THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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KREMLIN GROWS RESTLESS

IT WAS inevitable that the climax of the Atlantic Pact negotiations would prod Russia to new activity in the area where the tension is the greatest—Western Europe. Recent events there are significant in that they indicate that the Kremlin is growing restless, and may try to regain the initiative in the cold war.

The first reaction to the Pact came a few weeks before its publication when Communist puppets in various democracies began repeating parrot-like the old refrain; If and when war with Russia develops, Communists in all nations will rally to the Party and fight on its side.

That was calculated to inspire fear among those nations taking part in the discussions about the Pact. It failed.

Last week-end the political division of Germany was completed when a separate Communist regime was set up in East Germany to rule some 20,000,000 subjects living in that area. Four-hundred handpicked delegates rubber-stamped, with typical Soviet unanimity, a constitution embodying the basic Party philosophy.

This week two additional events have heightened the tension.

1. On Sunday the Allied powers announced that the Soviet currency used in Eastern Germany would be outlawed in the western section. There was an immediate splurge of buying as Western Berliners crossed the border to spend their Russian marks. The Soviets immediately began mapping counter measures.

2. On Monday the Americans and British revealed they had been billed for $5,100,000 and $2,100,000 respectively for the use of a cable between Berlin and Western Germany. The Americans had an agreement concerning the cable; the British did not. But neither showed any inclination to fork over the amount asked.

During all this time the big transports have been winging their way overhead, day and night, rain or shine, carrying fuel, clothing and foodstuffs to the blockaded section of Berlin. The citizens have had to tighten their belts, but they haven't lost courage.

And so it goes, this game of international chess, with stakes of such dreadful importance to the whole world.

What will the Russians do next? No one can predict. The recent shake-up in the Politburo points to the probability that a new policy is being formed, or at least new steps to carry out the old policy. Russia lost the initiative in Europe when the Communists polled a surprisingly small vote in Italy and France last year. The Allies have held it since.

There is one comforting thought. Russia has been playing a waiting game, realizing full well that her chances of victory would be slender in any armed conflict today. It may well be that the signing of the Atlantic Pact and the resulting expansion of sheer military power among the democracies will convince the hard-headed leaders of the Politburo that peace offers the only hope for continued Russian growth and development. If the pact does that, it will have served well.

REVERSING A TREND

IT ISN'T, citizen of the South, that you will wake up one morning and find all the young men gone off to work in the North or West. It isn't that bad, but it's bad enough.

The best qualified, most skilled, most talented men of the South can make more money elsewhere; and they are going after it.

They are going after the money and after jobs and positions where they can work with better equipment, where they can accomplish more, where their work will achieve more recognition, where — you might say — the grass is greener.

It's an old story and we wouldn't bring it up except that things are looking better.

Dean J. H. Lampe, of the School of Engineering at N. C. State College, has brightened the picture considerably with a statement that "the members of our 1949 graduating class have indicated a strong preference to work in North Carolina industries."

That's half of it. If all graduating classes in all schools in all states in the South had this attitude toward working in the South, the problem would be half-solved.

At N. C. State, says Dean Lampe, the industries have already indicated their willingness to do their part. "Many North Carolina industries," he said, "have already sent representatives to our campus for the purpose of interviewing seniors for employment."

Let us hope that they struck a deal. The exodus from the South has hurt the region more than the mere numbers would indicate, for they have been our best young people and they have spent their most productive years elsewhere. If we can keep them at home to re-invest in the region the talents which they inherited and the skills they developed, we will have a better balanced and more prosperous economy from which all will benefit.

A REASONABLE POSITION

CHARLOTTE'S position in the controversy over a cut-back in construction of new hospitals for veterans was forcefully presented to a subcommittee of the Senate Labor Committee yesterday. The effectiveness of the presentation gives rise to the hope that the proposed 500-bed $7,000,000 institution will be put back on the list.

