THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE ROOTS OF THE TROUBLE IN FRANCE

WHAT'S the matter with France? Why is it that the nation which nourished the seeds of democracy that sprouted in this country, and during this post-war period has produced a Schuman, a Monnet and a Bidault, is plagued by strikes, thick with Communists and paralyzed by a weak system of government whose frequent collapses make the nation the laughing-stock of the world?

Several qualifications of France's ills need first be noted. Although she has had eighteen different Administrations since the end of World War II, France has maintained a continuity of policy and personnel. During the post-war period, for example, she has had fewer foreign ministers than the U. S. has had Secretaries of State, and these Frenchmen have been bulwarks of Atlantic leadership. While a fourth or more of her eligible citizens vote the Communist ticket, the real Reds in France are not nearly so numerous. Non-Communist dissidents vote the Communist ticket because the Reds voice, better than most of the multidinous splinter parties, the disgruntlement and aspirations of the average people.

Some of France's troubles can be illustrated by a couple of incidents which the traveler there observes.

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YOU go down into one of the champagne caves in the chalky hills near Reims. You watch the bottling process, where two men leisurely cap the bottles with a simple device similar to the one familiar in this country during Prohibition days. They are assisted by eight men and women who unload, load and carry bottles.

You ask the company official with you why he doesn't replace all this hand labor with a conveyor belt and automatic bottling machine. He is surprised. He had not thought of it. And now that the idea is broached, he does not think much of it. It would mean that ten more workers, deprived of their meager 50-80 francs an hour, would be unemployed. Or, if they were utilized elsewhere in the plant, it would mean expansion, spending more money, finding more markets.

Not all the French businessmen are so reluctant to modernize. One shoe company followed the advice of American productivity advisers. They put in new machines. They cut the price of their standard shoe from $10 to $7.50.

When a chain distributing official looked at at the new shoes he said: Why, they are better than your old $10 shoe. They are too good to sell for $7.50. I will continue to sell them for $10. He did, and pocketed the extra $2.50.

Multiply these instances many times over, and you have a nation-wide pattern of reluctance to modernize combined with resistance to pass on the savings, accomplished by technology, to the consumer. And you have an insight into where a good chunk of foreign aid money went. It stopped at the entrepreneur or middleman level. It didn't filter down to the masses. And because of the regressive French tax system which hits the small man and lets the rich man get by with mild payment or even evasion, the French Government did not get its share of this money. Instead, French wealth is buried in cellars, or in Swiss banks.

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SMALL WONDER, then, that the non-Communist Frenchman instigated the current strike. He sees in Premier Laniel another millionaire industrialist who plans to cut worker benefits. Small wonder that the French worker looks askance at an America which insists that Frenchmen prepare to fight, as a condition of receiving aid, yet makes but feeble and ineffective protests at a system that enriches the rich and denies the poor.

These factors accentuate what nature and history have given the French. They have a concept of individual liberty that is wonderful to live but difficult to govern. Years of German occupation increased their disregard for government. The system of government devised after World War II is based upon mistrust, rather than trust, of government, and this inexorably leads to the frequent administration collapses.

There is no easy solution to the French problem. It may be that nothing short of a reawakened French conscience that insists upon changes in the basic structure of government and fiscal policy will put France on its feet.

It is, of course, in America's interest that France regain its economic health. Certainly a nation which in reality dictates military policy as conditions of aid should not shrink from requiring also that tax and economic policy be changed.

It is not certain that reforms along these lines would be enough to assure French stability. But it is certain that the decline of France as a leading world power will continue unless the effort is made.

TIME FOR A HOUSECLEANING

ELSEWHERE on today's editorial page you will find a column from the *Greenville Piedmont* written by its Columbia correspondent, W. D. Workman Jr. It is a challenge to the South Carolina Republican Party to reorganize itself according to the procedures set forth by South Carolina law as the first step toward gaining some acceptance by the people of that state.

The challenge is in order. The South Carolina GOP has long been the nadir of Southern Republicanism. Plagued by factionalism and absentee-landlordism, it has come to life once every four years—at national convention time—only to sink once again into the oblivion it has so richly merited.

Even in this day of a national Republican administration, the South Carolina branch of the party is a two-headed freak. A member of one faction is recognized by the national GOP as the S. C. national committeeman, yet a leader of the other faction is the chief patronage dispenser.

