THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE HOOVER REPORT

WE EARNESTLY commend to your studied attention the six-article series on the Hoover Report which begins on the front page of today's News.

Between 1887 and 1941 there were seven unsuccessful attempts to bring order into the management of the Federal Government. Then in 1947, a large-scale, co-ordinated attempt was launched. Congress unanimously established the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government. President Truman warmly approved the measure and his appointment of ex-President Herbert Hoover to head the Commission was widely applauded.

The non-political tone thus set on the highest level carried through to the lower echelons of the Commission study groups. The Commission itself consisted of twelve men, equally divided among the Republican and Democratic parties, and included Congressmen, government administrators, a businessman and a university professor. Twenty-four task groups were organized under 300 widely-informed, objective-minded citizens, who served without pay. This group, assisted by full-time research staffs, included many of the nation's outstanding industrialists, educators, publishers, engineers, scientists, statesmen, consultants, bankers and administrators.

The Commission and its subsidiaries worked hard for two years. It thoroughly scrutinized the activities and relationship of the hundreds of Federal agencies. It compiled eighteen thick volumes of data.

Then it reported back to Congress. It recommended legislation and reorganization plans which would abolish much of the duplication, waste and inefficiency now present in the executive branch.

Congress and the President quickly responded. During 1949 and 1950 the 81st Congress approved 20 public laws and 26 presidential reorganization plans based on the Hoover Report. These measures save an estimated $2 billion yearly.

Here are a few examples of these reorganization gains:

1. The Military Reorganization Act of 1949, which produced teamwork in the armed services not only in the combat zones but in planning, supply, transportation and research.

2. The Reorganization Act of 1949, under which lines of authority and responsibility have been straightened in seventeen major agencies.

3. The new General Services Administration, combining four previous agencies, which is rapidly cutting out duplication and waste in Federal purchasing, storage, inventory control, records management and building operations.

But reorganization is now at a standstill. The 82nd Congress has before it 20 bills dealing with Commission recommendations. Not one has been passed. Fifty reorganization plans gather dust in the Executive Office of the President—only one has been forwarded to Congress.

Adoption of these 71 measures would save an estimated $3.5 billion annually.

Congressmen have been very busy since the Korean War began. But does any Congressman believe he is too busy to give his full support to a program which will lessen the onerous tax burden of his constituents and improve the efficiency of the Federal Government?

The 82nd Congress has spent much time and money conducting investigations to obtain facts upon which to base legislation. The Hoover Commission did a magnificent job of collecting the data requested by Congress. Bills based on these facts are before Congress. The spadework is done. All Congress has to do is act.

We've not yet heard of a Congressman—or a President—who was not, in some way at least, in favor of economy. Congressmen who oppose the strengthening of U. S. defenses in time of crisis, which adoption of the Commission recommendations would achieve, are becoming very rare. Yet Congress neglects the recommendations.

Carolina Congressmen are, in several instances, in key positions to get these legislative proposals passed. Those Congressmen who dig in and work for the Hoover Commission recommendations will, we believe, find their constituents most appreciative. Those legislators who continue to "let George do it" and apathetically disregard the economy and efficiency recommendations of the Hoover Commission, must be held accountable.

A LOGICAL PROCEDURE

MAYOR VICTOR SHAW'S suggestion that City Council members get a briefing on the truck regulation plan from the man who drew it up, Traffic Engineer Herman Hoose, was in order. A public hearing such as that scheduled for Wednesday would be of little benefit if Councilmen went into it without a thorough knowledge of the topic for discussion.

A study of the plan without some guidance is a forbidding assignment. Mr. Hoose is an aggressive collector of facts. Before he works out any traffic control plan, he accumulates all the facts, arranges them, and then interprets them. In a subject so vast as the movement of merchandise in and through the city, the sum total of the facts is quite imposing.

In talking over the plan before the public meeting, the Councilmen will be taking their cue from three other organizations that have endorsed the plan: the Charlotte Planning Board, the Parking Commission, and the Charlotte Motor Freight Carriers Association. A special committee of this latter organization held several meetings with Mr. Hoose, each of them lasting several hours, before recommending to the full association that it endorse the plan unanimously.

