THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WHY NOT LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK?

SIX MONTHS AGO, the Mecklenburg County Commissioners were informed that the main building of the Huntersville Tuberculosis Sanatorium was unsafe. The Commissioners made ready to spend the necessary money to repair it.

This week, without any advance notice, the Commissioners reversed their decision, voted to build a new $450,000 sanatorium after Supt. H. L. Seay told them "it would be a great mistake to repair the old structure". The Commissioners were against a bond issue, which would have to be voted on by the people. They figured that the old 10-cent levy for the sanatorium would produce enough money, now that property has been valued higher, to pay for the new structure as well as carry the regular operating cost of some $245,000 a year.

On March 20, we posed a question that we believe to be fundamental in this proceeding. So far, Chairman S. Y. McAden and his fellow Commissioners have not answered it. The question:

Should Mecklenburg County plan to stay in the business of operating a tuberculosis sanatorium?

Not only have they failed to answer that key question; so far as THE NEWS has been able to learn, they have not bothered to consult with officials of the State TB Hospital system or anybody else about the future need for county tuberculosis hospitals, their proper design, most efficient size, or the possibility of getting a kickback on taxes paid to the State for operating the TB hospital system. In brief, we not only have deep reservations about the decision itself, but also about the rather arbitrary and sometimes impetuous way in which the matter has been handled.

It is clearly the intention of the State of North Carolina eventually to care for all TB patients in State institutions. "In the long run, our building program will answer the purpose of the whole State," says Dr. H. F. Willis of McCain, head of the three State hospitals.

Furthermore, some of the 18 counties now operating TB hospitals have already asked the State to take their patients—and plans are being made for the State to do so.

The State is in the middle of a $7 million building program for its tuberculosis sanatorium system. When it is completed next year, bed capacity will increase from 1,200 to 1,800.

State and Federal officials say that a 200-bed sanatorium is the smallest that can be operated efficiently. The proposed new Mecklenburg Hospital will have about 100 beds.

The only arguments advanced in favor of the county-operated institution are: (1) patients are better satisfied to be near home—this helps their mental atttitudes, which is important in the cure; and (2) relatives can visit the patients more conveniently and at less cost.

We have some sympathy for those arguments. But we doubt whether they justify saddling Mecklenburg taxpayers with a $450,000 lump sum outlay, plus $260,000 a year upkeep, when those same taxpayers are already footing about 12 per cent of the bill for the State TB system without receiving any benefit from it.

Beyond that, there is evidence from Dr. Seay himself that numerous persons from out of Mecklenburg County are moving here and establishing their legal residence, in order to gain admittance to the sanatorium. This is one reason, too, that Mecklenburg's public welfare costs have gone up so rapidly.

It may well be that the people of Mecklenburg County, who pay the double load of taxes for TB hospitals to the State and to the County Government, are satisfied with the arrangement. In any event there is a major question of public policy involved that affects the people directly, and on which they should have had an opportunity to voice an opinion.

By their precipitous action, the County Commissioners have denied them a chance to speak, and left dangling the whole question as to whether Mecklenburg County has any business running a TB hospital, any more than it should operate a mental hospital or build primary and secondary roads or maintain a state prison or a state university—all clearly the legal and moral responsibilities of the State of North Carolina.

A POLITICAL REVOLUTION FIZZLES OUT

ALL THE SHOUTING is not yet over in South Carolina, but there is no doubt that the Stevenson-Sparkman cause in Dixie was helped by the endorsement of the S. C. convention yesterday.

Because of its key role in the 1948 revolt, its stubborn refusal to sign the Moody Resolution in Chicago, its dislike of the 1952 Democratic platform plank on civil rights, and the smouldering resentment of Governor James F. Byrnes over past indignities at the hands of President Truman, South Carolina had become the bellwether of the 1952 flock of dissident Southern Democrats. Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas all had been waiting to see what the Palmetto Party would do.

Governor Byrnes' recommendation that the convention endorse the Stevenson-Sparkman ticket was couched in unexpectedly warm and friendly language. If the election were held today, Byrnes said, he would vote for the Democratic nominee, "not because they are labeled Democrats, but because of their personal qualifications and their records in public office." The Governor did reserve the right to change his mind by November, if the exposition of campaign issues should so prompt him.

