

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1951

DUKE'S RATE REQUEST

DUKE POWER CO. has cited some impressive figures in its bid for higher electric rates:

There has been no change in Duke's rate structure since rates were reduced in 1938, although wages are up 150 per cent, copper 115 per cent, steel 127 per cent, creosoted poles 91 per cent, insulators 90 per cent, transformers 61 per cent, etc.

Duke has completely projected through 1954, some \$250,000,000 in new facilities, all paid for at high postwar prices, increasing its average investment per unit of power generated.

The requested rate increase will total \$3,000,000 a year, less than four per cent of the company's current gross revenues. The maximum increase for general residential service will not exceed 20 cents a month, and the maximum increase for water heater service will not exceed fifteen cents a month.

Duke contends the higher earnings are necessary to obtain on reasonable terms the large amounts of new capital necessary for continuing construction and expansion of its facilities.

That, in brief, is the company's position. Offhand, the request appears to be a modest one, justified by the changing economic conditions of the postwar inflationary period. Virtually everything else has gone up in

price, and there is no reason why electricity should be an exception.

Even so, the people of North and South Carolina will properly expect the two state utility commissions to scrutinize Duke's request most closely. Many other factors need to be considered: the abundance of water in certain years that has reduced coal consumption at steam generating plants; the greater volume of electricity consumed in the same geographical area; the sharp increase in residential water heating devices that smooth out the power load for homes.

The final responsibility for judging the reasonableness of Duke's request will rest upon the two state commissions. In theory at least, they are the guardians of the people's interest (though we are not at all certain they have the technical facilities to compete with adroit utility statisticians and attorneys). At the same time, they must permit a public utility to earn a fair return on its investment.

If Duke's need for the extra \$3,000,000 in gross revenue can be proved, this newspaper will not oppose the rate increase. But the burden of proof is clearly upon the applicant, and the two state regulatory bodies must be more than rubber stamps if they are to fulfill their duty to the people.

PREVIEW OF 1952

AS A GENERAL RULE, a candidate or potential candidate for political office assumes and is given wide latitude when he is making an avowed political speech on an avowed political occasion before an audience of avowed political party workers.

Harry S. Truman followed the rule this year. He made an out-and-out political speech. It was an openly announced political occasion. His audience was the politically-attuned National Democratic Women's Club.

Hence, if what came out was something less than statesmanlike, if it was somewhat less dignified than the American people would like to hear from their President, no one should have been surprised. Mr. Truman is an expert in the rough-and-tumble "give-'em-bell" school of political warfare. He showed the experts in 1948 that his free-swinging style is productive of results, and we are resigned, somewhat reluctantly, to a repetition of the tactics in 1952.

That does not mean we are happy about it, however. The nation needs something more

to chew upon than the time-worn blasts at the Republican "Old Guard", the assailing of the "rich special interests", the effort to cover up the Truman Administration's own avowed political party workers.

These things may bring cheers from the party hacks, may get votes from the thoughtless. But they do not appeal to the more serious-minded voter who cannot but be gravely concerned over the appalling responsibilities facing his nation today and who would like to hear them discussed calmly and rationally.

Unfortunately, there was nothing in the Truman address save his defense of his foreign policy to give rise to the hope that the 1952 campaign will be more than an oratorical slugfest. The only hope for the thoughtful voter—indeed the only hope for our democracy—is that the American voter of the year 1951 is more mature than some of the politicians imagine, and that he will see through the sham, the bombast, and the spleen of the upcoming campaign.

THE STORM THAT SUBSIDED

DO YOU REMEMBER all the fuss about the date for Thanksgiving a few years ago? Do you recall the row stirred up by the late Franklin D. Roosevelt when he announced that Thanksgiving in the year 1939 would be celebrated on the fourth Thursday instead of the last Thursday in November?

We had forgotten the details until *Editorial Research Reports* sent along a timely reminder. President Roosevelt said he had moved the holiday up one week at the request of retail merchants who wanted a longer pre-Christmas shopping season.