The local representatives made it quite clear that they are not engaged in a raid on the Treasury. If it can be proved conclusively that the cut-back was, in truth, an economy measure, that the new hospitals are not needed and would be a superfluous, foolish expenditure of public money, then Charlotte will be content to see the hospital project abandoned.

But there is strong evidence that factors other than economy dictated the decision to cancel the local project. For instance, the Hoover Commission estimates that there are already thousands of vacancies in veterans hospitals. But it is believed that many of these vacancies result from the Government's inability to staff the hospitals adequately with medical experts and nurses

The Charlotte delegation cited convincing proof that:

1. This city can furnish all the medical assistance necessary;

2. North Carolina's portion of the total cut-back was disproportionately high;

3 Present facilities in North Carolina are inadequate to meet the needs of veterans;

4. Charlotte is the logical location for any new veterans hospital in this state because of its position as a medical center, its good transportation, its housing and recreational facilities.

The statistics cited in Washington yesterday proved there is no over-expansion of hospitals in this immediate area, at least, no matter what the situation may be elsewhere.

No one wants the Government to throw away foolishly the money it extracts from a hard-working taxpayer; neither do we want to see the servicemen in this area discriminated against in favor of some other region.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

THE SOUTH DOESN'T MIND

WHY is it that the Southern states, the traditional and present defenders of states' rights and the opponents of centralized government, apparently have no hesitancy when it comes to the acceptance of Federal grants-in-aid?

With the notable exception of Virginia and the somewhat less notable exception of Alabama, Southern states exceeded the national average of a 40 per cent increase in Federal aid in 1947 as contrasted with 1942.

In fact, the Tax Foundation report from which these figures are drawn showed that in the 1942-47 period five of the six states in the nation in which Federal aid for governmental purposes was boosted by more than 100 per cent were Southern states. The sixth was a border state, Oklahoma.

Geogia's rate of increase in Federal grants was 134 per cent; Arkansas, 122 per cent; Florida, 118 per cent; Louisiana, 107 per cent; South Carolina, 103 per cent; North Carolina, 88 per cent; Tennessee, 70 per cent; Kentucky, 56 per cent, and Mississippi 52 per cent.

In contrast, Virginia's "gifts" from the Federal Government mounted by only 11 per cent in the period covered, and Alabama's by 36 per cent.

Southern states as a group are the poorest in the country and it can be argued that because of this they should receive a great deal of "assistance" from the Federal Government—just as poor counties receive help from the state government. It can also be argued that the South has been so backward in many respects that naturally more money has to be spent now to bring it up to scratch with the rest of the nation.

The inconsistency of the South is that, while opposing the expansion of Federal power with respect to civil rights, it is nevertheless willing to accept the extension of Federal responsibilities in other fields, an expansion which will ultimately destroy state government if unchecked.

There is today a great need for a States' Rights Party which will truly attempt to maintain the distinction between the powers of the Federal Government -- as extended by the Congress—and those of the individual states. It cannot be a party consisting of those who attack Federal power while holding out their hands for Federal largesse.

A stranded Bradenton fishing party burned the women's underwear as flares but failed to attract attention. Nowadays such a fire will last only a second or two. —*Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.*

What A Time For Such Antics!

Marquis Childs

No Profit From Confusion

WASHINGTON

MEMORY brings back a scene in the Senate of the United States. It is the spring of 1935. Huey Long has the floor, badgering and harrying and frustrating the inept Democratic leadership.

With all his skill and ruthlessness he had tied the Democrats in knots and was making them squirm. Huey was on his way and there was nothing that could stop him.

On the minority side of the aisle the Republicans were laughing merrily. They enjoyed the performance and now and then they tried to help out. But abruptly Huey turned to address them directly:

"You Republicans can sit over there and tee-hee-hee and haw-haw-haw. But don't you think that you're going to step in and take over when these Democrats here get kicked out. Because you're not."

