THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WHICH TWIN HAS THE TONI?

THE canceling-out of North Carolina's votes on the labor bill as it is shaping up in the Senate, with Senator Hoey voting nay on two amendments which would have had the effect of weakening the Government's authority to deal with national emergencies caused by strikes and Senator Graham voting aye, are a reminder of a former and lamentable situation.

Somehow or other, back there in the Roosevelt days, North Carolina found itself represented in the Senate by as ill-assorted a pair as ever gathered together on the same side of the aisle—the late Josiah William Bailey and the still extant but unlamented Robert Rice Reynolds. Did Bailey resist the embrasive legislation of the New Deal, Reynolds swallowed it whole and called for more. Did Bailey support the World Court or any breach in the isolationism which Roosevelt sought to dispel, Reynolds opposed it furiously.

The result was that the twain might as well have been paired for and against and put in mothballs, for neither was effective in influencing the Senate and neither was in the good graces of the Administration, Bailey because he was against its domestic policies, Reynolds because he was against its foreign policies.

In that respect, of course, the parallel with Senators Hoey and Graham diverges, for Senator Graham, the mighty midget, is generally believed to have been brought to Washington at the suggestion of President Truman himself.

NO TIME TO BACKTRACK

ALTHOUGH the Big Four conference in Paris lacked the fireworks that have enlivened such meetings in the past, the cold war goes on.

Secretary Acheson made that plain in a report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee within hours after returning from the French capital.

Mr. Acheson emphasized that while there was some progress at Paris, the situation continues such that it is imperative for the United States to ratify the Atlantic Pact. And to implement the Pact by adoption of the arms assistance program to fortify our European allies for resistance to continuing threats from behind the Iron Curtain.

Urging a firm policy in Europe to "maintain the momentum which has been stimulated by that policy" the Secretary said:

". . . Although some worthwhile progress was made at Paris in reaching agreement on a modus vivendi for Germany, and on the principal points of difference on the Austria peace treaty, the failure of the conference to obtain satisfactory and firm agreement on the economic and political unification of Germany illustrates the still widely divergent views on basic issues between the Soviet Union and re-emphasizes the utmost importance of ratification of the North Atlantic Pact and passage of the military assistance program at this session of Congress."

Counter drives by the Western democracies to stem the tide of Communist encroachment in Western Europe have been effective. The Marshall Plan, the Atlantic Pact (still lacking formal U. S. ratification), aid to Greece and Turkey have served to stiffen the backbone of nations menaced by Russia.

While recognizing these factors, Mr. Acheson strikes a note of urgency in appealing for speedy action in ratifying the Atlantic Pact and providing arms for our allies. He has made a strong case for firm action and has charted a course that appears to offer the best hope of maintaining world peace. Positive action by the Congress will serve notice upon the Kremlin that we mean business. Such notice should be served.

CONGRESSIONAL DIARY

JUNE 10 — A Senator from Mississippi leaned back in a Senate Committee room and drawled at former Wallace leader C. B. "Beanie" Baldwin: "You blank blank S.O.B." He said the words, not the initials.

June 10 — A Senator from Tennessee shouted at ECA Administrator Paul Hoffman, "I think it would be the best thing for the people of the U. S. if you did resign." Everybody else was considerably surprised, thought Hoffman was doing a fine job.

June 22 — A Representative from Georgia hauled off and slapped 83-year-old Rep. Adolph Sabath across the mouth and knocked his glasses off as the Illinois Democrat sat at his desk in the House chamber.

* * * *

What got into Mississippi's Eastland, Tennessee's McKellar, Georgia's Cox? Did they think they were at some back-of-the-barn corn likker hassel?

It's hard to say what motivates such men, what causes them to think that the violent release of their own emotions is more important than the dignity and tradition of the Congress of the United States.

It matters not to what degree they were provoked, for it behooves them—under any and all circumstances— to pretend to a gentility to which they perhaps cannot lay claim.

That is necessary because the United States wishes to appear before the world as a nation with some regard for civility.

