

WHAT MR. BENSON REALLY SAID

Today Secretary of Agriculture Benson meets with corn growers and feeders. Tomorrow he is scheduled to consult with livestock men. Friday he is slated to take up the problem of deciding turkey prices. Already he's met with the cotton producers, dairy folk, wheat growers and millers.

Item by item, Benson is gathering data on the various farm and livestock products over which a Secretary of Agriculture has considerable jurisdiction, hearing the ideas of the men who grow them. Meanwhile there is considerable confusion over the purported plans of Mr. Benson. We would like to try to clarify some of that confusion.

To begin with, we must confess a certain prejudice. We admire men who say what they believe, even though those words might not be applauded by their audience. Mr. Benson has that admirable trait.

His confusion regarding Mr. Benson's plans has not resulted from any equivocation on his part. His much-discussed St. Paul policy speech, and lengthy interviews in U. S. News & World Report, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and other publications are clear and consistent.

The confusion stems from interpretations drawn from Benson phrases taken out of context. Phrases like "disaster relief programs" and "relief programs" and he was handled about carefully by farm state Congressmen, some of them Republicans.

Here is what Mr. Benson said at St. Paul in setting forth "the basic policy that will guide us" on "parity, price supports, disaster insurance" and "relief programs":

"Our agricultural policy should aim to obtain, in the market place, full parity prices for farm products and parity incomes for farm people."

"Price support laws will be carried out

faithfully in every respect. There are mandatory price supports at 90 per cent of parity on the so-called basic commodities for 1953 and 1954. Other laws provide for supports on other farm products. . . .

"Price support should provide insurance against disaster to the farm-producing plant and help to stabilize national food supplies. But price supports which tend to prevent production shifts toward a balanced supply in terms of demand and which encourage uneconomic production and result in continuing heavy surpluses and subsidies should be avoided. . . .

"Inefficiency should not be subsidized in agriculture or any other segment of our economy. Relief programs should be operated as such—not as an excuse for agriculture industry. Emergency programs should be terminated as soon as the emergency is over."

Mr. Benson has stuck to these views in his interviews and in his Des Moines speech. He has not "regressed" as lately as coming around toward the viewpoint of farm members of Congress. Actually, he's just been saying the same things, and if Congressmen and reporters had listened carefully at St. Paul, they would not have been so much hullo.

We like Mr. Benson's approach. He is honest and straightforward. He is, by experience, well suited for his big job. He has shown every indication of being a man of good will who has the interests of the farmer at heart, and knows that the welfare of the farmer, the housewife and the taxpayer are all inextricably related. He isn't about to sell anyone a new product or to give anyone a chance to apply his talents and philosophy to American agriculture.

THE CAP DESERVES WORKING FUNDS

THIS WEEK the Appropriations Committee at Raleigh will consider a modest request from a deserving organization. The North Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol wants \$30,000 a year for the next two years.

A bit of background about the CAP might help determine the worthiness of the request. The organization usually bills the headlines when some flyer gets into CAP training. But to the communication men behind them to their fixed and mobile radio units. The CAP airmen fly their own planes, on their own time. They get gasoline for their planes. If the search is approved by military officials. Sometimes the Air Force gives the CAP obsolete equipment, but the radio men often use their own gear, and also serve without pay.

Air rescue work is only the most glamorous

of CAP jobs. The organization would be distinct from the farm-producing plant and help to stabilize national food supplies. But price supports which tend to prevent production shifts toward a balanced supply in terms of demand and which encourage uneconomic production and result in continuing heavy surpluses and subsidies should be avoided. . . .

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URBAN REDEVELOPMENT'S NATIONAL SCOPE

OCCASIONALLY a state or city and its citizens get so wrapped up in local affairs that they seem to forget that other people, in a neighboring county or state, are struggling with the same problems. News editors suffer the same ailment. Sometimes the Air Force gives the CAP obsolete equipment, but the radio men often use their own gear, and also serve without pay.

