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TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1950

NATURAL GAS ISSUE REOPENED

The Charlotte City Council has twice declined to approve the sale of the Duke Power Co. gas franchise to Piedmont Natural Gas Co. The Council apparently felt that the natural gas picture was so confused at the moment that it should wait until the Federal Power Commission makes a ruling on the current hearings before acting on Duke's request.

Now Mr. Conyer, Piedmont president, has reopened the issue with a strongly worded statement to The News. Mr. Conyer says that further delay in approving the sale of the franchise is threatening "serious injury" to his city.

THE CHANGING AMERICAN

WE HAVE noted in these columns before that the Average American appears to be way ahead of politically-conscious Washington in his thinking about the Korean War.

SENATORIAL GRAB-BAG

NOTE to voters in the Carolinas: Last week the Senate American during the first half of the Twentieth Century Gerald Johnson in his Incredible Tale has traced the American's growing consciousness of his destined role in world affairs.

STRONG MEDICINE

THE THEFT of two half-filled kegs of nails and tacks by three young men from the Myers Park section did not quite fall into the category of vicious and malicious wrongdoing which paradoxically seems to center in Charlotte's "best" residential sections.

FLASHBULBS IN THE SENATE

MR. WHEERRY, Mr. President, a parliamentary inquiry. THE VICE-PRESIDENT: The Senator will state it. MR. WHEERRY: I thought it was against the rules of the Senate to take a picture of the Senate while it was in session.

with this natural gas argument, that Piedmont's competitors would put an entirely different interpretation on the matter.

A way has been suggested for the City Council to satisfy Duke and Piedmont without jeopardizing the applications of others. The Council might adopt a general resolution expressing its willingness and intention of approving the sale or transfer of Duke's franchise at any time in the future to any bona fide distributor who (1) actually has access to natural gas in the city limits, and (2) can establish a firm willingness and ability to meet Charlotte's needs in an aggressive fashion.

Such a resolution could be forwarded to the FPC to satisfy any doubts that body might have as to Charlotte's great interest in natural gas. It would not constitute Piedmont's approval of the sale to Piedmont, but would protect the public interest by keeping the matter open. It would not hurt the application of any of the competing companies.

The News certainly would not endorse anything more than that. The current hearing in Washington have produced a great deal of conflicting evidence that cannot be intelligently assessed locally. That's what the FPC is for. And there will be ample time, after FPC has decided who is going to bring natural gas to Charlotte, for the Council to act on the local distributorship.

The other justification for delay—to investigate the feasibility of municipal ownership—apparently hasn't stirred enough interest in the City of Charlotte. We don't know whether municipal ownership and operation of natural gas systems is a good thing or a bad thing. But we believe the City Government should at least make an effort to find out the experiences of other cities.

Fact, aid to Greece and Turkey, the arms-aid program, and finally the most acid test of all, our involvement in a bitter war in the Far East, Korea, are all vivid signs of his metamorphosis.

That he should go one step further and accept (and even urge) the enforcement of rigid controls over our whole economic system, that he has in the past time—is still further evidence that the Twentieth Century American is made of strong stuff and guided by sound common sense.

What the culprits and their parents must have considered a "youthful prank" would doubtless have been viewed as a plain unadorned larceny had it happened in some of the more modest residential areas of the City. And City Recorder Currie was justified in finding them guilty of larceny and slapping fines of \$30 and the costs on two of them, and an additional fine for reckless driving on the third.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT: The Chair would suggest that if any photographer took a picture of the Senate Chamber when it is in session, the Sergeant at Arms see to it is not developed. MR. WHEERRY: I thank the Chair. THE VICE-PRESIDENT: The Chair is advising that what happened in the Chamber was a photograph of a picture of the gentleman conveying the message of the President as he came into the Senate Chamber.

Please Keep The Aisle Clear. You Never Know

Capital Divided Over Need For Full Wartime Controls

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON MUST WE GO THROUGH this? Must the American economy be placed on a full mobilization basis. The current bill would require rationing, rationing and price and wage control and all the rest?

