THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

1888—Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Year—1953

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MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1953

UMT—THE LONG-RANGE ANSWER

IN calling for another look at universal military training, with a view toward establishing it concurrently with the draft, President Eisenhower has suggested a realistic approach to the problem of maintaining a ready military reservoir and equalizing the burden of service in the armed forces.

He also clarified his own position on the matter. Up until at least March, 1952, he staunchly supported UMT. Then, during the campaign, he said he opposed UMT so long as a draft is necessary.

The draft must continue for some time, to keep up military strength, whether or not war returns to Korea or breaks out somewhere else. There is no reason why UMT cannot be introduced while the draft is in operation. In fact, it's the only sensible thing to do. To stop the draft before starting UMT would place the burden of defense, until UMT was well under way, upon battle-weary veterans and untrained kids.

UMT is designed to train young men, before they have encumbered themselves with business and family obligations, and to keep them up-to-date on military matters. UMT trainees would not be required to go into the regular military forces, except in an emergency.

After a few years of operation, UMT would provide a considerable reservoir of men who would be able to go about their regular work without the indecision of the draft hanging over their heads. The existence of this trained reserve would permit a decrease in the standing army. And if war comes, these UMT trainees would be much better prepared to save themselves and their country than they would be if they did not have the training.

WHAT IF TAFT HAD BEEN PRESIDENT?

WHAT if the late Senator Taft had gained the GOP nomination, and had been elected President? What if an inexperienced and not particularly qualified man were being thrust into the White House now?

These haunting questions, posed by the Ohioan's tragic death, give increased importance to two factors that must receive more attention in the selection of this nation's Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates.

First—and the major political parties ought to soon realize the importance voters are attaching to this point—the nation simply cannot afford to let geography and party harmony dictate the choice of Vice-Presidential candidates. The same standards applied to Presidential candidates must be applied to the No. 2 man.

Neither of the Vice-Presidential candidates in the last election were of Presidential timber. They had no support as Pesidential candidates. The Warrens and Kefauvers were passed over in favor of Nixon and Sparkman who would "balance the ticket".

Secondly, submission to the most searching of physical examinations ought to be required of every likely contender for either office, with the results made public knowledge.

Such an examination, we admit, would be an invasion of a potential candidate's privacy. It might not reveal ailments likely to cut him down during his term of office. But it would decrease the likelihood that physically unfit men would be nominated and elected.

A NATIONWIDE ATTACK ON SLUMS

AFTER YEARS of talking about their slums, U. S. cities are now doing something about them.

The National Association of Housing Officials reports that dozens of cities across the nation, taking their cue from Charlotte and Baltimore, are using the new instruments of conservation and rehabilitation in their war on slums.

With conservation programs, they keep standard housing from deteriorating into substandard housing.

With rehabilitation programs, they are forcing property owners to renovate and improve substandard housing to make it safer, healthier, and more livable.

And in areas where rehabilitation is neither feasible nor desirable, they are using redevelopment to clear away the slums, and public housing to furnish new, low-cost housing for the very low income groups.

Old housing ordinances are being revised, or new ordinances written. In some cities, special departments are being established to enforce housing regulations. State laws are being amended to give cities more power to deal with housing problems.

All this is to the good, and Charlotte can be proud that its realtors and City Fathers, working together, helped set the pattern for slum rehabilitation. But there is grim irony in the fact that Charlotte may be prevented by an unwieldly State law and an unenthusiastic City Council from using that other weapon of slum clearance, urban redevelopment.

THE MERCHANT AND THE MOTORIST

A RECENT SURVEY of the downtown parking problem by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce offers much food for thought for Charlotte city merchants.

The Chamber found, for one thing, that in many cities a relatively small percentage of curb parkers are shopping bound. Thus parking bans don't mean business decrease. Downtown parking bans were recently invoked in Memphis and Akron. In community after community, reports the Chamber, "local objections to curb parking prohibitions sometime turn to complete support for the regulations when it is found that business does not drop off as anticipated."

It's not hard to figure out the negligible depressing effect parking bans have on shopping, as well as traffic in general. A few hundred parked cars can slow up thousands of moving cars. Opening up two more lanes speeds traffic so more drivers can get to offstreet parking facilities, from which they walk to the stores—provided, of course, that there are enough offstreet parking facilities nearby.