But the traditionalists howled. Calendar manufacturers, railroad timetable designers, football schedule makers screamed in protest. And the tradition-minded New England Governor, Elbridge Gerry, declared Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving, proclaiming solemnly: "Not for the inauguration of Christmas shopping is this day set aside."

Like so many other flurries, this one finally subsided, too. In 1951 President

Roosevelt bowed to his critics. He said he wouldn't tamper with custom any more, and promised to set aside the first Thursday of November for Thanksgiving. Then Congress, in a rare act of wisdom, turned right around and adopted a resolution assigning Thanksgiving to the fourth Thursday in November, just what President Roosevelt had tried to do. FDR signed the resolution on Dec. 26, 1941.

Editorial Research Reports adds the following interesting historical footnote:

"As a matter of fact, it was Washington and Lincoln, not the Pilgrims, who had set the old tradition. The first Thanksgiving in 1621 was celebrated in October. The second, in 1623, was observed in July. In 1789, Congress asked Washington to fix a day for giving thanks to the Lord, and he selected the last Thursday in November. But Jefferson, calling Thanksgiving proclamations a 'monarchical practice,' allowed them to lapse. And it was Lincoln who revived them in 1863, at the request of the editor of 'Godey's Ladies' Book.'"

more 20,700 for each Representative.

The printed record weighed 100 pounds, ran six times as long as the Bible, and the printing cost figured out to \$63.63 per Senator.

And that, mind you, did not include any of the many committee hearings. If we wanted to be nasty, we'd cite a few famous quotations like Shakespeare's "Words without thoughts never to heaven go" or "I am but a man, my friends, with all my faults," or "Democritus' Words are but the shadows of actions" . . . or Richard Barnfield's "Words are easy, like the wind" . . . or Thomas Hobbes' "Words . . . are the money of fools." And we'd toss in, for an extra dig, The Bard's famous quip from *King Henry*, "Men of words are the best men."

But, since we're being guilty of prolixity and verbosity ourselves on occasions, we'll be charitable with the boys. They just didn't have time, as Mr. Greeley said, to write short speeches.

From The Philadelphia Inquirer

BECAUSE ONE DRIVER DRANK

THE sudden death which came to seven passengers of a bus that toppled off a ramp leading to San Francisco Bay bridge at Oakland, California, 30 minutes before the bus was to leave, was the more tragic by the disclosure that the fatal accident was caused by a drunken driver.

When the motorist's car struck an abutment, it started the chain of events which ended in death. A piece of concrete was dislodged and rolled over the bus, and the bus driver, couldn't avoid it, and his vehicle careened off the ramp, falling 40 feet.

We have far too many deaths on the highway when all concerned are in full possession of their faculties. This fatal accident in Cal-

ifornia, bringing death to seven and injury to 22 more, is one that need not have happened—and would not, if one man had obeyed the law against driving after drinking.

The weaker sex is the stronger sex because of the weakness of the stronger sex for the weaker. —Sardis (N. M.) Current-Argus.

It's hard for communism to make gains in this country when every American who owns a share of stock considers himself a capitalist.—Rocky Mount (N. C.) Telegram.

Thanksgiving Story



Collected By Bill Sharpe

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

Turn Off The Highway

(Richmond County Journal.)
If it were possible to get the majority of people who own automobiles to follow a suggestion made by a Rockingham man a few days ago the traffic problem would be on the way to solution. This man suggested that those who are in the habit of taking a drive along the highways just for the pleasure they get out of moving about, especially on Sundays and holidays, drive over some of the fine country roads of the county instead of the two or three main thoroughfares that traverse the county.

He pointed out that this habit of getting out to the byways would not only enable one to see more of the interesting things of nature, but at the same time one would be getting away from the dangers of congested traffic. Since these roads are now paved so many of the country roads, the pleasure of "just riding" is equally as great in the sparsely settled country as it is along a national highway. Furthermore, one is more likely to see something new and interesting; things that he never has raised.

That's Enough

(Sanford Herald.)
Charlie Kennedy overheard this the other day while going home from school. Naturally the subject was girls:
It seemed that Joe was puzzled over the social problems and discussed them with his buddy, John. "I have walked to school with this woman three times," he said, "and I have carried her books I bought her chocolate shakes twice. Now do you think I ought to kiss her?"
"Naw," said Mortimer. "You've done enough for that woman already."

