

## Rep. Speight Misses The Point

IN ANNOUNCING for another term in the N. C. House of Representatives, J. A. Speight of Bertie County suggests that a committee representing the legislature and the press try to resolve the impasse over the 1953 "secrecy" law. He wants the committee to draw up a bill or rule under which members of the legislature "can operate intelligently and under which the press would have free access to all facts."

Apart from any merit the suggestion may have, Speight's approach is all wrong. The fact that he did not call for public members on the committee indicates that he, like many other legislators, still thinks of the issue as being between the legislature and the press, whereas the issue is really between the legislature and the people. Not the press alone, but all citizens of North Carolina—including members of the General Assembly not on the subcommittee—

were barred from the 1953 appropriations subcommittee meetings.

The reporter has no rights beyond those of any other citizen in gaining access to the budget deliberations. But he does have some business being there, for the most basic function of the newspaper—in fact, the only justification for a free press—is to inform the people about the conduct of their public affairs. And he has the responsibility of being thorough, accurate and objective—a responsibility that is impossible to fulfill if he is forced to rely on second hand accounts of public transactions. Hence, the intense interest of the press in the issue.

It may be that a committee could work out some plan satisfactory to all. We doubt it. But if the idea is worth a try, the committee should certainly include public members.

## Talk, Talk, Till The Sun Goes Down

I have nothing to say on the question, sir. And then he talked till the sun went down. And the chickens went to roost.

NORTH CAROLINA'S William Sydney Porter called the poem quoted from above simply "Nothing to Say." Were he writing it today, O. Henry might call it "The Soviet Diplomat."

Before Stalin's death most Russian diplomats, except for their harangues before forums like the U. N., gave abrupt, Marxist answers to most questions, posed few of their own. Now, diplomats the world over are reporting a veritable loquacity on the part of the Russians.

It was hoped that this change would prove to be a prelude to negotiation of at least some East-West differences. It now appears that the hope was without foundation. The Berlin Big Four foreign ministers conference confirms the belief that the Malenkov regime will talk till the sun goes down, but still have nothing to say. For there has been, at Berlin, the expected reiteration of basic disagreements.

The West again suggested free elections in Germany, as a prelude to unification. The Soviet Union countered with a proposal to put the cart before the horse. It would first form a government (thus assuring power for the East German Communists who might be ousted in an election) and then the West would have to agree to free elections.

Now that the U. S. has keyed its defense to atomic weapons the Soviets insist use of these weapons must be prohibited before they will consider joining President Eisenhower's proposed atomic pact.

The Russians continue to demand U. N. membership for Red China now, and the West repeats its stand that the Korean War should be wound up officially, and

## A Crisis Grows In Indochina

DURING the past week or so, a number of speculative stories out of Washington have pointed to an early decision by the Eisenhower administration to intervene more directly in the eight-year-old war in Indochina.

As the capital reporters tell it, the National Security Council has been weighing several new ways of helping the hard-pressed French forces of Gen. Henri Navarre. Hanson Baldwin reports in THE NEW YORK TIMES that the use of U. S. ground, air and naval forces to assist the French is being discussed. The new steps are being considered at a time when the U. S. is already bearing two-thirds the cost of the war.

Certainly Indochina poses a tough riddle for the Eisenhower administration. Gen. Navarre's new military strategy, adopted last year, has not worked out so far, in spite of heavy reinforcements of fresh French troops and large allocations of U. S. military supplies. The Communist Vietnamese are still strongly

entrenched at many points in Vietnam, and currently are striking into Laos.

And back in Paris, there is a growing and understandable weariness with the financial and manpower drain from the far-away fighting. The Frenchman asks why he should keep on fighting the National Security Council's "strategic" aid in Indochina when the U. S. forces are being used for a negotiated truce in Korea. And he also asks why he should expend so much to free Indochina of the Communists just to grant independence to the natives. Neither of the questions can be answered easily.

Yet Indochina must not be permitted to fall to the Communists. It is the gateway to Thailand, Burma and Malaya, all rich in the strategic raw materials so vital to the western democracies in their economic and military struggles against Russian imperialism.