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THE MEGAPOLIS

ANYONE who ventures north of Washington by car soon realizes that something dangerous and dreadful (and perhaps wonderful) is happening in the hills. The highways are wide but they are crowded and the traffic is fast. The cities follow one upon another in such rapid and proliferating succession that the luckless driver (if he has wit enough left to give it a thought) wonders how all these people manage to make a living, get their cars and endure the awful crowds. Not until he shakes the dust of New York off his tires, and launches out upon the Merritt Parkway through Connecticut, can he draw an easy breath and view forest and open space. Even there, through an occasional break in the hills, he sees factories and smokestacks, and sprawling, crowded residential areas. He can never get far away from cities and hurrying people.

Some 30,000,000 persons (or about one-half of the earth's live) in the 40-mile stretch of the nation's busiest highways and pavements, between Boston and Washington. They wield an overpowering influence upon the nation's (and the world's) thinking. At one end, they are the seat of the nation's power. In the middle, they are the seat of the nation's commerce. In the South, they are the seat of the nation's industry.

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countless industrial cities, one merging into the other.

Now a French scholar, Professor Jean Gottman, has given a name to this gold coast of ours. He says it is a megapolis. The word is derived from the Greek, which had words for so many things. In this instance it had two words: *mega*, meaning great and mighty, and *polis*, meaning city. It is indeed great and mighty, and it is indeed a city. It has many attractions, and many repulsions. In that brief space are the capitals of all our worlds within worlds: Art, finance, politics, industry, commerce, and big crime. It has big crowds and big clams, and dirt and dust, and smoke and noise.

The harassed driver might, for some relief, that a few well-placed H-bombs, correctly fused, could destroy it all. Then he might reflect, perhaps with a shudder and a compulsive acceleration of his automobile, that here is where the first bombs might fall.

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People's Platform

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

Lewd Lady

Editors, The News:
The story, "Lewd Pirate Was a Lulu", appearing in your paper Feb. 26 is a good example of journalistic endeavor devoid of sense and designed primarily as an appeal to the erotic.

Can there be anything more nonsensical than the explanation of the lady pirate's plan of attack on the Spanish galleon? And can there be any explanation other than an appeal to the lowest form of eroticism in the fact that half of the story is devoted to a recitation of deeds of immorality? This story appearing in a family newspaper brings garbage can into the living room. I respectfully request an explanation of the editorial policy which permits filth and nonsense hidden under the form of reporting to be incorporated in The Charlotte News.

PETER J. KING
MONROE

Opposes Check's Insurance Plan

Editors, The News:
I may be presumptuous for a plain taxpayer I will little insurance knowledge to write N. C. Insurance Commissioner Waldo C. Check in reply to his circular received recently. However, having lived in several states including Massachusetts, there are a number of things that make me wonder if he is really in the best of the system, the one he is now endorsing has faults too.

I am assuming since reading his letter in The News that he desires our reaction as readers individually and otherwise. I also appreciate the fact that our present insurance program is totally inadequate.

Senate Bill 105 has one glaring defect inasmuch as it states that a driver will have 60 days to prove financial responsibility after an accident. In reality, place we are not afraid of the responsible driver. He usually carries insurance anyway. But the irresponsible driver (many of them without licenses) will let you sue and be damned.

Under Massachusetts law that driver cannot get license tags until he produces a policy receipt, and a driver's license has to be renewed every other year. If there is a weakness in compulsory insurance, it may be because the rates are not on a sliding scale that would give the careful driver a cheaper rate than one found guilty by a court of responsibility. It would be better to increase for each offense until his license has been revoked.