Plenty More

(Billy Arant, News & Views.)
A Marine cracked about one of the sub-standard rental tips he found in Tent Camp. "If they'd ever clean the place, they'd find two more rooms," he said.

The Smart Ones

(Harry Snook, Daily Tar Heel.)
The Carolina campus is a squirrel's paradise. No unhappy squirrel has ever been reported. For many weeks now the little grey animals have been busy stocking up a winter hoard of nuts and whatever else they eat. One squirrel was observed busy burying a nut right out in the middle of everywhere. A good wanted to know how that squirrel would ever remember where he put the nut.
"Well," replied the boy with her, "if we see a squirrel burying a nut, and this winter we'll know he won't remember."
Still, the lady had the last word:
"You can't see why a smart squirrel wouldn't just sit in a tree and watch where the others buried theirs."

Merry-Go-Round

Drew Pearson's

THIS column is written from within a few miles of the famous rock where the Pilgrim Fathers landed and gave thanks for being delivered into a new land of freedom.

In continuing their present of giving thanks, it is important to remember the conditions under which they helped to establish a new nation, and also to draw some parallels between what happened then and what is happening today.

When the Pilgrim Fathers left England there was a new surge on the part of the common people for freedom. For the first time the people of England were learning to read and write. For the first time the Bible had begun to circulate among commoners instead of being read only in the churches. People read it avidly, were stirred by it, and the freedom of thought and action for themselves.

There was in England at that time a system of thought-control not unlike that existing behind the Iron Curtain today. Whereas the thought-control in Russia is political, the thought-control in England was religious. People were expected to follow the religion of the monarch, who one day might be Catholic, the next day Protestant. Eventually they rebelled. They organized a seven-hundred-year struggle for freedom and established a free nation of their own.

Restlessness Behind Iron Curtain

TODAY one of the things we can be thankful for is that a somewhat similar surge of restlessness is reported from behind the Iron Curtain. It is too early yet to call it a surge for freedom, but it is there.

Conditions in Russia are not unlike those existing in

Why Not?

Some even take the position that "I've earned my money" which of course is far from the truth. No one earns anything simply by getting old. If the parents supported the children in their infancy, why shouldn't those children support the parents in their old age?

Milking Contest

(Carl Goernh, The State.)
The Commission has been out, but it was a close contest. As a matter of fact, for a minute or so it was tit for tat. After that, Stag pulled away and the Governor was left holding the bag.
Maybe one of these days they'll stage an under-contest.

Auto Manners

(Eldin Tribune.)
People who otherwise are polite and courteous as an ordinary rule, will risk life and limb and all four tires, to gain six feet in a traffic line. They'll dash out of their parking space right into the path of another car with a great spinning of wheels and then a squeaking of brakes. And then they'll dash out of their parking space right into the path of another car with a great spinning of wheels and then a squeaking of brakes. And then they'll dash out of their parking space right into the path of another car with a great spinning of wheels and then a squeaking of brakes.

Tired Of It All

(Harriet County News.)
There's a story going the rounds that a certain widow, writing to an insurance company, complained this way:
"You have asked me to fill out so many proofs of claims and I have had so much trouble in getting my money that I sometimes almost wish my husband had died."

Quote, Unquote

"Daddy, what is an angel?"
"A pedestrian who jumped too late."—N. C. Motor Vehicle.

Many people, including some adults, have wondered whether an umbrella might be used as a successful parachute. Well, the question has been answered by a gentleman in South Africa, who recently won a fifty-dollar prize by jumping from a two-story building, using an umbrella as a parachute.
He made no money, however, because he ran up a large bill at the hospital, where he was treated for injuries to his ankles and wrists.—Mattoon (Ill.) Journal-Gazette.