Whatever steps are decided upon should enjoy greater bipartisan support than did the intervention in Korea.

From The Florida Times Union

## JOURNALESE IS RESPECTABLE

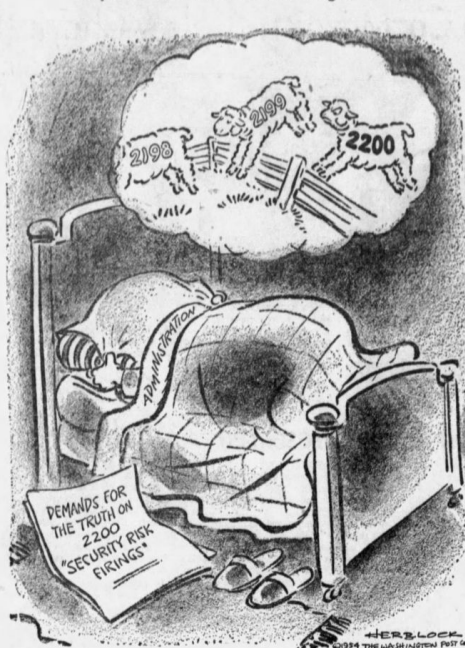
NEWS WRITING—or "journalism"—has received a welcome orchard from two English professors. Dr. Maxwell H. Goldberg of the University of Massachusetts told the American Business Writing Assn. that "Some of the most effective informative prose of our time is appearing in the newspapers." And Dr. E. Glenn Griffin of Purdue said that newspaper English is good "because it is serving its purpose."

Journalism usually differs from essay-type English in its spare style, lack of embellishment and conciseness. The "inverted pyramid" is the name given to journalism's system of stating a story in capsule form in its first sentence, then presenting additional information in order of its importance, leaving minor details till the end.

Many attribute the pyramid's origin to the early days of the telegraph when the instrument was not too reliable. Never knowing when the lines might go out, a correspondent made sure the "meat" of his story went through first. The form is still useful today since it enables an editor to trim the end of a story when it must be shortened to fit into the page. And, of course, it lets the lazier reader skim the high points from the top of each story without bothering further.

Thus restricted by form, the newspaper reporter serves two masters—his art and the mechanical devices that convey his work to the public's eyes. It is gratifying that he serves them both while holding the favor of the academic arbiters of language as well.

## 'Oh, No—Not That Number Again'



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.

## The South Needs More Tom Linders

Florence, S. C.

IN YOUR Feb. 4 editorial, "The State Campaign in Georgia Style," you seem to take Mr. Tom Linder, Commissioner of Agriculture of the state of Georgia, to task concerning some of his editorials in the Georgia Farmers' Market Bulletin.

I receive the Georgia Farmers' Market Bulletin each week and I really appreciate Mr. Linder's editorials, which I find absolutely correct.

You will find it necessary to admit that Mr. Linder quotes the absolute truth, and he proves same, and what matters most is that he has guts enough to state the facts.

That is much more than we can say for some of our editors of so-called leading newspapers. What we need most in the South is more Tom Linders and fewer of the editors who wish to straddle the fence.

—E. C. NEWTON JR.

## Favors Zoning For Greater Charlotte

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

IT is with much interest and concern that I am writing regarding this matter of an enabling act for zoning the perimeter area of our city, known as Greater Charlotte.

Apparently, some of our local legislators realize that next year is election year (and I am glad) as two of them, namely, Mr. Fred H. McIntyre, our senator, and Mr. Arthur Goodman, one of our representatives, have changed their minds from that of opposing this fine, progressive and meritorious measure to that of a more tolerable attitude.

It will be little consolation to the people of the city, however, if I cannot understand how Mr. McIntyre could say that he did not know what the public sentiment was toward the bill; saying that the county commissioners did not hold a meeting regarding the bill and to then tell him just what they wanted. With this kind of reasoning all our local legislative bills would originate

with the county commissioners.

