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TO REDEVELOP OR NOT TO REDEVELOP— THAT IS THE QUESTION FOR THE COUNCIL

SOONER or later, and preferably sooner, the Charlotte City Council must face up to the real question about urban redevelopment. Do the Councilmen believe in urban redevelopment, and do they want Charlotte to clear away its slums like cities in some 35 other states are doing?

Admittedly, the North Carolina enabling act makes it more difficult to carry out sense-making redevelopment programs. A trick proviso in the law so hamstrings the power of eminent domain as to limit severely the areas to be redeveloped.

But that handicap is not insurmountable. The Charlotte Commission believes it can still carry out feasible redevelopment projects, though not so large or so dramatic a transforming of the face of the city as projects elsewhere will do. And it has suggested to the Council, quite wisely we believe, that the first step should be to test the constitutionality of the enabling act as it now stands. A constitutional test will have to come at one stage or another, and it might as well be gotten out of the way now.

Yet there is no point in spending more Federal money carrying a test case to the Supreme Court unless the present City Council believes that urban redevelopment is a good thing, worthwhile from the standpoint of erasing slum areas and replacing them with useful, productive, and tax-producing new property.

The previous Council put a high value on urban redevelopment. It appointed five men to the Commission, and gave them every cooperation during the preliminary planning stage. It backed them up by resolution and by personal testimony when an amendment to the state law was before the 1953 General Assembly. The Commissioners carried on their time-consuming, thankless duties, in the belief that they were carrying out the will of the Council.

Yesterday the Council delayed for two weeks giving its assent to the test case. Various things said at the informal session of the Council, especially Councilman Basil Boyd's vicious, below-the-belt and callous assertion that "this little group is trying to slip in behind the Legislature," indicated that the members of the Commission can no longer count on the full backing of the Council for the program they were asked to administer.

If the Council is not sold on urban redevelopment, it will hardly stand fixed later on when the hard-handed owners of slum property descend upon the public hearings to denounce as "socialistic" this laudable effort to clear away, for all time, the crime and disease breeding slums that pockmark the face of the otherwise lovely Queen City.

The Commissioners are drawing no pay. They have tried to work with a cumbersome, unwieldy law. They have merely recommended to the Council that a test case of the constitutionality, at no cost to the city, should be carried out before any further plans are made. If the Council does not agree with this step, or with the urban redevelopment program, it is entirely within its rights and responsibilities to call a halt now, permit the Commissioners to shed themselves of a difficult assignment and return to their personal and private enterprises.

NO BRICKER AMENDMENT THIS YEAR

SEN. BRICKER of Ohio has resigned himself to the inevitable. He has given up trying to get his constitutional amendment approved by this session of Congress. He admits that it would not get the two-thirds majority in both houses necessary for submission to the states. And he is hopeful that the climate will be more favorable next year.

We suspect that the Bricker amendment, either in the original or revised form, is dead. Perhaps some harmless amendment, along the lines suggested by Attorney-General Brownell, to specify what is already perfectly clear in the Constitution—that treaties do not take precedence over either the Constitution or acts of Congress—may eventually be adopted (though Bricker stoutly contends that he will compromise no further). But certainly the restrictive and cumbersome procedure for ratifying treaties and executive agreements proposed by the Ohioan has been consigned to limbo, and rightly so.

Bricker was able to bamboozle many Americans, including some members of the Senate and a few newspaper editors, into believing that the treaty-making procedure was a threat to the Constitution because he advanced his amendment at a time of near-hysteria, when millions of Americans had quit thinking for themselves and had accepted as truth the wild and imaginary distortions of frightened neo-isolationists.

But the climate began to change with the advent of a new Administration and the disappearance from the public scene of those who had been made the scapegoats for past military and diplomatic mistakes. And it is continuing to change, albeit at times slowly and imperceptibly, as public confidence in President Eisenhower's Administration grows.

There is no need for the amendment proposed by Senator Bricker. Furthermore, it would do positive harm, in that it would dangerously handicap the President in carrying out his constitutional responsibilities in the foreign policy making field. The amendment is dead for the session, and should not be revived.

WISE INVESTMENT

ALTHOUGH the building committee has full confidence in the architect, steel construction firm, and general contractor for the auditorium-coliseum, it asked, and got, permission from the City Council to employ a full-time inspector who would stay on the job until the building is finished to see that specifications are met in every single detail.