The Republicans, Huey was saying, would not inherit power out of confusion and breakdown. They would not be the inevitable heirs of Democratic failure. Huey himself meant to inherit the earth and he knew that his brand of potent demagoguery would triumph over enfeebled conservatism of the Republican Party.

DOUBTFUL PROPOSITION

Having again helped to snarl the Democratic majority in a tangled web of futility, the Republicans may think that surely this time they will profit from the confusion of their enemies. Perhaps for one Congressional election they may. But for the long pull of a Presidential victory it seems to me an extremely doubtful proposition.

For many who remember the promises of the campaign of last Fall, what is happening looks like a failure of representative Government. If the coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats holds against the major items of legislation in the Truman program, then the score for this session will be close to zero and a final judgment of failure will be justified.

For such a failure the Republicans would have to accept a large share of public responsibility. Without their aid and active connivance it would not have been possible to kill all civil-rights legislation as now seems to have been done for this session at least.

Primarily, this means responsibility for the kind of leadership that engineered the coalition from the Republican side of the aisle. Sen. Kenneth Wherry of Nebraska gets top credit. But a much quieter, smoother operator, Sen. Owen Brewster of Maine, is given a share of credit by his colleagues which he may not be eager to accept in full public view.

Wherry is shrewd, resourceful, often blunt to the point of brutality. A successful storekeeper and undertaker, he knows how to cajole, persuade, flatter and browbeat, if necessary, Yet in his race for the Senate last Fall, against a Democratic candidate who offered only token opposition, Wherry ran far behind the young liberal, Gov. Val Peterson, and even behind Presidential Candidate Thomas E. Dewey. This, it must be remembered, was in the rock-ribbed Republican state of Nebraska.

Brewster is the Senate's master schemer. He understands how to capitalize on every position, for the short run at any rate. While Brewster denies it, a widely held belief in Maine is that he did his best to prevent Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith from winning the Senatorial nomination. Mrs. Smith received a whopping majority.

LESSONS IN WARFARE

This may give too much credit to Wherry and Brewster. Another resourceful Republican operator is Sen. Eugene Millikin of Colorado. In a comparatively short time in the Senate he has learned a great deal about blocking and tackling.

To box the enemy is an elementary rule of strategy in any kind of warfare. But that is only the first step to victory. Positive, constructive action is essential in the next phase and it is just here that the Republicans have repeatedly failed.

An assassin's bullet stopped Huey Long in mid-career as he was expanding his power in the South and looking ahead to greater victories. The backwardness of Louisiana and then the depression had given him the opportunity to push his demagogic schemes. But can a large program against the background of the difficulties and failures of representative Government.

Another crisis, another failure, would almost certainly produce another demagogue ready to take advantage of the opportunity. Somewhere in the dust well in the rear of his noisy progress the Republicans would still be waiting to enter the Promised Land.

James Marlow

Lessons Learned

WASHINGTON

THE Atlantic Pact is the result of lessons learned in the brass-knuckle school of world affairs.

Class opened in 1914 with World War I. Thomas Jefferson's business was not our business. We thought we could stay out. We couldn't.

Next class: League of Nations. We skipped this because we hadn't learned World War I's lesson: that what happens in Europe involves us.

Next class: World War II. This was the unforgetable lesson. Hitler taught it: divide and conquer. We thought we could stay out. We couldn't.

But we didn't get in until he owned most of the continent of Europe, knocking off the democracies one by one Only Britain and a few neutrals stayed out of his hands. Yet, the democracies were our friends, not Hitler.

If we had learned World War I's lesson, and let Hitler know before he got started that we'd support the democracies, he might not have started.

Next class: United Nations. Having learned now we'd always be neck-deep in Europe's doings, we joined UN to keep peace.

Next class: UN wasn't working. Russia picked up where Hitler left off, began gobbling up the nations of eastern Europe.

