THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1950

THE BIG TRUTH

BEFORE the Hitler reign, the term *propaganda* meant only the dissemination of information to further a cause or a set of ideas. It was in this sense that the shrewd Dr. Goebbels came to describe himself as Minister of Propaganda. And it was because of the element of untruth that Goebbels brought into his program that *propaganda* has a sinister ring for most of us.

Nonetheless, the Senate Appropriations Committee this week approved a $97,212,000 fund for the State Department's propaganda program. Apparently we are coming to realize that Russia is giving us a beating on the information front, that widespread propaganda is essential to our goal of peace or victory.

The Russians learned a lot from Goebbels. They learned that the man who tells the biggest lie is often believed.

The Russians have painted abroad a picture of the U. S. as a master-and-slave state. Our race problem has been exaggerated out of proportion; the distribution of wealth has been completely distorted in its presentation to the people of Europe and Asia; the abuses of our economic system have been used as examples of the best in that system; a few irresponsible public figures have been set forth as the typical American official.

This program is, in part, responsible for the millions of Communist votes recorded postwar elections in Britain, France, Italy and Germany.

If, five years ago, we had been alert to counteract Russia's big lie with our big truth, these Communist parties might never have grown beyond nuisance size. The job of getting the truth across is immeasurably greater now; the Communists have, in their party members, many millions of propaganda agents in Europe and Asia.

These Communists are fanatics and our representatives and friends throughout the world are not democracy doesn't breed fanatics. Our system, so far as we are concerned, has proved its value. We find it hard to understand how others can fail to recognize its superiority.

Yet there are millions who are convinced that our economic and social system is evil. They have been convinced by the Russians. We must provide enough information so that they will change their minds in our favor. Beating Russia in a war will be no good if upon cessation of hostilities we find the world still full of angry, fanatical Communists.

We can have neither peace nor victory if we neglect the job of spreading the big truth. It is to be hoped that the Senate Appropriation Committee's favorable decision on the State Department propaganda bill is indicative of the attitude of the Senate as a whole.

RADIO NETWORK SHOWS SOME SPUNK

A hyper-patriotic American Legion official in Chicago got his come-uppance from the American Broadcasting Company this week. Noting the ease with which a free-wheeling outfit of self-appointed vigilantes had gotten TV Actress Jean Muir fired by General Foods two weeks ago, the chairman of the Illinois Legion's Anti-Subversive Committee noted that Gypsy Rose Lee, striptease artist and author, had also been listed in *Red Channels*, the booklet published by a couple of ex-FBI men. He wired ABC asking what the network was going to do about her program.

ABC displayed some spunk. Nothing would be done about Miss Lee, the Chicago Legionnaire was notified, unless some substantiating evidence was produced. And President Robert E. Kintner said Miss Lee has signed a sworn affidavit denying any Communist sympathies or ties, and he messaged: "If you have any evidence to the contrary, please advise."

Thus comes the first set-back to as vicious a campaign of character assassination as this nation has yet seen in the current wave of anti-Communist feeling. If American Business Consultants Inc., the high-sounding title for a handful of people who publish a newspaper *Counterattack* and the *Red Channels* pamphlet, has any proof of Communist sympathies or affiliations among the 150 radio and television performers it listed, that proof hasn't been brought forward. Theodore C. Kirkpatrick, managing editor of *Counterattack*, told *Editor & Publisher* this week that his sources were newspaper clippings, court records, records of government committees, letterheads, and various publications. Asked specifically if the citations are checked for accuracy of content, Kirkpatrick replied that such checking was "unnecessary" because *Red Channels* was intended only as a brief notation of records and publications carrying an individual's name in association with organizations.

How does a name get off the list? Kirkpatrick told *Editor & Publisher* that listed persons must prove to his organization that they are not Communists or fellow travelers. Public denial would have to be accompanied by active work in behalf of "pro-American" organizations.

Kirkpatrick's klan, in its brief moment of glory, has arrogantly arrogated to itself the right to judge the patriotism and loyalty of private citizens, to require them to prove their innocence to the satisfaction of *Counterattack's* editors, and to besmirch their reputation and destroy their livelihood if they fail to do so. Not only should the entertainment world strike back with all the power it has, but the Congress should investigate this organization which has shown itself to be fully as un-American as the sins it imputes to others.