The inspector will draw $165 a week, and it will be money well spent. The two buildings will cost some $4 million, and if the inspector saves the taxpayers even one-tenth of one per cent of the total cost, it will repay his salary for half a year.

In the big project, there should be no slips and no short cuts. Council approval of the committee's request offers good assurance that the people, who are paying for the best, will get the best.

SMOOTHING THE ROYAL ROAD

BRAVO, we say, and cheers for the British. Her Majesty's Government has decided to smooth the royal road to romance, so Princess Margaret can marry her dashing suitor, if in fact the romance is as far along as the London papers would have us believe.

Under present succession law, Margaret is third in line to the throne. The government proposes to change this law, presumably so as to remove her from the line of succession, as divorced persons (her suitor Peter Townsend divorced his wife) are not favored as consorts.

By acting promptly, the British government may avoid another internal ruckus like the one that accompanied King Edward's decision to marry Wallis Simpson and give up the throne. There is, indeed, a bit of her Uncle Ed's zest for living her own life and having her own loves in the young Princess. It ought not be denied her.

The throne is in good hands, and there is plenty of other royal blood around from which monarchs in the fine English tradition could be chosen, if need be. May Margaret have her hero—or play the field a while if she chooses—and by all means live happily ever after.

From The Asheville Citizen

TUT! LADS

DOWN in Charlotte, where the heat can be cruel, the erudite News is complaining editorially about a conspiracy against people who try to "put an ice cube into the usual quart-size thermos bottle." It just can't be done, says THE NEWS, numb-fingered, for the ice cube "measures two by one and a half by one and a quarter inches" while the "neck of the bottle measures one inch in diameter."

So what happens? "Okay, you pick up a pick, break the ice and gash your hand. You can almost see the grinning Mercurochrome magnates and tape tycoons as you reach for the medicine chest. The sweat rolls off your face and you reach for your handkerchief. The laundry moguls are probably conniving in this plot too. It's all a dirty capitalistic plot, that's what it is."

Of course, it's nothing of the kind.

What are the effete, handkerchief-carrying editors of THE NEWS doing while the world is in crisis—while Britain is embattled over Princess Margaret and Group Capt. Peter Townsend; while *Doggie in the Window* goes slinking off the Hit Parade; while Mickey Mantle has a sore knee, and while Perle Mesta is turning down that $7,319.50 in terminal leave pay—what? what? what? They are sitting glumly around the office trying to cram two-inch ice cubes into a one-inch thermos bottle, and shedding blood over it!

A mountain man of course does not trifle with sissy contrivances like thermos bottles, though if he had to get an ice cube into one of those low-country jimcracks he would merely crush it slowly in his fist. We need nothing to cool our pot-likker but the mountain air, the world's best known refrigerant. We assume, of course, that it *is* pot-likker which is defying the usual ingenuity of THE NEWS at fitting square pegs in round holes. . .

Now they have a gadget that will defrost the refrigerator, wake the family to music, turn on lights and set the coffee pot to going. How could a man roll over and get in another little nap against all that?—*New Orleans States.*

'Remember, Now — Don't Grow Any Bigger'

Quick Hearing For Matthews Would Settle Controversy

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

CONSCIENTIOUS members of Congress studying how to improve the techniques employed by Congressional committees would do well to consider what happens when a charge is made against an individual who must then wait weeks or months before he is allowed to give his answer. Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam had to wait three months after Representative Donald Jackson, a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, charged that the Bishop served God on Sundays and the Communist front on the other six days of the week.

While that same committee has given J. B. Matthews an opportunity to present his case against the Protestant clergy of America, he will not appear until after October 1. This seems unfair both to Matthews and the clergy since no one can dispute the widespread harm done by Matthews' generalized charges.

ONCE A MARXIST

His ardent admirers say that Matthews is the foremost authority on communists in the country. He has himself been at various times a pacifist, an active advocate of racial equality in every field, a Marxist who once testified that he had belonged to 94 left wing organizations. He has visited Soviet Russia five times.

In his fiercely disputed American Mercury article he charged that in the past 17 years 7,000 Protestant clergymen had been Communist Party members, "fellow-travelers, espionage agents, partyline adherents, and unwittingly dupes." But when the article is analyzed by those familiar with the Protestant churches, it falls far short of substantiating any such sweeping charge.

Matthews names in the article 102 religious leaders. Four of them are Old Testament prophets, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah and Micha. The subtraction of these four leaves 98. One on the list is the "Red Dean" of Canterbury, Hewlett Johnson, who is British and not American. Four names are of individuals who are either dead or cannot be identified as connected with any church.

