



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1954

'The Days Now Rapidly Running Out'

AS THE DERRIS of World War II was cleared away from Europe it became clear, to diplomats of the Atlantic countries, that two big jobs ought to be done. One was the inclusion of Germany, including eventually her army, in the new world alliance. The other was the abolition of the nationalistic barriers that had grown up through the centuries. It was decided to wrap these two projects into one package—the European Defense Community. National armies would be abolished. A supranational authority would control the EDC army.

The job was for the most part left up to the continental countries. The British had said they would go only so far toward binding their destiny to Europe as the U. S. Congress would go. Congress and high State Department officials made it clear that they wanted to be free to pull out of Europe if its projected union did not materialize. France became alarmed by Germany's rapid return to power, and by the British and American positions. She decided not to tie up with a Germany which might soon dominate her. And so a noble dream died on the floor of the French legislature.

It is to try and construct a workable alliance from the shattered remnants of this dream that the foreign ministers of nine countries—the U. S., Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries—are meeting in London tomorrow. The main problem will be: How will Germany be fitted into the alliance?

Germany wants to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which includes the United States, Canada, Greece, Turkey, Portugal, Iceland and Denmark. Although the U. S. Secretary of State Dulles has not indicated what position he will take in London, the U. S. has supported this German view in the past, as

has Britain. The French, while maintaining their faith in the Atlantic alliance, say they would like to have Britain closely associated with her, as a counter-balance to Germany might, in a European organization. France is chafing at granting Germany full status in NATO. All participants recognize the need for German troops in European defense. It is possible, then, that Germany may be fitted into the alliance at the North Atlantic Council meeting next month.

But what of that other postwar goal, the sweeping away of those nationalistic barriers, the creation of some political machinery to control the military forces? The President who as commander of SHAPPE pleaded so fervently for this second goal is silent on the subject now, or speaks only in generalities.

The Frenchmen who echoed his words are out of power. The British resolutely pour out at the Commonwealth, casting only side glances at Europe. Sovereignty, they say, reflecting the official American attitude, is something that ought very much to be kept up by Frenchmen and Germans. The words of Historian Arnold Toynbee, written two years ago, ring ominously:

In the days—now rapidly running out—in which we westerners were enjoying our decisive technological lead, we could indulge in the luxury of being disunited... Division of our western fifth of mankind... would be suicidal if we were to allow it to linger on into an age in which we are losing our technological lead and are therefore being thrown, militarily and politically, onto the defense against the rest of mankind's formidable superior numbers.

We've finally discovered the advantage of early bank closing. Bank robbers have to pull their jobs on afternoon papers' time.

There Is Still Time To Register

OUR HEAD was deep in the red soil of Mecklenburg Friday when it should have been buried in the statutes governing voting registration procedures in North Carolina.

In an editorial urging citizens whose names are not already on the rolls to register, we said that Saturday would be the last day for registration at the precincts.

That is correct, insofar as Mecklenburg County is concerned. But, non-Mecklenburgers pointed out, it is not the case in most North Carolina counties.

According to R. C. Maxwell of the State Board of Elections, in all counties except Mecklenburg and Guilford the fourth Saturday before the election (Oct. 9 this year) is the first registration day.

Now, hold onto your hats. To bolster its case, Greensboro—High Point Airport Authority has offered as neat a bundle of evidence as you'll ever see—statistics tracing the growth of the area, population, business development, education and the like. But our friends did not limit themselves to Guilford County. They even included Wake Forest College and Salem College.

Winston-Salem people, eager to win more service for their own airport, were pretty upset.

Greensboro, in order to appear as big as Charlotte, posed a real threat to Winston-Salem, complained the Tery City SENTINEL. "If the CAB were to buy this bill of goods," added the SENTINEL, "present air service to Winston-Salem could be curtailed or even terminated."

"Love thy neighbor" is what we always say. But really, Greensboro, isn't this carrying things a little too far? So unnecessary. Just drink your milk, eat your spinach and get lots of sleep and soon you will be a big boy like Charlotte.

Registration will also be held the two following Saturdays, Oct. 16 and Oct. 23. Citizens may also get their names on the rolls at the home or place of business of the registrar.

In an editorial, we told voters still have time to register at their precincts. And unregistered Mecklenburgers who neglected to sign up Saturday can, as we pointed out Friday, register during office hours at the Election Board Office, 727 F. Trade, until books close at 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4—a week from today.

If you'd like to have a week's vacation, and don't have the time, just take a one-day trip with a yard baby and a knee baby. You'll swear, by nightfall, that you've been away for days.

