THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON.....Publisher
J. E. DOWD.....General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH.....Executive Editor
C. A. McKNIGHT.....Editor

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1951

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

WHEN Sen. Harry Byrd told reporters he planned to "tear into Truman" in his Selma, Alabama, speech, he wasn't overspeaking himself. Scarcely had the Virginian completed his perfunctory opening courtesy remarks when he r'ared back and said:

"I hope you will forgive the personal references. They are made to nail down the differences between the Democratic Party of Jefferson and the prevailing heterogeneous crowd of Trumanites which, if it could be called a party, is one of questionable ancestry, irresponsible direction, and predatory purposes."

That was just a beginning. The Senator had worked up quite a lather by the time he reached Selma. He denounced the "fiscal irresponsibility" of the Truman Administration. He excoriated the "trend toward socialism". He exploded with indignation over the "civil rights club" with which, he said, Southerners had been "slugged". And he detailed in cold but angry words the centralizing of power in Washington. Finally, he reviewed the history of the two-thirds rule in Democratic conventions, showing how its repeal in 1936 had stripped the South of its great influence in party councils.

But Mr. Byrd failed on this occasion, as he has failed on others, to let the people of the South in on the big secret, "Where do we go from here?" He made it plain what he proposes to do up to a certain point. He will oppose the nomination of Mr. Truman, and he will oppose the election of Mr. Truman. But he did not say whether he would bolt the Democratic Party to support the GOP nominee, or whether he would take part in a new splinter party movement.

This is the Byrd strategy. The South will ask the national convention to restore the two-thirds rule. The South will ask for repeal of the Humphrey civil rights resolution of 1948. The South will ask for a platform setting forth "the true principles of the Democratic Party" and reaffirming states' rights.

"If these requests are denied, we can take counsel among ourselves and determine our course. It would be presumptuous of me to establish a program of action. It would be unrealistic at this time for any of us to chart precisely our 1952 course. We must meet the conditions as they develop. But, above all, I repeat, the Southern States must keep themselves free to take whatever effective action may be necessary for our fundamental freedoms."

Perhaps Mr. Byrd is right. Perhaps it is too early to make any definite plans. But we suspect that the people of the South will soon begin to feel some resentment if they are not let in on the plans.

As far as THE NEWS is concerned, the answer is simple. If the South doesn't like the Democratic Party of Harry S. Truman, it can always vote Republican.

DYNAMIC BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

SPEECHES before Chambers of Commerce and similar organizations often abound in oft-repeated platitudes. It is therefore refreshing to note the vigorous philosophy of Carrol M. Shanks, president of the Prudential Insurance Company, as delivered to the live-wire Committee of One Hundred of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Shanks believes in the "stewardship" of business. He believes the best way "to reclaim the less fortunate is to provide economic opportunity". If business is to retain its freedom of action, it must "assume responsibilities beyond those which fall within the thinking of business executives, yet are fully encompassed by the views of a large and growing segment of management".

It is his opinion that business has the responsibility to do what is necessary on behalf of business to withdraw its support of the inflationary spiral, through wise handling of pricing labor and profit operations.

Then, and only then, business will be in a position to demand that other groups do likewise—that government stop its lavish and unnecessary spending; that labor stop demanding more money with which to bid up already high prices; that farmers encourage the lowering of price supports that keep putting high prices higher; that the public spend less and save more. . . Business must increase its concern for the welfare of the consumer and labor must develop a like concern in actual practice.

He believes business has already come a long way, especially in the South. "Virtually every major industry in the United States now has a pension plan. . . The providing of life, accident, health and hospital insurance, in one form or another, is a commonly accepted responsibility of business everywhere." The South's supposed "disadvantages" have proven advantageous. High birth rate meant more customers; lack of skills became an outlet for skills; the "inadequate local market demand" was found to be a result rather than a cause.

Mr. Shanks does not believe that this country will return to its true course as the result of "great messiahs on the national scene". Rather, it will revert when "thousands of sound, strong and true men exert their influence in their own areas".

Mr. Shanks' dynamic philosophy is sound. Adherence to it will go a long way toward decreasing the desire or necessity for the less desirable and less efficient controls and regulations of government.

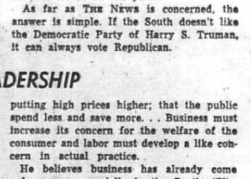
UNDERPASS COST STUDY IS IN ORDER

IT MAKES good sense for the City Council to determine the cost of an underpass at E. 36th St. and the Southern Railway.