While I am sure one remembers that all this time the very air was filled with need for some sort of zoning act—our two fine daily newspapers carried sentiments by civic and progressive minded citizens along with the good causing editors. Most any local citizen could have sensed the sentiment for such a bill to plan, protect and promote the orderly and constructive growth of our Greater Charlotte.

Now, as for the petition that Mr. McIntyre mentioned during the session of the last legislature having been given him by the opposition, let me state that at that very time, I personally whiled Mr. Arthur Goodman of the telephone and told him to tell Mr. McIntyre and the other delegates to the Assembly that if they wanted a petition from those in favor of the zoning bill that I believed I could get 1,000 signatures by Monday morning, whereupon he gave me a very courteous brush-off.

Now, let me state that I am not a politician, nor an accessory thereto, but am simply a life-long resident whose forefathers helped settle "Glorious, immortal Mecklenburg." I live in the eastern fringe of the city and am proud of our fine community with its good churches, schools and fine citizens.

I also wish to say sincerely that there is nothing personal or prejudiced to motivate my writing this letter. I do it simply to exercise that precious American privilege of expressing one's convictions publicly and my conscience will not let me sit in silent acquiescence when a principle is at stake. I wish to stand up and be counted as one who hopes we may continue to have enacted a zoning law for Greater Charlotte.

—HOMER L. JOHNSTON

## Red Anti-Semitism Revealed At Berlin

Rock Hill, S. C.

RUSSIA again reveals the face of its Soviet anti-Semitism. Hidden away at the bottom of a seven-point document, submitted by the East German government

as a memorandum to the meeting of the four foreign ministers now convened in Berlin, is a proposal by the East German government that calls for cancellation of all German reparations agreements.

This document demands stopping of the West German government's agreement with Israel for payment of \$22 million dollars to Israel and other world agencies engaged in returning Jewish property seized by the Nazis. Despite the fact that East Germany has refused to meet with Jewish representatives to discuss the return of such ill-gotten Jewish property, this Russian stooge government has the vindictiveness to suggest cancellation of the West German-Israel agreement.

Though there is little or no serious possibility of the success of the Berlin Four Power Conference, and that any attention will be paid to such claims by the East German government, this maneuver is important in that it reveals the character of all satellite Soviet states in their relation to Israel.

It is now crystal clear that the Soviets want East Germany to retain the Jewish property left behind by the mad murder and destruction of the Nazis. The East German government is not satisfied with keeping the stolen property, is insisting that it reveals the character of all satellite Soviet states in their relation to Israel.

—A. R. SURBIT

## Taxpayers Subsidize A Few Big Shippers

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WAS much interested in and approved your recent, fine editorial regarding parcel post rates.

As an employee of Railway Express Agency for 34 years and also as a taxpayer, I am much concerned about the loss of so much of our business to a service that fails to pay its way and has to be subsidized by all the taxpayers. This is a fraud on the American people who have to pay taxes for a deficit for the benefit of a few big shippers.

—JOHN C. MCINTOSH

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

SILVER-haired, barrel-chested Sen. Pat McCarran of Nevada not only lobbied much of the funds through Congress to help dictator Franco in Spain, but now wants to tell the Spanish government what technicians to hire in building Spanish bases.

The senator took the amazing step of telephoning the Spanish minister of public works, Conde Valladeno, and asking that he use German technicians. As a result of the call, the State Department is investigating to see whether McCarran violated the Logan Act which prohibits non-diplomats from meddling in the conduct of American foreign affairs.

Three years ago, McCarran was so active in demanding that one hundred eighty-seven million dollars be allocated to Spain that France awarded him the Grand Cross of Isabella. At that time, McCarran even called Herbert Hoover former president of the Export-Import Bank on the carpet to ask why money advanced to Spain was not being spent faster.

McCarran's record in transatlantic phone call, however, went further than anything else he has done to meddle in Spanish-American affairs. The call was made from the Plaza Hotel in New York, and here is the telephone record of what the senator from Nevada said:

## McCarran Wants Germans In Spain

What McCarran Said

It took several hours to put the call through, partly because the Spanish cabinet officer was routed out of bed. Then, over the crackle of transatlantic static, the operator's voice announced:

"I have Conde Valladeno on the line. He does not speak English."

