

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## THE BUS STRIKE VOTE

Now that Duke Power bus drivers and garage mechanics in six Carolina cities have voted in favor of a strike, it becomes imperative that negotiations be started once again in an effort to reach agreement.

A strike vote does not necessarily mean that there will be a strike. Such a vote merely authorizes union leaders to call a strike in the event no amicable settlement can be arrived at. It is a useful vehicle in bargaining because it gives the labor negotiators the full backing of union members.

The issues in the present dispute are not yet understood by the people.

The company made public on Feb. 8 a letter which it sent to drivers and mechanics. That letter set forth the company's position. So far, the union has not stated its conditions. The only informa-

tion about its position was the statement in the company letter that the union is asking a wage increase of 20 cents an hour. It would follow, then, that both parties to the dispute should soon explain to the people in the fullest, possible detail the reasons why they haven't been able to get together.

The people have a tremendous interest in this labor dispute. They want to know what the issues are. They have a right to know. And they expect both parties to enter upon the new negotiations with full awareness of the enormous personal inconvenience and economic dislocation a strike would cause.

The people are hopeful that the issues can be settled by negotiation. In the event no agreement can be reached by this method, the people will insist that the issues be submitted to arbitration.

## AND NOW, MR. PRESIDENT . . .

AGAINST a normal background of peace, prosperity, and contentment, the President's speech to Jackson on Thursday night would have rung the bell. Against the present world background, it had a tiny sound.

To a degree of course, a political occasion. And it demands a political speech. Mr. Truman responded with numerous barbed and sarcastic references to the Republican Party which brought joy to the faithful gathered around.

There is a good deal of truth in his charges that a major segment of the Republican Party has resorted to "scurrilous" means to regain the Presidency and control of the Congress. Republican politicians, however, are not the only people in this nation who are gravely apprehensive over the future.

Millions of Americans are disturbed and

concerned over the failure of the Democratic Administration to evolve a satisfactory way of settling labor-management disputes in vital industries. . . to hold its own in the battle of Ideology with Communism . . . to lighten the burden of taxation . . . to halt continued deficit financing . . . to avert the horrible specter of H-bomb warfare.

They are not swayed by the "scurrilous words," or amused by the President's "cut-throat" label for the GOP. They are not interested at the moment in party politics, but in the national welfare.

And they are still waiting for the President to speak in plain language to the leadership which is uniquely his, to measure up to the challenge of the day, and to tell us in plain, simple language what is in store for us.

## PROPAGANDA WEAPON

NEITHER Mao Tse-tung nor Joe Stalin has given an account of Mao's activities in Moscow in the past month or so, but an account of the boss of the boss of China and the boss of the Soviet didn't spend all their time discussing the Russian-Chinese peace-and-war treaty announced this week.

On paper, Mao and Communist China gained quite a lot, gave up little.

On China's side: sole control of the Changchun Railway, now Russian-controlled; the ports of Dairen and Port Arthur and a \$300,000,000 loan from Moscow at an interest rate of only one per cent.

On Russia's side: Chinese recognition of the independence of the People's Republic of Outer Mongolia.

Together, Mao and Stalin agreed that the two nations will fight or be neutral together for the next 50 years.

It is not inconceivable that Mao will go to Moscow to get these concessions. Russia need have no fear that she would be denied use of the Changchun Railway or the two ports she had promised. It is clear that Mao wouldn't squabble about Outer Mongolia being Sovietized.

And, in this day and time in war-disrupted China, how far will \$300,000,000 do? The pact is, of course, propaganda, beamed at Southeast Asia. Stalin and Moscow hope to turn a few minds among the smaller countries south of China to the million of voters who are, in effect, disfranchised when their states' electoral votes are given en bloc to one candidate or another.

It is also the first proposal to come down the pike in many a year which promises to make both parties truly national parties. The Republicans and the Democrats will be forced to fight on a national level as hard as possible in every county and precinct in the nation.