A Charlottean who battles traffic every day and surely the merchants who depend on the trade of these motorists cannot but be impressed with the inevitability and urgency of drastic changes in Charlotte's downtown parking procedures. New buildings are going up in some of the few remaining empty lots. Real estate values are going up. So are the prices charged by parking lot operators. Many motorists are faced with the problem of paying more than they can afford for downtown parking, or parking farther out and walking farther than they care to walk. (A thousand feet is as far as most motorists will walk from parked car to destination, according to one survey).

At any rate, more and more motorists are heading for the suburbs to do business that would go to downtown stores if it weren't so much trouble to get to them. The downtown merchant and property owner has a tremendous stake in the improvement of Charlotte's traffic flow.

From The Boston Herald

THE PLEASURES OF BLACKBERRYING

WE DO NOT CLAIM that a man looks forward to a day of blackberry picking with the same degree of enthusiasm that he feels for wild strawberries or wild raspberries. But as the seventh month moves along, after the haying is done, the potatoes given their last spraying and the corn laid by, many countrymen begin to think of a day with a five quart lard pail and the big, juicy dead ripe blackberries on the hill above the maple sugar grove.

One reason why some urban citizens don't understand a farmer's hankering for blackberry cobbler is that city dwellers don't know the superlative goodness of completely ripe blackberries. These have no relationship to the tasteless, crumbly, half ripe berries one finds in some stores. If the season has been favorable and moisture sufficient, a wild blackberry patch with tall canes and large, gleaming, shiny juice filled fruits is a most attractive sight.

Of course, one has to be careful. You don't wade nonchalantly into a thick, tangled mass of strong blackberry canes with their long, tough, pointed spears. Reasonable respect for the vines is the first essential of enjoyable picking. A man should wear heavy denim overalls and a fairly new heavy denim jumper. There's a special technique about working one's self into a patch. If one will keep turning round and round even as he presses forward, he discovers that the wickedly pointed thorns do not get a hold.

It is work, of course. But on a blue sky, white cloud day, when the mountains are dark green across the valley and the rose breasted grosbeaks are tossing their throaty songs from the hemlock grove, it is a pleasant task to strip the dead ripe berries from the vines. If the pail is fastened to a man's belt, he can use both hands for the picking.

One should not let his mind dwell unduly on material things, but in late afternoon as a man ambles down through the sugar grove and across the pasture, he thinks that a delicious blackberry cobbler, with feather light dumplings and plenty of heavy cream will make a very acceptable ending to the day's labors.

A man who can drive safely while kissing a Miss is simply not giving the kiss the attention that it deserves.—*Elberton (Ga.) Star.*

During a bad electrical storm, the mother thought her young son would be frightened, so she tiptoed into his room ready to comfort him. The boy, opened his eyes and mumbled, "What's Daddy doing with the television set now?"—*Lewis (Mo.) Democrat.*

'Don't Know About You But I'm Getting Awful Hungry!'

Korean Action Significant

The U.N. Wrote World History

By ROSCOE DRUMMOND
In The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON

THE United Nations has been tested—and found not wanting.

It was not supposed to get into the middle of peace-and-war disputes among the big powers. It did.

It was not supposed to survive if it got in the middle of such disputes. It is surviving, and gaining strength thereby.

Every principal function of the UN in the Charter, drafted in the aroma of fictitious Soviet co-operation in San Francisco, rested on the theory of big-power unity. When that unity was exposed in all its emptiness, the UN was supposed to become nothing more than a diplomatic world town meeting of the air—with more air than meeting, a voice without a body. It didn't.

It was not supposed to be able to take collective action by force of arms against any big-power aggressor.

And then came the North Korean-Chinese Soviet-aided aggression upon South Korea. Moscow was confident the UN would be so timid, so scared, so self-impotent that Russia could safely continue its boycott of the Security Council and rely on it to do nothing. It figured that the UN would not act, and that, if it did, it would be so wound up in talk that it would asphyxiate itself.