Of the remaining 93 names, 15 are Negro bishops or clergymen, three of them bishops of the Methodist Church which in the World Almanac lists a membership of 9,065,727. Others of the 15 are connected with the colored Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

One is the Rev. D. V. Jemison of Selma, Alabama, president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Negro leaders are amazed at the inclusion of Jemison's name since they say he is a conservative and has spent much of his life propagandizing the Booker T. Washington viewpoint that hard work will bring the Negro his reward and eventual recognition as an equal. Among the Negro clergy listed by Matthews one is dead and one is retired.

Sixteen names from the Episcopal Church are on Matthews' list. Of this number five are retired, one is dead and one cannot be identified by anyone at Episcopal headquarters in New York.

Matthews lists the Rev. John Moore Walker as Bishop of Atlanta. The World Almanac lists the Rev. John B. Walthour as Bishop there. Walker, according to church records, died in 1951.

As Bishop of Iowa, the Mercury article lists the Rev. David William Short. The World Almanac lists the Rev. Gordon V. Smith as Bishop of Iowa. According to The Living Church, Episcopal Magazine, "There has never been a Bishop of Iowa of this name and there is no priest named Short listed in the 1953 Episcopal Church Annual."

SWEEPING CHARGE

It is this sort of carelessness as well as the sweeping nature of Matthew's charge seeming to take in a large segment of Protestantism that has stirred a storm of protest. The Rev. James A. Pike, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, in a sermon pointed out that Matthews cited as proof that clergymen were subversive or Communist the fact that 528 of them had signed a petition opposing the McCarran Internal Security Act.

"Since when, in this country, does opposition to Federal legislation render one a traitor?" Dean Pike demanded.

The National Council of Churches has 230 member denominations with an estimated 243,000 local churches. Not all of these have full time ministers since some are mission churches yet many churches have two, three and even more clergy so there are an estimated 225,000 Protestant clergymen.

Some of them have been tainted by communism. Among those Matthews lists are a few whose record has been consistently and in some instances aggressively pro-Communist. But it is highly doubtful that a single one could be shown to be an "espionage agent". Matthews should be permitted to testify at once so the damaging doubt cast on the churches can be resolved in one way or another.

Soviet Bomb Potential Growing

The Problem Of Air Defense

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

LAST week the President's appointment schedule was quietly revised to conceal a significant fact. By the President's order and under his leadership, the National Security Council held an all-day meeting.

Since the morrow of Pearl Harbor, no single problem has ever engaged the continuous, combined attention of all the heads of the American government throughout a working day. Yet the subject of last week's unprecedented meeting of our highest policy-making organ was not the Korean truce, or the power contest in Moscow, or any other topic of current discussion. The subject was the air defense of the American continent.

Despite the very special consideration given to the problem, it is not clear that any conclusions were reached. Most probably, the administration will want the views of the new Joint Chiefs of Staff before taking its decision about air defense policy. But the mere fact of the recent Security Council meeting rather clearly implies that the administration is increasingly worried about the increasing air-atomic striking power of the Soviet Union.

SOVIET POTENTIAL

This is not a distant danger, if the official estimates are not misleading. One of the reports that has been presented to the Security Council actually credits the Kremlin with the power to destroy just under 40 per cent of the American industrial potential, and to cause the death of about 13,000,000 Americans. Any such estimate of current Kremlin capabilities is of course highly debatable. But the signs are plain, nonetheless, that a major turning point in American policy is now approaching.

The approach has been made by stages, several of which have been revealed in this space. First there was the report of Project Lincoln, the remarkable scientific task force of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Then there was the Truman administration policy paper, NSC-141, which defined the air defense problem for President Eisenhower. Then there was the further report of a special committee of leading scientists and industrialists headed by Dr. Mervin J. Kelly, president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

All these successive papers pointed in the same unpleasant direction, toward the need for an urgent, costly effort to improve our air defenses. Finally, after receiving the report of the Kelly Committee, the Security Council named still another study group. This new group was headed by the President's war-time Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Gen. Harold Bull, who is now an official of the Central Intelligence Agency. The President and his Cabinet colleagues wanted "something from their own people," according to one explanation. Gen. Bull and his co-workers, who were recruited from the armed services and other interested agencies, presented their recommendations for action at last week's meeting of the Security Council.

