Plan and immediately go on to put it in operation. Let us stop this endless talk and dispute in Congress as to what the U. S. should do in foreign affairs that are calling loudly for action. One thing is sure, if we are to wait for unanimity of opinion, long delay is inevitable.

In a crisis like the one confronting us, democratic government appears at its worst. It moves in all sorts of directions and is unable apparently to get anywhere. Were it possible (but it is not possible) to have an authoritarian government in the U. S. headed by an absolute governor who was wise and just, fairminded and beneficent, what a blessing for the present at least it would be for all our elected representatives in Washington to vacate and welcome this governor into office! I am told that the distinguished author, Bryce, said of democratic government that it is the best of all bad governments.

—C. R. HARDING.

Revolt In New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS

Editors, THE NEWS:

The Truman intention to use Federal power and snoopers to abolish sensible race segregation and states' rights could prove a calamity to the entire nation, including the deluded Negroes whose votes are being bought by this Truman and like with the creed of the CIO and the Communist Party.

Mr. Truman joins the ranks of those who, in the past fifteen years, schemed and hatched the rotten system of control of the majority by the use and political manipulation of a self-seeking, balance of power minority.

Mr. Truman knew when he joined the Democratic Party many years ago that Democrats were then as they are now—devoutly dedicated to the principle of a Republic by a union of sovereign states. The Democratic Party has not changed but, Mr. Truman and his fellow travelers are not march with Henry Wallace, out of and away from the time-honored unchanged customs and beliefs of the Democratic Party.

It now becomes the duty of genuine Democrats to close ranks, rebuild and rededicate our party for honorable service to those people of the nation, who believe that our safe future depends upon a political party willing to work for the greatest good of the greatest number.

Thousands of stay-at-home eligible voters from border to border and coast to coast will at last have a reason for a return to the use of their ballots, if we Southerners give them a real Democratic Party.

Mr. Truman may get the nomination of the Philadelphia mongrel convention. We of the South owe it to our country to call a genuine Democratic convention, and not in Philadelphia.

—JOHN U. BARR.

Enemies Of Civil Rights

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE politicians here in our country opposed to people's civil rights are our enemies. They obstruct and undermine our Constitutional laws and the teachings of the Bible and the Sermon on the Mount.

The only way to stop such Fascist people is to put them in jail.

President Truman has this power under our Constitution and he took the oath of office to the American people to uphold and protect our Constitution and it is high time he did something with the enemies of our civil rights.

—MRS. J. D. BIGGERS.

Warning From South

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE South is wondering what will happen when the Civil Rights Bill comes up in Congress. Mr. Truman has unlocked the gate in the South, and it is up to Congress to open it. If they do there will be violence. The people down South will not stand for this law. If this Jim Crow law bill is passed, why every bus company, railroad lines, city and town in the South will have to carry extra police protection to have law and order. God forbid for such a law to pass. How many News readers have read about the Carpetbaggers' day in the South? If you haven't, read them. Go to your library and call for the "Clansman," and "The Leopard's Spots," written by Thomas Dixon Jr. It will tell you everything you want to know.

—L. L. CHILDRESS.

Quote, Unquote

Now that the roads are slick, the weather freezing and the new Sears, Roebuck catalogs coming by the hundreds, is the ideal time for the mail order house to call and call upon his substitute.—**Omega (Ga.) News.**

In 1946 the Republican slogan was "Had Enough?" The Republican News has a new one: "Vote Republican in 1948—Save What's Left."

Hm. A bunch of Leftists?—**Asheville Citizen.**

Kiplinger predicts bubble gum that whistles. O death, where is thy sting?—**Roanoke Times.**

Marquis Childs

Fear Threat To ERP

WASHINGTON

A SINGLE word sums up the doubts and uncertainties that today plague the European Recovery Program. That word is fear.

Policy-makers in the State Department are afraid of Congress. Republicans in Congress who have carried the burden of leadership of the recovery program are fearful that a little band of Republican Senators mean to pare the program down to mere headline dimensions. Back of this is the fear of an irreparable split in the party in a year when victory seems so close.

Nothing illustrates these fears so well as the recent off-again-on-again business over a proposed new meeting of the sixteen Marshall Plan nations in Europe. It shows a pathetic lack of the kind of boldness that is called for if the Western world is to triumph over the forces of deterioration and decay.

Over and over again in this country the Europeans are criticized for their failure to get together on practical measures of co-operation. They are accused of waiting for a hand-out from the United States. Thoroughly aware of this criticism and its bearing on the national attitude toward aid to Europe, certain leaders in France pressed for a new meeting of representatives of the Marshall Plan countries.

With the help of allies in this country, pressure was put on London, where there was reluctance. If Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's fine words about a Western European union were to mean anything, it was argued, then a healthy demonstration of practical co-operation right away could be in order.