Israelites Move Forward, But Arabs' Hostility Understandable

By STEWART ALSOP

TEL AVIV

"YOU CAN SAY that again brother." This remark, in a strong Mid-Western accent, came strangely to the ears on a chilly windswept northern mountaintop in this ancient land. The remark is made by a wiry, wiry, blond boy from Minnesota, in answer to a question—what is a tough job like cultivating this mountain soil, which seems to consist more of rocks than soil? The Minnesota boy, the accountant of a kibbutz, or agricultural settlement, founded a couple of years ago by 80-odd American Zionists.

For two years now, the members of this collective have been living an incredibly hard life on this naked mountaintop, somehow wresting a bare subsistence from the dry, rocky soil, slowly building permanent living quarters with their own hands, living without privacy, without money, without even clothes of their own. There is something grim yet genuinely moving in this dedicated monastic way of life, utterly alien to the experience of most Americans.

Yet to the American newly-arrived here, there is something grimly moving, too, about the mouldering ruins of the Arab village. For these ruins must surely serve as a constant reminder of the land now cultivated by the kibbutz members gave a living, not long ago, to men of a different race. What happened? The Minnesota boy is asked, to the village and the Arabs who lived in it?

The Arabs, he says, ran away during the Arab-Israeli War. As for the village, it was dismantled after the Arabs ran away. This was the policy of the Government, he says wryly—to "dissolve" the Arabs from returning. What does he think of this matter of the taking over of Arab land? Does it ever worry him and the other members of the kibbutz?

This question, the boy from Minnesota answers simply, used to trouble them all deeply, both as Americans and as Zionists. But now, like the majority of the agricultural collective, is a left-wing, they would say, a chutzpah, other the question, and even find a really satisfactory answer. But it was that only at the beginning, they say, anybody thinks about it any more.

This incident serves to illustrate

both the strength and the weakness of the new Israeli state. On the one hand, there is the fierce idealism which has led this little state to build a new nation on this inhospitable soil. This reporter has seen his travels see anything more impressive than what is being done in this state—land reclaimed from the desert; work and food and housing found somehow for the great flood of immigrants; everywhere drive a car and energy and hope.

ARABS LEFT
Yet there is weakness too. It lies in the simple fact that almost 800,000 Arabs (according to the latest United Nations' head count) once lived in the houses and owned the shops and worked the land now lived in and owned and worked by hundreds of thousands of Israelis. It is with a sense of shock that one sees dozens of dismantled and dead Arab villages in the north, in the area assigned to the Arabs (because they had a great majority of the population) in the original United Nations partition plan. It is with a sense of shock also that one visits such a city as Jaffa, a once bustling Arab port, and sees virtually every Arab house and every Arab shop now occupied by the Israelis.

It is true that the Arabs started the war, and that they would have driven every last Jew into the sea if they had been able to. It is true that most of the Arabs ran away. The terrible need for the Jews for a land of their own is true. But it is also true that the founding of this nation involved taking over the property and livelihood of hundreds of thousands of people. No doubt there was no other way. Yet a nation so founded is by the very nature of things condemned to live for a very long time as an island in a sea of hate and fear.

This hate and fear, according to those who know this area best, is no simple matter of the workings of an occasional demagogue or fanatic. It is a deep and long-lasting hatred which is by no means to be abandoned simply by the mere fact that the United States should abandon support of this state. Indeed, for all sorts of reasons, it is in the plain American interest that the extraordinary experiment here should not fail.

France Plagued By Price Squeeze, Weak Government

By MARQUIS CHILDS

TO THE AMERICAN PASSING through Paris there is a strong sense of the strangeness of a peculiarly troubled and difficult bit of history. France again is facing a major financial and political crisis and American policy-makers once again are seeking to work out a remedy in an effort to prevent a catastrophe.

This doesn't mean, however, that the situation is anything new as far as France is in concerned. The nation's economic gains have been recorded by the French economy above her prewar level. These gains, though, are not translated into an improvement of living standards for the great mass of people. Therefore, the position of Rene Pleven's government is increasingly difficult. Top American officials are disturbed by the extent of the imbalance caused by the drain on dollar reserves both here and in Great Britain. They mean to cure this imbalance is strictly limited. The French would like assurances immediately, in writing, of upward \$50 million in economic aid from the United States.