Greensboro: Barefoot Boy With Cheek

GREENSBORO, our cocky friend to the north, has its adding machines going again. This time, the fancy rows of figures are designed to show how Charlotte is just a pig-patch whistle stop when compared to the Giant of Guilford.

This is something more than a little impromptu chest-beating. It's all part of the Gate City's campaign to win authorization for more air service from the Civil Aeronautics Board.

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People around Charlotte who haven't heard from him since the 1952 campaign are getting cards and letters again from Sen. Estes Kefauver. Correspondence from Adlai Stevenson, Dick Russell and the rest of the hopefuls can be expected shortly.

From The Rocky Mount Telegram

SNUFF STAGES COMEBACK

THIS is about snuff. The stepchild of the tobaccos has been neglected too long. Besides, we're not so sure it's being neglected these days. And thereon hangs our yarn.

The setting for this snuff drama was one of Rocky Mount's big supermarkets. The other day as we waited in line at the cash register we noticed just ahead an aristocratic-looking lady with the formidable bearing of a dowager. When she handed the money to the clerk she murmured with staged casualness as an afterthought: "Oh, by the way, my maid asked me to get some snuff for her."

Circumstances, however, tricked our dowager into betraying more than a casual acquaintance with various snuff brands. When the clerk about snuff extended search, that the particular brand requested was "fresh out," the annoyed lady rattled off a couple other snuff brand names which were duly included with her groceries.

"If the lady is as well informed about everything else as she is about snuff," we thought, "the nation has need for her services."

Fascinated, we asked the clerk if there

were many calls for snuff.

"You'd be amazed," was the answer. "But they never ask for themselves. It's always for their maid or their mother or their sister. Never for themselves."

Since we are reliably informed that someone in the United States uses up five million pounds of snuff last year, it is obviously not the neglected item we thought it was. Ask any grocer; he will tell you.

As we understand the Communist claim for Formosa, it is that inasmuch as the United States took Formosa from the Japanese, Russia is entitled to it—LEXINGTON HERALD.

That's one thing about chawin' tobacco. Many a man got the reputation for being wise and silent, when the truth is he didn't dare open his mouth.—KINGSPORT (TENN.) TIMES.

A scientist says man is run by electricity. And if he gets an occasional jolt from his wife or his boss he runs even faster and better.—GREENVILLE (S. C.) FIDELITY.

How A North Carolina Tobacco Auction Operates

By VIC REINEMER

Associate Editor, The News

IT'S TIME THAT the "tobacco market" gets some public recognition.

Never heard of him? Neither have most people outside the tobacco industry. They know about the chattering auctioneer, and the tobacco buyers who by grunts, winks, squints, ear-wiggling and swears Grover Rodgers, one of Robeson County's three assistant county agents, sometimes by goosing the auctioneer indicate a bid or a buy. But the real cog in a tobacco sale is the ticket marker.

He's the fellow who has to understand instantaneously what the auctioneer asks and the buyers answer. He also writes down the name of the purchaser, and the price and company grade of tobacco. He does it all while on the move, perhaps only a few seconds in time, writing while listening to the sale of the basket ahead.

Few men can handle the job. One of the few is Cecil L. Thompson, assistant sales operator of the Cooperative Warehouse in Lumberton, who was writing tickets for one of three sets of buy-

ers in this Border Belt market Thursday.

ALL-AROUND FELLOW

"He can handle any job on the floor," said Pat Treadaway, who fills the dual role of manager of Lumberton's Chamber of Commerce and superintendent of sales of the Tobacco Board of Trade. "He can fill in as an auctioneer, sales leader, back-up man or what have you. There's no particular way a man trains to be a ticket marker. You've just got to learn the business, and learn from the inside, and learn from the top."

The drought delayed and cut back the volume of tobacco selling in Lumberton warehouses this year. Through Wednesday, the first sales day of the season, 26,693,568 pounds had been sold this year, compared with 32,545,036 pounds in the first 37 days last year. Average per acre yield in Robeson is more than 1,500 pounds per acre but this year, according to Mr. Rodgers, it will be an estimated 1,250.

The sale story begins early in the morning, as the first of the afternoon before the auctioneer starts his chant. The white, Negro and Indian tobacco farmers of Robe-

son bring to the warehouses hundreds of baskets of tobacco which was picked a couple months ago. From the field it went to the curing barn. There it was kept at a temperature in the 90's until the green was out of the leaves, then dried at temperatures up to 180 degrees.

