

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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KEEPING FAITH WITH THE PEOPLE

ALL efforts at mediation including an all-night session at City Hall having failed, a strike of bus drivers and mechanics in Charlotte and five other Florida cities began this morning at 5 A. M.

Not until all the facts are spread out can the general public make the merits of the union and company positions.

But the public already knows—or is quickly finding out—what a tie-up of a municipal public transportation system means. It means irritation, inconvenience, even dire hardship in countless thousands of instances pyramided upon one other. It means confusion in the lives of the people, and chaos in the business affairs of the affected communities. It means traffic congestion, accident hazards, loss of time and money. In every respect, it is a thoroughly unpleasant experience for everyone concerned.

The Duke Power Company has set forth its position in statements and advertisements. Here, in brief, are the company's contentions:

1. The BRT members were offered the same contract that was accepted by drivers and mechanics in Greensboro and Durham who are members of another union, the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America, an AFL affiliate.
2. The company contends the proffered wages are already above those paid in other cities of comparable size in the entire South, and says its fringe benefits are "exceptional."
3. The company professes inability to pay more than a five-cent an hour increase. (It is not stated, but implied, that higher wages would necessitate higher fares.)
4. The company says it has explained to the union its operating losses, "the many advantages already enjoyed by Duke Power Corporation." It has insisted the public furthermore that the average bus operator received more than \$300 a month last year, that drivers are paid for at least one hour a day they do not drive, time-and-a-half for work on holidays and after regular runs, and that they get paid vacations and holidays, paid sickness and accident allowances, paid hospital and surgical expense insurance, and funds provided by the company.
5. Finally, the company claims that bus

IRAN: NEW AGGRESSION?

THE Brothers Ahl, who appear regularly on the page, have announced a new record for predicting trouble. In recent months Joseph Ahl has been in Iran, watching that bubbling caldron and sending back dispatches to inform us that the break is just a year.

This week, back in London, he found the crisis so grave that he sat down and wrote a special column and urged editors to use it immediately in place of one already prepared.

The column, printed on this page, calls attention to the imminence of British action in Iran to keep the Iranians from taking over the fields of the Middle East. The nationalization of the fields is already a fact; actual possession has been delayed while an eleven-man committee in Tehran ponders the matter.

Let anyone consider Joseph Ahl's prediction of major trouble in Iran, including the use of British troops, an unnecessarily alarmist attitude, we offer these substantial statements:

"Further deterioration of affairs in Iran might call for prompt and drastic measures."—The London Times, May 15.

"The massing of Soviet-controlled 'liberation forces' on the northern border of Iran and the preparation of British paratroopers to repulse a Soviet-inspired move in that quarter of the world shows how close we are to an explosion in the Middle East. The shift of Iran into the Soviet orbit would reverse the entire balance of power in the world. It would be a reversal free nations could not tolerate. It would mean war."—Will L. Clayton, former Under Secretary of State in the U. S. State Department, May 17.

"Iran is a powder keg. Britain must not approach it with a lighted match. By opposing Russian domination, Britain and the United States are pushing us toward Communism and revolution. If Britain tries to put her threat to action our religious leaders will declare a holy war."—Russell Mink, Oil Nationalist, Boston, May 18.

Finance Minister and spokesman for Premier Mohammed Mossadegh.

From The Durham Herald

WITH newspaper editors, it's lately been common the fashion to put "tease" headlines at the top of their newspapers.

This is the give-give-no-secrets sort of headline; it makes no pretense of telling the reader what the editorial is all about, but strives to spark his curiosity so that he'll read it and find out.

An example: over an editorial about the Truman-McCarthy dust-up, the writer used the word "tease." The headline reads: "The Blatant Lie Incites To Violence." (This quotation is from Homer, if anybody asks you.)

There is of course something to be said for "tease" headlines. But there is also something to be said for the old-fashioned sort of headline that informs the reader of the exact bill of fare being set before him.

Sad State Of Chiang Army Is Revealed

By MARQUIS CHILDS

AT LAST in pleasant fashion the facts are beginning to come out about the Nationalist troops of Chiang Kai-shek on Formosa. This is due in large measure to the forthright and soldierly answers given by General Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to questions from Senator McCarthy's inquiry into General MacArthur's dismissal.

The Nationalist troops are not wanted in Korea because they have to be equipped and transported and when they get there they would be of doubtful value. This statement by Bradley should dispel the illusion—propagated both from Formosa and from the China lobby in this country—that trained and equipped forces are ready to be picked up and taken within a few days' notice to the Korean front lines.

Many months ago the true status of Chiang's force was established by MacArthur's own staff. A top-secret document of last September tells the story in detail. The Senate committee has the document which, as it is written, it has not yet decided to release.

On August 5, 1950, a survey mission was sent by General MacArthur from Tokyo to Formosa. The mission was headed by Major General Alonzo P. Fox, Deputy Chief of Staff. Fox and 36 other officers went, nearly the entire month studying the military situation on the island and the capabilities of Chiang's armies.