Next class: We decided to do something about the lesson learned from Hitler—that any strong power, which could pick off one country after another in Europe, could dominate Europe and maybe the world.

So we set up the Truman doctrine.

Under the old Monroe Doctrine we wouldn't let a foreign power get a foothold on this continent lest it endanger us.

Under the Truman doctrine we said the world was smaller now, our frontiers were no longer our own shores, that our frontiers henceforth would be any place in the world where we thought danger might start for us.

BRAKE ON RUSSIA

We began the Truman doctrine by giving help to Greece and Turkey to put a brake on Russia.

Next class: We extended the Truman doctrine, Realizing the democracies in the west, weakened by the war, wouldn't be any match for Russia if she reached out for them, directly or indirectly, we set up the Marshall Plan to get them on their feet with grants and money.

Next class: The Communists grabbed off Czechoslovakia. That made a solid wall of Communist countries facing the western democracies.

Next class: Those democracies, jittery about Russia, got together, formed the western European union, called the Brussels Pact.

Purpose: Mutual defense against attack from the east. Taking part: Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg.

On the day the Brussels Pact was formed, March 17, 1948, President Truman told Congress:

"This development deserves our full support. I am confident that the United States will, by appropriate means, extend to the free nations the support which the situation requires."

Three months later, on June 11, 1948, the U. S. Senate gave its blessing to this country's taking part in a defense set-up like the Brussels Pact.

So, in the Summer of 1948 this country started talking with the Brussels Pact countries and Canada to extend the pact.

Last Friday the North Atlantic alliance was announced. Taking part: U. S., Canada, Britain, The Netherlands, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway,

Italy, Portugal, Iceland and Denmark were invited to join. What's the purpose?

To help each other arm; to help each other out in case of attack; and, by setting up the pact, to serve notice on Russia that an attack on one would be an attack on all.

It was hoped this would bring Russia to a dead halt in any ideas it had about gobbling up all Europe.

One thing more: We're not actually part of the pact and won't be until the Senate approves. It's expected to in a month or so.

This is the point we've reached in the school of hard knocks.

People's Platform

World Federation Moves On

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

RECENTLY a critic of the United World Federalists protested that the organization was trying to destroy the United Nations.

During the last month some of the most eminent Americans of diverse talents have become members of the National Executive Council or the Advisory Board of the United World Federalists. Among these are statesmen, Supreme Court judges, authors, scientists, business executives, educators, and ministers.

Why are these busy leaders giving their time and talents to the cause of World Federation?

Chester Bowles, member of the National Executive Council, answers that question in an article in the March issue of Harper's Magazine. He states that "the program of United World Federalists impresses me as being both promising and realistic. Far from attempting to undercut the United Nations, this organization is working hard on the community level to produce a groundswell of popular support to save the United Nations. It is dramatizing the self-evident truth—that the United Nations can be preserved only through a supreme supporting effort to give it authority. In sum, the Federalists regard the United Nations as the world's best chance for averting the last of the world's great wars, but believe this can only be done by finishing the job begun at San Francisco."

Two other distinguished Governors, G. N. Williams, Governor of Michigan and L. Youngdahl, Governor of Minnesota, are members of the Advisory Board of the United World Federalists.

Two great United States Justices serve on the Advisory Board of UWF—William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court, and Francis Allen, Judge of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Former Supreme Court Justice Owen Roberts has cited a paragraph in the Dumbar Resolution as one of the most important statements in world literature and has declared that the ultimate goal of the alliance which he is now sponsoring is world federalism.

Also on this Advisory Board of distinguished Americans are the outstanding scientists Dr. Albert Einstein, physicist; H. J. Muller, biologist, Nobel Prize winner, and Dr. Harold C. Urey, atomic physicist.

Playwright and author Robert Sherwood is a member of the Advisory Board of UWF. In an article in the February issue of The Atlantic, he comments that "the ancient concept of national sovereignty has gone forever, blasted into the stratosphere above Bikini."