That is necessary because momentous decisions — affecting the world as well as the United States—should not and cannot be made with oaths, angry words or attacks upon aged men.

It would be interesting to know how many persons in Mississippi voted for Eastland, convinced that he was a man of some character. It would be interesting to know what they think of this man who not only showed contempt for the traditions of this nation's governing body, but took—as the Bible would have it—the Lord's name in vain.

And how long will crotchety old Kenneth McKellar be allowed to vent his spleen in pointless, profitless, personal attacks upon such men as Paul Hoffman?

As for Rep. Eugene Cox, what can the nation think of a man who not only struck a man in advanced years, who not only violated the dignity of the Congress of the United States, but proved himself unable to fight a housing bill on the basis of reason, who found it more to his style to strike a man who folled him?

From The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

NOTABLE MARYLAND OPINION

TEN years ago a Baltimore court issued a rule in effect prohibiting pretrial publication of confessions in pending criminal cases. Rule 904, which became known as "the crime news gag rule" was "violated" last April by three Baltimore radio stations which broadcast news of the confession, and prior criminal record of the murderer of an eleven-year-old girl. Fines were imposed on the radio stations for contempt of court. The defendants appealed on the grounds that the court's "gag rule" violated the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech and of the press.

In a 5-to-1 decision the Maryland Court of Appeals has struck out the key sections of the Baltimore court's rules restricting publication of crime news, and reversed the April convictions. "Trials cannot be held in a vacuum," Judge William L. Henderson declared in delivering the majority opinion of the court. "If a mere disclosure of the general nature of the evidence relied on would vitiate a subsequent trial, few verdicts would stand."

Among the acts "subject to punishment as contempt" under Rule 904, was "the issuance by the police authorities, the State's attorney, counsel for the defense, or any other person having official connection with the case, of any statement relative to the conduct of the accused, statements or admissions made by the accused, or other matter bearing upon the issues to be tried."

The Attorney-General of Maryland argued the rule was "merely designed as a general warning or declaration of judicial policy," and did not create a criminal offense or alter substantive law. The appellants contended that even when Rule 904 was viewed as "advice to the press," it was objectionable as censorship of the press.

Unless the decision of the Maryland Court of Appeals is reversed by the United States Supreme Court (something that is not likely to happen) a limitation of the freedom of the press by the Baltimore bench has been ended, the high court of the "Free State" has intervened — with sound reasoning, we think—to prevent a subordinate court's ruling from unduly invading the Free State's freedom.

From Monday morning until Saturday noon this office received 72 pieces of mail from parish, state and national agencies—postage free. If these departments were required to pay postage on the stuff they send out, somehow we have the feeling that the Post Office Department would immediately show a profit instead of remaining in the red. Representatives and Senators please read this again.—*Bunkie (La.) Record.*

Add comparisons: As useless as chromium-ringed portholes in an automobile hood. — *Lexington (Ky.) Leader.*

Robert L. Ripley told of a man who feels no pain when jabbed with needles or pins. Ah! Nature has at last produced the ideal taxpayer. — *Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.*

About the only untaxed transaction now is that of laying up a treasure in heaven.—*Columbus (Miss.) Commercial Dispatch.*

The plate glass window in the northside pool hall was splintered, Tuesday afternoon. The window was not a casualty of the storm. George Yowell, somewhat the worse for liquor, fell back into the window as he attempted to rise from the stone ledge at the front of the building.—*Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.*

Hope It Takes

The Hoover Commission Report

Federal Business Enterprises

(Eleventh in a series of articles explaining the reports of the Hoover Commission on reorganizing the Government.)

THE U. S. Government is not the world's biggest (and least efficiently run) business, because it is not a business. But the Government is in business to an extent that makes General Motors Corp., the biggest U. S. corporation, look like a bicycle shop.

The hundred-odd important business enterprises that the Government owns or is financially involved in are directly or indirectly engaged in lending money (e.g., Farm Credit Administration), guaranteeing loans and deposits (e.g., Federal Housing Administration), writing life insurance (e.g., Veterans' Administration), producing and selling electric power and fertilizers (e.g., TVA), operating railways and ships (e.g., Alaska Railroad and Maritime Commission), buying and selling farm products (e.g., Commodity Credit Corporation), smelting and selling metals (e.g., Reconstruction Finance Corporation).