The move is somewhat belated, it is true. Last Summer the Council voted to spend $125,000 to widen E. 36th St. from N. Tryon to Plaza Road. No thought was given to the underpass in the preliminary discussions, although THE NEWS pointed out repeatedly that an underpass should be included in the planning.

Now, on motion of Councilmen Boyd and Baxter, the City Engineer has been asked to prepare an estimate of the probable cost. We approve that action heartily. It may be that there will not be enough money in the immediate future to build the underpass. But the plans should be made in readiness for the day when there is enough money.

Grade crossings are double liabilities. In the first place, they are dangerous. This is particularly true at E. 36th St., where trains move along at a good pace. In the second



E. 36th St. Grade Crossing

place, they often tie up traffic, causing delay and inconvenience.

The City has wisely embarked on a long-range program to eliminate some of the grade crossings in the main business area. It would indeed be foolish to create new bottlenecks with the left hand while clearing away others with the right.

From The Greensboro Daily News

FORTUITOUSLY SAVED

NORTH CAROLINA has fortuitously been saved another jail death, this time in Ahoskie.

As the dispatches relate, John Riddick, arrested on a public drunkenness charge and left alone in the town jail, was discovered in a suicide attempt when officers happened to arrest another man and brought him to the jail several hours later. They found Riddick "sprawled on the floor of one of the cells with one end of his belt around his neck and the other end tied to a bar."

The officers cut the belt and released it from around the prisoner's neck. Just how long he had been lying in the position they found him is not stated. One of them did say, however, that he appeared to be all right soon after his release and there is nothing in the news items to show that they followed the suggestion of a highway patrolman, who also happened to come by the jail, that a physician be called.

But the point that disturbs us most, and we trust will rest more heavily on the conscience of North Carolina, is the circumstances under which this prisoner, after all a human being, was left with no way of calling or getting help whatever might happen to him. One of the officers who chanced to save him reportedly said that if he had not made a second arrest he did not know when he would have returned to the jail.

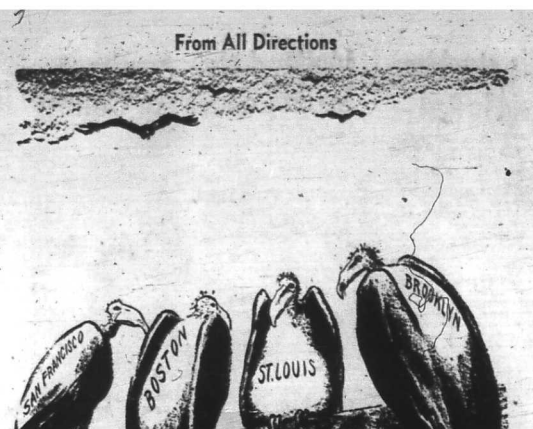
The *Daily News* cannot stress too often the responsibility which North Carolina, meaning all of us, has for those unfortunates who are entrusted to its keeping, who have no protection whatever save that which the State gives them. We had thought, after the Spray jail fire of March, 1950, which claimed the lives of six prisoners, that a law would be passed requiring the jail safety measures which we do not have, especially in town lock-ups and some of the smaller county prisons. Cynically, callously, however, no such measures were enacted. Consequently the State itself goes right on being an accessory to every needless jail death which occurs within its confines.

We note there was no rush at Charlotte ABC and tobacco stores to beat the new tax deadline. It's good to know somebody else is broke, too.

That Nevada judge who told Marian Davies that "We don't use the word 'obey' in the Nevada ceermony" was just being realistic. Might as well drop it everywhere else for all the good it does.

A filler in our favorite afternoon newspaper advises brides to place sachet with their trousseau so their clothes will have a subtle fragrance. Might add a couple of mothballs, too, since they'll have to wear 'em a long time.

From All Directions



Fitzpatrick in The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Herblock is on vacation. His cartoons will be resumed on his return.

People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Taft Ducks Civil Rights

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

IF "Mr. Republican", Sen. Robert A. Taft were conducting his political campaign in England, some politically-aware heckler, or at the least, some enterprising reporter, would have, long ago, asked him: "How do you stand on civil rights and FEPC, Mr. Taft?" However, the Senator is luckier. It is extremely doubtful whether he will be asked that question at any time during his current jaunt through the Southern states.

Thus, he who puts so much emphasis on "squaring away on the issues" with President Truman, is quite willing to address Southern audiences on a basis which fails short of the "honesty" he professes so profusely. As one who has spent his entire life in politics, the Senator must know that the vast majority of those Southern audiences which are hostile to President Truman have arrived at that frame of mind because of the President's espousal of the "civil rights" proposals. The Senator is apparently quite willing to accept that support without "squaring away on the issues". In fact he welcomes the support, as he did in Tennessee the other day, and as he will do in North Carolina anon; he's willing to put it on an entirely different level. He says one thing, and they cheer him for something else.