Finally, it will reduce the influence which relatively small minorities have in certain close key states, and thus put a brake on national legislation shaped exclusively for their benefit.

The Lodge amendment looks like a good bet to begin some preliminary plan for such a highway.

## EFFECT OF THE LODGE AMENDMENT

POLITICAL leaders of both major parties have been subjecting the Lodge election reform amendment to a searching scrutiny to see what effect it would have on the balance of power between the Republicans and the Democrats.

This is understandable. No politician would want to wake up suddenly and find himself voted for in a way which might permanently displace his party.

The best way to find out what might happen in the future is to examine past elections. The *New York Times* published such a study in 1948.

Without exception, the top candidate would have won under the Lodge plan. His electoral vote majority would have been smaller, of course, but still well above the required 40 per cent of the electoral vote.

The Roosevelt-Landon election of 1936, you will recall, was propagandized as a "landslide," since Mr. Roosevelt got 523 electoral votes and Mr. Landon 85. Had the Lodge plan been used, Mr. Roosevelt

would have received 343 electoral votes and Mr. Landon 175, and we would have been more apt to remember that a good many more millions of Americans voted for the Republican candidate than we do.

This electoral reform movement should not be pegged to its effect on one party or the other, anyway. It is a matter of simple justice, of restoring the franchise of the millions of voters who are, in effect, disfranchised when their states' electoral votes are given en bloc to one candidate or another.

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## WELCOME NEWS

THAT is welcome news that a contract is to be let soon for the widening and repaving of Franklin Ave. The more than three miles of this North-South Highway right through the city has long been a headache to motorists. It has gotten Gastonia more bad publicity than any other one thing in the city.

After years of planning, negotiating and dreaming, a wide, smooth highway is in the cards for the very near future. Perhaps within a year.

Many predictions are heard to the effect that Franklin Ave. eventually become Gastonia's main business street. With Main Ave. dead-ended at both extremes, the local business district has been greatly expanding out on the revamped Franklin Ave.

One of the buildings we would like to see on that street in the not-too-distant

future would be a commodious and modern hotel, one of the city's greatest needs today.

It is *The Gazette's* candid belief that once Franklin is reopened as a four-lane highway through the center of town, it will become apparent that one of our greatest needs will be a by-pass highway to take care of through traffic. With each passing day, it appears, there are more trucks and cars on the highways.

The Wilkinson Boulevard, which was built by Franklin in part and parcel, has for several years been the most heavily travelled stretch of highway in the entire state. In recent years by-passes have been built, taking traffic entirely out of the heart of many of the more popular towns in North Carolina. None needs this worse than does Gastonia. In our opinion it is not too early to begin some preliminary plan for such a highway.

Isn't it great to be in California? Fort Myers (Ft.) News-Press.

# Russian Roulette



## News From The Capital

### Graham Tells Of His Appointment

By TOM SCHLESINGER  
Charlotte News Special Writer

ASKED Senator Graham what was the inside story on his appointment to the Senate last March 22, he said he reluctantly accepted it, after turning it down twice.

The only person he dealt with was Governor Scott, he added, denying widely-circulated reports that President Truman had called him personally to ask him to take the job.

"Naturally, I didn't want to leave the University," he said.

A two-pronged argument finally won him over, he said. Governor Scott pointed to the opportunity in the Senate in these critical times, and that a new and younger man might take Carolina to even greater heights as president of the state.

SENATOR GRAHAM made only one recommendation for the new chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission: Dr. Paul Gross, vice-president of Duke University and the man who succeeded him as a member of the Board of Directors of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies.

CONGRESS is currently finishing up a two-week "slow-down by Gentlemen's Agreement."

This "parliamentary" roughly ran from Feb. 6 to 20. During this period, by common consent of the gentlemen on both sides of the aisle, hundreds of national "controversial" matters has been considered by the Senate.

SENATOR GRAHAM said he had been in the Lincoln Day to the Democratic Jefferson-Jackson Day celebration, even crusading civil rights advocates beating the drums for a chance to call up the PEPC bill, knitted under the annual custom.