CAUSE AND CURE

TWO Associated Press dispatches over the week-end shed interesting new light on the causes of automobile accidents and suggested one good way of dealing with offenders.

Under a Chicago dateline, the AP gave the results of a preliminary study of the nation's 589 traffic deaths over the Labor Day holiday week-end. Police records listed a specific cause for 136 of the highway fatalities. Of those 136 cases, driver misbehavior accounted for 83, pedestrian negligence for 31, mechanical failure for 20 and obscured windshields for 2.

Driver misbehavior included speeding, intoxication, traveling on the wrong side of the road, failing to signal, running past a stop light, etc. Within this group the biggest number of drivers, 27, were speeding, and ten others were intoxicated. (Driving negligence or miscalculation also figured in many fatal accidents for which no specific cause was attributed in police reports, such as "ran off road at curve", "sideswiped another car", or "crashed head-on with another car".)

The AP then quoted a recent study by the Northwestern National Life Insurance Co. showing that a relatively few drivers are responsible for the bulk of auto accidents. In Connecticut, 4 per cent of the drivers caused 36 per cent of the accidents. Surveys in other states showed that between 5 and 10 per cent of the drivers regularly cause more than half of the accidents.

If these facts are correct, it is obvious that speeding and intoxication lead the driver negligence category and that many drivers guilty of such offenses are "repeaters". The problem then is what to do about such drivers.

The second AP dispatch, datelined Raleigh, gave one very effective answer. Superior Court Judge R. Hunt Parker handed out a six-months road sentence to a man convicted of speeding 97 miles an hour, terming it "the worst traffic case before me in several years." He added, "I won't stand for racing on our highways".

We venture the opinion that this particular speeder won't be caught at it again, and we recommend Judge Parker's formula to other judges who may have occasion to rule on similar flagrant violations of traffic rules.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

THE people of Charlotte are glad to have the word of Police Chief Littlejohn and the operators of ambulances that racial discrimination is not practiced in emergency cases. Barring further developments, we assume that the two cases of alleged discrimination cited in recent letters to the *People's Platform* were simply mistakes and not the general rule.

Chief Littlejohn put the matter succinctly. "All police officers are instructed in an accident where injury to persons occurs to call the nearest ambulance service. It is imperative that a nearby ambulance be called, as the matter of a moment may mean life or death to the injured person."

The Chief pointed out that more than 50 per cent of all ambulance calls are phoned in by spectators at the scene, and that the Police Department has no knowledge of the calls until the ambulance companies phone to "check out". But we have the word of the ambulance owners, white and Negro, that there has been no discrimination even in these spectator calls.

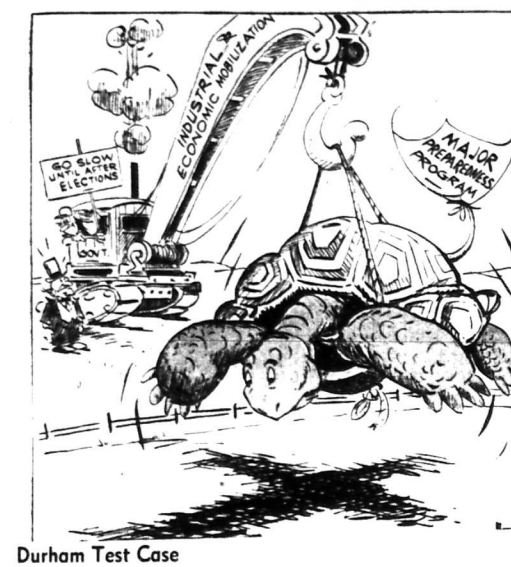
Chief Littlejohn says he reminds his dispatchers of the department's policy from time to time. We trust he will continue to do so in the future.

Red Channels picked on the wrong person in Gypsy Rose Lee. As we get it, she has nothing to hide.

Draft-age swains flocking to the courthouse for marriage licenses bear out our belief that most men prefer to do KP at home.

Understatement-of-the-week: that of Mimi Medart, sixteen-year-old St. Louis charmer, about King Farouk of Egypt to the effect that "he's not a bit like the boys back home."

