

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1951

A NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

LAST NIGHT, before a Charlotte audience, Sen. Guy Gillette of Iowa proposed formation of a "North Atlantic Assembly" in which elected representatives of the people of the Atlantic community would meet "for free and frank debate on the issues affecting the well-being and the lives of all the peoples of the Atlantic community."

The Senator believes North Atlantic countries should eventually come together in a federal union, such as the thirteen colonies formed in this country. In his opinion the Assembly would be sort of a forerunner to the Atlantic Union.

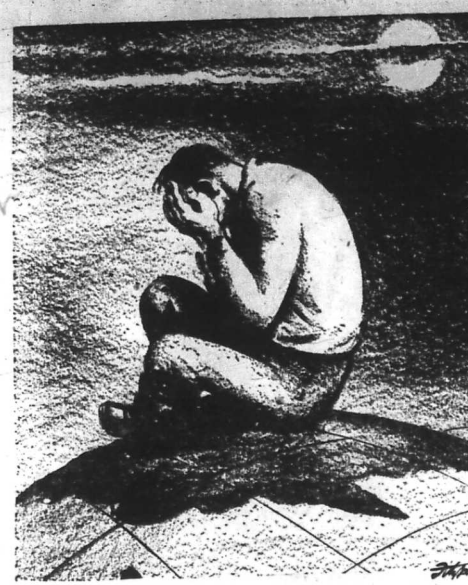
The Assembly he envisions would be comparable to the Council of Europe, meet in Strasbourg, where European delegates discuss their common problems. The Assembly would, as we see it, have the same benefits, and the same drawbacks, as the Council of Europe. A primary advantage would be that such a concisive would focus public attention upon the many, common problems of the Atlantic community. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is now encumbered by a veritable jungle of boards and committees of diplomats and generals—as one wag has observed, Iceland, the smallest partner in the alliance, soon won't have any population at home if it has to put up on any more committees. But the mil-

itary and diplomatic jargon of this Atlantic community in which we are investing heavily needs to be translated to terms understandable by the average voter. The advantages and disadvantages of NATO, the whole concept of Atlantic community throughout the country, in order for it to be understood. Elected representatives could bring this discussion to the average citizen as no general or diplomat can.

Such representatives would not be legislators—they would have no power to legislate, and therein is both advantage and disadvantage. Because this Assembly would have no legal authority it could be formed quickly, thus focusing attention on NATO and its operations during the critical year ahead. But because of this lack of power, although the people and their elected Assembly might desire a certain Atlantic policy they would have no effective control over the activities of NATO.

Thus, as Senator Gillette cogently argued last night, the needed end result is an Atlantic government responsible to the Atlantic citizens, rather than their governments, which are affecting the common interest of all, such as defense and foreign policy. The North Atlantic Assembly proposed by Senator Gillette looks like a step in the right direction, worthy of support of Carolinians.

The Night Vishinsky Couldn't Sleep For Laughing



Herbick is on occasion. His cartoons will be resumed on Air return.

Farmers' Economic Outlook Good—Unless Peace Comes

By BERTRAM BENEDICT
 In Editorial Service
 WASHINGTON

American farmers on the whole should do about as well next year as they did in 1950. The U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, their gross income from marketing their products will be higher, but so will their production costs.

All this is on the assumption that the national defense program goes along as planned. If the international skies should get clearer so that the defense program can be slowed down, the average farmer may do worse than 1950. The national should get even closer to all-out war and the defense program will stoppped and the farmer may do better in 1952 than in 1951, as a result of scarce buying and farm prices inflation.

At all events, 1951 looks like a pretty good year for American agriculture. Net farm income is expected to be almost as high as in the record year 1947. True, the farm dollar of 1951 will not buy as much as the farm dollar of 1947 bought, but even after allowing for shrinkage in dollar purchasing power, 1951 will be a better year than 1950 for most farmers. One non-government estimate was that American agriculture as a whole, gross farm income this year has gone up about 10 per cent more than farm expenses have increased.

Between 1940 and 1950 farm income increased from \$712 in 1940 to \$2,170 in 1950, according to the Office of Price Stabilization. But the 1950 dollar was worth only 62 cents in terms of purchasing power as compared with the 1940 dollar. The average net income per farm in 1950 was \$1,350 in terms of 1940 dollars.

Between 1940 and 1950 farm income increased to about the same degree as non-farm income. That is to say, the percentage of national income represented by farm income was about the same in 1950 as in 1940.