The Government's direct investment in these enterprises is more than $20 billion, and Congress has authorized another $14 billion for them. In addition, the Government guarantees about $90 billion of deposits and mortgages and has written about $40 billion of life insurance.

Scrupulously avoiding the word "socialism," and resisting all but a few other temptations to sound off about Government purposes, the Commission stuck manfully to its job of suggesting how these enterprises could be run more efficiently and economically. It could not apply the ultimate test of any private business to them, of course because the Government is not in business to make a profit.

The Commission applauds the flexibility of management, budgeting, and accounting granted to Government corporations. But it deplores the unnecessary number of agencies, and the resulting wasteful confusion and duplication in their activities.

The Commission grants that it "may be justifiable" for some Government business agencies to subsidize certain groups and areas, but it believes that these subsidies should be out in the open, not concealed by various devices. Some agencies now charge less interest on their loans than the Treasury must pay for the money loaned. Some subsidize their clients by taking capital losses. Some Government corporations get Congressional appropriations to pay their administrative expenses.

The electric-power-producing enterprises like TVA confuse their costs in many ways. All of them have multiple-purpose dams. Since flood control and navigation produce no revenues, the part of the capital costs attributable to them is charged off as irrecoverable. But sometimes the part charged to the revenue-producing features such as electric power and domestic and irrigation water is too small. The people who buy these things also benefit by the fact that these enterprises pay lower interest rates to the Treasury than private power companies must pay to commercial banks or investors, and are also largely tax-free. And in addition to all these things, some rates for power sales are simply too low to amortize the part of the capital cost assigned to the power element, and to pay the Government a reasonable rate of interest on that investment.

ITEMS

Many Government business agencies invest their idle Government-supplied funds in Government securities. Result: the Government pays interest on its own money.

The 30-odd Government agencies engaged in lending, guaranteeing, and insuring have at least 35,000 employees in 300 offices and branches.

Congress provided that farmers should repay the costs of irrigation systems without interest charges. Even so "these projects, on the average, do not pay out. . . . It simply must be accepted that the national advantage of more farm homes and greater national productivity will offset Government expenditures."

The Interior Department's Virgin Island Company, producers of sugar and rum, "made a profit for 1943 and 1945 as a result of the whisky shortage, but has lost money ever since."

Federal Prison Industries, Inc., employs about 3,000 inmates in 43 shops, makes 28 types of products for sale mostly to Government agencies. Its net earnings from 1935 to 1947 were $20 million.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Similar purpose agencies, especially in housing and farm credit, should be consolidated, eliminating more than 30 of them.

2. All agencies should charge interest rates or prices high enough to include their administrative expenses.

3. Agencies holding Government securities should be required to surrender them to the Treasury, receiving non-interest-bearing credit in return.

4. Every agency should be required to make a yearly report to Congress, setting forth the extent to which its earned income fails to cover: (1) interest on capital furnished by the Government; (2) losses on loans or investments; (3) operating expenses.

5. Every revenue-producing agency should be required to pay proper amortization and interest return to the Government.

6. Direct Government loans to private individuals or firms should be forbidden except in emergencies. The RFC should be limited to guaranteeing loans made by commercial institutions

7. The Commission could reach no agreement on recommendations for the Government's electric-power program. But individual members agreed that real costs should be clearly reported.

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People's Platform

Sunday School Feature

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I WANT to express appreciation for the very fine statements which are being published on your church page under the title "Take Your Family to Sunday School."

I am sure that parents who read these articles will be impressed by the good sense of the viewpoint expressed. The Church is undertaking to do a task of paramount importance in its program of religious education. We are immensely handicapped when we fail to have the co-operation of parents.

I hope that these statements will have wide reading.

—CLAUDE U. BROACH, Minister,
St. John's Baptist Church.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

DEBATED backstage during the closing days of the Paris conference was a point which may revolutionize U. S. policy toward Iron Curtain countries. It was: Should the USA create a "little Marshall Plan" for the satellite countries?