It acted; Moscow was left gaping and gasping. And thus at the signing of the truce this week President Eisenhower was able, in his broadcast to America and to the world, to pronounce what may prove to be one of the precious verdicts of history:

Challenge Of Aggression Met

"SOLDIERS, sailors, and airmen of sixteen different countries have stood as partners beside us through these long and bitter months. America's thanks go to each. In this struggle we have seen the United Nations meet the challenge of aggression—not with pathetic words of protest, but with deeds of decisive purpose."

Let us not pretend that this defense of Korea was in itself a great and powerful initiative by the United Nations. It wasn't. It was a groping, tentative, partial, hopeful action by the United Nations. All the free nations did not feel they could join in. Besides Korea itself and the United States their contributions of manpower and material were not relatively substantial—though their fighting was valorous.

When the North Koreans struck across the 38th parallel the United States almost instantly went to the defense of South Korea and asked the UN to come along. The UN did not act first.

But it acted; it responded to leadership. When Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931 no one took the lead to defend Manchuria, and the old League of Nations remained inert. When Italy aggressed Ethiopia in 1935 the League again closed its eyes, went to sleep, and soon was no more.

But the youthful, post-World War II UN did not close its eyes, did not go to sleep.

This is what makes it true for Secretary of State Dulles to say: "For the first time in history an international organization has stood against an aggressor and has marshaled force to meet force."

This is what makes it true for former UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie to say: "The Korean war has been the first determined stand against international lawlessness and aggression which the peace-loving governments of the world have taken. It has been a successful stand. Collective security has been enforced for the first time in the whole of human history."

Here are some of the things which the UN, with ROK and American forces carrying a great part of the burden, accomplished:

The aggression, successful in the first weeks and sweeping ever southward over the South Korean forces, was ultimately stalled and repulsed by the UN.

The UN set out to free South Korea wholly from the aggressor, and has done so. This is the essential basis for accepting the truce.

Red Adventure Didn't Pay Off

AGGRESSION not only has been rendered unsuccessful, but the aggressor has lost territory and paid heavily. Economically useful and militarily valuable areas have been added to South Korea north of the 38th parallel. The Chinese and North Korean forces have sustained something near to 2,000,000 casualties, and the North Korean Army is virtually non-existent. Aggression has not paid.

"The tragic results," says Mr. Dulles, "will surely be pondered by other potential nominees for aggression-by-satellite.

"All free nations, large and small, are safer today because the ideal of collective security has been implemented and because awful punishment has been visited upon the transgressors."

A Senator recently asked Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., United States Ambassador to the United Nations, if some way could not be found to get Russia out of the UN, and Mr. Lodge made this perceptive reply:

"It is better to have the arsonist in the fire department rather than running around the country—you can turn the hose on him once in a while."

The UN deserves to be properly valued in order that it may continue to grow in strength and purpose.

Red Film Features Americans 'Admitting' Germ War Charges

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

SOON the American prisoners of war in Korea will be coming home. Bearing the scars of a long and painful ordeal, they deserve not only from the authorities charged with their rehabilitation but from each and every one of us the utmost in understanding and sympathy.

When the wounded and sick were returned three months ago, a blunder caused bad feeling all around. Inept Army public relations offices referred to some of the former prisoners as "mental patients." They were isolated for a time in the Valley Forge Army Hospital.

The scars some of these men bear will, it is true, be mental. It is known that they have been subjected to "brain washing," a phrase applied by the Chinese to a technique originated by the Russian Communists. This is a method for emptying the contents of the brain and substituting the propaganda line desired by the "brain washing" team.

Insofar as it is known, the technique consists of prolonged interrogation for weeks and, if necessary, months. Wakened at intervals night after night and subjected to the same questions and the same repeated insistence on the Communist "truth," the victim's resistance is wholly broken down. He comes in time to repeat parrot-like "facts" that before the ordeal he knew full well to be lies. Physical torture, with exception of bright lights trained on the victims, figures little if at all in the process.

The more that is known about this diabolical technique, the greater should be the understanding for and patience with those subjected to it. This reporter has been permitted to see a film which illustrates how successful the technique can be. It is a Chinese Communist propaganda films shown throughout the Soviet orbit and in a dozen countries around the world, including Great Britain, India, New Zealand and Guatemala. While defense agencies have copies, the film is still considered classified, which is to say secret.

The first two-thirds of the picture shows allegedly germ-carrying insects and animals dropped in American "germ bombs." It also shows the investigative work in China of an international commission of scientific authorities, all carefully hand-picked, of course. This part of the film is pretty crude. It would probably fool only those who wanted to be fooled.