The South Carolina Republicans got an unexpected boost from Gov. James Byrnes a few days ago when he said that more and more Southerners are prepared "to discard the Democratic label of their grandfathers." It does not follow, however, that they want to adopt the label of a party which has demonstrated so convincingly through the years that it cannot keep its house in order, even though it be no more than a small shack.

Until the South Carolina Republicans establish their sincerity and responsibility, they will continue as the butt of Dixie political jokes.

NO TAKERS

A YEAR-OLD magazine published in New York and called *Real* has a dressed up lead article by one Sherman Ballard, otherwise unidentified, entitled "Its the Bunk About Southern Belles."

An unsolicited copy of the magazine was sent to this newspaper, presumably in hopes that the editors of THE NEWS would rise to the defense of Southern Womanhood and thereby give the young and struggling magazine some free publicity.

We have read the article. Pardon us while we yawn.

A LESSON, BUT IT ESCAPES US

THERE probably is a profound lesson somewhere in the amazing story of Cam Poplin, but we just can't find it.

Oh, there are several cliches that can be tossed around.

We could blame society in general for Cam's record of 131 arrests over a 47-year period before his conviction for manslaughter last week.

We could point out that there's something wrong with the system of law that fails to provide progressive punishment for repeaters.

Or we might charge Cam's record up to the failure of our penal system to do an adequate job of reform and rehabilitation.

We could even go so far back as to hold Cam's parents responsible.

And all of these have a certain merit to them. He probably got off to a bad start early in life, had no chance at rehabilitation during his many prison terms, found no deterrent to future offenses in the light sentences handed out over and over, and had utterly no inkling that society in general cared a hoot about him.

And so one offense led to another. Most of them were charges of drunkenness. And finally, in the heat of an argument over a pint of liquor, he pulled a gun and killed a man. For that he received a 15-18-year sentence, which his attorneys have appealed.

Probably it was just something about Cam that was at the bottom of his troubles. Some deficiency of character or will power, or perhaps even of native intelligence.

Or perhaps, much earlier, he could have been made over. Perhaps.

And so we note Cam's record, for what it's worth, as a part of the passing parade, with a measure of regret that it happened as it did, and a hope that an answer will be found for the other Cams around us.

As an old hot-cakes fan we just never did believe the time would ever come when one of the chief problems of the country would be too much butter.—*Lexington Herald.*

It's all right to repeat something you heard somewhere else, but don't you think it would be only fair to add that you were doing the talking both times?—*Unadilla (Ga.) Observer.*

Old Friend—What happened to that dizzy redhead your husband used to go with?

Wife—I dyed my hair. — *Greeneville (Tenn.) Sun.*

Husband: "You're always wishing for something you haven't got."

Wife: "What else is there to wish for?"—*Carlsbad (N. M.) Current-Argus.*

Pome In Which A Further Complaint Is Registered Concerning The Torrid Temperatures:

If the weather gets much hotter
I will have to wear a blotter.
—*Atlanta Journal.*

'Do I Hear Some Disagreement?'

S. C. Republican Leadership Challenged To Prove Worth

By W. D. WORKMAN JR.
(In The Greenville Piedmont)

COLUMBIA, S. C.

HERE IS a challenge to the "leaders" (real and pretended) among Republicans and would-be Republicans in South Carolina:

Lay your cases before the people of the state in the 1954 organization of political parties, and abide by the people's decision.

Actually, that is where the decision should have been made from the beginning. All the bickering and name - calling which has marked Republican activity in South Carolina since 1950 has no place in the courts, nor should it properly be before the Republican National Committee.

What ostensibly is sought after is the building of a Republican Party of some influence and numerical strength here in South Carolina, although developments in the past have cast serious doubt as to that being the real goal of Republican leadership in the state.

A political party is no more effective than its strength in reputation and members. Neither certification by the South Carolina Secretary of State nor recognition by the National Republican Party will, in themselves, add one whit to party membership in the state, although they admittedly are most desirable.

The one thing needed to bolster the Republican cause in South Carolina (and thereby enhance prospects for two-party politics) is a general acceptance of the party by the people of the state. To date the people have not manifested any such acceptance, and Republican candidates in South Carolina have been able to muster no more than 2,000 to 10,000 votes, even in the face of considerable dissension within the ranks of the Democrats.

