

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1954

In An Off-Moment, A Political Crisis

THE HUBBARD that followed Vice President Nixon's statement about the possible use of American ground troops in Indochina has served to confuse the question instead of clarifying it. Perhaps it will help to review the circumstances under which the statement was made.

The vice president was speaking to the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington. He had given a lengthy, well-organized, articulate and frank discussion of the vast problem of stopping communism in the Far East. At the end of his prepared remarks, he agreed to answer questions. One of them was purely hypothetical. If the French withdrew from Indochina, he was asked, would the United States use ground troops if necessary to prevent that nation's fall to the Communists? Mr. Nixon said first he didn't think the French would withdraw, but in the event such withdrawal took place, and it was necessary to use American ground troops, he would favor such a step. Congressmen in both parties began filling the air with protests, it being an election year.

An official State Department announcement over the weekend has helped to clarify things. It made the quite obvious point that Mr. Nixon was "personally prepared to support" the use of ground troops in the "highly" event the French should withdraw. But Mr. Nixon is not the President and he

Editors Should Not Condone Secrecy

THE printed program for the American Society of Newspaper Editors' luncheon in Washington last Friday listed Vice President Richard Nixon as the speaker. Immediately below his name was the phrase "not for attribution." In introducing Mr. Nixon, ASNE President Basil Walters explained to reporters that the information in the vice president's speech could be used, but that it could not be attributed to Mr. Nixon.

For some reason, the secret held. Late afternoon papers quoted a "high administration official" as saying he favored the use of American troops in Indochina in the event France should withdraw. By Saturday morning, the description had expanded. Any reader piecing together fragments from several newspapers could get this picture:

"A high administration official, who regularly attends meetings of the Cabinet and the National Security Council, but who has no constitutional authority in the conduct of foreign policy, who spoke at a luncheon meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors," etc.

No reporter added: "... who recently made a trip around the world, and who

Another Argument For Local Colleges

CHARLOTTEANS should vote tax aid for the two county colleges, for the issue comes up next month at a local election. One of the reasons for this is that Charlotte College is doing a capable job of educating working people during evening hours, at reasonable fees. Another reason is that both Charlotte and Carver colleges are providing freshmen and sophomores college training to students who can't afford to go off to school. Another reason is that the southern and central Piedmont region of North Carolina has a small number of college students in proportion to its population.

The area of which Charlotte is the hub, from Polk to Union counties in the southwest to Iredell and Davidson counties in the northeast, contains almost a million inhabitants, almost one-fourth of the state's population. Not a single one of the state's dozen higher educational institutions is in this area.

Fifteen of the state's total of 57 colleges (state, church, private and community) are in this populous 14-county Piedmont region. The proportion, one would suppose at first glance, is a fair share, and offsets the dearth in state-supported colleges. But a compilation of the enrollment figures at these 15 schools shows that the area accounts only slightly more than one-eighth of

From The Washington Post

ALPHABET BOYS AT IT AGAIN

THOSE polychromatic fellows with the penchant for alphabetism have been at it again. Even while the proposed Pacific security treaty is scarcely more than a gleam in Secretary Dulles' eye, they have been busy thinking up impossible abbreviations for the embryo. The British Associated Press suggests (with just the faintest hint that an AP map may have invented the whole thing) are saying that the organization should be dubbed SEATO, after Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. The name is, we think, infinitely better and somehow connotes a sedentary future for the organization. But in France, the story continues, the discussion is over whether to call it PATO. Presumably this is a Pacific counterpart to NATO, though where the A comes in we do not pretend to know. At any rate, the title has the sound of

dubious paternity for a founding. We should think, indeed, that the name manufacturers would be aware of the grave psychological consequences that sometimes ensue when children must labor under such risible monikers as Fauntleroy. But no, some of the other combinations are enough to make the most encrusted bureaucrat glow with pride. The supreme headquarters for SEATO, it is suggested, would be known as SEASAC. This note of *mal de mer* is an appropriate one on which to leave the whole business.

POME IN WHICH IS GIVEN A Suggestion For Increasing Your Income: If a raise is what you seek. Do better work from week to week—ATLANTA JOURNAL.



"Oh sure, everybody's entitled to an opinion, but some opinions are better than others."

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.

Put Oppenheimer Case In Proper Perspective

Editors, The News: BUT FOR one man on the board investigating the case of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, I would have but little faith in the board's findings and recommendations. I believe Gordon Gray is independent and as impartial as matters pertain to this case.