Though the final action of the convention was by a large majority, many dissatisfied delegates remained. In all likelihood they will line up behind an independent slate of electors pledged to the Eisenhower-Nixon ticket—a tactic that has the advantage of letting South Carolinians vote for Republicans under some less unpleasant label, and the disadvantage of splitting the total potential Eisenhower vote between the independent slate and the regular Republican electors.

For the time being, at least, South Carolina appears to be in the Democratic column. Whether that is good or bad is a moot question. What is most gratifying is that the S. C. Democratic Party did not resort to chicanery to deny the people of that state their rightful chance to choose between the candidates of the two major U. S. parties.

TRUMAN GETS HIS COME-UPPANCE

W. STUART SYMINGTON has filled several important national positions with distinction. During World War II, he was Surplus Property Administrator and later Assistant Secretary of War. He became the first Secretary of the Air Force after the Department of Defense was organized. Later he headed the National Security Resources Board and finally, at President Truman's request, he took the job of cleaning up the Reconstruction Finance Corp.

J. E. (Buck) Taylor is currently the Attorney General of the state of Missouri. That's about all that news dispatches have found to say about him.

Yet when these two men met in a primary battle for the U. S. Senate, Mr. Truman turned his back on Symington and supported Taylor.

There are at least two reasons for this incredible action:

1. Taylor was the candidate of the Pendergast machine, with which Mr. Truman has had close ties for some 30 years.

2. In cleaning up the RFC, Symington stepped on the toes of several members of the White House palace guard who immediately dubbed him "Little Lord Fauntleroy" and set out to get him.

On Tuesday, the Democrats of Missouri gave Mr. Truman his come-uppance. They voted overwhelmingly for Symington, clearly the better of the two candidates and the man most likely to unseat in November one of the most reactionary Republicans in the Senate—James P. Kem.

We salute their independence—and their good judgment.

BIG LEAGUER-JUNIOR SIZE

IF, BY SOME displaced miracle, the Philadelphia Athletics should wander into the World Series in October, the City of Brotherly Love is prepared to nominate its own candidate for president in the bordering election month.

Lulled to indifference by the long second-division record of the lowly Athletics, Philadelphia has suddenly come to life. The vitamin was provided by a blond, blue-eyed elfin named Bobby Shantz, whose five feet, seven-inches and 139 pounds can be outfitted in the junior department of a clothing mart.

Shantz, homegrown in the Pennsylvania Dutch tradition of Pottstown, became the first 20-game winner in the major leagues on Aug. 5 by disposing of the Boston Red Sox in typical fashion on seven hits and three runs. His teammates obliged him with nine and five, more than enough security for Shantz' way of banking. A sellout crowd of 35,673 turned out for the occasion.

The sports world has always championed the little man, and Bobby has given them even more reason. Instead of the cockiness you usually find in the little giants, Shantz takes his fame and fortune confidently but quietly. He faces his foes as they come, be they Yanks or Brownies with the coolness of a Mountie tracking the operator of a shell game.

This is the fourth year in the majors for the 27-year-old Shantz. In his previous seasons he compiled 32 wins against as many losses. This year he may win as many games as he did in his other three put together, and thus rank with Mose (Lefty) Grove, who won 33 nineteen seasons ago.

But it is not so much the won-lost record of Shantz that makes the success story. Rather it is the symbol of faith he has become in the eyes of aspiring youngsters who have been told all along they were too small for the game. Bobby Shantz has proved there is a place for the little man in the big leagues. He speaks as the tycoon of 1952.

Of all the people who fail to register the only one who really forgot is you. The rest were simply too durn lazy and kept putting it off.—*Kingsport (Tenn.) Times-News.*

'Welcome Home'

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

One Democrat For Ike

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has given out his platform for the coming campaign as Peace, Prosperity and Progress. Sounds like a happy jingle, but let's analyze that sound.

PEACE—Coming from a man who started a war (police action) on his own initiative.

PROSPERITY—From the man whose administration, in six years, has taxed the people $12 billion more than all the administrations from Washington to Roosevelt put together!

PROGRESS—From the man who has given us the greatest impetus down the slide to bankruptcy of any, in all times.

I have always voted the Democratic ticket but it seems now that our Democratic Party is no longer a democracy but a "New Deal and a Fair Deal", controlled by Trumanism together with the Acheson-Marshall clique that betrayed China and is betraying the American people insofar as Russia is concerned. A change of government leadership in its entirety is definitely needed.