The Council might also profit by taking another leaf from the Freight Carriers' notebook. In a letter signed by Paul H. Hudson, president, the Carriers said:

"We are fully aware of the rapid growth of the Charlotte area and are grateful to have had a part in it. As with any growing community, certain problems arise which must be squarely met and dealt with fairly.

"The proposals regarding through movements of motor freight carrying vehicles, parking and unloading, appear to this Association to be based on sound logic. Naturally, the common motor freight carriers represented by this Association will incur some minor hardships and some additional expense at a time when costs of our operations are increasing. However, the traffic congestion caused by both passenger cars and motor freight carrying vehicles is a problem which must be solved.

"Therefore, the Charlotte Motor Freight Carriers Association, with the best interests of the people of Charlotte in mind, wishes to go on record as unanimously endorsing your proposals."

We commend to the Council's attention the three points emphasized in the letter: (1) there is a problem that must be met realistically; (2) the proposed solution is based on sound logic; (3) despite inconvenience to some, the best interests of the people of Charlotte demand affirmative action.

A SUCCESSFUL SKIRMISH

THE Japanese peace treaty is history now. Mr. Gromyko did not succeed in his obstructionist tactics and departed in a huff, thus a diplomatic victory for the West may be claimed.

The signing of the treaty should be viewed in its proper perspective. Japan is but one of many theaters, and the treaty signing is but one of many actions necessary to the successful conclusion of our efforts in that theater.

Battlefields comparable to the Japanese front are many—Indonesia, Indo-China, Kashmir, Iran, Yugoslovia, Germany—to name a few of the most important. Japan itself will not automatically become a stalwart on our side because a few hundred men have signed a treaty. Democracy there is on shaky legs; many of her neighbors still bitterly remember the Japan of less than a decade past and reluctantly became a party to the treaty only because they recognized the need for concerted action in the face of Communist aggression.

With the conclusion of the treaty we have won some high ground in a brilliantly-executed skirmish in the battle for Japan.

BALLOONCASTING

LET'S pass a few posies to Drew Pearson. The balloons which he and his co-workers have been floating into Czechoslovakia are doing some good.

The Czech Prime Minister himself, Antonin Zapotocky, has attacked the "American experimental balloons filled with press-inspired dirt . . ."

Radio Free Europe, which worked closely with the project, has received reports indicating that many of the balloons reached their target.

The U. S., despite its advertising technique, has been slow to develop psychological warfare, a most important part of this worldwide campaign for men's minds. The Government took a dim view of the Pearson project, so he proceeded under private auspices.

The apparent initial success of "Winds of Freedom" will, we hope, help transform the thinking of those diplomats and Congressmen who have not yet supported such bold and different approaches to information dissemination. Getting the truth to satellite subjects is an important part of the process of serving freedom while assailing Communism, and if the air is the only major channel of communication still open, let's keep it filled with the American story.

Those who are in places of leadership seem to have a conviction that we need to be kept at just the right temperature, hot, but not boiling over, and to achieve that nice balance they have to keep turning the heat up and down, up and down.—*Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.*

Scandals like those engulfing West Point will vanish from all the colleges whenever we reach the point where every football team will win every game it plays.—*New Orleans (La.) States.*

Former Queen Of The May

By Losing Territories Japs Also Lose Friction Sources

By RICHARD SPONG

(Editorial Research Reports)

WASHINGTON

WITH RATIFICATION of the Japanese peace treaty signed at San Francisco, Japan will again be a free and independent nation. But geographically Japan will be about back where it started when it began its march of expansion less than a century ago.

Japan in 1931 has lost the **Kurile Islands**, acquired in a settlement with Russia in 1875. Japan then had sacrificed all rights in the island of Sakhalin to Russia, in return for a free hand in the long-disputed Kuriles.

Formosa, ceded by China in 1895 after defeat in war, also is gone. So are the **Pescadores**, a small but strategic group of islands between Formosa and China. Gone, too, are the **Ryukyu Islands**, also spoils of the 1894-5 war.

KOREA LOST

Lost to Japan is **Korea**, long a bone of contention for Japan, China, and Russia. China's attempt to regain a hold in Korea was one of the causes of the Chinese-Japanese War of 1894-5. The later Russian encroachment on Korea through Manchuria precipitated the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5. At the end of that war President Theodore Roosevelt secretly gave Japan the go-ahead sign for establishing sovereignty over the peninsula. In 1910 Japan annexed Korea outright, by treaty with its puppet government.