These noted men and many more serve on the Board or the Council to help guide the UWF in their efforts to save the United Nations by strengthening—not destroying it. With such great leaders, can we not say: "We believe that peace is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of justice, of law, of order—that world peace can be created and maintained only under a world federal government—?"

—MRS. Wm. G. ROSS.

Favors Car Inspection

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I SUPPOSE I must be one of those plain dumb people not agreeing with Mr. Henry C. Treadaway of Wadesboro anent the inspection law. It is admitted that the law has bugs which could have eventually been wiped out and no doubt it did cause inconvenience to countless people.

Not being in the garage business I would not know their opinion, but being more or less in the business of raising children I strongly favor any law which might save the life of even one of them.

If we should abolish all the possibly beneficial projects because they can inconvenience and not always be perfect, why not do away with the Red Cross, Community Chest, Cancer Funds, Heart Funds, Tuberculosis Drives, etc. People still die. We still want to save them.

If one fatal accident can be traced to mechanical failure, and could have been eliminated by the inspection law, what is a little personal inconvenience to you, to me or even to Mr. Treadaway?

—B. A. STANFORD.

Note Of Appreciation

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE American Bandmasters' Association wishes to extend to you its deepest appreciation for the fine publicity given us during our visit here in Charlotte.

Your co-operation and efforts prior to and during the meetings contributed greatly to the success of our convention.

The hospitality of the people of Charlotte and the other communities who assisted with arrangements has made a profound impression upon our membership. We will long remember the convention in Charlotte as being one of the most pleasant as well as profitable meetings in the history of our organization.

—EDWIN FRANKO GOLDMAN,
Honorary Life President.
—J. J. RICHARDS,
President.

Favors Fair Trade Act

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I HAVE sent the following telegram to Senator F. J. Blythe and Representatives Harvey W. Morris, Robert Lassiter Jr., Mrs. Walter Craven and Mrs. Joe Ervin:

"I thoroughly appreciate what you are doing for us. Unless we pass a 'Fair Trade Act' (like many other states have passed) big, wealthy non-resident merchants will put our home-owned small business men out of business with 'loss leaders'. Personally, I feel that all local retailing and other small businesses should be left for local people to operate as non-resident concerns send all their profits out of state, thus draining the state of its assets.

"While they claim efficiency in operating, they are not any more efficient than our local owned stores. Furthermore, we can and are paying in loss of assets too much for this so-called efficiency. It's bad for our local economy to permit this monopolistic trend through 'loss leaders'."

—HUGH WOMACK SR.

Quote, Unquote

We asked nine different people if they favored a sales tax and they all did. Then we found three who didn't. You guessed it. The nine pay fairly heavy taxes and have for a long time. The three admitted they pay no taxes, and never have—and don't want to.—Abbeville (Ga) Chronicle.

One of our smarter friends defines an old maid as a gal who knows all the answers but never is asked the question.—Rogersville (Tenn.) Review.

Probably the reason that older people are quiet is because they've got a lot more to be quiet about.—Cairo (Ga.) Messenger.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Senator Recalls What Never Happened

WASHINGTON

SEN. HOMER FERGUSON must be getting jittery over his election probe back in Michigan. At any rate something has thrown Homer's proverbial wheel out of gear.

The other day, the Michigan Senator, supposed to be a great prosecutor and investigator, let it be known to the press that two years ago he had informed Attorney General Tom Clark about Judith Coplon, the Justice Dept. analyst recently caught handing Government documents to a Russian in New York. The implication was that Clark had sat on his hands for two years while Miss Coplon got away with Justice Dept. secrets.

When Attorney General Clark heard of the Ferguson statement, he let out a gasp, the least, flabbergasted, and sent word to the Senator that he would give him fifteen minutes to take back his statement.