—WARREN W. WOODS

Big Fight Ahead

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE Democratic Party could ill afford the great debate over the so-called "loyalty pledge" at the recently held Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Regardless of the strong arguments for and against this issue, it was directed chiefly toward the Southern delegations in general and toward the Dixiecrats in particular who bolted the party four years ago.

Loyalty can never be won by any party which seeks to bring pressure or tends to reflect the honesty and integrity upon any part of its members. This was indeed a very unfortunate circumstance. It came at a time when the party needed a completely harmonious and unified spirit. And this spirit should have prevailed, even if it meant the sacrificing of what many of them believed to be the best plan to follow, the best strategy to use in getting their man nominated for the President of the United States.

Whether or not the Democrats will win again in November remains to be seen. But one thing is certain. They have a real fight on their hands this time and the going will be rough on the road to victory.

—A. L. BAILEY.

Plaza Road Needs Widening

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

WHEN I first came to Charlotte to live years ago business and professional men having uptown offices parked their cars all day long if they cared to, using parking spaces on Tryon and Trade Sts. for about two blocks each way from The Square. There were no red and green lights but traffic at the Square and one or two other busy corners was directed by policemen assigned to that duty. That was before they built automobiles with bumpers as regular equipment.

Today traffic conditions are vastly different. Our streets are full of cars and some of the narrow ones are very difficult to navigate particularly during rush hours. Conditions have been relieved considerably by the crosstown boulevard, with the widening of some streets and making others one-way thoroughfares.

The city is now engaged in widening 36th St. from Concord Road to Plaza Road. This is very commendable, although many still think they should have built an underpass under the Southern Railway tracks about which I have written before. But that is not the subject of this letter.

When the widening of 36th St. is finished we shall have a three-lane boulevard feeding traffic from the heavily travelled four-lane Concord Road into a somewhat narrower two-lane street not in the best of condition, the Plaza Road. It appears that it is absolutely necessary for the Plaza Road to be widened from the north end of The Plaza at least to 36th St., else 36th St. will be pouring a greatly increased amount of traffic into a bottleneck where it joins Plaza Road.

I use these streets daily and believe I am in a position to observe traffic conditions closely. I have no personal interest involved but I believe the city authorities should be urged to widen Plaza Road as I have suggested for the good of all of North Charlotte.

—J. E. ELROD

Marine Wants Some Letters

KOREA

Editors, THE NEWS:

I AM a Marine stationed out here in Korea and have been here several months. I am sadly lacking when it comes to mail call. I have heard quite a bit about the girls from Charlotte from some of the guys here, and I'd like to get letters from some of them.

—ROBERT M. REED, DN-USN
348-05-48
H&S Co. 5th Reg.
1st Marine Div.
FMF Pac. Care FPO
San Francisco, Calif.

GOP Is Without Ideas

MONROE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE chief vote-getting aim of the Republican Party is to instill in the minds of the people that it is time for a change in order to keep our two-party system in operation, and to a certain extent it is being successful.

However, as Al Smith would say, let's look at the record. It shows that from 1860 to 1884 the Republicans held the office of President. This 24-year tenure in office did not abolish our two party system, nor will it ever do so.

I believe our two party system will always exist regardless of the cries of dictatorship and socialism. To a certain extent, any party that is worth anything to a people as a whole must put into practice a certain amount of social reforms as times merit. If the elimination of sweat shops and other social reforms are socialism, then the Republicans are still living in the past, and that past catered only to big business and Wall St.

The Republican Party has served more years in office than the Democrats and during all those years it never had a new idea, even though the country was ripe for reforms before Franklin Roosevelt was elected.

— MARY STEWART

Stevenson Hailed As Orator In Finest American Tradition

By J. R. WIGGINS
Washington Post Managing Editor

CHICAGO

AN orator, in the great tradition of American platformers, has come onto the stage of public affairs.

Two addresses to the Democratic National Convention leave no doubt that Adlai Stevenson will take his place among the statesmen of the country who have had the gift of effective speech. The collections of American orations, a generation hence, will surely begin as they always have begun, with Webster, Clay, Calhoun, Haynes, Lincoln and run on through Bryan, Wilson and Roosevelt to Adlai Stevenson.