In recent years, there has been a growing desire on the part of thousands of South Carolinians to promote a two-party system in the state. This determination has been accompanied by a willingness on the part of many to affiliate with the Republican party. Yet even those who were willing to break with tradition found themselves rebuffed, rejected, or disgusted by the conduct of party affairs in the state.

For a time, they were confronted with the requirement that they be "accepted" into membership and that such acceptance be attested by numbered membership cards. That feature now seems to have been discarded by all factions within the state party.

But over and above this, they have faced a situation of political leadership so ludicrous and perplexing that few among them could determine which group was the bona fide Republican organization in the state. That situation still prevails and is reflected by the anomalous state of affairs wherein the national party recognizes one individual (J. Bates Gerald, of Charleston) as the duly constituted national committeeman, while simultaneously recognizing the national committeeman of an opposing faction (William A. Kimbel, of Myrtle Beach) as the chief patronage consultant for South Carolina.

The time is long over-due for the people of South Carolina to clear up the muddle, and next year is the time to do it.

Under state law, the precinct clubs of political parties in South Carolina are to meet on the fourth Saturday in March of each general election year. That means that next March 27 should be set aside by all who have any intention of becoming South Carolina Republicans. On that day, the people should move in and take over.

ORGANIZATION NEEDED

All those Republicans, new and old, should organize themselves on the precinct level, select delegates for county conventions throughout the state and (on the first Monday in April) repeat the performance at the county meetings.

Thereafter, at the state convention, to be held in Columbia on the third Wednesday in April, the rising tide of Republicans can elect their state officers, determine their policies, and chart their course of political action. Whatever leadership emerges from that state convention could be "the leadership, chosen by and responsible to the party members."

(See the editorial, "Time for a Housecleaning," Eds., The News).

Peace Conference On Korea Presents Many Tough Issues

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON

THE United Nations General Assembly meets in special session in New York today to take the second of three steps which could lead to peace, but may end in frustration in Asia and elsewhere.

First step: the Korean truce. Second step: to decide who will take part in the peace conference. Third step: the peace conference itself, opening perhaps in mid-October.

This is the background on the meeting of the General Assembly's 60 members.

In reaching the armistice the two truce teams in Korea—U.N. commanders and the Communists—agreed the diplomats of "both sides" should take over once the fighting stopped. What should the diplomats discuss?

Should they talk just about Korea? Or should they go further afield and consider Asian problems in general? The agreement said among other things: ". . . and peaceful settlement of Korea, etc."

That et cetera may turn out to be one of the most important—and most disastrous for any hope of peace coming out of the conference—words ever written.

STICK TO KOREA

The United States wants the peace conference to stick to Korean problems, leaving wider questions to be discussed elsewhere and at another time.

The Communists could make hash of this desire, and of the conference itself, by dragging through the door left open by "et cetera" a host of questions not directly related to Korea. For example:

Communist China's seating in the U.N., and turning Formosa over to Red China, which would mean asking the United States to kick off that island its Chinese ally Chiang Kai-shek.

The U.N. Assembly could scramble itself badly at its session this week if it get involved in an argument over what the diplomats at the conference should discuss.

It may skip that trap by letting the U.N. representatives to the conference figure out for themselves what should be talked about, after they're chosen.

But just choosing the delegate nations to take part in the conference on the U.N. side will be a source of discomfort.

The United States—through its U.N. delegate Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.—has taken the stand that the truce agreement meant what it said when it spoke of diplomats of "both sides."

Both sides, in the American view, mean: on one side, the North Koreans and the Chinese "volunteers"; on the other, the United States, South Korea and those U.N. nations which sent armed forces to fight in Korea.

This would exclude neutrals from sitting at the conference. The United States considers India, which sent only a medical unit to Korea, a neutral.

Russia has never been considered a neutral by this country and, if anyone had doubts, Asst. Secretary of State Walter S. Robertson last night said Russia had furnished the war supplies for the Chinese and North Korean.

Lodge was being polite last night when he said this country didn't think Russia should be approved by the U.N. to sit at the conference "on our side or as a neutral."

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.

How To Establish A Two-Party South

PINEHURST

Editors, THE NEWS:

YOUR editorial of Aug. 10, "Jimmy Ought To Lead The Way", in which you advised Gov. Jimmy Byrnes to forget "Grandpa" and throw in with the Republican Party, (where he properly belongs), while humorous in some respects is deadly serious in its final analysis.