At the Yalta conference in 1945 Russia regained the lower half of Sakhalin, ceded back to Japan by the Russians after the war of 1904-5. Japan, which had later reoccupied all the island, still held concessions in the Russian (northern) area through most of World War II. Japan loses, finally, the **former German Islands** received under League of Nations mandate, the **Paracel Islands**, off Indo-China, the **Spratly Islands** between Indo-China and Borneo.

By far Japan's greatest loss from World War II, however, comes from the present Communist domination of Manchuria and of China proper. But throughout the 1930's the Japanese had pretended to look upon Manchuria, or Manchukuo, as "independent."

With one major exception, Japan faces a future free from the traditional frictions that dogged the nation's conduct of foreign affairs in the past. The presence of massive Communist armies would appear to be an effective deterrent to any future temptation to invade the China mainland. The same consideration applies to the Russian-held territories.

The naval rivalry with the United States and Great Britain appears to be a thing of the past. "Even were there no external controls," Gen. MacArthur said in June 1947, "Japan could not rearm for modern war within a century."

IMMIGRATION CHANGE

Another source of past friction between Japan and the United States would be relieved by a bill passed by the House on Feb. 19. Under its terms, Japanese and Koreans would become eligible for citizenship, and hence would be extended immigration quotas. The Japanese, like other Asiatics, have long rankled at the U. S. oriental exclusion policy.

Cost Of Rearmament Plagues British, French Financiers

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THE STORM on the horizon is a major financial crisis within the Western alliance. Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Hugh Gaitskell and France's Finance Minister Rene Mayer have come to Washington to announce that their countries cannot bear the full burden of rearmament without additional aid.

The cause of the trouble is simple enough. With heavy commitments to contribute to Western European defense, with a war on their hands in Indo-China, with a feeble government and a weak fiscal system, the French have in effect undertaken to pay more bills than they have money to meet. France's requirement of economic aid this year was originally estimated at just under $300 million. Congress has cut the sum available in half. It is now clear that the French need, not $300 million, but between $400 million and $500 million. And they want us also to share part of the heavy cost of the Indo-Chinese war, which in effect defends all of Southeast Asia from Communist imperialism.

The British case is even more serious. The Iranian oil crisis and the changes in the world economic situation wrought by Western rearmament have both been cruelly unkind to the British trade balance. After nearly two years of rebuilding their gold and hard currency reserve, the British were some time ago confronted with a change in the money flow. This quarter the flow has suddenly become a flood. In fact, it can now be disclosed that London's losses of gold and hard currency this quarter will be in the neighborhood of $500 million.

In Britain, particularly, the crisis has the widest political implications. Some months ago, Aneurin Bevan raised the flag of anti-Americanism, declared that Britain would run into trouble with the rearmament, and rebelled against the Labor party leadership. Failure to help the British over the hump will be tantamount to throwing all the wiser, more moderate and more far-sighted leaders of the Labor party, such as Gaitskell himself, to the Bevanite wolves. There could be no quicker way of helping the enemies of the United States in Britain.

MORE DIVISIONS

The icing is put on this crisis cake, so to speak, by the further fact that General Eisenhower's SHAPE planners, after the most careful pruning and paring, are still convinced that there is a gap between present rearmament plans and the forces the West really needs. This gap is on the order of 20 divisions, and almost twice as many air groups. Hence, American negotiators have actually been pressing the French and British to extend their rearmament programs, at the very moment when it has become plain they could not sustain the programs already launched.

All this sounds very desperate, and so far as covering the famous gap is concerned, it no doubt will be desperate. Fortunately, however, it may be possible to solve the more immediate problem of giving the British and French enough of a helping hand so that they can just struggle over their respective humps. In the British case, Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder will have to summon courage to suspend the first installment of interest and amortization on the British loan of 1946. In both the British and French cases, money voted for military aid will have to be spent in such a way that it gets economic as well as military results.

This means, very simply, that a considerable part of the military aid appropriation will have to be laid out on "offshore purchases," to use the current bureaucratic jargon, which means purchases of weapons and other military equipment in Britain and France. The sums involved are not by any means staggering—$750 million of "offshore purchases" would probably give the British and French the dollars they require, as well as meeting the needs of our other allies and by so much reducing the inflationary strain on our own economy.