Two schools of thought exist among American diplomats. Both agree that Europe badly needs East-West trade and that the German Ruhr must have markets in Bulgaria, Hungary, Roumania and other satellite countries.

However, one diplomatic school opposes economic aid to any Iron Curtain country. Economic aid, it is argued, is only an indirect way of helping Russia.

The other school argues that aid to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, etc., would win over the people of these countries—already resentful of Soviet rule. This group is prepared to take the calculated risk of helping Russia in order to persuade the satellites to break away from Russia.

However, it was economic unrest inside Yugoslavia that helped induce Tito to pull up his Iron Curtain. Therefore the No. 1 school argues that our best policy is to let the satellites stew in their own economic juice until they really realize how tough life behind the Iron Curtain is.

NOTE—Despite Foreign Minister Vishinsky's smiles at Paris, Russia still has 172 fully trained divisions of the Red Army, plus 180 reserve divisions which can be mobilized in 60 days.

Change Of Mind

REP. JESSE WOLCOTT of Michigan, who leads the House fight against the public housing bill, would like to forget all about it, but he once strongly espoused what he now opposes.

Back in August, 1937, Congressman Wolcott was an outspoken champion of the Wagner-Steagall housing act, which provided for slum clearance and low-cost public housing—the same program which the Michigan Republican now calls "socialistic."

During the 1937 debate Wolcott declared: "I believe that the need for decent, respectable and sanitary housing for the underprivileged has been proved beyond the peradventure of a doubt."

In fact, Wolcott was so concerned about the need for adequate public housing and slum clearance in 1937 that he urged colleagues who were opposed to the bill to go home and "read the Bible" before casting their votes.

Perle's Parties

MRS. PERLE MESTA, ex-Republican oil heiress from Oklahoma whose loyalty to Harry Truman has made her U. S. Minister to Luxembourg, threw a party for Defense Secretary Louie Johnson the other day. But the guest list looked as if Mrs. Mesta was specializing on Pan American Airways.

It included Sam Pryor GOP National Committeeman for Connecticut and vice-president of Pan American; Ben Sonnenberg, astute public relations counsel for Pan Am, and Sen. Brewster of Maine, considered Pan Am's best Senatorial friend. Louise Johnson, himself, of course, used to be counsel for Pan American, which has received more favors from Uncle Sam than any other airline in history.

Some wives of the generals and admirals who make up the joint chiefs of staff refer to their husbands as the "stiff spinks." . . . Rookie-rookie Congressman John Rankin of Mississippi has really dug into the history books to sound the alarm about spies. Warning the Congress about Communism, Rankin recalled that Benjamin Franklin's secretary, Jonathan Bancroft, had slipped Government secrets to the British during the Revolutionary war. . . . Jack McCloy, now U. S. Governor of Germany, was originally appointed assistant secretary of State Acheson. They will work well together. . . . Gen. Harry Vaughan, the President's military aide, is now sniping at Defense Secretary Johnson—despite the fact that Mr. Vaughan, urged Johnson's appointment. . . . Madame Kai-Shek's brothers-in-law, T. V. Soong and H. H. Kung, reputed to head the richest families in the world, are looking for a good public relations man. . . . Mr. Pryor, one of the American people on shipping silver to pay Chinese troops. Some silver-bloc Senators, especially McCarran of Nevada, have already bitten.

Marquis Childs

An Era On Trial

NEW YORK

AT one point in the respectful quiet of the courtroom in which Alger Hiss is on trial Judge Samuel H. Kaufman leaned forward to reprove the Government prosecutor. The defendant, Hiss, said Judge Kaufman, is the only one on trial here.

In the technical, legal sense that may be true. But there are many who regard Hiss as a symbol of the Roosevelt era. If he should be convicted, they will consider it as a verdict of guilty against the dead President and the men who made the New Deal.

That, of course, is where politics comes in. So deep are the prejudices of many with this attitude that they are not likely to accept at its full value an acquittal.