Between 1940 and 1951 the dollar value of real estate on farms more than doubled. Over that same period the amount of farm real estate mortgages has decreased by about one-eighth. In 1940 farmers had total liquid assets (currency, bank deposits, U. S. Savings Bonds) of about \$4 billion. In 1951 the total is estimated at almost \$20 billion.

Between March, 1950, and March, 1951, the dollar value of farm land rose if all the states excepting California and New York. The increase was greatest in Florida, Indiana, Ohio, and Texas. The relatively good year for agriculture in 1951 comes at a matter of high production as well as of prices. On Oct. 15, 1951, the price of wheat was 71 cents lower than the highest average monthly price received in 1948, over 22 cents lower, however, than in 1947. But cotton was 94 cents higher than its highest price in 1948, tobacco 71 cents higher, beef cattle \$4.20 higher.

INDEPENDENT TAR HEELS

IF VOTING records of the latest Congressional session are a fair indication, the North Carolina Democrats in Congress, with a couple of exceptions, ranged from cool to lukewarm in their attitude toward Democratic Party policies.

The annual summary by Congressional Quarterly shows that our Tar Heels in Congress were an independent lot this year. Talking in votes, they called votes in which a majority of Democrats were on one side of a question and a majority of Republicans on the other, CQ found that:

1. Sen. Willis Smith supported the Democratic Party majority only 24 per cent of the time, voting with his party 44 times and against it 51 times. Smith, incidentally, had the fourth lowest "party loyalty" score in the Senate. Only Harry Byrd with 25 per cent and Herbert O'Connor with 24 per cent were lower. In the House, Representative Morse with 25 per cent deserted their party colleagues more often than did Smith.
2. Sen. Clyde R. Hoey voted with the Democratic majority 72 times, against it 41. This is roughly in line with his 70 per cent in the 81st Congress and 64 per cent in the 80th.
3. Freshman Rep. Woodrow W. Jones of the 11th District and Graham Barden of the 3rd showed as little enthusiasm for Democratic Party projects as did Senator Smith. They each scored a low 46 per cent for party loyalty. Rep. Robert Doughton of the 9th and Monroe Redden of the 12th did a little better (46 and 48 per cent), with the remaining Tar Heel Representatives following in this order, Carlyle (53), Hamilton (53), Jeter (60), Durham (61), Bennett (74), Cooley (78), Chatham (81), Kerr (83), and Deane (95).

Party unity scores, as tallied by CQ, do not indicate stands for or against the Administration, as they were given instances in which the Democrats voted against President Truman's policies. If these were figured in, Tar Heel unity scores would be somewhat lower.

The most interesting thing about the CQ analysis was that most of the Democratic mavericks in both houses were Southerners. This would indicate that Southern resentment and opposition is not limited to President Truman's policies, but to the broader legislative program embraced by a majority of the Democratic Party—a fact that will become of more importance when the national Democratic convention opens in Chicago next Summer.

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.

'Billionaire' Corruption

Did you know our country is on the brink of helpless disintegration? We have been sold down the river to the well, or not, that there is growing unrest, and it is becoming more and more evident day by day. Not a week passes in which we do not witness in our newspapers a story that describes them aptly, "I am especially first one in the dictionary, I had to coin it. The is billionneuric."

Foolish spending is not the only rotteness in Washington. Other corruption prevails—corruption which has infected the military, the Communist craft, rattlesnake politics, five per cents, milk coats, etcetera. It is a sinking administration. And to think we put them in office.

Before going I want to say that I am a full-blooded American, that I vote not for the party, but for the man I think best for Americanism, and that I am not a religious fanatic. I am a representative of John F. Public, U. S. A.

Pray for the salvation of America!
 FRANK G. MCINNIS.

Great Protestants, Catholics, Jews

I DON'T know about the rest of your readers, but I personally I am a little impatient with all the bawling back and forth, in People's Platform before, and in intention, and the Protestants have seen neither side has really said what it actually means.

As I see it the Catholics are merely throwing a smoke screen over what they know to be the real situation. In high good humor, however, he told us there are Catholics who have been fencing; they haven't yet given the Catholics a clear-cut answer for their stand, which in itself is almost an hour. In high good humor, however, he told us there are Catholics who have been fencing; they haven't yet given the Catholics a clear-cut answer for their stand, which in itself is almost an hour.

The issue of whether or not it's legal for public school buses to convey Catholic children to private schools is a matter of public concern.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

AT a relaxed Washington dinner at the Carlton Hotel recently, Sen. Robert Taft cheerfully bragged to close friends that his delegate strength was "way over 600 and going up."