The real danger is only that the fantastic cumbersomeness of our governmental structure will prevent the rather simple necessary steps from being taken. And the symptom of this danger is that the American policy makers have as yet failed to take any hard decisions on this urgent problem, so that Gaitskell and Mayer find this great country in the somewhat humiliating position of lacking a policy.

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.

Murder On The Highways

GREENSBORO

Editors, The News:

WHY does our State, North Carolina, have more murders per capita than any other state in the union? I will try to solve this problem, briefly.

Three weeks ago a deaf man was killed by a train, driving a car with a State driver's license. What chance has an individual on our highways with such a menace turned loose with a machine just as deadly as an atom bomb?

Why was our inspection law repealed, turning loose on our highways 15,000 graveyard jalopies?

Sunday, August 19, at 10:30 A. M., weather bright and clear, on Highway 501, no traffic on main highway, twelve miles out of Laurinburg going towards Rowland, my whole family and myself would have been murdered, plus 6 other folks, if split-second action had not been used. As it was, two folks were killed, four crippled for life and my wife laid up with her leg in a cast for three months.

The State of North Carolina had no marker on this main highway indicating a cross road, nor were there any stop markers on a hard surface cross road.

This terrible wreck was caused by a graveyard $35.00, Model '35 Ford, driven by a driver without even a driver's license.

To stop the wholesale murder on our State and City Highways, I request that our most honorable legislators in Raleigh please note the following suggestions:

Issue no license to anyone unless he takes out liability and property damage insurance at the minimum $5,000-$10,000.

Place correct markers on our highways, even before roads are completed.

Make effect at once an inspection law as per the State of Virginia or other states having an inspection law.

And as an old professor of Mathematics used to say when your problem was completed correctly, "Quad Est Demonstrati".

—W. L. VENNING.

Historical Parallel

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

IT IS interesting for us as individuals and citizens of a country, to examine ourselves from time to time in the light of recorded history, and from such an examination it is sometimes possible to predict the course ahead.

Upon thumbing through the pages of the same history books being used by our young people in high school today, it is not difficult to cite examples where history repeats itself time after time down through the ages.

With this in mind, it is startling to note a quotation from the book, "Earlier Ages" by Robinson, Breasted and Smith, relative to the burdensome taxes and tight controls levied against the Roman citizen just prior to the time of the fall of the Roman Empire. The quotation below was pointed out to me by a friend who has been coaching his high school daughter in ancient history during the Summer months, and I quote directly from page 360 of the book, substituting only two words, "American" and "President" to make it fit current history:

"**Disappearance of Liberty and Free Citizenship.** Thus, under this Oriental (American) despotism, liberty disappeared, and the once free Roman (American) citizen lost his independence. Even the citizen's wages and the prices of the goods he bought or sold were, as far as possible, fixed for him by the state. The emperor's (President's) countless officials, who were little better than spies, kept an eye upon even the humblest citizen. They watched the grain dealers, butchers, and bakers, and saw to it that they properly supplied the public and never deserted their occupation. In a word, the Roman (American) government now attempted to regulate almost every interest in life, and wherever the citizen turned he felt the irksome interference and oppression of the state.

"Staggering under this burden of taxes, in a state which was practically bankrupt, the citizens now seemed like a mere cog in the vast machinery of the government. His whole life consisted of toil for the state, for he had to pay so much in taxes that he was fortunate if he could live on what was left. As a mere toiler for the state he was finally just where the peasant on the Nile had been for thousands of years."

Realizing the quotation above was intended to describe governmental despotism 1700 years ago, it is alarming to observe how very closely this same description seems to fit the path being outlined for us today. Admittedly, living conditions of the average person in our great country are much higher than "the peasant on the Nile", but it nevertheless seems fitting to lift this quotation from our school books and set it beside the columns in our daily newspapers which describe similar conditions today.

Let us pray that the pages which follow in our current history will not correlate as closely to the pages which followed the above quotation in "Earlier Ages" of history.

—ROBERT I. DALTON JR.

Anti-Delinquency Device

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.

Editors, The News:

JUST finished reading of the ban on model plane flying in Charlotte. Needless to say that we are aware it can happen anywhere. Still, for all concerned, it would be wise to call the party responsible and view the delinquent status of the model builders.

