



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The West Wins A Crucial Test

AFTER four years of hesitation and indecision, France has hammered an important nail into the scaffolding of Western defense. The National Assembly's vote to bring Germany into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization gives the free world fresh hope that West German soldiers will march into the NATO defense line before the end of another year.

A formidable array of problems still must be resolved before the new defense structure takes shape. There is, of course, the remaining confidence vote Pierre Mendes-France is demanding, reversing the Assembly's tentative Dec. 24 decision against German rearmament. Only an irresolvable change of heart in the next few hours will deny the Premier this final victory.

Even with this barrier safely crossed, however, the Western powers face the long, tedious task of building an integrated European defense system that will be sturdy enough to meet the grim menace from the East. In all corners, there are awkward architectural problems. The narrow margin of victory for M. Mendes-France last night means the task of keeping France at its tools will not be a simple one. The French nation is still apprehensive about the prospect of a rearmaged Germany. To make matters worse, it is equipped with a parliamentary body that has become a cockpit of political feuds, skulduggery and frivolity.

The Need For Trained Labor

HIDDEN beneath the creaks and squeaks of North Carolina industry is tremendous vitality. Ben E. Douglas, director of the Dept. of Conservation & Development, reports that more than 100 million dollars was invested in new "Tar Heel plants and plant expansions during 1954. The figure for the preceding year was only about 61 million dollars.

"On the whole," said Mr. Douglas, "North Carolina's opportunities for growth continue unlimited." The state is unencumbered state. It is isolated from war-vulnerable congestion. Its geography gives it ready accessibility to the greatest markets of the world. North Carolina labor is ample, adaptable and willing to give an honest day's work for a day's pay.

Language Is A Living Thing

ENGLISH teachers and editors seldom like what is happening to the language. Charlotte educators look with undisciplined alarm upon Coolidge, the current use of "teager," and the editorial voice of THE GREENSBORO RECORD has been raised in protest about the word "terrific," and its changing meanings.

PERSONALITY BLOW AWAY

A TEXAS hat manufacturer could have stirred up a lot of trouble when he declared that the kind of hat a man wears is a "highly reliable" indication of the man's personality. This could ruin the hat business if men get to worrying about what psychological secrets that new chapeau would reveal. Why, a man would just as soon be caught wearing his heart on his sleeve!

A Democratic Promise Help For Small Business

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON (D-Fla.), here "has been great deliberate discouragement of small business" by the Pentagon through "concentration" of defense contracts. And Sparkman, who will become chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee next month, intends to do something about it.

First, he told Congressional Quarterly, he will reactivate the committee's Procurement Subcommittee to "stimulate a better program in the Defense Department for small business. He also plans to find out "whether present credit facilities are adequate to help small business carry out defense contracts." If not, he added, additional legislation may be needed.

Supporting Sparkman will be Louisiana Sen. Russell B. Long, who becomes ranking Democrat on the Small Business Committee. Long told CQ that he "never saw a time under this (Republican) administration when credit facilities available to small business were adequate." Long thinks one answer to the small business problem may be to require large defense suppliers to subcontract a certain percentage of their work to small firms.

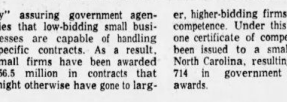
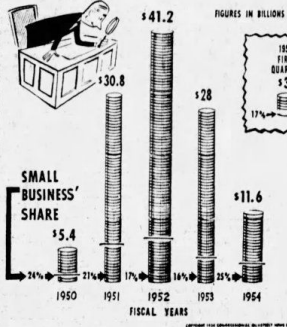
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A FAIR SHARE FOR SMALL BUSINESS?

PORTION OF MILITARY CONTRACTS AWARDED TO SMALL BUSINESS



FIGURES IN BILLIONS
 1955 FIGURE \$13
 1954 FIGURE \$11.6

Democrats Intend To Exploit Republican Split During 1955

By STEWART ALPOP

WHAT WITH an administration program which is not really very controversial, a popular President, and a non-election year, the upcoming session of Congress ought to be fairly brimming with peace and good will to men. But it won't be.

The reason is twofold. There is a deep and bitter split in the Republican Party—and the Democrats are already thinking of course, of 1956, and exploitation of the Republican split for all it is worth is the heart of Democratic strategy for winning that year. Under any circumstances, as far as the Senate is concerned, the Democrats start with a great natural advantage.

By and large, the Democrats are remarkably united on the issue. All the Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee, for example, are for reciprocal trade, while the Republicans are split six ways in Sunday. In the Senate, the Republicans are also divided right down the middle, while there are only two Democrats who are in opposition, notably Kilgore and Neely of West Virginia.

People's Platform

U. S. Textile Industry Must Be Protected

Fayetteville, Tenn., Editors, The News: THIS WILL acknowledge the November 1954 edition of The Charlotte News, which described very thoroughly and completely the booming and attractive city of Charlotte.

I cannot help but notice the great emphasis in this paper on the importance of the textile industry to Charlotte and its trade area. It is interesting to note that the new plants pictured on pages 66 and 67 include six textile mills out of a total of 10 shown.

On Sept. 22 I read an editorial in The Charlotte News the gist of which was that textile manufacturers were anxious to place a tax in the form of a tariff on the production of cheap foreign-made bicycles which are flooding into the country.

The same flood of textiles is now entering the United States and discussion will be started in February to further reduce tariffs on cheap textiles. With tariffs already too low any discussion of reducing tariffs should be canceled, and tariffs should be raised in order to protect the jobs of Americans employed in the textile industry.