The time was used mostly for political speech making. Senator Graham took advantage of the first week to cover a bit of ground in the state. He visited several counties, including the first five months, others later. The first big trip came May 2 in Florida with Senator Pender running a campaign for Governor. He visited the Florida primary—and the one in Alabama, May 2—and the first reason why the PEPC fight in the Senate has been postponed. The administration wants Pender to win, and he'd be a big help in the PEPC fight.

SENATOR GRAHAM has a good word for it. Senator Graham took the time to visit the first civil war battle site since Henry L. Stimson who has really run the Army. . . . In short, he has been an Army Secretary of Defense's job. He is now serving in the most anti-Russian of all American diplomats, Loy Henderson, U. S. Ambassador to India.

Other early primaries: Ohio, May 2; Pennsylvania, May 16; Oregon, May 19; North Carolina, May 27; Iowa, June 5; California and South Dakota, June 6; North Dakota, June 7; and Oklahoma, July 4.

THE Gray appointment from three scattered points in Washington Post. "The University of North Carolina," he said, "is a very important institution and its ability and stature in its new president, Gordon Gray, is a matter of great importance to the state. . . . In short, he has been an Army Secretary of Defense's job. He is now serving in the most anti-Russian of all American diplomats, Loy Henderson, U. S. Ambassador to India.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Public Puzzled Over Communism Charge

YOU have a card-index system these days to keep track of the accusations against Communist Party members in the Federal Government.

Unfortunately the average citizen doesn't have time to keep a card index, so get confused over harem-ear-ear Sen. Joe McCarthy's recent accusation that there were 57 card-carrying Communists in the State Dept.

When the Senator from Wisconsin finally was pinned down, he could produce not 57, but only four names of State Dept. officials who he claimed were Communists.

A careful scrutiny of these names is important. Of the four, only one, William L. Sullivan, has really run the State Dept. . . . Two, Gustavo Duran and Mrs. Mary Jane Keeney, resigned four years ago; the fourth, John Serbie, was reinstated after a prolonged and careful investigation and after virtual apologies to him for ever questioning his loyalty. He is now serving in the most anti-Russian of all American diplomats, Loy Henderson, U. S. Ambassador to India.

But there is even more interesting background behind Senator McCarthy's charges. Somewhat the same charges were made three years ago by another Republican, this one Congressman Bartel Jonkman of Michigan, just across the lake from McCarthy in Wisconsin.

When the Senator from Michigan named two of the same alleged State Dept. officials—Keeney and Duran—even though they were not then with the State Dept., Jonkman also hurled some accusations at Arthur Panchuk, then Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. Panchuk had been the man who escorted Keeney and Duran to Jonkman attacked him publicly.

As a result, Panchuk sued Congressman Jonkman and the publisher of the Washington *Times-Herald* for libel. The suit against The *Times-Herald* certainly had to be dropped because of her death, but the Congressman from Michigan compromised the suit with an official abject apology which stated: "It was not my intention to bring you any harm, but of any other improper conduct in connection with your duties as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State during your tenure

# Atlantic Pact Weakened By Johnson Defense Economies

By JAMES H. STEWART ALSO

THESE SHOULD be the false front of Louis T. Johnson's defense "economy" stopped by a . . . even more unpleasant than "petty dishonesty" . . . in fact, the specter of our eventual defeat in the world struggle with the Soviet Union which is now entirely possible.

The reason why this is so can be very simply stated. The Soviet Union is in mid-phase of a program of re-armament considerably surpassing anything Hitler's Measles, while because of Louis Johnson's policies, the United States, the leader of the Western world, is patently failing to give a solid strength to the Atlantic Pact.

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Both the British Field Marshal, Sir Bernard Montgomery, and the French General de Lattre de Tassigny, who rarely disagree, are in agreement on at least in accord on this point. Western union can accomplish little progress in an American, and the United States will be the only country to be able to do so.