But in the last third of the film, four young American Air Force officers "testify" before the international commission. They give their names, their home addresses and serial numbers. Careful checking against photographs shows there can be no doubt of their identity. Similarly the movement of their lips on the film has been checked against the sound track and no trick is involved.

These officers tell in detail how they were instructed to carry germ bombs. They name the bases from which they flew the germ bombs and where they dropped them. They look a little tense and they speak somewhat jerkily but otherwise they appear normal. Each man is shown facing a microphone at the end of a long table around which the members of the commission are sitting.

SOUTHERNER PARTICIPATED

One of the officers, a young Southerner, ended his recital on an emotional note. In a Deep South accent after telling how "abhorrent" it was to him to drop germ-bombs, he said:

"I'm not married. But when I go back I want to marry and I want to have a son and when will I tell my son I did in the war in Korea? Will I tell him that I did this awful thing?"

Still another of the young pilot officers showed emotion as he completed his recital. He told how he and the members of his crew had taken a shower after they returned from a germ bomb mission and then he added: "We knew that we would get our bodies clean but we did not know how we could ever wash away the feeling of what we had done."

There had been fears that some of these brain-washed prisoners would elect to stay behind the curtain. The Communists now have announced that all have elected to return. The greatest care and consideration must be given the victims of this sinister cruelty.

No Senator Worked Harder Than Strong-Willed Bob Taft

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON

ANYONE WHO ever sat in the Senate gallery and watched Sen. Taft at work—and it made no difference whether you agreed with him—could not but think: "The people whose views he represents are lucky to have him fighting for them."

In his 15 Senate years no one worked harder or more earnestly than the man that he believed than the Ohio Republican. And what Taft believed represented the views of many millions of people. Not necessarily always the same people. But always many millions on any issue.

In those years, perhaps the most critical in American history, there were enormous and often bitter differences of opinion in this country—ranging from the pre-war draft and aid to Britain to the postwar problems of the United Nations, the Atlantic Pact and sending troops to Europe.

Taft was in the thick of all those issues.

He was a healthy force in a democratic society which, if it is to survive and escape tyranny, must depend upon the vigorous airing of opposing views in order to arrive at intelligent majority decisions and, when necessary, reasonable compromises.

But while it seems impossible that anyone could dispute his energy or his earnestness, there can be no such unanimity on his judgment on some of the most far-reaching Senate decisions a majority of his colleagues voted against him. They respected him, listened to him attentively, and disagreed with him.

The stand he took on some of those issues poses important, but unanswered, questions of history. For example, where would this country—or the world—be now if Taft had won out in his opposition to a draft in 1940—when this country had an ill-equipped army of only 275,000 and the Nazis were over-running Europe by the millions?

And what would have been the result for this country and the world if Congress had listened to Taft one year later and killed the draft just four months before Pearl Harbor?

Taft sternly denied he was an isolationist. But the effect of some of his votes, if they had prevailed, would have been to isolate this country far more than it is now.

For one thing, he opposed the legislation which made this country a member of the United Nations. He was against the Atlantic Pact which put this country into military alliance with Western Europe against Russia.

He seemed much more in tune with majority American thinking on domestic issues. In that field he probably will be remembered longest for the Taft-Hartley Labor Relations Act which he fathered in 1947 to replace the old Wagner Act passed under President Roosevelt in 1935.

Taft knew he'd make enemies of union leaders with T-H. And he did. But, judging from his overwhelming re-election in Ohio in 1950, it was an enmity which didn't hurt him.

In his 15 Senate years Taft probably expressed more opinions on more subjects than most Senators because he worked hard at keeping informed. Sometimes he seemed to put his foot in his mouth, and had to explain later what he meant the first time.

The President lost a strong right-hand when Taft died last Friday. More than any Republican now in the Senate, Taft could swing that body into line behind the man in the White House job which Taft had yearned to have for so long.

People's Platform

Midwesterner Likes Charlotte

INDIANAPOLIS

Editors, THE NEWS:

I WISH to write you a few lines in regard to your fine city. I just returned from a visit with my son there who lives at 2800 Steel Creek Road.

