THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE FOURTH OF JULY

TODAY is the Fourth of July. Citizens of the United States have always observed it with a mixture of sentimentality, gaiety and determination.

Sentimentality, because of an almost personal love we possess for our nation's flag.

Gaiety, because freedom is something to be happy about.

Determination, because we will never allow that freedom to be taken from us.

For the past five years the day has meant picnics, trips to the beach and a few burned fingers from fireworks.

This year it means that our soldiers are once again fighting for that freedom which Americans won in the eighteenth century—freedom for ourselves, freedom in Korea, China, Iran . . . wherever freedom is withheld from those who desire it.

Perhaps the sentimentality is less this year, the gaiety subdued; but our determination to fight for freedom has never before been more evident.

SUGAW CREEK SOLUTION IN PROSPECT

JUST IN CASE you Charlotte readers have become somewhat confused over the engineering mumbo-jumbo in the papers recently, let's try to explain in layman's language what the City is doing to clear up Sugaw and Erwin Creeks.

Last Summer Charlotte's creeks—especially Sugaw—were about as offensive as creeks can get. The odors came from two sources:

1. There had been, for a long time, seepage of sewage from the big concrete pipe buried along Sugaw Creek. The City decided to rebuild that pipe. The job was done last Summer. While construction was in process, a great deal of raw sewage ran into the creek. The odors were terrible, especially during the long dry spell when there were no heavy rains to flush the creek.

2. There had been, and there still is, a sizable volume of waste from various industries along the creek banks. City law has forbidden industries to dump their concentrated wastes into the sewage system because the disposal plants weren't designed to handle it. Hence, industry has dumped its waste in the creeks, discoloring the water and causing more odors.

The first cause of pollution has been eliminated. A new sewer line—or "outfall" as the engineers call it—has been built along Sugaw Creek. No raw sewage is seeping into the creek. The City Government is not now responsible for any of the offensive odors that may be arising from the creek.

The second cause of pollution will be eliminated in another year and a half if the voters approve the funds for a new sewage disposal system in the forthcoming July bond election. Settling a months-long dispute over the exact design of the new plant, the City Council has decided to follow the recommendations of a Chicago engineer and accept into its sewage system *all* industrial wastes at their full strength. The bigger industries will be required to build retaining tanks and regulate the flow of their waste in such a way as to avoid overloading the disposal plant. All of the industries will be charged a fee based on the volume and composition of their waste.

Such a plant will cost approximately $100,000 more than the Council had originally planned to build. But the charges against industry will amortize this additional cost, so that the general taxpaying public will not have to bear it.

In summary, then, there is no longer any raw sewage seeping into the creeks. When the new disposal plant is built, there will no longer be any industrial waste in the creeks. And, finally, the rapid progress in modernizing slum housing along the creek banks, including the provision of regular toilet facilities, will eliminate any pollution from that source.

By early 1952, Charlotte's creeks should be completely free of pollution. The credit goes to the present City Administration, and especially to the Council committee headed by Basil Boyd. The City Council, the City Manager, and the various City engineers, and the local industrialists have solved a knotty problem in what seems to be the best possible fashion.

ABOUT THAT PRISON REPORT

ORDINARILY we do not feel impelled to go to the aid of "Battlin' Bob" Thompson, the pugnacious anti-Scott anti-Graham anti-Truman editor of the sprightly *High Point Enterprise*. Bob can take care of himself in any round of journalistic fisticuffs—provided the referee doesn't watch too closely.

This time, we'd like to array ourselves on Editor Thompson's side in his new campaign to force the publication of the recent SBI report on Prison Director J. B. Moores' activities, as well as Mr. Moore's point-by-point reply.

Thompson has called on Attorney-General Harry McMullan (who now has the report) to turn it over to Solicitor William Bickett of Raleigh so that the latter official might, if he finds any evidence of criminal wrong-doing, present the report to the Wake County grand jury.