ESTIMATES REVISED

It is hard to believe that fairly dramatic action will not be taken, simply because of the character of the potential threat. In the first place, the best estimates of Soviet atomic production now appear to have been revised upwards. Until rather recently, the British were talking of Soviet atomic bombs of the power of the bombs that fell on Hiroshima, while American estimates were given in bombs of 50 kilotons.

It is now forecast, however, that the Kremlin will stockpile its one hundredth atomic bomb of 80 kiloton power during the current year. An 80 kiloton bomb has the explosive force of 80,000 tons of TNT, or four times the force of the Hiroshima bomb. One hundred such bombs is an impressive stockpile.

In the second place, the Kremlin's ability to deliver these bombs to American targets is not seriously questioned in any official quarter. All American targets can be reached by the thousand or more TU-4 bombers of the Soviet Strategic Air Army. It is considered that 500 of these planes can be sent against the United States in a single saturation attack. It is further known that the Soviet TU-4 squadrons have been equipped and trained for night flying and night bombing during the past two years.

Meanwhile, the strength of the American Air Defense Command has not kept pace with the growing threat. If an attack were delivered in broad daylight and good weather, it is thought that our defenders might knock down a maximum of 15 per cent of the attackers. But if an attack should be delivered by night, it is thought that the maximum rate of kill would be only one tenth of one per cent.

With what amounts to a zero kill rate, an air-atomic saturation attack delivered by night should in theory unload the whole Soviet atomic stock on the chosen American targets. Such are the calculations behind the estimate that the Kremlin can now destroy nearly 40 per cent of our industry and take a toll of thirteen megadeaths (which is top secret jargon for the death of 13,000,000 people).

An estimate close to this has already been made public by Sen. Stuart Symington, in his rather lonely fight for American preparedness. It can now be disclosed that the estimate comes from the authoritative report of the Kelly Committee.

Such an estimate cannot be lightly disregarded when it comes from a group led by Dr. Kelly and including such scientists as Prof. Charles Lauritsen, and such industrialists as R. E. Wilson, of Standard Oil of Indiana. At the same time, it should not give rise to hysteria, either.

For one thing, the Kelly Committee was not equipped to "wargame" the problem, and careful war-gaming is essential if the results of complex air operations are to be accurately judged.

BRITISH STUDY

The British Cabinet recently directed a parallel study of the air-atomic threat to Britain. For this study, the damage estimates were carefully war-gamed. The result was a forecast that an all-out air-atomic attack on the British Isles would take a toll of 2,000,000 deaths. The figures are still fearful, but two megadeaths are much less than thirteen megadeaths. And the British Isles are far more exposed than the United States.

Under realistic operating conditions, therefore, it seems likely that the Kremlin now has the power to hurt this country very badly, but not to cripple it. Unfortunately, however, the Kremlin's atomic stockpile and the strength of the Kremlin's Strategic Air Army are both still growing. The power to hurt this year can become the power to cripple next year and the power to destroy the year after. That is the real problem that the National Security Council has got to solve.

Robertson's Calm Patience Cooled Rhee's Fiery Ideas

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON

WALTER S. Robertson is a 59-year-old Virginian who comes into a room like a much younger man. He looks like one you'd pick, at first glance, for the job of calming people down.

That may have been a reason why President Eisenhower sent him to South Korea in June to talk to President Syngman Rhee. Another was the fact that he is assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs.

At the time, as he is now once more, Rhee was the biggest problem in the Far East. He was threatening to block a Korean truce. Rhee is an extraordinary man who needs more than ordinary handling. He got it from Robertson, now back here.

The trim Robertson looks like a relaxed and self-confident businessman, which he was: an investment banker in Richmond until Eisenhower tapped him for the State Department.

But, unlike some other State Department officials, past and present, Robertson is neither ponderous nor afflicted with that vague and rubbery kind of talk which grows like weeds in the language of diplomats.

This is not Robertson's first job with the government but he was never a career diplomat. If he has one outstanding quality it would seem to be his realism. He does not sound like a man looking for a silver lining.

He had been head of the U. S. Rend-lease mission to Australia in 1943 and 1944. In 1945 and 1946 he had worked for the State Department in China, where he got to know intimately both Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist government, and the leading Chinese Communists who were out to wreck Chiang.

He was part of the special mission, headed by Gen. George Marshall, which tried to get Chiang and the Communists to live up to a truce. Robertson illustrated foresight later, in 1948, when he testified before a House committee on postwar foreign aid.