"Squaring away on the issues" would demand that Senator Taft, in his invasion of the South, would say to audiences: "If your support of me as opposed to President Truman is based solely on the 'civil rights' program, you should know that during my campaign in Ohio last year, I told a large industrial audience in Cleveland that President Truman is 'stalling' on "civil rights," and that the only way we will ever have an adequate 'civil rights' program is to vote for the Republicans." After such soul-searching avowal of "standing four-square on the issue," Senator Taft would indeed deserve the cheers of Southern audiences, if they indeed continue to cheer.

—P. L. LINDSEY.

Let's Start All Over

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

YOUR paper carried . . . an article by one who "upholds" the right of the President in appointing an ambassador to Rome. Since when has the "estate" presided over by the Pope of Rome, surrounded by a fence, become a state that it can claim the right of recognition, even should the Constitution of the United States contain provisions giving the Chief Executive the power for such an appointment? Does the Vatican state appoint and pay salaries and expenses of ambassador countries?

Therein seems to be the trouble with granting some people extraordinary powers intended to meet emergencies in time of war, and under such powers they overstep their authority in some "small" way or instance, and the public makes a half-hearted objection but eventually passes it up. The next step is bolder and more pronounced in its violation. Then the succeeding officer, exercising his "prerogative" by virtue of the precedent that has been established, takes it for granted that he has full authority to do so, first it was a representative, next an ambassador, and my dictionary indicates a difference between the two.

The prime factor and idea underlying the whole scheme is the feather in the wind to make certain the votes get counted in the right column next year. I do not know if a complete change of Administration would remedy the situation, but it certainly could not be much worse . . .

The immediate and present need of this country is an organization or party that will take the original Constitution of the United States plus the Ten Commandments, scrap about 95 per cent of the present conglomeration of laws, (ceiling, price control, price support, etc.) and start all over again. The complete exercise and enforcement of these proposals will remedy any situation and establish a safe and sound basis of government policy for any people or nation.

Almost day by day we can be reminded of the wisdom and judgment of our first President in his decision, likewise the error and fallacy of electing a President for a third term, the biggest mistake this country ever made.

—M. C. ALEXANDER.

Illegal Stickers And Signs?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

I HAVE noted with much interest Tom Fesperman's recent comment about "stickers" as it is a subject that has interested me for several years, the interest being for the violations of laws by those responsible for enforcement and others who should have great interest in enforcement.

Your friend Charlie Henderson refers to statutes of North Carolina. When we had inspection of our automobiles the inspection agencies put stickers on our windshields. A law violation? Numerous states or communities how have stickers showing inspection. Is there not a Federal law against this? When we had gasoline rationing we had large stickers to be put on windshields and furnished by the Government. I should think the size of the stickers would have no bearing on the question of violation. Besides this they could have been put somewhere else on the car.

Here in Charlotte I think we have ordinances regarding hanging signs across the street and also notices or advertisements on poles. In times past we have had food shows, Shrine Bowl games and other worthy or only commercial signs hung across Tryon St. Now we have Community Chest cards on poles.

I think these organizations should be very conscientious in avoiding violations of ordinances. No matter how small or how worthy the motive. Some of us think that these small violations are bad examples to young people growing up, regardless of the objective or seriousness.

I wonder if it is not a violation of city ordinance for trucks to be parked on Tryon or Trade Sts. for the purpose of advertising something, regardless of the sponsor and if no admission or contribution is expected.

—A CITIZEN.

Ruark May Return To Farm; New York Is Too Complicated

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

THE OTHER day I crawled out of the sack to congratulate myself on being a dweller in the greatest city in the greatest country in the world, and suddenly decided it would be more desirable to be stranded in Patagonia with a broken back. We don't need the A-bomb to tear up the town. We can do it more simply in our own time.

On the record that day there was no milk in the house and a milk-strike going that put milk in the same black-market category of wartime beef. People who don't get into fashionable restaurants twice a year were calling up the tony hash-houses to see if there was a spare pint of the white fluid about, so that baby could feed, and people who never get to fashionable restaurants at all were flocking to the country with an eye on hijacking heifer.

SCOTCH RETURNED

Well, Scotch is getting scarcer and scarcer, and will momentarily be vastly more expensive, and I note that this desperate state of affairs has not been leavened by the fact that the docking strike caused return-shipments of that lovely beverage back to Scotland. They couldn't move it off the docks; they shipped it home again, alas, and when it returns it wears a new price tag.