The Fox mission had been told to find out (1) whether the Nationalists could defend the island without the presence of the United States Seventh Fleet, which had been ordered by President Truman on August 25 to set up a neutral patrol between Formosa and the mainland; and (2) whether the Nationalist troops could defend the island if the Communists should get through the barricade of the Seventh Fleet and make a landing.

The answer to No. 1 was most emphatically in the negative. In answer to No. 2 was also in the negative. In other words, Chiang's army was not capable of defending the island in the event of a defensive action in the limited area they occupied. This means, of course, that the troops would be as useless on the offensive.

After Fox and the members of his mission flew back to Tokyo on August 26, they prepared their lengthy report. It was submitted to General MacArthur who stamped it "reviewed and approved."

Late in November MacArthur urged the Joint Chiefs to okay the use of Nationalist troops in Korea. Almost nothing had happened in the matter since the change in the capabilities of those troops. But United Nations armies were desperately hard pressed by the massive intervention of the Chinese Communists.

A week ago Chiang himself, offering his forces to the command in Korea even though itself nothing essential has happened to their capabilities. Either he does not know the true situation or this was purely a propaganda ploy. The request, however, has put in for equipment—air, navy and ground—add up to billions of dollars.

MISSION OVERRULED

As was first reported in this paper, a Joint Chiefs' recommendation in December of 1949 to send an American military mission to Formosa was overruled by the State Department persuaded the President against it. A little later when the proposal was brought up again in a White House meeting, the President, with some irritation, declared that the matter had been settled and would not be reopened.

If this is a point on which the Senators are anxious to question Secretary of State Dean Acheson, obviously, if a mission had been sent a year and a half ago instead of a month ago, at least a part of Chiang's forces would be in a state of readiness and capable at the very least of a successful defense of Formosa.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

ONE result of the McCarthy controversy was a field day for the lobbyists. With the country abuzz with the McCarthy dispute, the lobbyists are able to put across all sorts of fancy deals without the public realizing it. One of the latest is a move to reverse the Supreme Court in regard to tidelands oil.

In 1936, when President Roosevelt tried to reverse the Supreme Court in an act of congress, the lobbyists for weeks. But without benefit of headlines, the big oil lobbyists are now trying to reverse the Supreme Court. The subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the United States belongs to all the 48 states, not merely to California, Texas and Louisiana.

And the lobbyists are now out in their initial move. They flung the Senate Interior Committee into voting—7 to 4—to return tidelands oil to these three states.

The vote was over the objection of Chairman Sen. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, who tried to block the oil from the states, and who spent two hours privately trying to persuade Sen. Russell Long of Louisiana, spokesman for the lobby, to compromise. But Long would not budge.

Closed-Door Vote

IN the showdown voting behind closed doors, GOP Sen. Hugh Butler from the inland state of Nebraska, with no other boundary other than the Missouri River, showed up with the proxies of two other GOP Senators—Eaton from the inland state of Montana, and Watkins from the desert state of Utah.

'But You Wiped Out Communism—Remember?'



Collected By Bill Sharpe

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

Perfect Role

(Southern Pine Pilot)

"We now have Security Council meetings in our cellar," she writes.

"Yesterday was a day of my laundry. I heard a great commotion in the coal bin. I peeked in. There were my three sons and their gang, settling about the Korean situation.

"They had boxes and crates and barrels for desks and chairs.

"They all wanted to be Warren Austin. Finally, elections were held and Timmy, my oldest—11 years old—was made Mr. Austin.

"Poor Mr. Malik—no one wanted to be Malik. Another fight. Then someone pointed to my youngest, John, 3 years old. 'Let him be Malik, he never makes sense when he talks anyway,' he said."

State Of Extremes

(Sanford Herald)

North Carolina is one of the most unusual among the 48 states in the United States in relation to public schools in that it ranks all the way from sixth to 47th place.

Up near the top rests the Tar Heel state in sixth place with 65 per cent of revenue receipts of the government earmarked for schools.

With only 12 per cent of the facilities composed of men, the state sinks to 47th place in this regard.

In relation of attendance to enrollment, the state ranks fifth with about 90 per cent attendance.

It is 22nd place in salaries paid to superintendents, principals and teachers.

Again, Tar Heel drops to 40th place in the list of 48 states.

It appears to us that something could be done to narrow the gaps between the extremes. School people would do a good job for the state by working toward this goal.

We Can Be Pretty

(Gadsden News-Argus)

Southern Pines is a beautiful town. It has some natural advantages but so have most North Carolina towns.

Assets of climate and soil; it is a matter of planting. Those towns which have gone in for planting trees and shrubs—such as the Chapel Hill and Warrenton—in both residential and business sections have found that it pays in many ways.

"Max Street" doesn't have to remain an ugly duckling all its life.

Pulpit Pices

(Gadsden News-Argus)

Sidelights recalls the story of the minister who looked out across the great mass of people at the Easter Morning worship service.