Finally a meeting was agreed to. A tentative date was set and a planning committee began to work out an agenda. High up on that agenda was a proposal to discuss the kind of political conditions which, if specified in an aid program, would make it unworkable.

When this was cabled back to the State Department, it gave policy-makers the nervous tremors. They began to imagine immediately how Congress would react to such a discussion at the very moment when the fate of the recovery bill would be in the balance.

MEETING CALLED OFF

So strong were these fears that a wire went from Undersecretary of State Robert A. Lovett urging that the meeting either be called off or postponed. This was enough of a hint for those who had been preparing for the session and so, as of this date, the sixteen nations will not get together again.

A far simpler solution would have been to suggest that the discussion of political conditions be taken off the schedule. Then a meeting might have been held which would have helped to silence criticism here. As it is, that criticism goes on.

The talk of compromise on the recovery program in Congress is another example of the dictate of fear. The realists argue, of course, that in an election year such authority divided between a Republican Congress and a Democratic President, this is the only way to insure passage of a bill within the ever pressing time schedule. And the realists have a lot on their side. The alternative would seem to be a slam-bang battle prolonged into June or July.

That is why the compromisers are working so earnestly to find a quick and painless way out. A half dozen proposals are under study. One is to ask Congress merely for an authorization by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to cover the first twelve months of Marshall Plan operation. This would be a sum of 5 to 5 1-2 billions.

FEARS SHOWDOWN

That would prevent a showdown over the $6,800,000,000—the sum requested by the Administration for the first fifteen months. Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg, foreign-policy leader in the Senate has let it be known that such a showdown might wreck the plan itself.

On the other hand, a compromise might divert public attention from the real issues involved. The strategy of the bitter-end opposition has been to avoid any frontal attack on the plan while constantly sniping at details of administration, size of appropriations, and so on. Behind the facade of a compromise the bitter-enders could work to undermine the purpose of the plan.

This last is just now giving Secretary of State George C. Marshall deep concern. In the important speech he will deliver before the National Farm Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, at the end of the week, he is expected to warn that the primary goal of European reconstruction is being lost sight of in a political row over aid. That is a timely warning which should be heeded here in Washington.

Samuel Grafton

Humanist Approach

NEW YORK

THE break in grain prices has started a nationwide jabbering; prophecies, predictions, prognostications and plans hit the ear from all sides, and it might be helpful to look over some of these early reactions.

1. Beware the lad who is in a big rush to lower wages in Boston because lard, maybe, is selling for a little less, or some chain stores in Indiana. So far only grains and livestock are down; not down very far, and down at the wholesale level only. These declines have not yet been reflected in living costs, except for quick, scattered cuts made by certain stores (and good for them!) which have passed along a saving before it has actually reached them.

If we are going to correlate wages and living costs, let's do it on a scientific basis, after accurate studies. Watch out for the market propagandistic peddling and fixing of the phrase "Prices are down!" on the basis of casual and sporadic evidence. Let's be guided by statisticians here, not by free-wheeling arguifiers. High wages are not the worst that can happen to a nation. It won't hurt if there's a "lag" in their decline. Might give us a cushion for the descent, in the shape of buying power.

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2. Watch out for the lamble-pie who wants to drop rent control on the ground that "the inflation is over." It is ending, but not all prices move together. Some can go up while others go down, and rents are, historically, one of these. There is a special emergency shortage of living space. There would have been even if there had been no inflation. The upward pressure on rents reflects this emergency, and is only partly linked with our inflation. Rents must be treated as a special case. Let's not start throwing Americans out of apartments in Pittsburgh because soy beans are cheaper in Chicago.

3. Look out for the Congressional chameleon who only yesterday was hollering against inflation as an evil, but who tomorrow will want the Government to engage in an artificial buying program to keep still-swollen agricultural prices up. Maybe some government "holding up" efforts may be needed, but there are better ways. A great housing program would be one. We would at least get homes for our money, while expanding the market for food by providing work and wages. We would reduce rent costs. If you can save a veteran and his family a couple of hundred a year on living costs, he can spend it on food, and that is one way to help the farmer.

* * *

4. Keep an eye peeled for the laddie who rather relishes the prospect of a period of unemployment. He will talk learnedly of a "natural adjustment" of the "cost structure." What he will mean is that a decline in the living standard makes it possible to produce goods for less. Such an approach to joblessness is an offense against Twentieth Century morality. Ours may not be a perfect morality on every issue, but on this one we have clearly made progress. We don't correctively against unemployment; and unemployment is not a corrective for anything.

5. In general, I would measure or reliable guidance is on the way down, by how reliable it was on the way up. If he is one of those who, in the boom, prices would not rise too high after we wiped out controls, I would discount what he has to say now by about 50 per cent, or roughly, the degree to which he was wrong the last time. We can learn a lot from the experience of the last three years if, because of it, we begin to substitute a humanist approach and scientific accuracy for the ugly spit-in-the-corner kind of "common sense" which has produced our difficulties.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Friendship Fever Spreads Over America

WASHINGTON

WHEN the first Friendship Train finished its run across the country, Henry Kaiser, who acted as special conductor on the New York-Central Division, suggested that one way to solve European relief was to let the American people run a series of friendship trains from different parts of the country.

