

THOMAS L. ROBINSON... J. E. DOWD... G. A. GRIFFITH... C. A. McKNIGHT...

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1953

THE SHARON-AMITY SCHOOL CONTROVERSY

THE CONTROVERSY over school facilities in the Sharon-Amity section has become the bugbear of both city and county school boards.

On the one side is a group of fringe area residents who have asked that the city school district be extended to include their neighborhood.

On the other is a group of residents who oppose the extension of the school district and who want to remain in the county school system.

The first group asked the City School Board for an election on the matter. The Board, with more than it could say grace over, reluctantly agreed. It adopted, and sent over to the county board, a resolution fixing the date for the extension of the district, and providing for the election.

The second group, apparently of the opinion that the election would carry, has petitioned the county board not to call the election. Without the agreement of the county board and the State Department of Public Instruction, the election cannot be held.

Both boards are in a highly uncomfortable position.

The city board has planned an elementary school for the general vicinity, but inside the city limits. If a vote were held and the issue carried, the school would be placed across the present city-county line. Until the issue is decided one way or the other, however, the board cannot proceed with its plans for the area.

The county board is also on the spot. If it denies the vote, it faces the accusation of being undemocratic. Yet, some members do not feel that the precedent of extending the city school district in this section would lead to similar requests from other

fringe area neighborhoods. That would produce a gradual chipping away at the structure of the county school system, shrinking its number of pupils and its number of teachers. Yet if the election is not held, the county board must scrape up the money from somewhere for a new elementary school to relieve Sharon.

Both boards are faced with a further problem. Unless the issue is settled by a majority vote, it may rise to haunt them again and again.

A third alternative has been suggested, but it is one major drawback. Since the impetus for the extension of the school district came from people who wanted their children to attend city schools, it might be possible for the city board to go ahead with plans for an over-age elementary school near the city limits, big enough to accept large numbers of tuition students from the county area. The drawback to this suggestion, however, is that other sections of the city which need additional school facilities would undoubtedly register strong protests over using scarce city system funds to provide facilities for county children.

The issue arises from the anomaly of two school districts. If the system were consolidated, such problems would not bob up. Construction of new schools in the highly fluid fringe area could follow population trends, with no regard for city and county lines. But consolidation, despite its many strong points, is still in the future—though it becomes more inevitable every day.

It seems to us that this only fair and democratic way to get this issue off the table is to hold a referendum on the extension election. Once the people have spoken, both boards can get on with the highly urgent tasks at hand.



Joseph & Stewart Alsop

Is Anyone 'Secure'?

UNDER THE new security procedures that are now being followed in the State Department, there is a question whether the Government is taking any satisfactory security risk. This is the clear implication, at any rate, of the case of L. Corrin Strong.

Strong is an amiable middle-aged man, much given to good work, always happy to be organizing something or other, and fond of small public distinctions, such as decorations and minor awards. He and Mrs. Strong were both leading workers for President Truman during the campaign; and there is every reason to believe that he also contributed heavily to the party's war chest.

When the choice of Strong as Ambassador to Norway was disclosed in early January, the news hardly caused a ripple. To be sure, Strong has no visible qualifications to represent this country in a diplomatic post. But that there can be no objection to the Strong appointment, as long as the country tolerates the public action of the most delicate posts abroad.

Four and a half months have now passed since Strong learned of his supposed good fortune. His troubles are now reported to be over and his nomination will be confirmed in a few days. Yet the fact remains that the Strong nomination is a professional pillar of the community. It is a case of a man who has been exposed to extreme annoyance and embarrassment by the so-called security procedure, and who has been exposed to extreme annoyance and embarrassment by the so-called security procedure.

He is not an intimate friend, but he is not an enemy either. To make the case look blacker, presumably, the story was also put out that Strong contributed a small sum to help pay Elias's legal expenses. This story is not true, although Strong, to his eternal credit, has the quite remarkable courage to say:

"I still believe that even the worst man has the right to a fair trial, and maybe I would have contributed if anyone had asked me."

These are the facts. If simple acquaintance with Alger Hiss is to raise a doubt of loyalty, one must conclude that Secretary Dulles even refused to pre-empt the Hiss case until the wrangled Hiss case was finally tried. By the test of his own performance to date, State Department secretary officer R. W. Horton is one of the darkest doubts about Dulles.

The Strong case is of a piece with the Hiss case. It is a case of a man who has been exposed to extreme annoyance and embarrassment by the so-called security procedure, and who has been exposed to extreme annoyance and embarrassment by the so-called security procedure.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IF Congress and the Ike administration were to balance the budget without jeopardizing national defense they will have abandoned the present unorthodox system of parceling out money to the armed services.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff merely allotted appropriations to the Army, Navy, and Air Force, letting the individual service decide how each to spend its own share. Thus the Navy didn't pass on what types of airplanes it would purchase, nor did the Army or Air Force say anything about the type of airplane carriers the Navy built.

Big Carriers Highly Vulnerable To Attack

are definitely needed to battle enemy submarines. But here are some of the facts regarding the big carrier, the battle-wagon, which rise in revulsion to the ears of an officer of the Navy's Bureau of Naval Affairs.