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## Accused Should Have The Right To Face His Accuser

By MARQUIS CHILDS

THE CASE of Klaus Fuchs has produced a number of questions that the war has shattered the common sense of the emergency legislation. Here by general agreement is a list of the questions that should be asked of the man who confesses to practicing systematically over a period of years the espionage activities of a traitor.

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PAUL GREEN led with his chin by asking Jan Bibb-Neuse, a member of the National Council, to write an overture for the present he is putting together for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Council. Green said Sibbels is the greatest living symphonist and only the greatest living symphonist and only the greatest living symphonist and only the greatest living symphonist.

Washington music circles written at this. One particularly vicious attack appeared against the Chairman of the National Council.

Glenn Dillard Gunn wrote: "He may know much about George Washington. He may be able to fight a drum for the cause of his country. He may be able to fight a drum for the cause of his country. He may be able to fight a drum for the cause of his country."

Dr. Gunn continued: "Sibbels . . . is as provincial as Green himself. His music is anything but a masterpiece. The group is headed by a Jewish composer. He also has delusions about European music."

The *Times-Herald* must either list a group of American composers whom he thinks capable of the job.

THIS IS THAT—The North Carolina Citizens Association is looking for a dozen Methodist ministers and their next convention decide his warning "hell" make an "anti-Trust" speech. The group is headed by Everett Jordan, chairman of the State's Democratic Executive Committee. . . . Tracy Woodard, Undersecretary of the State, has resigned. . . . Representative Barden (D-2) has been elected to the U. S. House of Representatives. . . . The only Tar Heels to vote against economic assistance to certain areas of the Far East, including Korea and Formosa. It passed 240-134. . . . Vice-Chairman Durham of the Atomic Energy Committee, still not sure of how much information Dr. Panchuk gave Russia, said the hearings were private "so persons involved wouldn't try to escape."

## Truman Preaches

WITH Bible in hand, Baptist Harry Truman preached a sermon to other day to a dozen Methodist ministers. He started off by assuring: "Well, I am not going to preach a sermon today. I am not going to preach a sermon today. I am not going to preach a sermon today."

Nevertheless he fingered through his Bible, read two chapters out of Isaiah, and upon this based his sermon for the day.

"You said you didn't want to preach a sermon, but you have actually given me an excellent sermon," said Bishop J. Ralph Magee, head of the Methodist Church in Illinois, when the President had finished.

"I am sure that you will find the sermon to be very happy to have Harry Truman fill their pulpits any time for the next several years," said a Methodist minister, who had introduced the ministers at the White House.

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## Ingird's Baby

ON CAPITOL HILL, the big issues of the day are not always discussed on the floor of the Senate, but in the Senators' private restaurant. There, Senators are franker than when their words are recorded by a stenographer for posterity to be read in the Senate chamber.

When the Senate restaurant today, hottest topics is not Russia, not China, nor surplus potatoes—but Ingrid Bergman's baby.

Virginia's Sen. Willis Robertson is firm in the view that society must frown on Ingrid's illicit romance with Director of the Atomic Energy Commission, Arthur H. Compton. Privately, however, Senators sympathize with Miss Bergman's right to live her own life.

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Mr. Barkley Gaveles  
THE most charming gavel-banger on Capitol Hill is now Mrs. Alben Barkley, of Madame Vice-President.

While her husband presides over the Senate, she presides over the Senate's social life. She is the one to roll bandages for the Red Cross, to plan an annual tea for the first lady, and to just generally do good.

Mr. Barkley didn't go out and compete for the job of presiding officer; she married it. In fact, the news of this appointment was regarded rather coolly by news other than the Vice-President.

"Do you know anything about parliamentary procedure?" she asked one of her colleagues.

"Heavens, why?" was the suspicious reply.

"Well, you are going to have to preside over the Senate," she said.

Mr. Barkley thought it over for a minute, then replied: "Yes, I've been in Red Cross groups for fifteen years. But just to be on the safe side, the Vice-President gave me the job."

She was right. The Second Lady has a big bill as a presiding officer.