The SBI investigation, ordered after reports that Mr. Moore had used State materials and State prison labor around his home, was reported on in detail to the Governor. The Highway Commission examined it, discussed it with Mr. Moore, and then accepted Moore's resignation. The prison director maintains stoutly that he is not guilty of any criminal wrong.

There must have been some reason why his resignation was accepted. Editor Thompson suspects that there are other names than Moore's mentioned in the thick document. At any rate, the "scandal" involves the people's business, and we think the people of North Carolina have a right to know what the SBI uncovered against Mr. Moore or any other individuals.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

TAFT LOWERS HIMSELF

ROBERT A. TAFT wants desperately to be returned to the Senate from Ohio this Fall. In all probability, he wants reelection more than he personally wants anything else in the year 1950. This is the most generous way to account for the Republican leader's bitter demand that Secretary of State Acheson resign from the Cabinet.

The gulf is vast between the statements of former President Hoover and Gov. Dewey on the one hand and Senator Taft on the other with respect to Korea. All three said that President Truman was justified in using armed force, but there similarity ended. Messrs. Hoover and Dewey passed over differences and called for unified support of the President in the crisis. Senator Taft denounced the Acheson policy in Asia, which he said President Truman has now reversed.

We credit Senator Taft with knowing what is wrong with his own statement. First, Dean Acheson did not make our policy in Asia. Mr. Acheson has been Secretary of State only since the resignation of George Marshall eighteen months ago. Our China policy has been in process for years. Long before Dean Acheson assumed the Secretaryship, many Americans had come to the conclusion that Chiang Kai-Shek's corrupt and discredited regime could not be longer supported.

This appraisal of Chiang still stands, Senators Taft and Knowland to the contrary notwithstanding. Any defense Chiang gets on the island of Formosa is only incidental to the protection of the South Korean Republic.

Grant, but only for the purpose of answering Senator Taft, that our Chinese policy has been changed. Then it is changed not by Washington, but by the military aggression of the Korean Communists. Surely it is no discredit to the State Department that prior to the invasion the American people had decided against pouring more money down Chiang's rathole. Surely there can be no serious criticism of the Administration for centering on the Marshall Plan's rehabilitation of Europe.

Many of Senator Taft's own GOP colleagues warned against spreading American resources too thinly over the world. And Mr. Taft himself voted against the foreign arms aid bill, with $27,000,000 for Korea, the Philippines and Iran, in September, 1949. He also voted against the foreign aid authorization bill last May.

The excited Taft attack on Dean Acheson contrasts with the Secretary's own calm, cool, effective review of the Korean situation before the American Newspaper Guild. Whatever this partisan assault in an hour of crisis does to Robert Taft's reputation in Ohio, it has much reduced him in stature nationally. But then he had already marked himself far down when he came out six weeks ago in a radio hookup and publicly joined the McCarthy camp.

A lady we know has made herself one of those new-fangled knitted bathing suits, but she faces the Summer with some misgivings. Seems her husband is one of those people who can't resist yanking at a raveled thread.—*Memphis (Tenn.) Press-Scimitar.*

A farmer in Covington County was left a blank by a census enumerator on which he was requested to list his livestock. The Census Supervisor received the following note: "Have completed list of livestock and poultry, but am having a heluvatime counting my bees."—*Collins (Miss.) News-Commercial.*

There was an affair at Austin yesterday to try and save the Democratic Party, which is all right, except that they have to save it from the Democrats.—*Wichita Falls (Tex.) Daily Times.*

Now He Knows How It Works

AEC Chairman's Appointment Now At Ward Politics Level

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

THE EXTENT TO which we are all in the dark on so many of the major decisions that directly determine our destiny is well illustrated in the dispute over the nomination of Sumner Pike to a new term on the Atomic Energy Commission. On the surface it looks like just another shabby election year squabble.

Iowa's Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper lined up Senate members of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee to produce an adverse vote of 5 to 4 against Pike. The vote on the Senate floor is also expected to be against Pike since Hickenlooper is reported to have had success in rounding up Southern Democrats to vote with the Republicans.