A CARRIER task force consists of four carriers mounting about 450 planes, 30 destroyers, six cruisers or battleships, and a host of other ships. It is supplied by a mobile replenishment force of at least eight fleet oilers, an ammunition ship, stores ship, fleet supply tender, refrigerated ship and a fleet tug. This floating supply center in itself also needs protection.

force B-50 bomber group—complete with air fighter protection, anti-aircraft defense and fuel supplies—costs less than \$100,000,000. In contrast, a B-50 carrier plane costs about \$100,000,000. The tonnage on the enemy as a carrier task force.

of course a carrier force is more mobile and can change position as much as 350 miles in one night. However, a Russian carrier force is a different matter. In an hour, and three enemy jets flying 50 mi. per hour, the center of the Mediterranean with radar can sweep the whole sea.

have been sobering news to the Navy, since Russia now has 870 modern submarines—five times its 170 fleet submarines. Germany's World War II U-boat fleet was a carrier force in the making. A carrier force can be put to sea with a single atomic bomb. This was proved at the end of the war. A B-29 Superfortress, which missed its target by some 100 miles, still wrecked or contaminated every ship in the vicinity of the target.

Vulnerability To Accidents—Frequently, carriers are sunk not by operational accidents that have nothing to do with enemy action. For example, the USS T-32 was lost out of action at a crucial period in the war. It was a single plane crashed on its flight deck, but not until it had been damaged. The carrier group also called time out every two days for refueling—a convoluted process that takes a long time. These are factors which Congress should consider as it tackles the difficult job

THE INTANGIBLES COUNT, TOO

IN A great many cities, the annual Chamber of Commerce membership drive would be, at best, of limited interest. Where Chambers of Commerce are still rooted in the old traditions, where they concentrate on tangible dollars and cents values, where they think only of payrolls and bank clearings, their activities interest the general public only mildly.

But the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce is a rather special organization, and the whole community has a big stake in the success of its membership drive that opens tomorrow.

The Charlotte Chamber long ago realized that the qualities that make a community both happy and prosperous include the intangibles as well—the things that have no direct connection with trade and commerce. Parks and recreation, for example, streets and water lines and modern sewage disposal facilities, city planning, better air service and improved air-

ports... better hospitals and schools and more efficient health services... cultural centers...

To list these several fields in which the Chamber of Commerce has been both active and effective is not to minimize the exceptional work it has done within the commercial and industrial aspects of the city. It is especially enlightened in its effort to improve the total community, and to voice the appreciation of this newspaper for the great influence it has had for the common good.

The business or professional man who is at all alert to the importance of a well-rounded community will respond to the Chamber's appeal. The Chamber needs a bigger membership and a bigger budget if Charlotte is to reach its full potential against the competition of other fast-growing cities in the Piedmont and elsewhere in the New South.

SENATOR TAFT, MEET SENATOR TAFT

IF THERE is anything consistent about Senator Robert Taft, it is his inconsistency.

In November, 1951, when he was gunning for the Republican Presidential nomination, he put out a little book called "A Foreign Policy for America." It was a book that he had written, but it did not offer this reassuring word about the United Nations: "We have now taken the lead in establishing the United Nations. The purpose is to establish a rule of law among the world and protect the people of the United States by punishing aggression the moment it starts and deterring future aggression through joint action of the members of such an organization."

On Tuesday night an address by Senator Taft was read in his absence to a Cincinnati audience by his son, Robert A. Taft Jr. In it the Senator said: "I believe we might as well abandon any idea of working with the United Nations in the East and reserve it to ourselves. The world and protect the people of the United States by punishing aggression the moment it starts and deterring future aggression through joint action of the members of such an organization."

all further peace negotiations in Korea." It was not so disturbing that the Senator chose his own tracks in this rather amazing speech. That is one of his main characteristics. For instance, nearly an entire chapter of his book was devoted to condemnation of the Truman Administration for its support of the United Nations.

When it is disturbing is that the Taft speech was made at about the same time President Eisenhower was reaffirming American and Allied support of United Nations principles in the Korean peace talks. In an official White House release he said that Taft was a direct contradiction to Taft's "go it alone" suggestion.

Late yesterday, leading Republicans were withholding comment on the Taft pronouncement. They were obviously upset, as we are, over the signs of a split in the GOP leadership on the vital issue of settling the Korean War. It is a sign that the Taft speech has largely failed in its purpose has forced us to use other means to meet the present emergency, but there is no reason to abandon the concept of collective security which, by discouraging and preventing the use of war as national policy, can ultimately protect the liberty of the people of the United States and enforce peace.

A GARDEN DIARY

THE SETTING SUN had left a glow in the West which faded very slowly as the moon moved across the sky, smooching the valley floor with silver and making the clouds of cherry blossom glimmer with light. In daylight the blossom is like a mantle of frost across the gully, but in the moonlight its unearthly pinnacles moved and shimmered as if a host of white moths fluttering and passing over the dead bracken or the newly fallen snow on Scafall. The owls talked softly in the woods below.

without being seen. This second bader has a long white trail down its back and an unusually bushy tail. The first one was worried by an inaccessible tickle; it sat down firmly on the little platform between the holes and scratched vigorously under its chin with, apparently, no happy result; it flung itself round and the other leg. The noise it made could be heard far up the hill and this time it seemed better, for it combed its fur down its sides and licked its front legs while the striped one scurried in the bracken roots for grubs and larvae and surveyed the moonlit slope. There are young badgers in the sett down the valley, but these two seemed to have no pressing cares and all the night in which to enjoy themselves.