It is nothing indicating an effort on the part of Dr. Oppenheimer to cover up is found in the record. I shall have but little trouble in excusing him on matters involving judgment. During the latter part of the 20's and early 30's we experienced an economic and political upheaval in this country, which produced some, to me, very queer economic and political thinking. This resulted in the recognition of Russia by our State Department, with the result that the Russians and things Russian in nature were given clearance or 100 per cent party in our official dealings. I will go further, and state that, in my opinion, we practically endorsed the Russian economic and political philosophy.

However, that is an opinion. Anyway, any fair and honest evaluation of the conduct of our country during the period from 1930 to the latter part of the decade of 1940 should be made in view of the political and economic atmosphere of that period. We have put to death citizens for having secret records to Russian agents when there is no agreement as to when the wheel of fortune was stopped and all thereafter became criminal, or, at least, obnoxious, in friendly dealings with an old ally, Russia. And to this good hour, I know of no effort to clear up the confusion, prevent the present slump from developing into a more serious recession of business. Eight such automatic stabilizers are listed by the publication.

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C Of C Publication Backs Up Stevenson

Editors, The News: WHEN Adlai Stevenson spoke to Charlotte Democrats in the Armory he pointed out that the 1952 campaign consistently referred to the New Deal and Fair Deal programs of the past 20 years as "creeping socialism." But the 1952 Democratic standard bearer also pointed out significantly that the Republican Party turned right around and "adopted it" (meaning the so-called "creeping socialism").

This forthright observation by Stevenson clearly borne out in the current issue of "Economic Intelligence," a pamphlet published monthly by the United States Chamber of Commerce. This publication (inadvertently perhaps) indirectly credits that same New Deal-Fair Deal program with providing the main bulwarks which are now operating to prevent a serious depression. These bulwarks are in the form of automatic stabilizers of our economy, and are largely the products of Democratic administrations. They prevented the "dip" in 1949, says "Economic Intelligence," from becoming serious, and they are now working to prevent the present slump from developing into a more serious recession of business. Eight such automatic stabilizers are listed by the publication.

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Morever, they are measures which the present Republican administration is fortunate to have in operation so as to act as a cushioning effect in the present dilemma.

It is worth noting also that the United States Chamber of Commerce, an economically conservative organization which favors more business in government and less government in business, has heretofore taken note of the soundness of such samples of "creeping socialism."

—EUGENE WISE JONES

Pleased By Coverage Of Credit Conference

Editors, The News: THE 32nd annual meeting of the Southern Credit Conference has just ended. We have had numerous compliments about the success of the conference and particularly were we complimented on the splendid cooperation extended from the newspaper in covering this event. I know that your organization has been successful in its success and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the superb coverage that you gave it.

—CHARLES DUDLEY
Managing Director
Charlotte Merchants Assoc.

Quote, Unquote

Canada has developed a TV camera which operates successfully under water. Some way I say this is the place for it, but like the ball-point pen we're awaiting one that works instantly and without wavy lines on the surface. — Asheville Citizen.

POME IN WHICH IS ATTESTED A Method Of Achieving The Regard Of One's Fellow:

Higher goals are in your reach. If you practice what you preach. — Atlanta Journal.

If some of the pioneers of the industry were to return to the scene of their endeavors, they would be amazed to find some new cars with windshields on the ceiling. — Laurel (Miss.) Leader.

appointed by President Truman to the Atomic Energy Commission.

Oppie Refused To Quit

Strauss resigned in 1950 after the atomic bomb probe, but was reappointed last year by Eisenhower as chairman. Among the first things he did was start looking for a man who had disagreed with him on isotopes, and appoint David "Fat" Teeple, a glorified Washington gunsmoke, as his special assistant.

Teeple, a friend of McCarthy's assistant, Don Surine, had served under Hickenlooper. He had been on the congressional atomic committee was probing the AEC, but was demoted by the late Sen. Brien McMahon. No friend of Oppenheimer, Teeple has been considered a link between McCarthy and the AEC.

Meanwhile, Strauss' probe of Oppenheimer, which began last summer, had dug up no new facts on Dec. 21 the admiral asked Oppenheimer to come see him.

In the room with Strauss when Oppenheimer arrived was Maj. Gen. Kenneth D. Nichols, AEC general manager. Strauss did not reveal that he himself had written secret papers for Oppenheimer five days after he assumed office in July. But he did urge Oppenheimer to resign as an AEC consultant. In fact, most of their meeting was spent trying to persuade Oppenheimer to resign. Strauss wanted him to go quietly, though he warned that the alternative was suspension.

Tar Heel Paul Crouch Has A Remarkable Imagination

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

JUST WHAT sort of witness is furnished by the Justice Department and the congressional investigating committees, to attack the loyalty of citizens of this republic? The question is sharply posed by the case of Paul Crouch.