My reaction was that it couldn't be done. In the first place, the job seemed too tremendous. Second, I thought we had imposed enough on the railroads for free freight. Finally and selfishly, I told Henry that my office had been turned topsy-turvy by the job of running one Friendship Train, that I was a physical wreck from riding on it, and that I didn't see how any other train could be organized.

However, Henry Kaiser was right. Even as we talked, the Wichita Eagle and other energetic citizens of the Southwest had organized a special wheat section of the Friendship Train. Simultaneously patriotic New Englanders had started organizing a Friend Ship carrying food and clothes to the British Isles, while today two Abraham Lincoln Friendship trains leave from Lincoln, Neb., and Springfield, Ill.

So it is appropriate and fitting on the birthday of the great emancipator to review the attempts of many Americans to carry out his advice: "It is for us the living . . . to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

So much of this work has been carried on by individual citizens and groups of citizens that it is hard for any newspaper to cover it all. But it illustrates the fact that the American people have a deep and almost religious concern for the welfare of their fellow men; also that they themselves want to play a part in American foreign policy, not leave it entirely to diplomats.

And if the Marshall Plan is able to harness this initiative, if it is able to use this healthy desire of the American citizen to be an active part of his own State Department—then the Marshall Plan will be a success.

Unquestionably, a central, co-ordinating agency such as that provided for under the Marshall Plan is necessary to direct European reconstruction. However, the wise Marshall Plan administrator will go out of his way to use the tremendous drive and desire of the American people to help their fellow men.

For instance, here are just a few of the things individual Americans, quite independent of their Government, have done to carry on "the unfinished work" and build friendship abroad.

Maine To Louisiana

UP IN Maine, a state which the Friendship Train could not visit, the Bath Iron Works received an order to build 30 fishing trawlers to replace part of the French fishing fleet lost in the war. And instead of sending these ships to France empty, the 38 Rotary Clubs of Maine undertook to fill the first trawler, "The St. Patrick" with food and clothing for the people of France.

And on the other side, the Rotary Club of Nantes, France, has enthusiastically agreed to distribute the food and clothing in such a way as to build up French and American friendship.

In another New England city, the Eastport, Maine, Sentinel carried an editorial suggesting that the sardine fleet contribute a carload of sardines to the Friendship Train. Whereupon the Maine Sardine Packers Association raised a carload and sent it to Europe through the Unitarian Service Committee.

Meanwhile, down in New Orleans, which the Friendship Train had to bypass, various patriotic citizens got together and decided to adopt the City of Orleans, Prafce.

"While the City of Orleans, France, was being bombed," says Mrs. Henry Landry, head of the Orleans Foundation, "our own New Orleans gained 100,000 in population. We are prosperous. So we are giving a little of our surplus to the starving people from whence we came."

Accordingly, the SS Maid of Orleans is sailing from New Orleans the latter part of this month loaded with food.

Out in Detroit the other day, Jean Bellard of the French Embassy was addressing the Michigan Junior Chamber of Commerce which raised a friendship caravan for France. Suddenly he got a phone call from Kalamazoo.

"This is Henry Ford speaking," said the voice on the other end of the line. "No, not Henry Ford the auto man, but Henry Ford, the mayor of Kalamazoo. We adopted the city of Pougeres in France, and we want you to come over and give us a brief talk."

Bellard went. He reported to his Government later that he has never seen a group where enthusiasm was so contagious.

Friendship Seeds

MEALWHILE the seed-growers of Minnesota have worked out a counterpart of the CARE program, whereby packages of seed can be sent to European families so they can grow their own food. Reducing prices from $5.50 to $3.95, the seed-growers of Minnesota will distribute the seed. Enough seed to grow five tons of food is contained in each package.

Meanwhile several druggists in Camden, N. J., led by Sidney Zuckerman and Max Schwartz have been working on the plan to send a Friendship Train to Europe. In Carolina, the Council of Churches has conducted a clothing drive under the slogan, "Fill a ship with friendship."

Finally on the West Coast there was the great job done by the state of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska in filling a special Friend Ship; while from California, the State's maritime training ship, "Golden Bear," is carrying a special cargo of food, clothing and 100 marine cadets as special ambassadors to help deliver the food.

One of the most important phases of the whole spontaneous move towards American-European friendship is that most of the people who organized these drives are sending their own representatives to Europe as unofficial ambassadors of goodwill. And it was the experience of those of us who traveled in the first Friendship Train through France and Italy that the people of those countries truly appreciated the fact that Americans took the trouble to visit them personally. We discovered in real fact that the "gift without the giver is bare."