

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MEMORIES OF YESTERDAY

THE recent hubbub over freedom of expression stirred up by a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina has apparently quieted down. But volume, *Fifty Years of the South Atlantic Quarterly*, will be struck by the similarity between the 1923 embroglio and *L'Affaire Basset*, which placed Trinity College smack in the midst of controversy back in 1903.

Basset (John Spencer) was a Trinity professor. He was also editor of the *Quarterly*. He was a bold thinker in his day, and kept up a steady drumfire of criticism of the backward South. Finally he drew blood with an editorial article in the October, 1902, issue, called "Stirring Up the Fires of Racial Antipathy."

"Not even a black skin and a flat nose can justify a case in this country," he wrote. "In spite of our race feeling, which the writer has his share, they (the Negroes) will win equality at some time. (Booker T. Washington was a great and good man, a Christian statesman, and took him all in all the greatest man since General Lee, born in the South in a hundred years...")

The whole state rose against Basset and Trinity. The late Josephus Daniels sparked the campaign. Many persons demanded that Basset be fired. And indeed, to save Trinity further embarrassment, he resigned.

But when the faculty assembled to consider the Basset matter, the student newspaper, *The Archivist*, recalled that:

"Then in truth did we have a struggle to lead in check our indignation. We realized more fully than before that it is no longer a question of one man's fitness to teach; but that it is a question of whether tolerance should continue to hold sway at Trinity or be choked out by intolerance and coercion."

The members of the faculty closed ranks, prepared to resign in a body. Basset's remarks were accordingly remembered in the Board of Trustees:

"This college has now the opportunity to show that her campus is undeniably an outpost on Southern soil where men's minds are free. We are proud of this and intend to lend ourselves to any tendency to destroy or limit academic liberty... the evils of intolerance and suppression are infinitely worse than those of folly."

And the Board of Trustees answered its critics in these ringing words:

"Viewing the matter in the light of these wider interests, and finding that there is no complaint against Professor Basset's moral character or his command of the confidence of his classes, we are sure that duty requires us to decline the offer of his resignation. Great as is our hope in this college, high and noble as are the services which impart to us, we believe that it is to render it were better that Trinity should suffer than that it should enter upon a policy of coercion and intolerance."

But perhaps the issue was best summed up by the famed North Carolina editor-ambassador, Walter Hines Page. Just before the crucial meeting of the Trustees of Trinity, Page wrote to Professor Edwin Mims:

"I envy every one of you this chance. It isn't once in a lifetime that the issue is so clearly drawn... the superior art of free speech: the very bottom thing in a democracy."

SEE WHAT THE QUEEN SAYS, HOWARD

RECEPTIONS for visiting royalty are often sticky affairs. But not so when Queen Juliana of the Netherlands comes to town. She landed at Washington's National Airport just a few moments after a white-haired president and a red-necked Attorney General had words, with Press Secretary Joe Short trying vainly to calm them. After she departed, in the night of two very proper diplomats, Dutch Foreign Minister Van Vliet and Secretary of State Acheson, huddled together under an umbrella, raised a chuckle from the Queen. Then she said the President made small talk about the sunset and they went, with Mrs. T. to look over the newly-decorated White House.

This Queen has been around the U. S. a good deal in her younger days, and we trust will take the current fracas in Washington in stride, with the solidarity for which her people are noted.

In fact, Juliana might even be able to help solve a minor problem which came up Thursday.

From The Dothan (Ala.) Eagle

'YOU ALL' IS UPHELD

AT LONG LAST those outlanders who poke fun at the South about "you all" are on the run.

Perhaps you've noticed that the ribbing via movies, radio and the written word has almost ceased. Why? It is to be rendered as it has finally dawned on these smug comedians that when we in the South say "you all" we mean two or more persons and not one? We've been trying to get that across to them for years.

It has been a long educational process, but many are those who have assisted in spreading the enlightenment. A star example is the lady in Dallas, Texas, who conducted a letter-to-the-editor campaign.

She cited a sufficient authority for the use of "you all" in the Bible. The phrase is found in the Bible, thus inferring that the comics who poke fun at "you all" are guilty, to a degree of sacrilege. She gave the references: Job 17:12; Acts 2:16; 7: 26, 28; Colossians 4:14; Philippians 1:4, 7, 8, 26; Colossians 4:14; Philippians 1:4, 7, 8, 26.

racily. The Negro question is one thing, and in comparison with free speech a very little thing. If this fight is won and the college should be closed on account of it, it would be the most important event in the history of North Carolina in our time for free speech and free teaching will be won for all time to come there."