NO REASONS

Except in the most general terms, Hickenlooper has not said why he opposes Pike's reappointment. It was Hickenlooper who brought the charges of "incredible mismanagement" against former Commission Chairman David Lilienthal.

Those charges were never proved. What was generally considered a time-wasting fiasco brought Hickenlooper a lot of criticism in his own state. The best guess is that by blocking Pike he will show the folks back home that he did, after all, accomplish something.

On the Meet the Press radio program, Hickenlooper, after much prodding, indicated one reason for his opposition to Pike was because Pike had been against proceeding with the steps necessary to make the hydrogen bomb. Reached at his Summer home in Maine, Pike denied that he had opposed President Truman's H-bomb decision.

But there are other aspects of this whole business that strike much deeper. A year ago Pike made a speech at his college, Bowdoin, in Maine. In that speech Pike touched briefly on what is the heart of the relationship between the Commission and the Congress—that is to say, the relationship between the atomic giant and the people.

He said that the Joint Senate-House Committee did not know either the production rate or the number of the bombs in the atomic stockpile. Then Pike added:

"The recent charges against the commission's chairman, and the hearings which followed, based as they have been on comparatively peripheral and insignificant items in the program, seem to me to have had their source in a basic inability to make a sound appraisal of the relative importance of the various elements which constitute the commission's task."

The fact is that the Committee still does not know either the rate of production or the bombs in the stockpile. Whenever the subject has come up in a Committee meeting, a majority have indicated that they did not want to know.

As Pike suggested in his talk at Bowdoin, this implies a basic distrust of their own capacity, either to keep the secret or to know what to do about the information if they had it. I might add that, it seems to me to indicate a basic distrust of the processes of representative government in the face of a power so overwhelming as atomic energy.

The President knows the number of bombs in the stockpile. So do the Commission members. So do the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Chairman Brien McMahon of the Senate-House Committee personally knows.

Pike in his Bowdoin address also talked about the "clumsy handicaps" imposed on the development of atomic power for peacetime purposes. Since his resignation, Lilienthal wrote an article for Collier's warning that present secrecy regulations were throttling experimental development of atomic power.

ANOTHER ELEMENT

There is another element in the Pike blockade. Colorado's two Senators, Eugene Millikin, a Republican, and Edwin Johnson, a Democrat, both voted against Pike. They are said to be influenced by the dissatisfaction of uranium miners in Colorado with the Commission's policies. Johnson's chief function in the Senate has always been to do the work of the mining and other interests back home. And he does it with the amiable shrewdness of a ward politician.

Bernard M. Baruch, in his memorable declaration to the United Nations spoke of the issue of atomic energy as being for all of us a choice between the quick and the dead. That this should be decided on the level of ward politics, with the responsible Committee unwilling to examine the basic facts, is a sad commentary on the times.

In War Or Peace

Two Books Tell About USSR

By BOB SAIN
Charlotte News Book Editor

WHILE it is obvious that our immediate curiosity about Russia is, properly, concerned with her military strength and her political intentions, it is still a time in which we must learn as much as possible about every other aspect of the U.S.S.R.

Nothing is so valuable in achieving cordial relations with a land as understanding it and its people. In war, detailed knowledge of the enemy homeland is essential.

Thus, two books published this season by the Macmillan Company will be of equal worth to those seeking peace with Russia and those preparing to wage war against Russia.

They are "Natural Regions of the U.S.S.R." by L. S. Berg (436 pp. $10) and "Economic Geography of the U.S.S.R.", edited by S. S. Balzak, V. F. Vasytin and Ya. G. Feigin (620 pp. $10).

These two volumes are prepared for specialists by specialists.

. . .