This is the third time I have visited Charlotte. I have done a lot of traveling, especially in the South, and every place that I have been I have found everyone to be nice. But I believe that one of the finest that I have seen is the city of Charlotte.

You have a beautiful city and its people are wonderful. Also members of the Police Department, when you ask one of them for information, are always ready to help you and are very kind.

We hope that all of your citizens will continue to help keep Charlotte the fine city that it is.

REV. C. A. DEVINE

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Robertson Soothed Rhee By Listening

WASHINGTON

HERE is the inside story of how Assistant Secretary of State Robertson finally persuaded President Syngman Rhee to accept a truce in Korea. The story also gives the key as to why Robertson and Secretary of State Dulles are flying back to Korea—for they regard the truce as a mere stopgap which could cause the United States more headaches than assets.

In fact, Robertson, speaking privately, has been less than enthusiastic about the truce.

"The truce," he said, "will present much more difficult problems than it will solve, when you consider the overall position of the United States in the struggle with Russia. However, I do not make policy. I carry it out. If you know of a more frustrated man than yours truly, I would like to meet him."

Walter Robertson, incidentally, is one of the real finds of the Eisenhower Administration. Shrewd, patient, with a persuasive personality, it is easy to see how he finally won Syngman Rhee into his corner.

Robertson wooed him largely by listening. He let the aged president of Korea pour his heart out.

"The old man is a great patriot," Robertson confided to friends. "Stubborn, yes, but not for himself, only for his country. I was told that the way to handle Rhee was to go in and pound the table. But I said: 'If table-pounding will do it, why hasn't he been brought into line before?'"

Sore At Army

WHEN I first met President Rhee it was in company with General Mark Clark, at which time Rhee exploded: 'You charge me with being a violator. Just what have I violated?'"

However, instead of table-pounding, Robertson sat and listened.

"I listened to Dr. Rhee for days at a time. Finally I brought him 'round to the idea that the way to obtain the unity of Korea was to continue with the United States, not commit his country to national suicide."

Robertson reported to his superiors that his negotiations were almost upset by the Army's radio in Tokyo which kept broadcasting American news accounts of his talks. Rhee thought that since the news accounts were broadcast over the Army's radio network, they must be official, didn't realize that an Army sergeant merely picked up the news as cabled to Tokyo by the press associations.

Thus just at the time Dr. Rhee seemed most ready to compromise, the Army's radio in Tokyo reported him as unyielding as a ramrod. Rhee's reaction was that the United States was playing tricks to get him to yield further.

What China Wants

THE way Robertson finally persuaded Rhee to cooperate was by arguing that what Communist China really wants is something much more important than Korea. It wants trade with Japan and the rest of the world, and especially it wants access to the tin, rubber and raw materials of Indo-China and the Malays.

Therefore, Robertson argued, China will trade Korean unity for these bigger objectives.

These objectives, however, present serious problems for the U.S.A., and this is the chief reason Robertson is flying back to Tokyo and Seoul with Secretary Dulles.

"The barren hills of North Korea mean little to the Chinese," Robertson told friends, "compared to their major objectives. That's why the Chinese were so anxious to sign a truce; also why our problems are just beginning.

"The Western trade embargo is affecting them much more than we realize, and they want to get rid of it. Also they want a seat on the United Nations Security Council so badly that it hurts. If they can get some of these things, they should gladly toss away the barren hills of North Korea."

That is the real reason why Robertson has mixed feelings about a truce. Dr. Syngman Rhee, he thinks, will get what he wants—the unity of Korea. But China will then begin a drive for what she really wants—the vast riches of Southeast Asia, the tin and rubber of the Malays, the wealth of Indo-China, the quinine, the spices, the rubber of Indonesia. This was the main goal of Japan during the war, and it's the main goal of Communist China today.

"This is an area which hates its past rulers, the British, the French and the Dutch," diagnosed Robertson. "But this area admires the Chinese. Because the Chinese have stood up against the western world."

This, Robertson explains, is why he is so worried about the political peace conference which follows the Korean truce.

Asked whether Red China would win its cherished ambition of admission to the United Nations, Robertson replied:

"We will be one of 16 nations to sit at the peace table. We will have as more votes than anyone else. If I had to make a bet, I'd bet that the Chinese would get what they want."