That was the day when a man who needed a haircut couldn't get a haircut, because the barbers were striking, too. The land of milk-and-honey was in a flop. I didn't check with the bees, but assume that if there were no milk, the chances are the honey was on strike, too.

There was a great big hassel in progress over the rude reception of Miss Josephine Baker in the Stork Club, where she seemed not to be entirely welcome as a member of the Negro race. That was also the day they couldn't move the ambulances destined for Korea, because of the dock tie-up, but in New York it didn't seem as important as snobbery in the Stork.

The traffic was snarled up everywhere, of course, and the illegal parkers were being abetted by the double and triple parkers. The busses piled up, and pulled out of line, and the taxi drivers cursed everything and each other. A new fifteen per cent boost in the rent is about to become reality.

We have had no transportation lay offs lately, apart from the docking strife, but this seems a likely time for Mr. Michael Quill to rear his head. That and a water shortage would be all that is necessary to make New York the asphalt jungle it occasionally becomes, through the contrivances of civilization.

HELPLESS BABY

The city as we know it has become prostrate before the whims of its own organization. It is a sprawling baby that can be rendered helpless by a momentary interruption in the rhythm of its daily life —interruptions that more and more frequently are used to prove political and economic points by organizers.

This is a fine town, New York. It has nearly everything to make a man happy in his habitat, from wonderful restaurants to the best theater to Central Park, from the Brooklyn Dodgers to the Met. But damn, sir, it seems more and more we're going to spoil it as a home town for humans.

If the last week was an example of civilized living, I personally wish to go back to the farm, where you can reach out and drain a gill of milk off a handy cow; where you can fabricate your own booze from a backyard still; where nobody is overly concerned about who is treated handsomely or otherwise in a gin mill.

Reputations Will Be Made Or Unmade By Wisconsin Voters

By MARQUIS CHILDS

MADISON, Wis.

IN THE PAST decade a number of reputations have been made and unmade in this politically conscious state. And next year, too, it promises to be a testing ground for some high-powered ambitions.

Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio is already an entry in the Presidential primary to be held next April. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower is a likely starter.

If Eisenhower does not enter, and perhaps even if he does, a third figure will for the second time in two years try his fortunes in the Wisconsin sweepstakes. How long Harold Stassen has had his eyes riveted on the Presidency no one but Harold Stassen knows. But the state he directs at that highest of all offices is one of such fixed intensity that it makes ordinary mortals a little uncomfortable.

Stassen has strength in Wisconsin today. Several Republicans who ran on his slate of delegates last year have indicated that they are willing to wear his colors again. But whether he has the strength he had in 1948, when he won nineteen of Wisconsin's 27 delegates to the Republican national convention is doubtful.

In '48 Stassen had the backing of the whole GOP organization with the special support of Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who had a great deal to do with directing the Stassen campaign. This time Thomas E. Coleman, the most effective Republican organizer and for many years chairman and finance chairman, is directing organization support to Taft.

Very possibly, however, Stassen once again will be in a position to get the active backing of McCarthy. In his fight on the nomination of Philip Jessup to be an American delegate to the U. N. General Assembly, he carried McCarthy's objective where McCarthy had failed. Speaking in Boston last week, Stassen carved out a foreign policy line featuring an attack on Secretary of State Acheson, Jessup and Alger Hiss as the architects of catastrophe in China and elsewhere.

Political bedfellows fall in and out strangely in these matters. Three years ago in the seat for Stassen, McCarthy wrote a letter challenging the eligibility of Gen. Douglas MacArthur for the Republican nomination on the score of MacArthur's age and his divorce. MacArthur got one delegate, running third in the race. The general was then, of course, in command of occupation forces in Japan and he made no campaign.

As to Stassen's intentions, they are the subject of no little speculation. To one of his close friends here he has said that if Eisenhower does enter, he, Stassen, will not try for the delegates. Earlier to a group of Republicans in the state he declared his intention of running regardless of what Eisenhower or anyone else might do.

Finally, to one of the prime movers in the Eisenhower - for-President camp he said that if he did enter the race for delegates it would be solely in order to keep the delegates he might win in reserve for Ike. This statement, it may be added, was received with considerable skepticism.

HOMELESS HAROLD

In a sense Stassen is a man without a country. He left his native Minnesota to become president of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where he made an alliance of sorts with the Grundy - Pew Republican faction and thereby earned the resentment of Sen. James Duff of the same state. Despite his departure he still has strength in Minnesota, although the Old Guard faction led by National Committeeman Roy Dunn has always been loyal to Taft.