His literary style more resembles Wilson's than that of his other predecessors. In the abundance of its Biblical allusions, it more resembles that of Lincoln. In his platform presence, however, he is more in the Webster, Bryan and Theodore Roosevelt tradition, projecting his personality from the rostrum in veritable emanations of personal magnetism.

He speaks, as he thinks, in the language of the student of literature and government, with no condescending or patronizing effort to use the idiom or the metaphor of those who have not had the advantages of such a background.

USES BIG WORDS

He is not afraid to use polysyllabic words or unwilling to tackle complicated subject matter.

His sentences, however, are short. And so are his speeches. He is careful to avoid inverted structure. He does not require his listeners to keep more than one idea in hand at a time. He moves in orderly and coherent fashion from point to point.

His speaking voice is surprisingly high in pitch, but is not unpleasant in its bell-like sharpness. His enunciation is clear. His ideas come out in connected "word packages." The pungent phrases emerge smoothly, but the voice volume and pitch fluctuate musically, avoiding the danger of monotonously even range and volume.

Conscious of the importance of rhythm and meter in public speaking, Stevenson is constantly mindful of the sound of his speeches.

WORDING CHANGED

From time to time, when the written words of the text do not seem to be metrically correct, he changes wording, interpolates phrases. He is concerned about the music as well as the message in a speech.

He knows how to use the humble mien, the simple manner and the homely allusion as Lincoln used them.

The convention responded to his address enthusiastically.

The "idea load" of Stevenson's speech July 25 was heavy, and delegates and galleries gave it attention appropriate to its burden. Cheering and stamping, of which he got plenty, are not unique responses to convention speeches—close attention, evidence of thoughtful reflection, outward signs of serious effort to grasp the speaker's meaning—these are uncommon responses. Stevenson got them, too.

WAITED FOR HIM

A dreary sea of sound deluged the convention hall last month. The sound of the human voice lifted in public utterance must, by this time, have become to most Americans one of the most hideous noises by which the human ear could be accosted; but delegates drenched in a flood of orotund phrases, extravagant superlatives, reckless expletives and violent adjectives spoken by regiments of political orators, waited with apparent thirst for what Stevenson had to offer them.

So has it ever been with those really gifted with the power of moving public speech. Such a man, clearly enough, has put in his appearance on the national scene.

They Fiddle And They Faddle But Draft Is Still Snafu

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

LEW HERSHEY has been fiddling around with this draft business ever since I can remember, and he still doesn't seem to have it licked. "Fathers May Soon Face Draft" the headlines say, and therewith the usual double-conversation from the good general about the pool running dry, and we view with alarm. If the draft director was in any other business outside the arbitrary selection of handcuff volunteers he would have been fired for incompetence years ago.

If you will cast your tired little brain backward you may recall that the true status of a class of eligibles for distinction has not been sharply defined in your memory even during an important war. In this country we have never been able to strike on a stable basis for choosing up draftees. The say-so on who goes and who stays has varied with the breezes, and has been largely as unstable as Leon Errol's knees.

CONFUSION COMPOUNDED

We inducted fathers and we did not. We took marrieds and we did not. We played a sliding scale with age, with educational deferments, with occupational deferments. General Hershey changes, and has always changed, from month to month, according to some mysterious statistics that they grab out of a hat.

We made one serious pass at sense, Universal Military Training and a craven Congress talked that one over for a few years and decided not to anger the constituents by making the mass Willie eligible to serve his country. We faddled around with educational deferments, in order to build a so-called aristocracy of brains, and put a reverse English premium on stupidity. We called back the weary old retreads from World War II, and loused up families—and here we still got old man Hershey, unable to make up his mind.

It is not so much that we have been fighting a police war in Korea as that a draft machinery which has been in operation since Hector was a pup still don't know what it needs or how to go about fulfilling the need. Since the war ended, and even before, it has been a capricious, at best, technique of satisfying a craving for manpower. I'm pretty sure the average man must be sick and tired of the process.

You cannot sit there and tell me that a father must cast off his family and go away to fight a political war while shiny-chinned college boys are exempt from service because they are taking Lit. III or an advanced course in bee-husbandry. You cannot say that it makes sense to exempt 18-year-olds while taking 18 1/2 year-olds—or that a weary retread with years of real war time is logically called back into service while virginal bait stays home.