Crouch is an ex-Communist informer who gets \$25 per diem from the Justice Department when he is doing his stuff. Since he describes himself as "employed by the government," being an informer seems to be the main source of income. He is the man who has made the most serious charges against Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, both to the Justice Department and to Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy and his fellow investigators.

Now consider the following testimony that was once given by Crouch himself, under oath, concerning an untruthful letter he had written about an associate, "I am in the habit," said Crouch to the "of" of writing letters to his friends and imaginary persons, sometimes to kings and other foreign persons, in which I place myself in an imaginary position. I do that to develop my imaginary powers. That is why this letter is semi-fiction. Part of it is true and part of it is not."

BORN ON N. C. FARM

The imaginative letter-writer, who has now become the professional testifier, was born in 1901 on a North Carolina farm. He was clearly an infant prodigy, with access to a library without known parallel in the rustic South of that simple and remote period.

"Prior to the age of 12," he testified, "I had been reading the 'Communist Manifesto,' 'Value Price, and Profit,' 'Labor and Capital' as well as popular Socialist papers." Then he put away such childish things.

"After the age of 12," he testified, "I proceeded to more serious works," which led him eventually into the Communist Party.

In 1925, when he was an enlistee in the U. S. Army in Hawaii, Crouch was tried for seeking to form a secret revolutionary organization. It was in this trial that the imaginative letter-writer made this clear in the course of his swift passage through London and Paris.

American strategy will be to play down the importance of the conference and at the same time to delay as long as possible on the issue of Indochina. Dulles will stay at Geneva for only a week and with his departure and perhaps also the departure of Eden and Bidault the significance of the meeting is immediately downgraded.

Since the communique issued after the meeting, the possibility of Korean peace before Indochina, presumably that subject can be kept front and center to the exclusion of the Indochina War for a long time. If this is possible it will be advantageous to the West for at least two reasons.

First, while a Korean political settlement is being disputed with virtually no chance of agreement, secret conferences are being arranged at Panmunjom and

Two days later, Dec. 23, Oppenheimer went back to see the admiral, handed him a letter stating that he couldn't possibly resign in the face of the absurd charges made against him, and that he intended to fight the whole thing out. The admiral in reply handed Oppenheimer the letter of suspension signed by Gen. Nichols recently made public.

Ike Consulted

Two weeks later Oppenheimer wrote the AEC asking for formal hearings. It was at this point that Strauss became uneasy. Though he had been the precaution of discussing the matter with Eisenhower, and had sold like on the idea of a security review, he was fearful of the public reaction to the case of a leak. And as expected, the leak occurred shortly thereafter to Sen. McCarthy. McCarthy immediately recognized that for the first time, Oppenheimer had become "fair game." Prior to this McCarthy had been taken by surprise. But now he could talk about spies in the atomic-bomb program, and when someone challenged him, he need only let drop the astounding news that Dr. Oppenheimer had been "suspended."

This was the reason for Oppenheimer's carefully timed resignation from the AEC program in which he claimed the hydrogen bomb had been delayed for 18 months because of Communist sympathies.

All this is also why scientists all over the nation are in such a state of protest over the AEC's handling of the probe of Dr. Oppenheimer may prove the worst boner since the firing of Dr. Allen Austin from the Bureau of Standards last year.

three years in Alcatraz as a military prisoner. In the face of these facts, Crouch has complained strongly about being called an ex-convict. Call him, then, what you will.

On emerging from Alcatraz, he became a professional Communist functionary. He remained in the party some time in the 40's. Just when he finally broke with the party is not clear; but he has testified that he discussed communism at length with an FBI agent in 1946 in Brownsville, Tex.

Under oath, Crouch stated that this historic interview with the FBI man took place in the presence of County Judge Oscar B. Dancy, who was, he said warmly, his "personal friend from my home county." Judge Dancy has now told these reporters for the record that this story is simply "not true" — as far as he knows he never saw Crouch in his life.

HAS SIX VARIATIONS

Crouch has been telling his story for a long time now, and this has given the opportunity for an astounding number of interesting variations. He has, for example, given six quite different versions of the story of his attendance at meetings of the Communist Party Central Committee.

Again, he has represented himself at one time as building "a vast apparatus in the armed forces of the United States" and at another time as supervising another apparatus "for the purpose of supplying the Soviet Union with information regarding scientific experiments" at the University of California. But on a third occasion, he has sworn that he only interested himself in bar room talk. And when he made his fourth try, he said flatly that he "did not discuss any military secrets from this country."

One of McCarthy's public likeliest has recently declared that it is "not fair" to publish the facts about such men as Crouch. Surely we have reached a very strange place, when it is "not fair" to publish the facts about such men as Crouch.

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