Chiang he described as a patriot, and he urged Congress to give him all-out aid.

Otherwise, he said, the Communists would take China, which they did despite some U. S. help for Chiang. At the same time, he made it clear he knew the Communists well.

Robertson does not look upon Rhee as an eccentric. He considers him, as he considers Chiang, a great patriot, a man dedicated to his country.

Rhee was so emotionally charged that in his early meetings with Robertson—they had 12 altogether the Virginia let the old man speak for 30 minutes without interruption to talk himself into calmness.

When he had apparently convinced Rhee his best course was to go along with the United States, the two men signed an agreement, which has never been made public, and wrote a joint statement, which was.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

Governor Dewey has taken two tough defeats from Democrats in two Presidential elections, but it was the Democrats who came to his defense last week regarding what they call the "give-away" of Niagara Falls power. Dewey doesn't exactly call it a "give-away" but, regardless of the terminology, Democratic Senators, led by Chavez of New Mexico, blocked the "give-away" bill and gave Dewey a chance to testify against it today.

What Dewey wants is to have Niagara Falls power turned over to the State of New York for development. Many Democrats, on the other hand, want it turned over to the Federal Government. But both are opposed to the Miller-Capehart bills turning Niagara power over to a combine of private utilities.

This is the bill which I reported two weeks ago had been "rammed" through the House Public Works Committee by Congressman Dondero of Royal Oak, Mich. The Buffalo Chamber of Commerce has taken issue with my reporting of these facts, pointing out that extensive hearings were held regarding Niagara going back even to 1951. This is true.

However, the final vote in Dondero's committee was unquestionably a "ramming" job. Regardless of previous hearings, it is highly unusual for a chairman not to give an important bill a final reading before a committee votes on it. Usually it is read line by line. This Dondero refused to do.

He also refused to read the letter from the Budget Bureau representing President Eisenhower's views, later hawled out the Budget Bureau for sending him the letter. For the letter opposed the Miller-Capehart bill and asked that Congress delay action until the Federal Power Commission could make recommendations.

Dondero seemed so anxious to ram the bill through his committee that, when two Congressmen—Blatnik of Minnesota and Klucznski of Illinois arrived late—he refused to allow another vote so they could be recorded as voting "no."

Finally, at a later closed-door meeting, Dondero accused Congressman Tom Steed of Oklahoma of "leaking to Drew Pearson." However, he did not deny that he had rammed the bill through; he only complained that the story of his operations had leaked.

Result of the Senate delay to give Governor Dewey and New York State officials a chance to testify will be that no action on Niagara Falls power will be taken at this session. It may also mean that the Senate will launch a thorough study of various power projects including Bonneville Dam and Hells Canyon in Idaho-Washington.

Battle Over Public Power Is Shaping Up

Commie Drive Disastrous

THE latest fanatical Communist offensive hit our lines in Korea much harder than the public has been told.

Three crack South Korean divisions caved in, one of which was literally chewed to pieces, losing over three-fourths of its men. As a result, Gen. Mark Clark rushed five full American divisions to the front, thus putting more U. S. troops on the battle line than at any time in the past two years. He also cabled the Joint Chiefs of Staff permission to shift two divisions from Japan to bolster his reserves in Korea. However, he was authorized to move only the U. S. 24th Division.

At the height of the battle, the only thing that prevented the Reds from tearing through the battered South Korean divisions all the way to the 38th parallel was the abandoned artillery, ammunition, and other equipment. The advancing Chinese were so eager to inventory all this deserted equipment that they failed to exploit their gains. Altogether, more U. S. equipment was lost at any time since General MacArthur's disastrous retreat from the Yalu River.

The Red offensive, which came as a complete surprise to the U. N. command, was aimed at capturing valuable hydro-electric installations and tungsten mines just above the 38th Parallel. Chinese prisoners, picked up during the fighting, also revealed that the Communist plan was to push the battle line back to the 38th parallel, then agree to a cease-fire. This would leave the Korean dividing line exactly the same as it was before the war started three years ago, and save face for the Communists who don't like to admit that they must give up any territory.

The Eighth Army also estimates that the Communists could have kept the offensive rolling for 30 days. The only way to stop it would have been to order an all-out counteroffensive and throw away thousands of American lives on the eve of the armistice. That's the reason the U. N. negotiators kept demanding an immediate cease fire behind the closed tent flaps at Panmunjom.