I would not gratuitously accuse anybody in the mobilization business of intelligence, since that would automatically stamp me as an idiot, but I've even a small brain a few simple precepts might be laid down and might be forced to work. One is that the head of a family is less expendable than a single man. Another is that young men make better soldiers than old men. Another is that poor boys and rich boys are equal under the law, which also applies to college boys and non-college boys.

Another is that people who have been once should not have to go twice, so long as there are eligibles around who haven't been once. Another is that six months never was the difference between a man and a boy. Another is that you're supposed to know from a standing start how many men you need in your Army, and plan accordingly. A final one is that it is no nobler to draft one man than it is to exempt a class of men.

These precepts are too simple for Washington comprehension, which is why the draft and the recall of reserves have been a muddled mess, kicked around politically, and operated cynically, for the last half-dozen years. The operation of manpower procurement has been every bit as competently handled as the administration of prisoners of war on Koje Island, as competently as the peace negotiations, as competently as the running of the Korean War itself. That, brother, is all.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Probe Of Justice Dept To Be Dropped

WASHINGTON

WORD has been passed inside the Chelf Committee that the investigation of the Justice Department is to be quietly tapered off. Chief reason: pressure from certain big distillers who have contributed to both parties in the past.

Already three committee investigators have been given notice and orders are out to start writing the final report. Republican members are expected to object, but some of them may not be too vigorous, because the liquor companies have also been generous to the GOP.

The Chelf Committee was set up as a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee for the special purpose of probing the Justice Department. Congressman Frank Chelf, its chairman, appeared anxious to do a good job. However, Chelf, who comes from Kentucky where bourbon is sometimes said to be king, has not called his committee together since Seagrams admitted paying $30,000 in cash to ex-Attorney General Howard McGrath on behalf of the Democrats, and $20,000 to Harold Talbot on behalf of the Republicans.

Various heavy contributions were admitted by other liquor companies, together with the claim that an anti trust suit against them was dropped.

Rewarding The Bureaucrats

DURING the war, Nelson Rockefeller, who did such a good job improving our good-neighbor relations with Latin America, once remarked to me:

"When I first came to Washington I had the idea that I could bring in private business executives and reform the government overnight. However, I've been here about a year, and the longer I'm here, the more respect I have for the average government servant.

"Running the government," Rockefeller added, "is a lot harder than operating private business. You can't fire a Congressman who cuts your appropriations. And you have to do business with Senators whether you like them or not.

"In addition, I have found that the average government servant is very conscientious—some of them remarkably efficient."

That statement, coming from the son of one of the biggest businessmen in the nation, may cause surprise. However, Nelson's brother, John D. Rockefeller 3rd, has followed it up this week with hard cash.

He has put up a quarter of a million dollars through Princeton University to give an award each year to the ten or so most deserving "bureaucrats". As a reward for their service to the government, they are to be given free educational travel or study for about six months.

Embalmed Evita Peron

DICTATOR PERON'S plan to have his wife embalmed to lie in state permanently is a shrewd move to continue the hold he had, through his wife, on Argentine organized labor and the unorganized Argentine poor.

Keeping their support, yet at the same time winning back Peron's greatest original source of strength, the military, is his real problem.

Peron came in power through the Army. But when his wife took over the Labor Ministry and as her unique power over the underprivileged increased, the military became restless and rebellious.

It was because of Evita's "undue prominence" that military dissatisfaction reached a climax last Summer and some Army units revolted. While the attempt failed, distrust remained, and it took the secret police at least five months to catch even the secondary figures in the revolution. The No. 1 revolutionary still remains unknown to Peron.

Now that he is alone, Peron has been making overtures to the Army. He wants to win back his old military friends. But the problem is to do this without alienating labor.

That is why Peron sent to Hamburg, Germany, to obtain the best embalming experts of Europe to preserve the remains of the ex-cabaret entertainer as a permanent shrine like that of Lenin in Moscow.

Washington Pipeline

JUAN TRIPPE, head of Pan American Airways, slipped into England last week for secret negotiations to buy British commercial jet planes. However, the Britons have so many advance orders that Pan American won't be able to buy any for some time. . . . The Communist Party is so discouraged by the strong hand of the major political parties against Communism that orders have gone out to all party members to affiliate with right-wing political groups, trade unions, and civic clubs, in order to bore from within. Party members were also instructed to place more people inside the Republican Party.