The Hiss defense has ranged back over those crowded years when Washington was an exciting place full of the ferment of new ideas and new hopes. The ghosts of those years seem to hover over Judge Kaufman's neat, efficient, air-conditioned courtroom. There are echoes from a past that today seems incredibly far off.

That was true, above all, when Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter was on the witness stand. Here was the man accused so often of being the head and front, the inspirer, the Machiavelli of the Roosevelt regime. This charge still is repeated in various forms where venom continues to be distilled from the past.

Even in the brief period he was under examination the pattern came clear. With his brisk, precise articulation, so familiar to the drawing-rooms of Cambridge and Washington, Frankfurter answered the questions of the defense and the prosecution. The great names rolled out, and even in this legalistic exchange the shape and texture of a bygone age were made visible.

The presiding ghost was that of the late Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. For most of his years at Harvard Law School Frankfurter had recommended to Holmes each year a brilliant young law graduate to be Holmes' law clerk.

So he had sent Alger Hiss to Holmes. Hiss, sitting just inside the rail separating actors from audience in the courtroom, looks today young enough to be that law clerk of eighteen years ago. It was the beginning of his career.

Frankfurter sent so many young men to Washington. That is one of the crimes invariably raised against him. But, as his testimony developed, he also sent bright young men to the great law firms in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

He was unequivocal in saying that he had never heard anyone question Hiss's loyalty or veracity. Hiss's reputation was excellent. The same testimony came from another Supreme Court Justice, Stanley Reed. This in itself was an extraordinary thing—to have two judges of the highest court of the land giving testimony in a trial judge's courtroom.

It is a measure of the change in climate that has occurred in a few short years. From 1934, when Hiss went into the New Deal, through Yalta and the early phase of the United Nations, the defendant was the confidante and trusted adviser of the top men in Government.

They worked with him from day to day. He and his wife were on friendly terms with them and with their families. They admired him as one of the eager, willing, idealistic young men attracted to Government by the crisis of the depression.

This is just where prejudice seems to me most hard and unfair. Those who take Hiss as a symbol and who have already prejudged him in their minds prefer to forget that era of the thirties when in the wake of collapse and bankruptcy the very foundations of our system seemed to have given way.

A psychiatrist would find this desire to forget, coupled with a desire to find a culprit, extremely interesting. Many of these same people were in despair in 1932 and '33, uncertain whether they would ever regain their wealth and prestige. You can make a good case for saying that they were saved by the New Deal and that you never quite forgive your rescuer.

This is not said to condone those who, like Henry Julian Wallace and Whittaker Chambers, have confessed to willful treason in the era. That is the tragic enigma. How, even under the stresses and strains, the uncertainty and insecurity of that time, could young men sharing its advantages of the society in which they lived deliberately plot against it.

Robert C. Ruark

The 'Mother' Man

INDIANAPOLIS

THE Rev. Charles M. Fillmore is probably the oldest practicing songwriter in America today, and one of the best adjusted, since he never cares whether his songs make any money.

Mr. Fillmore, now 89, is the author of "Tell Mother I'll Be There," a lugubrious ballad which has been used to convert more heathen and force tears to the eyes of more backsliders than probably than any other single song in the last 50 years.

"Tell Mother" was written by Mr. Fillmore back in 1896 and was, he says, based on President McKinley's message to his dying mother. Mr. Fillmore, a slight, white-haired, active little man, received $5 for the song. It has sold millions of copies and has been translated into Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, Turkish and Armenian.

Mr. Fillmore used to bill himself as preacher-author, musician, editor, lecturer. He preached, wrote, played, edited and lectured all around and about. His songs mostly specialized in mothers. Apart from the mother song that made him famous, he has written "Home and Mother," "I'll Wear a White Flower for Mother," "Mother Love," "My Good Old Mother's Religion" and "My Mother's Photograph."

As he looks back over the years Mr. Fillmore cannot decide whether he felt more strongly against the demon rum or the vicious coffin nail. He has written a treatise entitled "Tobacco Taboo" and was editor of the No-Tobacco Journal.

