

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

1888—Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Year—1953

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## BRICKER SHOWS HIS HAND

THE U. S. Chamber of Commerce, at its annual meeting in Washington this week, heard a group of distinguished speakers with diverse views. One of the best speakers was that of Undersecretary of State Walter Bedell Smith, who wrapped up U. S. foreign policy objectives.

The Communists, he said, would give "enthusiastic approval" to erection of new trade barriers among free nations. He illustrated, in dollars and cents, the economic dangers in protectionist legislation now proposed. He emphasized the need for removal of obstructions to allied unity and flexibility of action. If Communist tactics are to be countered, he reaffirmed, in moderate language, the Administration's opposition to the Bricker amendment, which would limit the President's power to make the treaties and executive agreements with which this unity and flexibility is achieved.

The next day Senator Bricker spoke at

the Chamber meeting. He was quite wrought up, waded a copy of Smith's speech.

"The whole speech is just a misleading statement and I don't intend to tolerate it," he said. "I don't intend to have any appointive officer of the State Department tell me what I'm going to do."

This was a rather astounding statement. Undersecretary Smith was not trying to tell Bricker what to do. On the contrary, he was merely voicing the viewpoint of the Eisenhower Administration on foreign trade and on the Presidential treaty-making powers.

We suspect that the Senator got caught with his motives showing. He has professed a fear of excessive Presidential authority in foreign affairs, but it appears that his opposition is really directed toward the policies rather than the authority. Bricker's fervent isolationism should be recognized for what it is, and the crippling amendment he has fashioned to use against his own party's President should be rejected by Congress.

## A BETTER ANTI-KLAN LAW

ALTHOUGH state and federal authorities are about to smash the Ku Klux Klan in eastern North Carolina with existing statutes, Solicitor Clinton Moore of Bursaw, who prosecuted the Columbus County case, felt that a stronger law was needed. He asked the General Assembly to pass one.

This week the anti-Klan bill became law—and in a form that no non-Klanman, save possibly our top North Carolina Communist, Junius Scales, could object to.

As written originally, the law might have been applied against such "secret" organizations as the American Legion, the Order of Masonry, social fraternities, labor union, and language was much too broad.

As amended, it is aimed only at any secret society organized for the purpose of circumventing state law. It regulates the wearing of masks in public, use of holding of secret meetings by such societies, and the burning of crosses for the purpose of intimidation.

If we have read the signs aright, the Klan has been thoroughly smashed in North Carolina, and there is little likelihood that it will be revitalized. In the event that a shrewd organizer manages once again to peddle his law to simple and misguided Tar Heels, the new law will be available.

Meanwhile, North Carolinians ought to remember that the final answer to Klanism and to all forms of hate and prejudice is

the growth of tolerance, of sympathy with the underdog, of a spirit of brotherhood, and the rooting out of conditions that cause men's minds to shrink to the dimensions of Klan mentality.

## SPEEDERS BEWARE

IN THE CLOSING DAYS of the 1953 session, a sense-making bill was resurrected and enacted into law.

It provides for a 30-day driving license suspension for speeding over 70 miles an hour, and a 60-day suspension for the second conviction in a year. The suspension is mandatory.

Like any other law, the usefulness of this statute will depend upon the degree of enforcement. If it is enforced strictly, it should deter many a chronic speeder from whizzing along the public highways at fantastic speeds, endangering everyone in his path.

The passage of the law should encourage the State Highway Patrol to expand its system of speed control by radar. The devilish little electronic devices are highly efficient, and it's hard for the motorist to spot them until it's too late. The knowledge that they're set up all over the state, plus the threat of mandatory license suspension, would make motorists think twice before pushing the accelerator to the floor.

## LOTS OF BIG LEAGUERS, BUT FEW FANS

UNLESS Nevada or Arizona or one of the other states lays a sagebrush and short on people have turned out a couple or three big-time baseball players we've not heard about, North Carolina can claim yet another honor—more major league baseball players per capita than any other state. More of the top-drawers diamond talent Tar Heels leads. We have it on the authority of *See* magazine that only the three most populous states produce more top pros than North Carolina. California has 35 men in both major leagues now, followed by New York with 32, Pennsylvania with 28. Then comes North Carolina, with 20.