We Have Him Headed In The Right Direction



Durham Test Case

Of Civil Rights---III

By JOHN P. McKNIGHT
(Last of Three Articles)

It has long been a grave question whether any government, not too strong for the liberties of its people, can be strong enough to maintain its existence in great emergencies.—Abraham Lincoln.

IF it is true (as Thomas L. Stokes wrote recently) that our civil rights are "our buckler and our shield" and if it is true (as yesterday's article sought to demonstrate) that they are our greatest asset in the world ideological struggle with Communism, then it is evidently very much in our interest to cherish and defend these rights as our lives.

But it is also true that no nation in grave peril of disastrous attack from its enemies abroad may permit its enemies at home—partisans and agents of its foreign enemies—to shelter behind the liberties it offers while they carry on their work of sapping its power to resist.

Yet how may our enemies within be restricted in their nefarious abuse of our liberties, without also restricting the loyal citizens of the land? Specifically, how limit the Communists in their use of freedom of speech, publication, assembly and petition to subvert our Government without muzzling the patriotic critic whose intent is simply to correct evils? How, in time of crisis, revitalize authority to assure swift, effective action, without doing serious —perhaps irreparable—injury to the democratic process?

In short, how do battle with totalitarianism without aping totalitarian methods?

THAT is the dire dilemma of democracy.

It is the problem so neatly posed by Abraham Lincoln, in the passage quoted at the head of this chapter. It is the problem that vexes every far-sighted American today. It is the problem with which Congress wrestles as it seeks to close loopholes in our legislative structure hampering our effective control of subversive activities.

Our survival may very well depend upon our finding an adequate solution of it, for without the moral leadership of the world that our espousal of man's basic liberties confers we can have little hope of ultimate victory over the forces allied with Soviet Russia.

That is why three long articles have been dedicated to the issues raised by the recent arrest for vagrancy of William Evans, a young man of no particular importance except as his defiance of a Durham court's measures to stop circulation of the Stockholm peace petition suggests the necessity of re-examining the nature and uses of our liberties.

NOW it goes without saying that the Founding Fathers with all their wisdom, did not foresee the nature of modern warfare, in which entire peoples, rather than small professional armies, are engaged. Nor did they foresee such "absolute weapons" as the atomic bomb, which of its very nature is directed primarily at technical non-combatants. Nor could they foresee the ideological struggle between Communism and democracy which makes geographical and national boundaries naught, so that no man may say with certainty who is friend and who foe.

Had they been granted foreknowledge of the future, the makers of our Constitution would doubtless have written into it provisions for dealing with the monstrous perils of today. But they did not. Thus we who are justifiably fearful about the safety of our craft are left to confront the ticklish problems that the fearsome advance of totalitarian Communism imposes.

A few modern constitutions have had written into them the stipulation that rulers may set aside guarantees of civil liberties in domestic or foreign crisis. But with one or two notable exceptions, the end of that has been dictatorship. For love of power grows with the exercise of power, and few men, having enjoyed absolutism, willingly renounce it. As Salon observed: "dictatorship is a very fair spot, but there is no way down from it."

I DO not propose to try to tell Congress and the courts how our difficulties may best be resolved—as it may be said in passing, there is no intent to pre-judge the case of William Evans. After all, no single, simple answer exists. We shall have to trust to trial and error to the proved democratic system of checks and balances and in the last analysis to the good sense of the American people to preserve our ancient liberties substantially unimpaired in this time of crisis.

Yet I believe that these considerations may, with propriety, be urged upon the Congress, and the courts, and law enforcement officers:

1. Beating up Communists in Georgia wins no victories in Korea, and may conceivably cost us friends elsewhere. To quote Lincoln again, "there is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law." Besides that was lies Fascism.

2. Justice is ill served when statutes are stretched to cover actions that they do not in fact cover, even though those actions in the opinion of one man of one hundred million, merit punishment. If enough of us so believe, the democratic method is to enact new laws embodying our judgment.

3. In writing new laws for control of subversive elements, Congress must take care that the present mood of the country does not stampede it into needless invasion of our freedoms of speech, press, assembly and petition. In our contrition over past errors, it is natural enough for us to long for the hair shirt; to rush to offer up our freedoms on an altar of atonement. But the penitent will swing the other way and that, no doubt, right soon.