Ferguson was prompt in reply. He sat down and wrote Clark a humble longhand note taking back what he had said. The Senator's excuse was that he had been misquoted. He had never said he gave information about Judith Coplon to Clark, nor did he state that he had demanded a probe of the matter, Ferguson wrote the Attorney General.

Next day the Attorney General happened to be up on Capitol Hill calling on the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Pat McCarran of Nevada.

"Here's a letter that might interest you," remarked Sen. McCarran, handing him a typewritten letter on the stationery of Sen. Ferguson.

In the letter, Ferguson said exactly what the newspapers quoted him as saying the night before, and which he had denied to Clark. Two years ago, wrote the Michigan Senator, he had given the information about Judith Coplon to Clark, and now he demanded an investigation. Furthermore, he put all this in black and white.

The Attorney General read the letter with amusement. "Well, here's a letter he wrote me," he remarked, pulling out the handwritten note in which Ferguson said he had been misquoted.

McCarran read the note, then observed:

"I thought there was something funny about Ferguson's phoning me last night. He wanted to know if I had received this letter. Then he said: 'Well, don't give it out. It's confidential.'"

Silver Lobby Loves China

IN a secret report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week, Secretary of State Acheson bluntly announced that the Communists are complete masters of China, and it would be folly to send more U. S. arms to the defeated Nationalists.

Acheson revealed that nine-tenths of the equipment already furnished by the United States has been surrendered to the Communists in the past eight months. Today the Communists have the military power to march wherever they please in China—including South China where the Nationalists are still holding out, Acheson reported.

Meanwhile, the Nationalists are negotiating frantically for a coalition government. Whether the United States will do business with the new government, Acheson said, will depend on the Communists' attitude.

The Secretary of State was called before the Foreign Relations Committee to answer a petition, signed by 50 Senators, demanding aid for the Nationalists. Significantly, the petition was sponsored by Sen. Pat. McCarran of Nevada, the silver lobbyist, whose plan is to bolster the Nationalist economy—with silver.

Lobbying For Peace

SENATE GOP Leader Arthur Vandenberg backed colleague Owen Brewster of Maine in a corner, glanced furtively for eavesdroppers and whispered:

"You'd better lay off that ECA fund to the Dutch that you've been raising such a fuss about. I just learned there's a lobbyist mixed up in this."

Vandenberg probably referred to young Randolph Feltus, a registered lobbyist on Capitol Hill, who has been fighting ECA aid to The Netherlands on the ground that the money will be used to finance Dutch armed imperialism in Indonesia.

"Listen, Arthur," grinned Brewster, "have you ever heard of legislation on any subject in Congress, of major or minor importance, that doesn't have a lobbyist for or against it?"

NOTE: Feltus lined many others have been sent to Senators on the ground that a breakdown of the U. N. regarding Indonesia means a serious undermining of the peace machinery of the world.

Maltreating Nazi Prisoners

SEN. TYDINGS of Maryland has been trying to side-step a Senate investigation of Army brutality in Germany.

What some Senators investigate is evidence that the Army used strong-arm men to torture confessions out of the Malmedy war criminals. Some prisoners, it is contended, had their teeth knocked out, others were taken before mock courts which condemned them to die. Then, after they were convinced there was no hope, they were promised clemency if they would confess. Ration books were also reported taken away from families, until hungry women and children begged the prisoners to confess.

To further demoralize the prisoners, their wives were allegedly taken out and given too much liquor. Subsequently, the Army was able to convict 73 out of 74 defendants in the Melmedy trials. The 74th committed suicide.

That is why Secretary of the Army Royall has decided to review the convictions.

When this information was turned over to the Senate Armed Services Committee, however, Chairman Tydings refused to investigate. Later the Senate Expenditures Committee voted to probe into the scandal, which caused Tydings to change his mind, and he insisted that his committee should have jurisdiction. However, the expenditures Committee decided to go ahead anyway, letting Tydings participate, but not run the show.