In other words, on a population basis, out of every 100,000 men and boys who call North Carolina home, one of them is playing with the big leagues now. California, for all its sunshine and sports fervor, sends out one major leaguer for every 150,000. New York one for every 220,000.

Why all the talent in North Carolina? Well, *See's* sports editor, Curt Gowdy, says it this way: "Climate and rugged baseball interest in the Tar Heel state probably have a great deal to do with it." Bill Giles, president of the National League figures "where elsewhere interest in the minors may have fallen off, North Carolina is stronger than ever."

Rabid interest? Brother! The fans view

Griffith Park like a real home's nest, stay away in droves. Wednesday night, only some 700 straggled out, despite the fine weather, to watch the Rockets beat the Hornets, and crowds often have been even smaller.

The local sports fans chose to watch Coach Davey, with Wednesday night, in the comforts of their living room. Maybe they were busy reading *See News*. We dunno—but it looks from here as though Carolina ball players hit the big time. It's either that because of great enthusiasm or appreciation from the folks back home.

## QUICK DEATH

THE 1953 General Assembly wisely slapped down three efforts to authorize votes on ABC stories in small towns. The House defeated bills for Valdese and Lake Lure, and this week the Senate killed a Blowing Rock bill.

North Carolina is committed to the county option system. It is a good system, and it is a defensible system.

But no one can logically defend ABC voting in units smaller than the county. Any attempts in the future General Assembly to break the county unit should get the same death sentence.

From The Asheville Citizen

## WESTERN N. C.'S JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

JUST AS IF we had nothing else to worry about there is coming now a group of 17-year youths. So says Dr. Z. P. Metcalf, entomologist at State College, who looks for the locusts in Western North Carolina the last of May or early in June. Yet we are assured by Charlotte News staff writer Donald McDonald, who got it from the professor, that "the 17-year locusts are not to be compared with the locusts of Biblical times."

This is good news, locust-wise, for Exodus records:

"They covered the face of the whole earth, and the land was made black by them, and did eat every herb of the field, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left; and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt."

Our expected visitors, on the other hand, are not big eaters but only disposed to make a scenic nuisance of themselves. The locust in fact is any short-bodied grasshopper of one of several varieties. Brand 17, as we understand it, does not get its name just because it appears at 17-year intervals but because it has come from Egypt. It was first seen in June 17, A.D. and in the insect realm, we have a teen-age problem.

The American Far West and the nations of the Middle East suffer regular plagues of

locusts. One swarm by the Red Sea some years ago covered an area of 2,000 square miles and left it looking like Atlanta of the immediate post-Sherman era. Back around 1878 the "hoppers" cleared out the Mississippi Valley. These locusts, like the Red Sea sojourners, had chewing mouth parts. The 17-year variety only bothers trees, chiefly by laying orangey-brown eggs in crevices of leaves—thus starting the cycle all over again.

Well, hearties, there is nothing to do but wait and see what happens. Chins up! Did not Exodus add:

"... before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such."

A jury in Fayette Circuit Court was unable to decide whether slot machines were invented to be used for gambling. With a dozen such clear-headed, analytical thinkers together in one place, it would have been a wonderful opportunity to solve some vexing old problems such as how to pour beer out of a hole and how to pick up a piece from a hole in the ground—Lexington Leader.

Statesmen make wars, soldiers fight them and Congress investigates them—Memphis News-Schmidt.

## 'Can I Get Your Autograph, Mister?'



## Report On The Nation

### Public Parking Is Popular

(The following is reprinted from the News Bulletin of the Public Administration Clearing House, E. H. News)

MORE cities have established off-street parking lots last year to meet the increasing demand of motorists for parking spaces.

The 1953 Municipal Year Book, to be published next month by the International City Managers' Association, reports that 70 cities established parking lots for the first time during 1952.

Additional parking lots put into service last year by 164 other cities brought the total of new parking lots for the year to 334, the Association said.