"I have an interpreter here," replied McCarran.

"Conde Valladeno is ready now," intoned the operator.

The interpreter then took the receiver and translated McCarran's words.

"As you know, I have always been a champion of Spanish causes in this country," McCarran explained through his interpreter. "I would like to move my mind so close as to be able with in my own conscience to make decisions most advantageous to my country and to yours."

"It is a great honor that you should take the trouble to tele-

## McCarran Wants Germans In Spain

phone me, and I appreciate your sentiments greatly, as all Spaniards appreciate them," the interpreter translated Valladeno's reply.

"What I would like to bring up is the question of building military bases in Spain," McCarran got down to the point. "I know of several million-dollar Spanish base projects. They have offered to accept part of their payment in surplus commodities from the Agriculture Department's overflowing bins."

McCarran is dealing behind the scenes with a man named Edgemoor Ousman, who represents the German contractors. What the senator from Nevada has neglected to tell his Spanish friends, however, is that the German contractors have agreed to buy their heavy equipment from the Nevada office of Wells Fargo, a firm close to McCarran.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is taking a second look at the military base agreement that McCarran was so instrumental in pushing through. The senator from Nevada was so insistent in trying to get better terms for Spain, rather than his own country, that

## Bricker Case Illustrates Education Of President

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON  
THE Bricker amendment fight is something more than a political hassle about a great constitutional issue. It is the first serious test of President Eisenhower's new-style leadership, the test of the story is still to be told, but enough has already happened to make the test remarkably impressive.

When the struggle began last year, there were two main dangers. First there was the danger that the President would be too disinterested to oppose the amendment of Congress. If he had continued his Pontius Pilate line, saying "I care for none of these things," the Bricker amendment would have overwhelmed the opposition to it.

Second, there was the more complex danger that the President, having decided that the Bricker amendment must be beaten, would tackle the job the wrong way.

At bottom, the amendment is an expression of the distrust of the executive power that 20 years of Roosevelt and Truman instilled in almost all Republicans and the majority of Southern Democrats. Last year, the distrust was still intense, even all-

though the White House had changed hands. That is the real reason why Sen. Bricker was able to get a full two-thirds of his fellow senators to act as his amendment's co-sponsors.

If Eisenhower had tried to beat the amendment the wrong way—if he had been rigid and brutal and intransigent—he might still have defeated Sen. Bricker. But he would have ensured a maximum vote for Bricker. He would have had to depend on the Democrats and the Democrats alone to rescue him from the Republican extremists. And within the Republican Party, he would have generated the kind of bitterness and ill feeling that all the Democrats have been hopelessly pre-

Instead, the President has been firm but never rigid, clear as to principle but always ready to give any amount of time to discussing language and procedure. As a result, he has disappointed the Democratic hopes and enemies in his own party.

For Sen. Bricker is very much lost that he has not been allowed to have his own way with the Constitution of the United States. Such Bricker allies as Senators Weller and Malone are grumbling, as usual, about State Department plots. But no one is bitter now except the bitterest, who will go on being bitter unless President Eisenhower chooses to imitate President Harding.

More important still, Senators Knowland and Ferguson are confident that the last-ditch Republican support for the Bricker amendment has dropped to somewhere between 15 and 18 votes. Even with the help of the most conservative of Southern Democrats, Bricker will hardly have a third of the Senate in his corner, instead of the sure two-thirds he thought he had. And Bricker himself has already, in effect, dropped his own pig by suddenly dropping the famous "quid" clause.

Behind this really signal success, there is a story that might be called the "education of a President." When Eisenhower entered the White House, he had not thought very much about the functions, problems and prerogatives of the greatest elective office in the world. This was the period when he used to say of Congress, "I spoke my piece, and after that, it's up to them."