Anyone who gets out into the country is told of the growing weakness of the Truman Administration. This reporter who was woefully wrong in '48 feels compelled to receive these reports with a healthy sprinkling of salt. Nevertheless, Republican hopes are beginning to soar. As they soar the contest for what seems an ever surer prize grows increasingly fierce.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Franco Bawls Out U. S. Air General

WASHINGTON

The Pentagon is keeping mum about it but, on Oct. 13, Spanish Dictator Francisco Franco called in Maj. Gen. James V. Spry, head of the U. S. military mission to Spain, and staged a savage interview in which he threatened, in effect, to withhold the establishment of American bases in Spain.

The interview was so harsh, and Franco's general attitude has been so unreasonable that General Spry is returning to the United States with the almost certain recommendation that there be no U. S. air bases in Spain.

Unless Gen. Pat McCarran, who heads the powerful Spanish lobby in Washington, is able to batter heads at the Pentagon, this recommendation is likely to be accepted.

What happened was that General Spry was sent to Spain as head of a joint Naval-Air Force mission to arrange for the much-publicized bases which Franco supposedly promised to the late Adm. Forrest Sherman. Although $68 million for Spanish aid was tacked onto the Foreign Aid Bill by Senator McCarran, this was done prior to Admiral Sherman's base-deal and the two were never connected. The offer of bases was made afterward, supposedly as a gesture of friendship by Franco.

General Spry's mission to survey the best sites for bases was due to be completed on Nov. 15., and it was agreed in advance that not until Nov. 15, would he give the Spanish government a verbal resume of his findings.

Impatient Dictator

Franco, however, couldn't wait that long. On Oct. 13 he abruptly sent for Spry and demanded to know just how much he could get out of the United States and when.

Taken aback, Spry started to explain that his job was merely to evaluate Spanish bases, not discuss economic matters. He did not have a chance to say more than a few sentences. With only his first few words translated, Franco cut him short, launched into a violent harangue. He continued without interruption for one hour and 20 minutes. The American officer simply had to sit there and take it.

The gist of Franco's tirade was that he needed money and needed it right away. Therefore, he wanted a detailed list of what was being offered by the United States—credits, economic concessions, military equipment—and the U. S. A. wasn't going to get a thing until they put the dollars on the dotted line.

Even if General Spry was not authorized to talk about these economic matters, Franco thundered, he must have seen enough during his survey to make a report that would serve as a basis for discussion.

Then the man who claims to be Europe's No. 1 anti-Communist added the real shocker. He curtly told Spry that, regardless of what the United States offered, he was not sold on having bases used for "fighting a war all over the Mediterranean area." The only thing he had agreed to so far, Franco said, was "joint defense of the Iberian Peninsula against direct attack."

This was in flat contradiction to earlier commitments reported to Washington by Admiral Sherman; so General Spry tried to clarify the issue. But Franco ended the interview as brusquely as he started it with an admonition to start talking turkey.

African Bases Instead

That evening, General Spry conferred at length with U. S. Ambassador Stanton Griffis who was hopping mad over not having been invited to the conference. Griffis, one of the few Americans who expressed admiration for Hitler before Pearl Harbor, discounted Franco's tough talk as a typical bluff and expressed that opinion to the State Department in a cable dated Oct. 15.

Other events, however, indicate the tirade was not bluff. Simultaneously Franco gave an interview to the Mexican newspaper, Excelsior, stating that he would not cede bases to the United States. It was also made clear to the Spry mission that Spain would not give the United States anywhere near the same privileges given the Air Force in England, France and Italy. In brief, though we could build bases, they would have to be manned largely by Spanish troops.

As a result, General Spry is returning home with the recommendation that we use the air bases now almost completed in French Morocco. These are so close to Spain that they can easily defend the Western Mediterranean.

A U. S. naval base at Cadiz may be recommended by Adm. Robert L. Campbell who was part of the Spry mission —provided the United States is willing to pay for the cost of building a huge commercial port for Spain which could be used as a naval base in time of war.

War On Piggy Bank

The Bureau of the Mint has privately declared war on that trusty receptacle of America's loose change, the piggy bank. It's all because of the shortage of pennies, which in turn is due to the scarcity of defense-needed copper.

The government has something like 19,197,534,000 pennies outstanding and another 175,000,000 were minted during the month of October. However, there's still a big shortage, forcing many banks to ration their outlay of pennies.

Leland Howard, assistant director of the Mint, has an idea that the problem might be licked if all the nation's piggy banks were abolished.