There is assistance act passed by Congress last Summer pared economic aid to the minimum and provided that part of the aid which helped to be converted into funds to raise the economic level. There must be a definite economic aid to the French government. American advisers, headed by W. Averell Harriman, are struggling to find ways and means to give the limited direct help, to cure the trouble.

One way, of course, is through American expenditures, to build air bases and other installations to be used by all the NATO countries. Another way is by purchase of all military supplies and equipment from the United States.

But with the best of intentions and will on both sides it is going to take all the ingenuity possible to work out a solution without a collapse and an explosive political crisis. The weak Pleven government is seeking to cut out imports by a quarter a million dollars. This could be done comparatively easily by cutting down on the use of gasoline and a variety of other ways, where it is evident that lavish spending at the top shows a lack in dollar reserves. The rise in French prices since the start of the Korean War has been everywhere higher than in America. There is greater inflation here than in any other nation of the world. No recent government has been able to use effective price control.

The average Frenchman is being squeezed terribly. Prices of everything necessary for life are high, with the index showing an increase in the price level of more than 50 per cent since the war began in Korea. This makes for a swelling undercurrent of dissatisfaction and resentment that jeopardizes the present government. It also puts in jeopardy the whole policy of containment of Russia, which has been the cornerstone of the military defenses of the West.

Captive Europeans Like Pilgrim Fathers

Drew Pearson's

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Restlessness Behind Iron Curtain

England 300 years ago. Under the czar only 25 per cent of the people could read or write. Today perhaps 80 per cent of the Russian people are literate. Though they have been reared on the Communist doctrine, just as the Pilgrim Fathers were reared on the doctrine handed down by the crown and the church hierarchy, it is apparent that the Russian people also have a yearning to know about the outside world, to establish their own standards of freedom.

It should never be forgotten that of the heterogeneous nationalities grouped welded together under the Soviet Socialist Republics, 55 per cent are non-Russian. They are Ukrainians, Mongols, Turkmen, Kirghis, Armenians, White Russians, and many others. They have their own nationalistic identity. They are like the far-flung Austro-Hungarian Empire whose different ethnic groups felt to pieces in Russia.

Destroying A Spectre

THIS surge for freedom inside the polyglot Russian empire has taken several forms. There have been revolts among the peasants. There are reported to be about 15 million political prisoners in concentration camps. Unwillingness to go along with the Soviet program has even been reported in the Moscow press.

Finally, refugees from behind the Iron Curtain are coming out in steady streams of about 1,000 a month, not unlike the exodus of the Pilgrim Fathers seeking a new life in a new world. And if they could be guided to new areas in Africa and South America under the Point IV program, they too might become pioneers for political

and religious freedom and serve as a magnet to attract others and thus break down the Iron Curtain.

Pioneers Of Friendship

IN New England this Thanksgiving week, some of the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers, plus descendants of more recent pilgrims, participated in a new crusade for freedom to raise money to operate Radio Free Europe and to send more United States Free Press balloons across the Iron Curtain bearing messages of hope and friendship to the captive people on the other side.

It is a similar story in this New England crusade for freedom. It is not all new. It is a story of similar kind to the Pilgrim Fathers. Their names range from John Delmonico, the labor commissioner, to Rubin Gryzmalski, the cigar manufacturer, from George Swartz, a radio engineer, to H. Hancock Life Insurance Company, from Mayor John P. Salvo to Salvatore Camello of the CIO, from Thomas Pappas and John Shea to Harold Hodgkinson of Filene's department store.

Yet they are all pioneers in a new realization that no matter how much money we spend on arms, we cannot prevail unless we win friends behind the Iron Curtain. We can do so on paying no higher taxes; we can go on sending more and more money to Europe, but the European cancer will continue just as dangerous until the Iron Curtain is cut out.

And that heart is the barrier between the free peoples of the West and the captive peoples of the East. Until the Iron Curtain is broken down by Radio Free Europe, by Free Press balloons, by the presence of America, and by encouraging people to people friendship there will continue to be danger of war.