Maybe the trial would not have turned out so well, if Eisenhower had not been so patient as well as so firm; and if Sen. Knowland and Sen. Ferguson had not handled their end of the problem really well.

## Lobbies Line Up On St. Lawrence Seaway Fight

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

POWERFUL lobbies are locked in a showdown battle over the issue of whether this nation should participate with Canada in building a St. Lawrence Seaway.

A bill authorizing the project was passed by the Senate Jan. 20 and approved by the House Public Works Committee Feb. 3.

Seaway supporters, including steel companies, farm organizations and other groups are fighting the bill only for action on the measure. Railroad, coal and other interests which have opposed the projects for 20 years are putting up a last-ditch stand to block the bill's enactment.

Officials of both sides are "living on the hill," buttonholing key leaders of the House—all of whom members must stand for reelection this fall—and waging a nationwide campaign to drum up community support.

The Seaway advocates argue that the proposed waterway is needed for defense in wartime, and to stimulate trade and furnish access to Labrador iron ore in peacetime. Opponents say the cost would be exorbitant, and that Seaway competition would ruin railroads and Atlantic ports.

Carrying the ball for backers of the project is the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Association. Its sponsoring term it a "front" for major steel companies. Its officials, however, have testified before the House Public Works Committee that only one-third of their funds come from steel companies. The remainder, they say, is furnished by other manufacturing and business interests, and public organizations.

Key lobbyists in the Association are its founder and president, N. S. Danielian, and T. Hugh Burns, vice president. Danielian is a Harvard-trained economist and former Commerce Department official. Burns is president of the Northern Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

Allied with the Association are six major steel companies—Hansa, National Steel, Wheeling Steel, Republic Steel, American Rolling

Mills Corp., and Youngstown Sheet & Tube. Other supporters include various state chambers of commerce and labor groups; the Congress of Industrial Organizations; three major farm groups (American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farm Bureau Union and National Grange); and several Midwest newspapers.

Several persons in this coalition have played a key role in fighting for the Seaway, according to Danielian. Among them: Matt Triggs, legislative representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation; John Edelman, legislative officer for the Textile Workers Union of America; Angus Macdonald, Hill representative for the National Farmers Union; and Roy Battles, assistant secretary of the national master, National Grange.

ANTI-SEAWAY FORCES

Leading the fight against the Seaway is the National St. Lawrence Project Conference, which has headquarters in the Transportation Building. Its critics call it a "railroad lobby." Its officials answer that, while it's true, 75 per cent of its funds come from the Association for American Railroads, it also is furnished by shipping and coal interests.

The Conference has two chief lobbyists. They are Joseph G. Fenney, chairman, and Carlisle Hargrove, executive vice chairman. Fenney served as legislative assistant to former President Truman from 1945 to 1953. When he left the White House he came vice president of Republic Coal & Coke Co.

Bargrove is a former writer for the Washington Post who joined the Conference in 1949.

The Conference is working closely with such allied groups as the Association of American Railroads, the United Mine Workers, National Coal Association, Merchant Marine Institute, various Atlantic ports, the American Federation of Labor, and several railroad brotherhoods.

Pentagon officials have conducted it in an excellent deal—for Spain.

Here are some facts the American public doesn't know:

Under the agreement, Spain is not committed to fight in America's side or even to let the U. S. Air Force use the bases in case of war. Furthermore, after 10 years, Spain can throw the United States out and take over the bases for herself. All she will be obliged to pay is scrap value for the expensive American equipment.

In return for this dubious agreement, the United States will be building Spain's broad-gauge railroads and highways, revamp and re-equip Spain's military forces, pump economic aid to the country, lay a 370-mile pipeline across three-quarters of the country, and pour over \$100 million into building air bases, port facilities, communication systems, and other facilities that Spain can legally export to the United States after only 10 years.

In contrast, the United States got a 30-year lease on all the British islands in the Caribbean in exchange for only 30 destroyers.

## New Look At Bases

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is taking a second look at the military base agreement that McCarran was so instrumental in pushing through. The senator from Nevada was so insistent in trying to get better terms for Spain, rather than his own country, that