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Any sensible man must recognize that here a new type of present level of defense spending will continue for years. No sensible man believes the probability of an American economy saddled indefinitely with the burden of all the rest.

First, much higher taxes. The \$3,000,000,000 tax raise demanded by Truman's budget is a first step. There is much more to come, if Truman has his way with Congress.

Second, really tough consumer credit control. Consumer credit is now the \$10,000,000,000 level. It is pressing explosively against the whole price structure. Drastic controls of consumer credit will eliminate the whole of pain and rage from all this.

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Fourth, rewards whose possible penalties were necessary to, to treat productive capacity especially in such light areas as steel, which was a 1 1/2 a production above capacity before Korea. Restricting especially insists that the Government should be able to produce at the same time, is to produce more stuff.

Fifth, but by no means less important, ruthless use of government-owned agricultural commodities, from cotton to butter, to keep food prices in line and to take the Government off its feet.

This sort of program should be possible to do the defense job without spending the whole war budget. That is the hope of the majority group in the administration. The fact that this seems a perfectly rational hope. Yet close examination gives the impression that it is not.

The measures listed above involve stepping on all sorts of political hot spots. It is not clear how Congress will do the job. Congress in an election year, will be deeply concerned to protect the pockets of its constituents even more painfully than they have been hitherto.

On the other hand, there is a real disagreement among the more sensible men in the administration. The current bill would require rationing, rationing and price and wage control and all the rest?

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People's Platform

Truck Zones Welcomed

ing out fines like these: \$100 or 30 days for occupying the driver's seat while under the influence of intoxicants; \$40 or 3 days for improper muffler; \$20 or 30 days for driving on closed or off road; \$20 or 30 days for illegal turn. This kind of enforcement with proper publicity will have a great effect."

Bye, Bye, Korea

Editors, The News: The Associated Press and the Herald and Marine divisions have landed in Korea, and made contact with the remnants of General MacArthur's forces there. As to their whereabouts, the inevitable Korean Dunkirk, or Pusan, there is posed for the General a question that will sell some even that vaunted missionary of the American way.

Life most questions there is much to be said for both sides of it. On the one hand, General MacArthur has made a promise to return with his legions. On the other hand, there are those who hold that the General's entire force, however handsome, is more expendable than some forty million Americans living at the expense of the cost of us to us for victory in an atomic war.

Complaint Dept.

Editors, The News: WHAT has become of the convenient front page index, "What's Inside"? It went back on the front page yesterday, Editors, The News.

Red Face Dept.

Editors, The News: YOUR column "How's Your IQ," you mention that a decade is 10 years, and a score of years is 20 years. It looks like somebody's IQ is wrong and I don't think it is mine. Do you?

Stiffer Traffic Laws Needed

Editors, The News: HERE are a few paragraphs from a letter I wrote Mr. John A. Park, head of the new State traffic safety committee, after the recent meeting in Raleigh.

Quote, Unquote

When six axes and three jokers appeared in the Senate, a shooting was narrowly averted. The lesson here is to play cards with a straight jacket, or purchase the native brew.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THIS amusing fact has now developed that the Washington Times has reported that the Senator, while they were working for private individuals on Government time.

Spying On Bailey

SENATOR Bailey tapped wire files right into this picture. The late Senator from North Carolina was chairman of the Interstate & Domestic Commerce Committee which passed on aviation policy. Brewster was a member of the committee, and had pushed the "chosen instrument" bill, a policy devised and urged on Congress by Pan American.

Pan American Airways Tapped

SOME light on who paid Shimon to tap the wires of Senator Bailey may be shed, however, by recalling the fact that Shimon also tapped Howard Hughes' wires at the height of the controversy between Pan American Airways and Hughes' Trans World Airlines. Joseph Shimon, who spent on the Argentine Ambassador and tapped the wires of Howard Hughes.



Booze Controls Needed For Safety Of Delicate Tummys

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