That was in 1903. Almost 50 years later, long after Trinity College had become University, President Edens once again had to reassert the principles of academic freedom when Senator Joseph McCarthy threatened to hold Duke responsible for an unbecomingly anti-McCarthy charge by a Duke professor. And within a few weeks, President Gordon Gray of the neighboring University of North Carolina was forced to remind students, faculty members, alumni and the general public that academic freedom was still the rule at the University.

But the battle is not won. Perhaps it will never be completely won. No sooner had the hubbub stirred up by John W. Clark subsided than his brother, David Clark, started another. In a current *Tribune Bulletin* editorial on a recent Supreme Court decision, Mr. Clark wrote:

"College professors have been using their Communist and atheistic propaganda and have been protecting themselves by claiming freedom of speech, but the United States Supreme Court has put an end to their fake claims."

"The time has come to move one step further and prohibit the use of lecturers for propaganda purposes."

"There should always be freedom to learn but there should never be freedom to use class rooms or lecture platforms for propaganda directed at college students."

"What, may we ask, is propaganda?"

TAKE YOUR CHOICE

POLITICAL speeches are a dime a dozen these days, and their net effect on many voters is a dulled interest in issues and candidates. We'd like to point to the work of some local citizens who are putting the discussion back on a high and interesting level. Last night Charlotteans heard the second of ten programs in the "Take Your Choice" series, jointly sponsored by Queens College, WTS and the League of Women Voters. Men of conflicting political views are brought together on the same platform where, under the moderation of Dr. Floyd Spence of Queens, who has done a good deal of program writing, the issues are heated about, with audience participation.

Knowledgeable guests, three Congressmen and a Congressional candidate, have already appeared on the program. President and Mrs. Russell and Kefauver have agreed to come. Senator Taft is expected, and efforts are being made to bring other Presidential hopefuls to Charlotte. Also in the works are programs which will bring together the North Carolina gubernatorial candidates, and the 10th District Congressional candidates.

Such local discussion can contribute more to understanding of the issues than all the issues than hundreds of the usual overdone orations. We think the local sponsors have a good thing here, from which all of us can profit.

COULD STAND 1 OR 2 A DAY

Airport Manager Dave Rea said, however, that the field could stand up under "two or three" of the sky giants each day. But then again, EAL officials say if a Super came here it would have to be restricted to 80,000 pounds takeoff weight.

The airport runways, which were given a booster shot last year, are ten inches thick.

Howard McGrath, before his political demise, warned that the attacks on him were attacks on his race and religion. And certainly his political opinion contributed to his election, making him, at least in his own eyes, a full-fledged refugee. Maybe the good Queen can give him some advice.

But we're not too concerned with his future, other than that immediate portion thereof which is to be spent before a Congressional committee. That's one investigation we really approve.



REPORTER ON ASSIGNMENT

The Assignment: We hear the fast, new Super-Constitutions are unable to land on the runways at Municipal Airport. What's the situation on this? Will it mean rebuilding the runways anytime in the near future?

Explaining the sub base, Mr. Rea said that when the airport was first built, runways were topped with crushed stone or gravel instead of concrete. Later, when the runways were paved, the concrete was poured over the gravel, thus forming the sub base.

Mr. Rea said he did not know whether the runways could be "beefed up" to the required thickness for Super-Constitutions. He said tests would have to be made to determine if another layer of concrete could be added to give the landing strips the necessary strength. It might be that the landing strips would have to be reconstructed entirely, he said.

The 2,500 foot extension being added to the northeast-southwest runway will be a ten and one-half inch thick concrete slab on a sub base, he said.

THEY NEED 110-OCTANE FUEL

And there's a third reason why the Supers won't come here. They require 115-octane gasoline. Highest octane gas stocked here is 100-octane used by the regular Conies, DC-4's and new Martins. And EAL says the Super must take on gas each time it lands.

Now for a few facts about this new plane. It cruises at 300 miles per hour, 25 miles faster than the regulars. It carries a crew of six, captain, pilot, flight engineer and three flight attendants.

It's so big it's divided into three compartments, one of which is a lounge. It's eighteen feet longer than the regular Conie. When the Government leases jet-turbine engines to airlines, they will be installed on these planes to put them in the 500 mile per hour class.

Henry S. McConnell, EAL's traffic and sales manager here, said additional of the new planes to the EAL fleet will mean more seats for passengers enplaning here.

"The Supers stopping at Atlanta will take on many passengers from the regular Conies," McConnell explained. "This will mean more vacant seats on the regulars, DC-4's, 3's, and Martins."



The Super-Constitution: Too Big For Charlotte's Airport?

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON WAGE Stabilizer Nathan Felsinger predicted a wave of strikes "almost immediately." If Congress strips the power of the Wage Stabilization Board.