Overall, 519 cities out of 1,126 with populations over 10,000 reported they were operating a total of 1,465 parking lots. More than half of these are in cities with populations from 10,000 to 25,000.

#### Available Space Varies

In terms of total number of parking spaces available, including both public and privately operated, there have been 50 million vehicle registrations. Among eight cities over 250,000 population, 94 spaces per 1,000 registered automobiles were available.

Los Angeles, Calif., showed the highest single rate of vehicle parking with 332 public and private spaces per 1,000 registered automobiles.

In 138 cities, city-owned parking lots are financed through parking meter receipts, 44 cities handle financing through general taxes, and 11 cities through general obligation bonds. Four cities use revenue bonds, four levy special assessments, and four use a combination.

The Soviet foreign minister's name, Molotov, means "The Hammer." The new U. S. secretary-general is named Hammarskjöld, which means "hammer-shield." Any comments?—Southern Editors Roundtable.

Various arguments have been advanced for and against admitting Alaska as a state, but I haven't heard anybody say anything about one of the most pleasing results of the Alaska admission—the second biggest state in the Union—Lexington Leader.

People who squawk about income taxes can be divided into two classes: men and women—Carlsbad Current-Argus.

Conservationists report a "decline in wildlife." They should look over some Saturday night—Greenville (S.C.) Piedmont.

A good golfer who takes his girl friend to the links to teach her the rudiments of the game is

either a most gallant young man or very much in love—Outhbert (Ga.) Times.

"You must have had a terrific night last night; your eyes are blue bloodshot," the old friend said. "Yes, but you oughta see them from this side!"—Daily News.

We once knew a fellow who could put a letter in a mailbox without flapping the lid two or three times, but we've lost track of him over the years—Abbeville Citizen.

We noted a headline over some beauty advice column which told the ladies that their hands are where the first outward sign of advancing age appears. Maybe so, but that's not where they wear rings—Daily News.

"I wonder what the matter with our star basketball player—he looks so unhappy." "It's because his father is always writing him for money."—Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

The following week Fred K. Powell, first vice president of American Machine & Foundry, arrived in Washington, Powell set so far as the defense program was concerned, defense officials that his company was ready to absorb the whole defense program in a moment's notice.

Then, on March 26, Secretary Weeks wrote a confidential letter to defense boss Charles Wilson urging the Pentagon to remove the defense program from Weeks' Bureau of Standards. Weeks' letter to Wilson was disguised in official double-talk, but its meaning was clear. He wanted to quit.

"I made this (defense program) my attention in case you wish to delegate someone to check these expenditures and, perhaps, suggest the examination and re-evaluation of the research program."

At first this got no favorable response from the Defense Department. Armed with knowledge of the Bureau of Standards had done on fuses, Weeks failed, bureau scientists had developed;

the proximity fuse during World War II, the fuse which explodes when it approaches its target, and which causes the amazing feat of missile to steer a course toward its target.

In fact, Army-Navy experts wrote a confidential memo to Secretary of Defense that the proximity fuse was a "major contribution to the defense program."

Later, however, Secretary of Commerce Weeks got his. His colleague, Secretary of Defense Wilson, has now issued instructions to curtail further military research funds for the Bureau of Standards.

Note: Assistant Secretary of Commerce Shaffer, the fountain-pen manufacturer, told friends that the Bureau of Standards would be in Washington was shake up the Bureau of Standards. He claimed they had been unfair in testing one of his pens.

Headlines And Footnotes

COMPTROLLER General Lindsay Warren C. has ordered his accounting sleuths to audit the huge defense program. The government is laddering out to the airlines. It was a similar investigation that led to reform of the House of Representatives and a neat trick he can do it, but Congressman Miller of Nebraska has promised to make DeLoach's name known to the nation's capital. In other words, D. C. residents can turn their clocks ahead by one hour beginning last Sunday. This proposal

## Something More Than Care Is Due Returning Prisoners

By MARQUIS CHILDS

IT IS TIME THAT we ask ourselves how we shall respond to the men who are coming home from the Communist prison camps in North Korea. Even with the utmost effort of the imagination it is impossible to understand why they have been through. With the pain, the discomfort, the squalor, there is something which perhaps more than any of these.