IN "Natural Regions", translated by Olga Adler Titelbaum, you are offered, for instance, such exotic information as this:

In the Talysh Lowland of the humid subtropical regions "the pheasant (Phasianus colchicus) feeds readily upon the berries of the holy-bramble, and the jungle cat (Felis chaus) hunts the pheasant in the holy-bramble thickets and the reeds."

But, and more important, you learn that the average mean July temperature in Vladivostok (about 200 miles from the northern tip of Korea) is about 62 degrees Fahrenheit and the average probability of cloudiness in July is between 65 and 70 per cent, while precipitation in the area is surpassed in Russia only in the Crimea.

There is much in "Natural Regions" that will be of little use to the specialist and of absolutely no meaning to the layman, but there is a wealth of pertinent detail concerning the physical complexion of that vast land which we have been forced to recognize as our greatest enemy.

The systematic description of the sprawling land includes carefully detailed information on the tundra zone, the forest zone, the steppe, the forest steppe, the zones of the Semidesert, the Desert Zone, the Mountains of Soviet Central Asia, the Soviet Humid Subtropical Regions, the Mountains of the Caucasus, other mountain ranges and the Kamchatka island and Sakhalin peninsula (half of which, by the way, is Japanese territory occupied by the Americans).

The book is of especial value since the Soviet authorities have made any observation behind the Iron Curtain extremely difficult.

. . .

OF EVEN greater value in the event of war between the U. S. and the U.S.S.R. will be the "Economic Geography", with its detailed maps of industrial areas, population tables, maps of rail, motor, water and air routes. Much has been changed, of course, since the Russian volume was published some ten years ago, but the editions have sought to bring it up to date as much as possible with that amount of information which has been made available since the end of the war.

Valuable insight into the place of Marxist dogma in the interpretation of natural geography and economic geography is provided by the volumes.

Lenin and Stalin are quoted at the drop of a statistic—and in what U. S. economic geography text could you find such a statement as this from the Russian book: "The more Soviet transport develops and the better it operates, the stronger is Soviet economic power, and together with it the power of the glorious Red Army".

Basically textbooks, "Natural Regions" and "Economic Geography" are properly reviewed in technical journals, but are mentioned on this page as valuable tools in the study of American relations with the Soviet Union.

. . .

BOTH works were translated under the Russian translation project of the American Council of Learned Societies, of which W. Chapin Huntington is editor. "Natural Regions" is edited by John A. Morrison, consultant on Soviet Geography, formerly Chief of the Eastern European Branch, Division of Research for Europe of the U. S. State Department. He also provides a preface for "Economic Geography". Olga Adler Titelbaum translated "Economic Geography" with Robert M. Hankin, and Chauncey D. Harris, professor of Geography at the University of Chicago, edited the American edition.

Two other significant volumes published by the Russian Translation Project are "The Law of the Soviet State" by Andrei Vishinsky and "History of the National Economy of Russia" by P. I. Lyashchenko.

People's Platform

What Next?

CHAPEL HILL

Editors, The News:

". . . 'TIS too much proved—that with devotion's visage and pious action we do sugar o'er the Devil himself." —(Hamlet)

. . .

Throughout the recent Senatorial election I got a big kick out of the greatly inflated analogies made in regard to North Carolina's gullible junior Senator. He's been favorably compared to such greats as Jesus of Nazareth, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Robert E. Lee, and Booker T. Washington. Then there's Woodrow Wilson and FDR. Doubtless there are those who have compared the Senator with the Almighty Himself although I haven't actually seen it in print. However, I did hear one enthusiastic supporter come very, very close to making that comparison.

The next thing we know someone will suggest that upon Dr. Graham's death he should be enshrined in a sarcophogus of rare and priceless marble in Arlington and canonized as "Saint Frank". Isn't it amazing the extent to which emotions rather than sober reflection direct us?

—J. R. CHERRY JR.

Quote, Unquote

Claude Callan says women are becoming harder to please all the time. In the old days wife didn't ask for anything better than a pretty day for hanging out her big washing. —Pittsburg (Tex.) Gazette.