He mused grimly.

"Let me take this occasion," he said, "to wish you a Merry Christmas. I do so because I know I have used it a while ago."

Chinese Unrest

IT'S always difficult to know exactly what is happening in such a vast country as China, but intelligence reports, plus news from missionaries, all indicate growing dissatisfaction with the Communist regime. Though General MacArthur testified that the Chinese Reds were consolidating their hold on China, Allied intelligence is pretty sure the opposite.

Here are some straws in the Chinese wind: The Anti-Communist guerrillas are operating in South China. In many sections, the Communists control only the cities, ports and rail centers.

2. The famine this year has been worse than usual.

Iranian Oil Battle Has High Stakes

By JOSEPH ALSOP

LONDON

AS THESE WORDS are written, the betting appears to be that the British will move troops to south Persia. At any rate, they are just about up against the grim choice between taking all the heavy risks in this step, or taking the consequences of outright expropriation of their Iranian oil resources.

Furthermore, the British cannot easily move troops without a minimum of American moral support—at least enough to see them through a charge of aggression before the United Nations. The future of the Western alliance, which America leads, also hangs upon the outcome in Persia. Hence this British choice is, at the same time, inescapably an American choice.

EVENTS COME TO HEAD

Events over the weekend forced this facing of facts from which London has hitherto shrunk away almost as nervously as Washington. On Saturday, the British ambassador at Tehran, Sir Francis Shepherd, rather desperately suggested to the Shah that he must form a more rational government. But it was too late for this expedient. On Sunday, the British Prime Minister, Dr. Mossadegh, crouched in his barricaded room, the representative, Hassan Mahdi, told the Persian Parliament that the existing government would not negotiate the oil dispute with the British.

A miracle may of course rescue the British and American policy makers from the dilemma of whose horns they have been wringing like befuddled tapir. But since little short of a miracle can prevent the grim choice from being made this week, it is now wise to examine its real nature.

No one in his senses can find much that is attractive about the oil flow from the Persian Gulf. Britain does not really have any use for it. Even to secure control of the minute municipality, Abadan Island with its oil refineries, is a real business, probably involving heavy losses of life on both sides.

It is the oil flow from the Persian Gulf that is the real issue. The British will quite probably give the Communists the oil flow from the Persian Gulf. It will perhaps result in a far more disastrous revolution of the Korean pattern on Persian oil. It may, just conceivably, lead to the real nature of the oil business, probably involving heavy losses of life on both sides.

But as usual, the choice now is not between bad and evil, but between evil and more evil. If American influence or indifference determines the British Government from proceeding with the oil flow, the following consequences will be almost unavoidable.

First, the British economy, which depends exclusively upon Middle Eastern oil, will receive a fatal blow. The huge investment in maintaining the British as a great power ally will be transformed into money down the drain. What has previously been done for Britain will be forgotten. Every other ally will have stood by her ally in this hour of need; and the Anglo-American partnership, the price of which was the oil flow, will dissolve in a tempest of mutual recrimination.

Second, the economies of Western Europe and India will also be disrupted. And a cessation of the oil flow from Abadan will be fantastically costly, and in wartime almost prohibitively difficult, to supply the fleet in the Mediterranean and the vital strategic airbases there.

Third, Persian success in expropriating British oil will set an example that will quickly be imitated in Egypt, in Iraq, and in the other oil-rich states. The result will be a complete and total loss of control of the oil flow.

Fourth, the oil flow from the Persian Gulf, in short, is a gigantic chance in the world balance of power, altering the whole of the Middle Eastern pattern, shaking the Western alliance to its foundations, and perhaps destroying it. This is no Mexican oil southerly. This is the terrible game of power politics, being played for the greatest stakes.

Several million have died, and the Communists get the oil.

3. Mao is torn between his rival, Li Li-Shan, who is virtually Russian regent of Manchuria, and Chinese moderates on the other hand who claim Mao takes too many orders.

4. Chinese armies long have been considered the personal property of their commanders, and these commanders don't like to see their troops decimated by casualties.

When this writer was in China some years ago, there was no central government, but regional rule by the commanders of certain armies. That is why the heavy casualties in Korea are likely to hurt. The Chinese are accustomed to seeing death all around them. But a military commander is a jealous man. He will not allow his personal army to dwindle.

Merry-Go-Round

HARRASSED Paul Hoffman, former head of the Marshall Plan, is leaving for Europe June 2—but not on a business trip. He's been invited to give commencement addresses at 72 schools and colleges, and he just had to get out of the country. . . . Some of Mobilizer Charles Wilson's cracks against the President have been getting back to the White House. . . . Frank Matthews, the quiet, hard-working Secretary of the Navy, can have the part of Ambassador to Ireland, if he wants it. . . . The President has already outlined his policy on the proposed "whistle stop" campaign. It will be aimed at the power and real-estate lobbyists; but many observers doubt he can repeat this effort again.

Lobby Takes Round Over Tidelands Oil