I have been a model builder for the past 28 years and not once in that time have I known a modeler to end up in a juvenile court or a nuisance court. Better to make a little noise and be known than to quietly steal a car or break and enter.

Good luck on your challenge.

—AUDY O. CAMPBELL.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Smears Cause Men To Leave Government

(ED. NOTE—While Drew Pearson is on a brief vacation, The Washington Merry-Go-Round is being written by distinguished guest columnists. Today's guest column is written by a high Federal official on behalf of himself and a number of his colleagues in various agencies. It is unsigned for obvious reasons.)

WASHINGTON

To Members of The Congress:

YOU, gentlemen in Congress, are now conducting what may prove to be highly useful studies of morals and ethics in government. On behalf of myself and others who are striving to bring good men into government, I respectfully urge you to look carefully at Congress itself.

Specifically, won't you take a good look at that small percentage of your colleagues who are effectively driving able men away from government? A few illustrations will tell the story:

There is a brilliant young American executive who, in his early twenties, made a careful study of Communism. Intellectually curious, he purposely exposed himself to Communist recruiters, listened to all their arguments, and argued with them late into many nights. After some months of this, he emerged with the conviction that Communism was a fraud. He became a vigorous anti-Communist—all the more effective because he knew what he was talking about. He still feels so strongly on the subject that, at substantial sacrifice, he recently took an important job in the cold war. He was, of course, investigated fully—and he received a clean bill of health.

Mediocrity Takes Over

SOON, however, he heard that two members of Congress were preparing to attack him publicly. Clean bill of health or not, they laid plans to lambaste him as one who "admits he once consorted regularly with known, card-carrying Communists." At this, the official took stock of the interests of his children, his wife, and his own reputation. He left government. Today he is a key executive in a major U. S. corporation. His government post is filled now by a colorless, cautious mediocrity.

Mr. Y. is a specialist in highly complex and technical government work. Except for a few years in private enterprise as a young man, he has devoted his entire career to government service. Working his way up through the ranks, he gained such a reputation that he has been offered private jobs paying far more than his government salary. He was so devoted to his work that he stayed on at his $10,000-a-year job, even though he has a family of five to support. But this year he came up as a witness in routine hearings before a hostile Congressional committee. He found himself being ridiculed because he was doing a major government job "without ever having held any important assignment in private enterprise." Disgusted, Mr. Y. will probably leave Government soon to take a $22,000-a-year executive job on the outside. His superiors have no idea where they can find a competent replacement willing to work for Federal pay.

Unreasonable Chairman

ONE veteran chairman of a special Appropriations subcommittee is known for his merciless bludgeoning of government witnesses. He frequently attacks their loyalty and integrity without apparent reason. When one official replied to the attacks in kind, the appropriations for his entire agency were decimated. Such, as you know, is the life-and-death power of the typical committee chairman. And, of course, regardless of a chairman's conduct, it is unheard of to remove him so long as his party is in power.

One able executive from private business came into government for patriotic reasons. He made a remarkable record as a conscientious public servant. Recently he found himself publicly and bitterly attacked by a key committee chairman as an unconscionable squanderer of public funds. The only known motive for the attack was that the chairman, facing re-election troubles, felt he needed to make headlines as an "economizer". He picked the first handy victim. If the victim had answered back as he wanted to, vital legislation needed by his agency would have died in committee. So he bit his lip and took it.

Private Post Preferred

MR. C. a few months ago was just about persuaded to give up a top-flight outside position to perform a vital job in the national emergency. Before actually making the change, however, he read the record of his able predecessor's appearances before several Congressional committees. He found some of them all right, but two were shocking. When he finished reading the transcript of vitriol, insult and personal abuse in these two cases, he said "to blazes with it." He remained in his more lucrative, comfortable, and secure private post.

Yes, Mr. Congressman, you and most of your colleagues want to see able and conscientious public servants bearing the enormous burdens of government today. But a relative handful of your colleagues, some spoiled by secure tenure in positions of enormous Congressional power, are doing their best to see that good men are kept out—or driven out—of government. While you are in a reforming mood, please take a good look at the conduct of some of your own colleagues on Capitol Hill. Perhaps you can find a way to help those of us who are striving desperately to get and keep able executives in government.

"BUREAUCRAT".