He also told a Senate labor-management committee behind closed doors that he himself would resign immediately if the Senate adopted an amendment to Mrs. Everett Dirksen, Illinois Republican, aimed at weakening the board's power.

"The adoption of the Dirksen amendment, or anything like it, would produce chaos," Chairman Felsinger warned. "Hasty legislation in the delicate field of labor-management relations will open a Pandora's box of confusion and unrest. I should not want to be held responsible for the consequences."

The blunt-spoken wage stabilizer read off a long list of industries that are walking the tightrope of labor negotiations.

"If the board's dispute functions are taken away," he declared, "I predict that we would almost immediately have strikes in some, or possibly all of these industries."

Mexico City Can Be Made Such A Wonderful Sanctuary

By ROBERT C. RUARK

THE airplane is a magnificent invention and it flies so fast, so smoothly, so safely, so comfortably from Mexico City to here. If you leave here at 10:00, you can have breakfast with Bill O'Dwyer, and if he leaves there at 12:00, he can have breakfast with the grand jury that wants to buy him a couple sinters and a couple of bottles. The planes still see a beautiful.

What are we to think? Only the other week I was in Mexico City and I saw Willie there, too, and he seemed pretty good. He should have socked in the nose. One of his State Dept. assistants actually pulled a party for me. The press and the photographer present, will hold still for it.

LATINS LOVE HIM There is a most charming man alive than Bill O'Dwyer, the future Ambassador, and there is no more competent Ambassador being sought for us abroad, in terms of the way he goes about his chores. Under another set of circumstances he might be perfect guy for the job. The Mexicans love him; they're nothing without him. He's a handsome escape from scandal. Latins figure a man is foolish if he does not use politics to make himself a millionaire. If he doesn't flee the borders when the flames begin to lick at his shoes, but if you have any sense of political morality you cannot count the awarding of an ambassadorship on the same terms. That crooks seek when they want to get out of town. An ambassadorship is not a license to steal work from a sanctuary for a guy who is "hot" in the eyes of law and order. You do not know by any means if he is not to escape testimony before a grand jury in your old home town. We have a man who is a big name in a citizen I abhor the idea of confining a country's good name with a criminal's name. A named man, but Bill must be pressed the matter, all of a sudden he had no mayor. They named Willie O'Dwyer Ambassador. He's a quicker than a Latin politician gets his money out of Cuba.

Since that time a man of honor and a man of integrity, an honored Ambassador and organized crime has been shown. He's bedeviled. We'll be back to be grilled by the Kefauver committee.

It was a big mistake to name a grand jury in your old home town. We have a man who is a big name in a citizen I abhor the idea of confining a country's good name with a criminal's name. A named man, but Bill must be pressed the matter, all of a sudden he had no mayor. They named Willie O'Dwyer Ambassador. He's a quicker than a Latin politician gets his money out of Cuba.

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Fundamentalists Can't Be Sure Of Victory For Taft

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON BY virtue of a technical knockout in Wisconsin Sen. Robert A. Taft's still a healthy contender for the Republican Presidential nomination. But the outcome there is a matter of degree. It is Taft's ability to win in November, since he failed by a wide margin to get a majority of the Republican votes cast.

This was true even though he had the help of virtually all the Republican regulars in the state who spent extraordinary amounts of time and money on the Taft campaign. So did Taft himself, covering more ground and shaking more hands than many a candidate in state-wide campaigns in the past.

More than 255,000 votes for Gov. Earl Warren of California is an impressive figure. This total was raised by the vote of the ineffectual organization and the kind of delegates who were weary of the Warren road to the White House. The latter had come for the most part out of the political dark.

Warren came into the state only three times and then under unfavorable circumstances. With California in his hands, he flew in and out of Wisconsin under a heavy handicap.

VICTORY CLAIM It all depends, of course, on the perspective from which one views the result. Senator Taft claims a famous victory. With his showing in Nebraska added to the margin in Wisconsin his case is stronger than that of any other candidate.

Yet, the fact remains that the nearly 450,000 votes cast for Warren and Harold Stassen were, in effect, votes for Gov. Dwight D. Eisenhower. It is any event, they were votes against Taft, cast in opposition to perform a distinct service. That is to get out of the Presidential race at once. The return votes for Taft, cast for the most part by Republicans Stassen and Eisenhower, were in two-party campaign, did everything he could to persuade the people of Wisconsin that his delegates would end up in the Eisenhower column.

On one occasion few will argue, a clear Republican majority in the House above one election to be split very much.

Kefauver And South [T]HERE'S a new feeling going the rounds of Congress-republicans and Democrats alike. It's a feeling of uneasiness run strong in Congress and Kefauver is quite a Junior Senator. Recently, however, a lot of colleagues have been talking about the possibility of a withdrawal from the Presidential primaries still to come.

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