Reds Meant To Exploit U. S. Weakness By Invading Korea

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THE WHOLE momentous meaning of President Truman's decision to meet force with force in Korea can only be grasped in the light of what would surely have happened if he had decided otherwise. For there can be no doubt that the aggression in Korea was planned as only the first of a whole series of demonstrations of Russian strength and Western weakness, designed to lead to the crumbling of the Western will to resist.

Certain events in Iran, in the days immediately preceding the attack on Korea, suggest how the weak spots in the Western defenses would have been exploited. Less than a week before the Korean puppets were given the signal to march, the Soviet ambassador in Teheran appeared at the Iranian foreign office. Brusquely, be handed the Iranian foreign minister a toughly worded protest, and departed.

SOVIET PROTEST

The Soviet protest recalled the 1921 Soviet-Iranian treaty. It charged that in permitting a "hostile power" — the United States — to use Iran as a "base for aggression", Iran was violating the treaty. And it reminded the Iranians that such a "violation" gave the Soviet Union the right to enter Iran in order to expel the "hostile power."

This was only the culminating point in a long campaign of pressure on Iran. For weeks, the clandestine Tudeh (Communist) Party, liberally financed by the Soviet embassy, had been working with renewed energy to undermine the tottering structure of the state. And for weeks, the "free Iranian movement," using radio transmitters mounted on railroad cars along the Russian border, had been denouncing the Iranian government and the "imperialist" United States, and promising "liberation" soon.

Iran is one side of the medal. If the United States had failed to act in Korea, or if American action has been confined to handwringing protests, it might never have been necessary for the Kremlin even to send into Iran appropriately costumed "free Iranian" forces in order to bring about Iran's capitulation. With only a little extra pressure, the corrupt, frightened Iranian government, the lesson of South Korea well learned, would almost certainly have begged for the best terms it could get.

And what would have happened in Iran would have happened in one form or another at other weak spots around the Soviet periphery, notably in Burma (where the British momentarily expected a Chinese Communist attack after the Korean attack), in Tibet, throughout the Middle East, and in Greece. For the way in which such demonstrations of Soviet strength and Western weakness would have been exploited, it is only necessary to turn to Germany.

GUN FOR EUROPE

Western Germany and Western Europe, which remain the Kremlin's paramount objectives, would not of course have capitulated immediately. But as one demonstration of Western weakness followed another around the Soviet periphery, a mood of appeasement and surrender would certainly have been induced in the major Western nations, while the Soviets themselves, emboldened by their success in Korea, became increasingly arrogant. Indeed, even in the three days between the attack and Truman's decision, there were visible signs that sensible Western Europeans were taking Pieck's warnings to heart.

Now, by contrast, the non-Soviet world has never been more united, the spirit of resistance to Soviet aggression has never been stronger than it is today. So much has courage accomplished at one stroke. There are still dark and menacing dangers ahead. But whatever lies ahead, it cannot but be better than the rapid crumbling of the defenses of the free world, which the Kremlin certainly anticipated, and which would surely have followed American appeasement in Korea.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

US Brass Argues Over East-West Trade

WASHINGTON

A RAGING controversy of great importance is being threshed out secretly inside the National Security Council. It involves the cutting off of all British, French and Western European exports to Russia, which, in turn, would cost Uncle Sam nearly three billions a year.

The issue was brought to a head by letters from Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer and Munitions Board Chairman Hubert E. Howard to the Security Council. These notes ask the State Department to demand that Atlantic Pact Allies enforce a complete trade embargo with Communist nations.

At present the Atlantic Pact Nations undertake to curtail shipment of strategic materials to Iron Curtain countries, but non-strategic materials have been shipped in normal trade channels for some time; and West European economists point out that it would throw their economy completely out of gear if these shipments were cut off.

They point out that Western Europe depends on the East for grain, ores and raw materials, and as a market for its manufactured goods. In a normal pre-war year, 1938, the West-East trade amounted to $3,000,000,000. Last year the figure was $2,600,000,000, despite an embargo on key munitions equipment.