The question of establishing a strong Republican Party in the South has been debated in all its ramifications for many years. Occasionally parts of the South will revolt in a presidential year when some cherished principal is involved. Such was the case in 1928 when religion and prohibition were debated and last year when civil rights and Trumanism were issues. After the revolt those parts of the South involved swing back into their normal stream and again go strongly Democratic, sometimes even punishing those who led the revolt.

Such may well be the case again in 1954 when the people of the South realize what "hard mouey" and the "money boys" are doing; if farm income continues to decline, and if the cost of living continues to rise despite the promises that were made when all controls were removed by the present administration.

It has long been my contention that there is just one way to develop a representative Republican Party in the South, and you laid your finger on the vital point in your editorial: If every officeholder in the South who runs on the Democratic ticket because he thinks that is the only way to be elected, but who demonstrates by his every statement and legislative vote that he is really Republican, would have the intestinal fortitude to forget "Grandpa" and declare himself a Republican, then we would have the beginning of a representative Republican Party in the South. Sen. Clyde R. Hoey could well show the way in North Carolina.

It may be that the two old parties have outlived their usefulness. As issues have developed in the past 20 years possibly an entirely new alignment will eventually be necessary to solve pressing issues and do away with coalitions that may ill-nally be harmful to the country at large, particularly to the great unorganized mass of people who, unfortunately, have little real representation in any of our legislative bodies, state or national.

—ELMER M. SIMKINS.

Case Admirer Disappointed

STOKESDALE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I HAVE noted the furor and the hue and cry following in the wake of Everett Case's alleged violation of NCAA recruiting rules.

Everett Case is one of the most successful basketball coaches in America because he is one of the hardest working, most painstaking coaches in the profession. I admire him greatly for these stated reasons, even though I am not a Wolfpack fan.

His excellent record, however, both as a high school coach in Indiana and as a big-time college coach at State, does not and should not enter into the present situation. If he is guilty of the violations as has been reported, he cannot hide behind the old excuse that "everybody is doing it."

He knew that his school was a member of the NCAA, just as he knew that his school was pledged to abide by NCAA rules. Assuming, I say, that he is guilty, he has tarred his own garments and undermined his own pedestal in the hearts of his friends and well-wishers.

J. R. BOWMAN

Hornet Fan Speaks Out

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

AS a former player and manager of a semipro baseball team, I want to say a few words about the Charlotte Hornets.

I have been a regular Hornet fan since the Tri-State League was organized, and I know Phil Howser personally. No other manager could work any harder to bring good, clean baseball to Charlotte than he has done.

We all know that it takes money to operate a ball club. The source of that money is the attendance. You cannot operate a ball club with top grade players when you have only 600 or 700 people in the stands. Here in Charlotte, with nearly 150,000 people, there ought to be from 3,000 to 7,000 fans at every home game.

We all know that the Hornets are the farm club of the Washington Senators, and when a player is eligible for the major leagues, no one should be criticized for giving him a chance. This baseball season is coming to a close, and next Spring we will have new players in the Charlotte line-up.

If we, the fans, want to see good baseball, we ought to fill every seat in the park and see what Phil Howser will do for us. What say? Let's string along with Phil.

L. L. CHILDRESS

The Die Is Cast

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE rise of anti-God dictators and the increase of fanatical, or intolerant, religionists anticipates outbreaks of persecution to Christians everywhere. The storm clouds have gathered and are menacingly low. This is unquestionably the midnight hour and Christians face their baptism of suffering. All Christians behind the Iron and Bamboo curtains are earmarked for martyrdom.

Communism is marching to power in Eastern Europe and throughout most of Asia. Russia, followed by her satellites, is the first nation in world history whose government is based on an outright denial of God.

WARREN W. WOODS

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

GM Gets Off Light In Defense Cutbacks

WASHINGTON

IT may be pure coincidence, but Secretary of Defense Wilson's former company, General Motors, seems to be the only outfit that hasn't been hit by the drastic cutback in defense spending.

Factories all over the nation have felt the impact of Wilson's order last month to start demobilizing plants engaged in producing tanks and vehicles. But so far, his own company, General Motors, has escaped.

Strategy behind Wilson's order is to reduce the number of plants until only one is left making each item. This has the laudable goal of increasing efficiency and saving money, though it's in direct contrast to the previous policy of spreading production as far as make it harder for Russia to strike a crippling A-bomb blow.