GOVERNMENT GRADES IT

At the warehouse the tobacco is weighed, numbered and put on the floor. There a government man grades it. The card he puts on each basket indicates the quality, the part of the stalk the leaves came from ("lugs" are picked from the bottom, "cutters" from the middle, and leaf from the top), and the color, which ranges from the desirable lemon through orange, red, mahogany, walnut and variegated to mixed green.

"Type 13" designates all Border Belt tobacco. Other types designate tobacco from the Eastern Belt, in the Wilson area, the Middle Belt, which extends from Virginia into the Sandhills, and the Old Belt, west and north of Raleigh. In addition to these blue-coded tobaccos, North Carolinians raise some burley in the mountains and aromatic, Turkish tobacco in Gaston, Cleveland and Wilkes counties.

Hard on the heels of the govern-



CECIL THOMPSON
Ticket Marker

ment grader comes a buyer, led by the sales leader who barks out an opening price. The auctioneer picks up the chant. Behind him is usually a "back-up man"—a pep talker from the warehouse. Then comes the busy ticket marker, followed by a string of farmers, warehouse people and hangers-on. Within a few minutes after a farmer's tobacco has been sold the price of each basket has been tabulated and the farmer has collected his money, right there in the warehouse.

The Blue-Cured Tobacco Stabilization Corporation, through which the government price support program operates, guarantees each farmer a price for his tobacco according to its grade.

However, most of the tobacco, averaging more than 50 cents a pound this year, is selling above

People's Platform

Pedestrians Tired Of Being Nudged

Charlotte

THANKS for putting in a good word, or the lowly pedestrian (Charlotte's Traffic Cop Are Too Soft, Sept. 21). We are weary to the breaking point of being nudged out of the way by impatient, turning motorists at intersections. Most policemen just stand and let it happen. But it's not only a question of law. It's a question of common courtesy too. Something should be done.

—MRS. GLOVER WELCH

Consumers Gouged By The Republicans

Charlotte

WHEN natural gas was piped into homes for cooking stoves and furnaces, consumers were promised cheaper rates.

Now, consumers are being gouged by Republican policies. Despite U. S. Supreme Court rulings, the Republicans are handing out hundreds of millions of dollars of rate increases to the already fabulously

wealthy oil industry. Promises of cheaper rates have been greatly violated and as a result of Republican policies we are now faced with imminent danger of even higher gas rates wherever natural gas is used.

The prime responsibility for these broken promises lies squarely at the door of the Republican administration, an administration put into power to a large extent by money of big business, an administration which is now paying off its political debts by favoring big business, by favoring the huge oil and gas company every way possible.

No one knows how much money the huge oil and gas companies poured into the Republican campaign fund and they are sure getting returns on their "investments."

The Federal Power Commission is packed with men who favor big business and the power trust over the interest of the people.

Republicans have new bills introduced in Congress which, in effect, will allow oil and gas companies to raise rates almost without control, and in time

will allow the same thing to happen in electric rates.

June 7, the Supreme Court came to the people's rescue, charging FPC with responsibility to protect the people.

The FPC continues to give gas and oil companies the inches they want.

The return of the Democratic Party to power is vitally essential to save the people from further victimized by the representatives of big business brought in by Republicans to sit on public boards and commissions where the people's welfare can be traded away.

—J. R. GRAHAM
CIO Rep., Region IV

'There'll Always Be A Brooklyn'

Kannapolis

ADLAI as just as you want to see about a Giant-Indian World Series being "like a breath of fresh air from center field." It's the end of the world for us Dodgers fans.

But just wait! It's next year!

We'll molder there crumbly.

—DON CARLSON

'Goodness—Is That The Way I Look?'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

IT'S been a long time since the nation's capital saw a real, honest-to-goodness robbery probe of the big money. It was, according to the official records filed in the House of Representatives, sends more than any other pressure group. However, as a result of the Dixon-Yates deal, such a probe is now being discussed.

Two members of Congress would like to conduct it. They are: Sen. William Langer of North Dakota, nominal Republican, and Congressman Sterling Cole of New York, 100 per cent Republican.

Sen. Langer, who is head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has already tried to stage an investigation. He persuaded Sidney Davis, former assistant to Justice Hugo Black, to leave a lucrative law practice in New York and undertake a monopoly investigation.

But from that point on, Langer found himself stymied. Sen. Jenner of Indiana who, as chairman of the Rules Committee, controls the purse strings of all

Senate investigations, would not let Langer have a red cent to probe the utilities or any monopoly. Davis ended up paying his own expenses, and even those of witnesses, while Sen. Langer finally decided to take three law cases in order to finance his investigation.