4. Congress will convict itself of partisan politics at its worst if it fails to give proper weight to President Truman's specifications of the legislative equipment he needs to do the job, and votes restrictive laws far exceeding them. For the executive branch of the Government, which by definition executes, may be presumed to know what is required. When Truman warns that the provocations of the moment must not sweep Congress into broad, vague laws giving infringing our freedoms lest we forfeit our moral leadership in the world, he speaks in statesmanlike vein, and should be heeded.

5. Finally, Congress and the courts alike may find a sound yardstick in the late great Justice Holmes' dictum that our liberties ought to be denied only to those who so use or abuse them as to offer a clear and present danger to our security. It was this that formed the keystone of Judge Learned Hand's recent decision denying the appeal of the eleven Convicted Communist leaders. On such a line of reasoning, Congress may well justify legislation enabling punitive action against active Communist Party members, since their adherence to a foreign hostile power constitutes a demonstrable "present danger." But by the same token our Union Square orators parlor pinks, petition circulators and such other harmless pathics will be left in peace.

WE may indeed, in this unprecedented crisis, find it necessary temporarily to curtail some of our liberties so as to preserve the larger freedom. But we must all of us heed the Biblical injunction to "let all things be done decently and in good order." We must take care that none of us, however unpopular his views, is deprived of his liberties without due—which is to say adequate sufficient—process of law.

In so proceeding we shall respect the spirit of our democracy. We shall confirm the rest of the world in its good opinion of us. We shall take up arms against our sea of troubles and we may face the future in full confidence that we are not unworthy of our great past.

As "Junius" observed in the letter quoted before:

"We owe it to our ancestors to preserve entire those rights, which they have delivered to our care: we owe it to our posterity, not to suffer their dearest inheritance to be destroyed."

Sharp UN Drive Now Might Smash Red Power Completely

By JOSEPH ALSOP

TOKYO

IN THIS dreary city, with its rancid colonial atmosphere, it is at least more possible to take stock than in Korea, where all attention always agonizingly centers on this regiment, that battalion, whose fate may be the fate of the whole defense line.

Taking stock, one must first add up the dreadful losses and heavy reverses of the past ten days. But then, one must write on the other side of the balance sheet that the situation of the North Koreans must also be very uncomfortable by now. With the most powerful effort they have yet made, the enemy has failed to drive the Americans and South Koreans from their vital beachheads. It was touch and go, but the line has been glued together again at last. Since the North Koreans also have temporarily expended the largest part of their frontline stocks of heavy equipment and ammunition, our forces ought to be able to come close to restoring the defense perimeter during the next phase.

GRAVE RED WEAKNESSES

Moreover, despite the great power massed for it, the enemy offensive during the past ten days undoubtedly disclosed grave North Korean weaknesses. It took long to prepare, as was natural, since most of the reinforcements and replacements had to be brought to the front by night marches all the long way from Seoul, and even heavy ammunition was transported, in part, by oxcart carrier. And the same air isolation of the battlefield that forced the enemy to these hard expedients, also had another, even more significant effect.

During the offensive, great holes were torn in both the American and South Korean lines. Whole regiments were smashed up. At least one division, the South Korean Capital Division, temporarily disintegrated. But because our air had destroyed his transport, the enemy could not fully exploit these breakthroughs. His foot soldiers would pour through the holes, to be sure, but the armor and artillery to support them would come up more slowly. And before the marching North Koreans could effect a really deep and devastating penetration, our multitudinous trucks would bring up the reserves to halt and contain the enemy movement.

By repeatedly using this expedient, by coolheadedly conserving his tiny reserves for the big emergencies, Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker saved his beachhead from the imminent menace of catastrophe. It must be added, of course, that if this sort of cycle is to continue indefinitely, the beachhead will be gradually nibbled away to nothing, or will be suddenly lost by an eventual decisive mishap.

On the other hand, unless the boasting of the Pentagon is even more empty than usual, some additional forces must be on the way to the Korean war. Even a relatively small increment of force should be enough to permit us to assume the offensive. And here is the essence of the North Korean difficulty.