While the general policy of reducing costs has merit, what really raised eyebrows in industrial circles was the selection of plants to be closed down.

For example, three big auto companies—Chrysler, Ford and General Motors—are producing the Patton M-48 tank. Following Wilson's new policy, Ford was arbitrarily declared out of the running—by direct order of the Pentagon. This means that Ford won't even be given a chance to bid for the right to continue producing. It will be left up to Chrysler and General Motors to bid against each other, and the losing bidder will go out of production next March.

Likewise, Studebaker was ruled out of the bidding over the 2.5-ton truck, and was ordered to wind up its production by September. This will leave G. M.'s truck and coach division to bid against Reo Motors, Inc., for the truck contract.

The Pentagon also ordered production stopped on the M-47 tank, which happens to be manufactured by Chrysler and American Locomotive. General Motors was not affected.

On the other hand, the production of M-41 tanks will be continued full speed at G. M.'s Cadillac plant in Cleveland. In addition, General Motors will take over the added production of anti-aircraft guns, now manufactured by American Car & Foundry. The excuse is that many gun-carriage and M-41 parts are interchangeable.

Brig. Gen. Carroll H. Dietrick, commander of the Detroit automotive center, insisted to this column that the Army was not deliberately showing favoritism to General Motors. He acknowledged, however, that the instructions came straight from the Pentagon as to which companies should be allowed to bid.

"I haven't received any orders not proper and in the best interests of the government and the taxpayers," he hastened to add in defense of his boss, Secretary Wilson, onetime boss of General Motors.

A high Pentagon source, who asked not to be identified, explained that Wilson wasn't trying to enrich his former company so much as he was sincerely convinced that General Motors could do everything better than anyone else.

"Wilson really believed it when he said what was good for General Motors was good for the country," said this Pentagonian.

NOTE 1—When Charlie Wilson protested to Senators last January that he did not want to sell his General Motors stock, he said he saw no conflict between the public interest and General Motors' interest.

NOTE 2—A report suppressed by Sen. Lyndon Johnson's defense investigating committee shows that General Motors made as much as 30 per cent profit on Sabrejets and was also far behind in production This delay was one reason for our onetime failure to have enough jets in Korea.

Franco's Lobbyist

CHARLES Patrick Clark, the bumptious gentleman who draws $100,000 a year from Dictator Franco and who has lobbied $187,500,000 out of Congress for Franco, is having a hard time these days. It isn't Franco or Congress that's causing him trouble. It's love letters.

Charley wrote quite a few love letters back in 1934 and they're about to be produced in court. The only trouble is that Charley can't remember what he wrote 20 years ago.

Since he can't remember, it would be an act of kindness to refresh his memory before he has to go on the witness stand.

There was one letter he wrote in 1934 in which he told the lady he was about to marry that his father—not hers—was a "lousy old man" and that his brother Arthur was an "exact counterpart."

Then there was another letter written on March 24, 1934, which asked his fiancee the question: "Do you think I have an intelligent profile? I mean, do you think I look like Warren Williams (the movie actor)?"

Some of Charley's amorous statements can't very well be published in a family newspaper. They would blush up the page. But one curious tendency he exhibits is to cheat on his age. Though he claims to be in his middle forties, his love letters show he's now pushing 54.

The letters bobbed up, incidentally, as the result of a mistake which the eminent lobbyist is charged with making in failing to support a divorced wife. After writing her these glamourous letters, he persuaded her to permit a divorce. And now, though he gets $100,000 a year from Franco, Mrs. Clark claims nonsupport.

Capital Chaff

THOUGH details are highly secret, fact is that U. S. stockpiling of strategic materials has been highly bogged down. Only 7 per cent of the aluminum stockpile is now on hand. Storage of titanium and cobalt has been halted. Stockpile boss Arthur Flemming privately blames Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks, who constantly urged cutbacks in the program on the ground that private business needs the material today. Says a top Pentagon general—"If we get into a war, and the stockpile isn't ready, we'll be in a hell of a fix. Talk about 'give-aways'! For every pound of stuff we divert from the stockpile we're giving away the nation's security." . . . The Justice Department is getting set to prosecute several companies that used fake feathers for the G. I.'s sleeping bags . . . Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, ex-economic adviser to President Truman, is still talking depression.