We cannot help but point out the inconsistency of this editorial of Sept. 22 with the great emphasis placed upon the textile industry and what it means to the City of Charlotte.

It is interesting to compare the present situation where the American textile industry is being threatened by the importation of Japanese fabrics produced with cheap labor with the situation as it existed in 1937.

The textile industry was beginning to pull out of the terrific depression of the early '30's when in 1936 a flood of Japanese textiles started, reaching a peak in 1937. This resulted in the American textile industry falling back into its worst depression in history.

Secretary Hill taking note of the situation recommended to the President that tariffs be raised on Japanese textiles and this was done. Under any circumstances, as far as the Senate is concerned, the Democrats start with a great natural advantage.

We are quite worried about the situation at present and can see only hard times ahead for the American textile industry as it faces the constantly shrinking domestic market.

ERNEST REES JR.,
 Vice-President & Gen. Mgr.
 Elk Cotton Mills



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IT WASN'T intended for Washington. The Justice Department has quietly kept a record of wire-pulling from Capitol Hill to secure pardons for ex-convicts.

The record shows that those with the pull have wanted presidential pardons, thereby restoring their full citizenship rights, while those equally deserving, without the pull, have not.

This column is now able to report the names of congressmen who have brought political pressure on the Justice Department to secure these pardons. Here is the roll-call.

Missouri's GOP Congressman Dewey Short not only telephoned the Justice Department but sent House doorkeeper Tom Kennamer to the Justice Department to urge the pardon last week of convicted tax evader Charles Prattman Jr., of Neesho, Mo.

Congressman William S. Mailliard, California Republican, brought pressure on the Justice Department to get two San Francisco liquor violators, Walter Files and Joseph Frucht, pardoned.

Sen. J. Glenn Bell, Maryland Republican, also made inquiries in behalf of two ex-convicts—postal violator Charles Boemker of Philadelphia and tax-evader Albert Wilkerson of Baltimore. Wilkerson also got help from Democrats—Congressman George Fallon of Maryland,

Friends Of Congressmen Pardoned

Top Florida Democrats, Sen. Spessard Holland and Sen. George Smathers intervened to get a presidential pardon for Delma Carl Suggs of Panama City, convicted of embezzling government funds.

Georgia's Congressman Prince Preston also went in for a convicted moonshiner, George W. Burned Jr. of Savannah, Ga., who was pardoned by President Eisenhower after serving two years at the Chulchillo Federal Reformatory.

Georgia's Sen. Dick Russell also forwarded a letter to the Justice Department, pleading a nurse's case.

Political strings were also pulled for two recently pardoned tax evaders—Nelson Jones of Newport Beach, Calif., who got help from Congressman James Utt, California Republican; and Tillie Wilk of Lakewood, Ohio, who was aided by Congressman Michael Feighan, Ohio Democrat.

President Eisenhower has recently pardoned a number of postal violators, many in part to congressional pressure. These include John Collins of Waterbury, Conn., who got a political assist from Connecticut's GOP Sen. William Purtell; Harry Anday of Detroit, who persuaded a Pennsylvania Democrat, Rep. Thomas Morgan, to make telephone inquiries; William Weintraub, Wisconsin, helped by Congressman John

Byrnes, Wisconsin Republican; and T. Fredon Fry of Dallas, Tex., who got political pressure from Sen. Price Daniel and Congressman J. Frank Wilson of Dallas, both Democrats.

Another postal violator, Michael Mori, who sent a threatening letter through the mails, got a pardon through Connecticut's GOP Congressman Horace Selby-Brown Jr.

Louisiana's Congressman Overton Brooks interceded for Harry Milton Hatch of Shreveport who served three years and got another five years suspended sentence for transporting stolen automobiles.

Florida's Congressman Bill Lanfant helped get a pardon for Harry Duayne Smith of Miami Beach, who was convicted of evading the amusement tax.

Just before Christmas, Elmer Kerr of Union City, Ind., got a presidential pardon after serving 30 months at Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary for embezzling funds. The political wire was pulled by Indiana's GOP Congressman Ralph Harvey.

Minor offenders who have been pardoned recently with the help of important congressmen include Antonio Paez Mineola, N. Y., helped by New York's GOP Congressman Steven De Roumanian; Clyde Peebles of Charleston, W. Va., aided by West Virginia Democrat Al Rogers; and Alvin Fein of Louisiana, aided by Congressman John

STRATEGY PLOTTED

How else is the President to be cut down to defensible size? Some Democrats are beginning to talk of a strategy of identifying the President with Wall Street and the Dixie-Yates contract as a starter. But the present intention of the leadership is simply to exploit the Democratic leadership's obvious inability to deal with this heavy-handedly.

The confidence of the Democrats as regards the Congress, and their near despair as regards the White House, suggests an obvious fact. To a large, remarkable extent, the Republican Party is now almost totally dependent politically on the leadership of Eisenhower. This is a fact that some of the more sensible Republican conservatives are coming to recognize.

'Bombs' Over Arctic

Low-flying planes raided our Arctic outposts just before Christmas, but instead of bombs, they dropped Christmas trees, decorations, parcels and other goodies.

The Air Force reversed Santa Claus's traditional journey and sent Christmas flights within a few hundred miles of the North Pole, loaded with gifts for our snowbound GI's. Altogether, 25 real Christmas trees, 100 artificial trees, 1,022 pens-and-pencil sets, 400 dozen cookies—provided by the Air Force wives' clubs of the Newfoundland bases—were dumped on the far northern outposts.

Individual gift packages, full turkey dinners and hundreds of pocketbook novels were also parachuted to the isolated outposts.