We have one case, for example, of a man who was recently sued in the death of a person on our public streets. A judgment was found against him and he did not care for "the money" he got anything anyway. In less than a month he was involved in another accident in which he lost his driver's license. How up his car and let it be repossessed. So you see he was not compelled to carry insurance and bill \$100 will not eliminate such drivers, whereas in Massachusetts when he purchased that car and before he could have trans-

Happy, Old News

Editors, The News:
The Golden Years Club, of which there are now three in Charlotte, are a real boon to many of our older ones who feel the need of a pleasant and profitable way to spend our leisure time.

We indulge in some mild recreation, innocent amusement and heart-warming devotions. "We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear," and we try to make our last years in truth the golden years, for ourselves and others who might feel forgotten or neglected.

MRS. GENE WILLIAMS
CHARLOTTE

Communitists for McCarthy

HE put across the La Follette-McCormack bill for the reorganization of Congress. He has been a member of the United States Manufacturers in a long expose of civil liberties infractions, showed how they conspired to influence the government. They even secretly subsidized commentator George Sokolsky. He exposed the purchase of coal operating in Harlan County, Ky. He was the top presiding officer of the Senate, and he dared to defend the Communist Party when he, like his father, feared we would drift into war.

And he concentrated everything that he had to defend him in 1946. The NAM poured money and letters to support him. It was an ironic twist of fate that the 5,396-vote margin by which Bob La Follette defeated McCarthy in the Communist Party, which went all-out against him.

And the man they voted for and who defeated Bob welcomed their support. "They have a right to vote, haven't they?" Joseph R. McCarthy told newsmen.

Hundred Law Practices
AFTER Young Bob's defeat, he was considered for various federal jobs, such

Hire Or Retire Older Workers

Editors, The News:
I AM writing in regards to our social security laws. If Congress wants to do something for the aged, it should make a law lowering the age limit at which persons may draw compensation. Why can't the age be dropped from 65 to 56 or 60? When a person has worked to that age he needs some enjoyment.

A man or woman over 40 today and unemployed can hardly get a job now. You will be surprised to learn that the number of unemployed persons over 40 don't want you, for they can get simple help from younger people.

And another reason that the Congress and President should do something about social security—modern machinery is being installed everywhere to take the place of workers.

I thank God we still have some who will hire a person who wants to work and can work regardless of his age. My employer at the Charcoal Cotton Mill still hires those over 40, in fact he still works over the retirement age of 65. Others ought to do likewise.

J. A. GRAHAM
CHARLOTTE

Some Cabinet Officers Have Discovered That in the last days of the Truman Administration politicians were blacklisted in order to prevent them from receiving the protection of civil service. These blacklists are being removed.

New GI Bill Provides Many Benefits, Guards Against Abuse

CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY
EACH YEAR WASHINGTON receives a flood of proposals for new legislation. One of the most important of these is the GI Bill. The GI Bill provides many benefits for veterans and their dependents. It also guards against abuse.

The GI Bill provides for the payment of educational expenses for veterans and their dependents. It also provides for the payment of medical expenses for veterans and their dependents. The GI Bill also provides for the payment of unemployment benefits for veterans and their dependents.

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Civil Service System Makes Personnel Replacement Hard

WASHINGTON
FORTY DAYS in office and the walls of Jericho still stand! That is to say, the Korean war is still going on, the budget is still unbalanced, Defense spending is still at the rate of four or five billion a month.

Now, no reasonable person expected that miracles were to be performed in the first 40 days of administration. It should be added, however, that some of the campaign promises led to the expectation that a magical transformation would take place in very short order.

But one thing the first 40 days has pointed up. This latter day Joshua shows a lonely trumpet. The first to be called to the army of civil service employees of the government — is inside the walls. They are protected by a closely drawn provisions of a civil service system that has been steadily enlarged through the years.

Almost every figure in the Administration has expressed a sense of frustration because of the inability to surround himself with personnel of his own choosing. At one level, of course, this is related to the politician's desire to reward his supporters. At another level, it is related to the politician's desire to reward his supporters. At another level, it is related to the politician's desire to reward his supporters.

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