That is the crux of the interminable weight of time passing, or, rather, refusing to pass, or existing in a vacuum. It is the rot of the hours, the days, the months with no slightest joy of memory or anticipation to mark an end to endless waiting moments.

These men who come back after months, in some instances years, will want to know what we were doing in that interval of waiting, since this has been a small war, a war fought with only part of our resources, the answers that we have been going about our own business. And a very flourishing business it has been.

With the Korean war we were doing in that interval of waiting, since this has been a small war, a war fought with only part of our resources, the answers that we have been going about our own business. And a very flourishing business it has been.

So we have had shiny new cars. The highways are crowded with weekend motorists crawling in a cautious stream of traffic. A million tourists are expected to go to Europe this season. Every variation of the normal is being readied for the rush of the months ahead.

This is America in full prosperity, waging a half-war without any slackening of the flow of goods and services that reaches out to the farthest corners. But will these men out of the prison camp understand how we could go so blithely on our own private and prosperous way? That seems to me a fundamental question.

They will have through the armed services the best of physical care. Medical skill of the highest order, rest, proper diet—all that we can do for our returning soldiers. But they are young they are most of them, but restored to normal, healthy life.

But something more is due them. We must make sure that they are not taken to the normal, bright surface of prosperity as a sign of

## N. Y. Law Will Crack Down On The Highway Slowpoke

By ROBERT C. RUARK

I DON'T RIDE the highways any more, but if I did I'd sure applaud Gov. Tom Dew's recent approval of a bill to crack down on slowpokes driving.

The new law, effective July 1, proposes that "no motorist shall be convicted of a traffic violation if he is driving at a speed which is less than 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limit."

Some of the nation's express highways have minimum speeds of 40 miles per hour, and the patrol cops will advise you if you start to crawl. But in most states, on most roads, a creeper can crawl along at 10 miles an hour if he wishes. It's a misnomer, that is, he is practicing caution. All he causes is log-jams and accidents, because he is a battery on a main road and the normal burlers can't.

The rambling wreck is not so apparent in the North, where the South River still has the high-pocketed Model T Ford, and an assortment of junk that wiggles and wobbles and gets stuck in the middle of the highway to wiggle and wobble. In these are also the kids with no taillights and one-eyed

headlights, who lumber suddenly across the road in the dark if and from the middle to talk it over.

I don't suppose there's any way to legislate these ancient beasts of the public highways, although in some places, men must pass a strict check-off test before new licenses are allowed. But at least a blanket law would automatically rule some of the rusty trucks out of the state and reduce both traffic confusion and accidents considerably.

For an automotive nation, I feel we've got to crack down on the highway drivers in the world. There is no such thing as general good manners or even a practical application of intelligence to a great percentage of our people. We have the speedsters who court death and ruin the same way as the slowpokes achieve. There is the wriggle-in-and-out of traffic that we've learned to live with.

Light at the same time with the more law-abiding types. There is a lot of misapprehension about the law on paper, either side, and the sudden-speeder-upper who responds to your horn like a felly in a battery on a main road and the normal burlers can't.

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neglect and indifference to what they have endured. Their homecoming should be marked by a day of national meditation and devotion to the faith in freedom for which they gave so much; a day of prayer and thanksgiving. It should be a day when we could put aside the differences that at times seem to divide us as deeply as the differences that unite us. On that day we would do honor to these brave and patient men who suffered so long, but perhaps just as important we should ourselves gain a new awareness of their sacrifice and the price that the thousands who will not come home have meant.

The defense of Korea was vital to the security of the United States. After all the blunders of all the politicians and all the generals and all the military men, this was the inevitable fact. The first troops rushed in to meet the attack were poorly prepared. From the slowness of the Japanese in Japan they were thrown into battle with the slowness of a well-equipped campaign of aggression.

HEAVY CASUALTIES

The casualties were fearfully heavy. In the first few weeks. Through the accident of conversation those first troops were selected to be the first to be sent home.

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