The Senator had just come from a month of political bush-beating and a press conference where he was heard to brag about his delegate strength. He was heard to brag about his delegate strength. He was heard to brag about his delegate strength.

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Long Live Hillbilly Music

A W. BLACK certainly expressed his sentiments about hillbilly music in no uncertain terms. In my opinion, he probably likes it, but refused to reveal his true emotion on the subject. If the truth were actually known, the majority of people do like hillbilly music, but due to social pressure, culture, and other things, they don't like to show their true feelings to be smothered under a blanket of false skepticism.

One of the leading songs on Hill Parade today was originally composed by a Grand Old Opry star. As a matter of fact, quite a number of hit tunes at present and for the last several years have been of the hillbilly variety. Just dress them up a little and the public goes wild.

I, for one, thoroughly enjoy this type of music, and am not afraid to admit it. None of us surely would like for a steady diet, for variety is the spice of life. Long live hillbilly music and many praises for the great host of fine stars who have been and are making an outstanding contribution to the entertainment life of our nation, especially this section of the Southeast.

(Miss) BETTY THORNE

New England Trends

THE same story of organization politics, deserting the Eisenhower campaign to line up with Taft, is true in New England. Taft managers report that the 1948 convention Taft received only four votes from the whole area, now is making heavy inroads in Massachusetts, getting New Bedford support for least eight Bay State delegates.

In other New England states, Sen. Owen Brewster is trying to match the whole Maine delegation, but is getting a smaller, rugged, independent Jim Duff, is Eisenhower's biggest booster.

Kansas Surprises

AT the Carlton dinner the other night, Taft gleefully revealed two surprises. They were promises of a Dietrich Island trip, and a \$500-plate dinner, and ex-GOP National Committee Chairman Jim Selvig is organizing for Taft in Connecticut.

Nevada Friendships

THE Senate is always quick to investigate anyone but its own members. However, one situation which badly needs investigating is the way Senator Malone, Nevada Republican, has been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At first, Malone fought to turn tidelandis oil over to the states. This was at the same time that his assistant, Ben Malone, was being investigated by the FBI for receiving \$50,000 to lobby for state ownership. However, the deal fell through, and Ben Malone has completely reversed himself, and is now lobbying for Federal ownership. The position he now favors might turn vast tracts of oil-rich tidelandis over to the states.

Vanishing Christmas Greens

CHRISTMAS greens are nature's great contribution in setting the stage of the holiday season. It is nature's gift to us, a hand as a decorator. The North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society, recently formed, fears that this is true. It is calling for renewed conservation of Christmas greens in North Carolina. The wildflower is a holy, trailing cedar and laurel.

Conservation does not mean that trees and plants must be preserved intact where they grow. It does mean judicious cutting and display of these evergreens. The Wildflower Preservation Society has called attention to situations where rules of conservation are violated, by regulation goes on record as crowning upon and disapproving the extravagant decoration of streets of towns and

Atomic Developments Changed European Defense Timetable

By MARQUIS CHILDS

THE RISK involved in sending the bulk of American military forces to Europe to equip European divisions of the NATO was very clear. It was that the European divisions of the NATO were very weak. One factor, and one factor alone, was in the Department of Defense. One factor, and one factor alone, was in the Department of Defense.

The risk, of course, is that these European divisions would be overwhelmed in an all-out assault by atomic weapons. The latest atomic tests at Las Vegas, Nevada, confirm what had already been pretty evident.

The small atomic bomb is a practical weapon to use against enemy troops in the field. The incidental damage to the civilian population does not endanger the forces employing the weapon.

Pogo Must Remain

LAST night, in a nightmare of incredible horror, I had the vile thought that my friend Pogo might be removed from the comic strip section of the News.

This must not be: Pogo must remain as inviolate as the theory behind the Ten Commandments. Where else can one find such a clever satire on our hunting as is being portrayed now?

I warn you: I shall commit homicide if one hair of that ill varmint's body is harmed.

LEON K. GUTMANN

Stockpile Multiplied

Most important of all what matters to America's atomic stockpile. The feasibility of the small atomic bomb means that in the stockpile program as now being carried out, the stockpile will be multiplied.

With an abundance of atomic weapons they need no longer be hoarded for careful, calculated use. They can be used as they see fit, as was put by one military man: "We can drop them out of every plane and get and blast the army."

This knowledge, incidentally, may be stiffening the determination of American negotiators in Korea to refuse every proposal for a cease-fire which is demanded by the Communists.

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