Virtually the whole existing power of the North Koreans is officially said to have been committed in this last grand attack. On this estimate, the North Koreans themselves have little left, beyond a reserve of one, or at most two, divisions, a "defense command" at Seoul, and whatever may be in two training centers in the north. Moreover, all their power is not only committed, it is also committed at the extreme southern tip of the peninsula. With their transport shortage, the enemy cannot re-deploy rapidly to fill the military semi-vacuum which the rest of Korea now, in theory, should be.

Finally, since their grand attack has failed to produce its intended result, the whole enemy power is not too great, again in theory, to be contained by our existing forces. A relatively small increment of force should give us enough to achieve a break-through, or could even conceivably be landed in the North Korean rear. With well armed, armored and mechanized American units on the loose to the north of them, the position of the North Korean divisions besieging our beachhead in the south would become perilous indeed. Indeed if the break-through were adequate, the whole of North Korea would be imperilled.

This reasoning is based, however, on two assumptions. First, there is the assumption that the intelligence is roughly correct, which is always doubtful. And second there is the assumption that the morale and will of the North Koreans will not suddenly be increased either by Chinese Communist or overt Soviet intervention.

In these circumstances, there is nothing to do but wait and pray that the world will be spared another holocaust. But this may be added one more prayer, that if we do succeed in tidying up this Korean mess, we shall not then crow and grow complacent over a trifling success, but that we shall remember the appalling demonstration of our own weakness, the glaring exposure of the fraudulence of our leadership, and that we shall act upon these hard lessons thereafter.

High Calibre Dignity Asked From Small Bore Politician

By ROBERT RUARK

NEW YORK

I ADMIRE our leader for his talent at the piano and his delicacy at a poker table, but I often find difficult to purchase in the public relations department. So I gather do the Marines, who exacted one of the first full-scale apologies ever pried loose from a President.

Mr. Truman is a wrathy lad, given to loud invective and unharnessed impetuousness. He has been known to call one man an "SOB", meaning something profane, for the record. I know of a nasty note he once wrote Bernie Baruch, in which he upbraided the old man for not hitting the streets with a tin-cup to rassal up some campaign funds, and in which he referred to "past favors I have done for you and yours". An entire dynasty of Trumans would die here from physically incapable of doing any favor for any minor sprig of the Baruch tree.

There have been the rough, tough, jut-jawed instances when Harry played Puehrer with the general press, and, finally, he ran his neck out too far with the crack about the Marines. This was when he referred to them as the Navy's police force, and mentioned caustically that they have a propaganda machine that is almost equal to Stalin's.

This was such an obviously stupid sideswipe of the tongue that Hairbreadth Harry was swiftly forced to apologize on the front pages of the newspapers of this land. The Marines, in the annals of fighting, stand somewhat more sacred than motherhood, and certainly the first feeble glint of cheer from Korea resulted from their arrival on that dreary peninsula. As the ballad says, when he had saw what he had did, he took his foot outen his face and apologized.

Uncle Harry's unhappy facility for filling his mouth with feet cannot be too terribly pleasing to his constituents. His dogged loyalty to some of the jerks who surround him cannot be too gratifying to the mass which calls him "Chief". Somehow I gravely doubt to see a President eating crow on the front pages of the nation, as the result of a dumb utterance more usually associated with a labor leader or a football coach.

I might be a little unreasonable in what I, as a citizen, expect of my commander-in-chief, but about the least a man can ask is an approximation of dignity. We didn't hire him to play a piano or cavort at poker with ernats Gen. Harry Vaughn. We didn't hire him to indulge a talent for profanity at the expense of the press. We didn't hire him to sneer at the only segment of our population which was ready to ride, professionally, in a war that had otherwise been rendered tragically impracticable by the foolish mistakes of Harry's henchmen.

You realize that being President is a rough chore, full of frustrations and annoyances. Having the nerve to preserve a proper state of digestion. But it is also the most-honored job in the nation, and nobody forced Harry to run in the last elections. But it is also the most-honored job in the nation, and nobody forced Harry to run in the last elections. He is the boss, and worthy of surface bigness in the conduct of its incumbent.