The other solon, Congressman Sterling Cole, who would like to probe the Dixon-Yates utility situation, is chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and already has a certain amount of investigative money at his disposal. However, he won't unless so brightly on the big utility atomic combines that any probe conducted by him would mean little.

Congressman Cole has announced that he will probe the Dixon-Yates contract. Sen. Langer has announced that he will do likewise. It will be interesting to see who gets the investigation money from GOP leaders.

Mystery Man Gives

If you look over the private records of mystery man Henry Grunewald it's

WASHINGTON

ADLAI E. Stevenson, according to his close friends, has already reached the state of counting up the number of delegates he has won between Stevenson and the former President would delight all the members of the anti-Stevenson movement, and everything possible will therefore be done to promote such a row.

There seems, moreover, to be no easy compromise choice for the chairmanship. Former Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman is close to both Truman and Stevenson, but he says firmly that he won't take the job. So does Louis B. Nichols, secretary of the Senate, and one of the few men well liked by all sections of the party. Billie's heart is still in Capitol Hill, and if the Democrats capture the Senate he will almost certainly go back there.

Former Price Administrator Michael V. D'Salle is an active candidate for the chairmanship, but he has given little chance. James Finnegan, a Democratic county chairman from Pennsylvania, is not given much chance either, although he has the backing of David L. Lawrence, powerful mayor of Pittsburgh.

In this situation, Sen. Earle Clements of Kentucky, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, is being put forward as a "compromise" choice, with hints that he will be acceptable to Truman. Actually, however, if Clements took the party chairmanship this would be widely interpreted as a severe defeat for Stevenson.

Clements is a moderate conservative senator from a border state. It is precisely in the South and the border states, in the Senate, and among the conservatives, that the opposition to Stevenson is concentrated. What is more, of course, although Clements is not committed against Stevenson, he is in no sense a "Stevenson man." With Clements as chairman, Stevenson would lose the control of the party machinery which he now exercises, at one removed.

All this is not to suggest that the Stevenson candidacy is in any real danger at the moment. Neither Stevenson nor Truman are itching for a row, and the trouble will no doubt be patched up somehow—perhaps by keeping on Mitchell, as some Stevenson supporters are already proposing.

These contributions were given during several campaigns. Grunewald produced a canceled check to ex-Senator Mike Mansfield dated 1940 for \$2,500. This was in addition to the \$100,000 he advanced Brewster in 1950—\$50,000 each on behalf of President Nixon and Sen. Milton Young of North Dakota.

"Did Nixon ever thank you for that?" Grunewald was asked.

"No," he replied.

"Has he ever helped you in your present troubles?"

"No."

"Did Nixon record that \$5,000 in California?"

"I don't know."

Grunewald then was introduced to a man he later found was Herbert Brownell, now attorney general, then Dewey's campaign manager. The man then contributed "as \$3,000. Later Grunewald said he gave Brownell another \$5,000 in cash in the presence of Geth Tunnay, and, in 1948, another \$5,000.

the support price. The farmers of Robeson wish they'd had more rain, but they aren't kicking. The price they had, the pay-off is prompt and the federal tobacco program is working smoothly.

THE KIDS SELL TOO

After sales finished Thursday in the Cooperative, Dixie and Helgepeth warehouses, buyers congregated in the Liberty warehouse for a special sale of tobacco grown by 4-H members and Future Farmers of America. There Harold H. Nann, one of the extension specialists from North Carolina State College, was explaining how tobacco is evaluated. "Generally speaking," he said, "the lighter the better—the lighter body and lighter color are preferred. Then too you consider uniformity and injury. And green knocks quality."

"We have a point system set up to judge the work of these youngsters," said English Jones, an assistant county agent. "Yield and value per acre count 50 per cent. Appearance, the floor is 15 per cent. Record books count 15 per cent, and the other 20 per cent for the way they keep up their practice sheets, in which they answer questions about tobacco from plant bed through marketing."

A buyer line started forming. "Where's the Liggett man?" "He's gone. Our ticket marker."

The auctioneer took up the chant and the line moved along. The kids followed, picking up points. "That's right," said Larry Thompson, a nine-year-old Negro boy from the Hilly Branch 4-H Club, entrained by his first sale. There were the kids, too, with those well-known Robeson County names of Oxendine, Locklear, Lowry, Sampson and Chavis. And the youngsters of the old Scotch-Irish stock.

About three years from now the tobacco they sold will be needed to make up for the cigarettes. And in 20 years a few of the kids, if they learn the business, might be ticket markers.

Adlai Is Out Front, But Opposition May Jell Soon

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

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