SIN-HATER

Some of his lectures have been entitled "A Cause of Alarm," "A Call to Arms," "Judas Nicotina," "Keeping Kissable" and "Kindred Vices." There has never been any compromise in Mr. Fillmore. Two of his favorite lecture topics are "Abhorring Evil" and "Loving Righteousness and Hating Iniquity."

Mr. Fillmore tells me he has been writing songs since 1883, all of a religious nature, and that he sold the average effort for $3. He cannot remember how many songs he has written. There were several hundred, but he says, "My mind is not as bright as it was 40 or 50 years ago." The most he ever received for a single song was the $300 he got for "White Flower for Mother."

Mr. Fillmore says he sold "Tell Mother" to a publisher in his brother, who ran a music house in Chicago. An evangelist named Charles M. Alexander liked it and kept singing it to his flock from Mrother Fillmore's compilations.

"It was a dull night at a revival meeting in Newton, Kan," the Rev. Mr. Fillmore recalls. "Alexander was giving of his best, but he just couldn't get through to the people. He asked me to slip to my hotel and up a bit, and turned accidentally to my song, and when a big railroad fireman started to cry Alexander knew he had a real hit on his hands. He bought it from my brother-in-law, I believe, and he paid—and took it to England.

BLESSEDEST THING EVER

"Well, sir," Mr. Fillmore goes on "it was the blessedest thing you ever saw. All of England wept when they heard it and sang it in the same way all over the world."

The singing evangelist held onto Mr. Fillmore's hit for 36 long years. Then he died, the copyright expired, and Mr. Fillmore had his hit back in his hands again. He sells it now for $1 a copy, and the sale is brisk.

Although Mr. Fillmore has become slightly more tolerant of the use of tobacco by others—he allowed me to smoke a cigarette as we chatted—he has not slackened an inch on evil, although he has been retired from active preaching for 19 years. When he celebrates his 90th birthday on July 15, he has a new book ready for publication. Its title is "The Way to Live," and its theme comes from Romans 12:21.

"You have to overcome evil with good," the Rev. Fillmore says. "You can't let up even for a minute."

U. S. Debates Satellite Marshall Plan

During the 1937 debate Wolcott declared: "I believe that the need for decent, respectable and sanitary housing for the underprivileged has been proved beyond the peradventure of a doubt."

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Perle's Parties

MRS. PERLE MESTA, ex-Republican oil heiress from Oklahoma whose loyalty to Harry Truman has made her U. S. Minister to Luxembourg, threw a party for Defense Secretary Louie Johnson the other day. But the guest list looked as if Mrs. Mesta was specializing on Pan American Airways.

It included Sam Pryor GOP National Committeeman for Connecticut and vice-president of Pan American; Ben Sonnenberg, astute public relations counsel for Pan Am, and Sen. Brewster of Maine, considered Pan Am's best Senatorial friend. Louise Johnson, himself, of course, used to be counsel for Pan American, which has received more favors from Uncle Sam than any other airline in history.

NOTE—Mrs. Mesta is now reading books on the steel industry. For Luxembourg, her new post, is the center of the European steel cartel.

Merry-Go-Round

MOST of the Pennsylvania Democrats in Congress are planning to descend on Secretary of Defense Johnson to demand the ousting of Paul Griffith, former commander of The American Legion, from the Defense Dept. Those who know Griffith and his chair-warming activities, agree with the Congressmen. . . .

He Who Laughs Last

OREGON'S wrathy Republican Wayne Morse has served notice that he will block every bill Chairman Millard Tydings of Maryland tries to steamroller through the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Morse issued his warning privately after rowing with Tydings publicly over whether the Navy should report to Congress its disposal of surplus property. This is now required by law, but Tydings wants to repeal the law and let the Navy dispose of property without any public report. Morse objected on the ground that Congress should not give up its checks on the military. But in committee Tydings overruled him.

However, the Oregon Senator is going to have the last laugh. For he can block most of Tydings' bills on the Senate floor, and he has served notice that he will do so—whenever the chairman tries to jam legislation down the throats of committee members without a fair vote.