We elected this man, small as he may be, and so we are stuck with him and his cronies. We cannot expect much of a small-bore politician, but it seems to me that at least we can demand personal dignity from the guy so long as he is on the payroll for what is supposed to be the biggest job on earth.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Truman Shows Wartime Hysteria Danger

WASHINGTON

SOMETIMES the President's off-the-record remarks that never reach the papers are his best. Those present thought this was the case when Truman addressed the joint session of the AFL-CIO last week.

Speaking without notes and obviously straight from the heart, the President made a plea for tolerance in wartime.

To a considerable extent it was a historical speech. The President reviewed the different periods of hysteria which have gripped the country—the Alien and Sedition Act in the early days of the republic, the Know-Nothing Party, and Ku Klux Klan.

He pointed out that the Know-Nothing Party had been anti-Mason and referred to the fact that he, himself, was a Mason. The Klan, he recalled, was first against the Negro, then when revived in the 1920's, against the Jew and the Catholic.

These were evidences of intolerance which did not truly represent the American people, he said, and he was absolutely confident that the judgment of the American people would always win out.

The President did not mention the Mundt-Nixon Bill or the McCarran Bill, but it was obvious he had them in mind. For he referred to Congressional witch-hunters who wave the American flag while persecuting alien immigrants and trampling on the rights of loyal Americans.

"This is the raw material of totalitarianism," he said.

While fighting the intolerance of totalitarianism, he emphasized, we must not take on the methods of totalitarianism. Recalling that totalitarian regimes had persecuted labor unions, religious groups and fraternal organizations, he pointed out that under the Alien and Sedition Act, naturalized citizens hardly dared say anything in public about the Government for fear of being thrown in jail, and this he inferred might also happen under the Mundt-Nixon and McCarran Bills.

He Told It To The Marines

MOST people don't know it but when President Truman ousted Adm. Louis Denfeld as Chief of Naval Operations last year he also planned to oust Gen. Clifton Cates as Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Cates was a strong ally of Denfeld in the B-36 row between the Navy and the Air Force. However, public reaction to Denfeld's ouster was so hot that the President changed his mind about relieving General Cates.

Net result was that no love has been lost between Mr. Truman and the Marine Corps Commander, so that the President—who has a long memory for those who ever cross him—was not anxious to eat crow last week.

When General Cates was called to the White House, therefore, he got a formal though polite greeting. Speaking a little stiffly, the Commander-in-Chief told the Marine Corps Commander that he was making a public apology to the Marines for the good of the country" and the war effort. He added that he had been too hasty and his words were too strong.

However, he felt that there were some grounds for his reference to the Marines' propaganda activities. As an instance he cited the terrific pressure he was getting to give the Marines a voice on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NOTE—General Cates, himself, has not been averse to this pressure. If the Marines were made part of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he would become the Marine Corps representative on it.

Slapping A Good Neighbor

LAST Spring flags along Constitution Avenue read "Welcome Gonsales Videla!" as the President of Chile paid an official visit to the U. S. A. A good part of Washington turned out, plus President Truman and all the Cabinet to greet the head of the neighbor nation which had banished Communism and consequently was one of the best democratic friends of the United States.

President Videla did not ask for anything when he came to Washington. He did not need to. For the State Department has long known that what Chile needs most is to have our 2 cents per pound excise tax on copper held in abeyance.

All during the war, because we needed copper badly, this tax was held in abeyance, since what it actually amounted to was a penalty against the American people and the U. S. Army-Navy.

Shortly after President Videla had gone back to Chile, however, Congress literally slapped him in the face by restoring the tax against the overwhelming protests from below the Rio Grande. They were painful and quite serious.

Since then the House of Representatives has voted to suspend the tax, but, despite repeated urging by President Truman, the Senate has not acted.

A handful of Rocky Mountain Senators from copper areas is the reason why Senators Hayden and McFarland of Arizona, where the Phelps Dodge copper mines are located, have held this bloc, and so far have been successful in stymieing about 86 other Senators, plus the House of Representatives. Most interesting of all, however, is the fact that Sen. Tom Connally, who has made speech after speech championing the Good Neighbor policy, in this case has voted the other way.

NOTE—Unfortunate fact is that Latin Americans who don't understand the intricacies of our legislative system and think that Truman should be able to control Congress, consider the copper tax a slapdown by the entire United States.