Secretary of State Acheson and ECA Administrator Paul Hoffman laid before the Security Council data to show a shut-off of this trade would bring widespread unemployment, rationing, and political instability in Western Europe. For example, Communism is being licked in Northern Italy, ironically, because the shipbuilding industry is making and selling small boats to Poland and Russia.

The State Department has been negotiating for two years to shut down the export of critical items, and Great Britain now has a security list known as "Group IT" of banned exports to Communist areas.

But U. S. military leaders take a vigorous view on the sale of various other commodities. They demand, for instance, that duck feathers be placed on the prohibited list, because they are used to line aviators' suits. The generals also demand that all ball bearings, including those used in ball-point pens, be barred from the Iron Curtain.

W. Averell Harriman, the new "Cold War" co-ordinator, who got into the fight this week, commented: "Instead of trying to overturn the economy of Western Europe, we ought to look at our luxury trade with Russia. Dollars paid for Russian furs are used to buy armaments and strategic materials in South America."

NOTE—Secretary Johnson blames Secretary Acheson for hexing the Sawyer plan to cut off West-East European trade. But what Johnson neglects to say is that Truman himself said "No," on the ground that it would cost the U. S. Treasury at least $2,600,000,000 to compensate for upsetting this commerce.

Atomic Pie

A PIECE of lemon meringue pie almost put the nation's top general out of commission during the height of the Korean crisis.

Gen. Omar Bradley was weak and running a temperature during the recent White House and Blair House meetings. Finally ordered to the hospital by the President, his illness was diagnosed as food poisoning. The destructive morsel was a piece of lemon meringue pie the general ate at Anchorage, Alaska, en route home from Japan.

When Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson heard this diagnosis, he gulped:

"General Bradley only had one piece of that pie," he said. "I ate two."

Secret Deal

IT WAS Maine's Republican Senator Brewster who slyly wielded the ax on his fellow Maine Republican, Sumner Pike, as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Pike has served in the Government for years, having been a GOP member of the Securities & Exchange Commission and a wartime official in OPA. He has also been a Republican member of the Atomic Energy Commission ever since it was established, and is one of the few Republicans chosen by Truman to become chairman of a Government agency.

However, Pike follows a policy much closer to the other GOP Senator from Maine, Liberal Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith, who does not get along with Brewster. Furthermore, though Brewster did not tell this to other Senators, Pike is thinking of running against him in 1952.

So Brewster worked out a deal, with the backing of Democratic Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia, by which Pike would be defeated for Senate confirmation.

On the surface, Brewster was back in Maine and glum Senator Bourke Hickenlooper of Iowa led the GOP-Republicrat drive against Pike. However, Brewster had made an informal agreement whereby Republicans would vote against Martin A. Hutchinson, a sworn foe of the Senator Harry Byrd machine in Virginia, in return for conservative Democrat votes against Pike.

Hutchinson's nomination for Federal Trade Commissioner was voted unfavorably 5 to 3 by the Senate Interstate Committee. Later, when Pike's name came before the Atomic Energy Committee, the plot was so well carried out that Administration forces were completely taken by surprise.

"What's going on here?" asked the amazed Senator Tom Connally of Texas. "I didn't know anyone was against Sumner Pike. What are the objections?"

None of the GOP-Dixiecrat objectors said a word. Chairman Brien McMahon of Connecticut asked if any member wanted to question Pike. Still silence. Commissioner Henry Smyth asked to be heard for Pike. So did all the other Commissioners, including Republican Thomas Murray. Their endorsement was met in silence. Naturally since they could not talk about the deal and could make no real objection to Pike, they had nothing to say.

But when the votes were counted, the Committee was 5 to 4, against. All the Republicans plus Republicrat Ed Johnson of Colorado, said, "No." Johnson is chairman of the same committee that said nix to Hutchinson by a secret vote.