

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1955

Annual Report To Our Readers

AT ITS end we like to leaf back through the years' editorials, to see how our months-old opinions sound now in determining how well we did. Our editorial campaigns have been. This practice always is humiliating. Some of our "prophecies" weren't fulfilled. And many projects and proposals we supported persistently seem to be distant now as they were when we first backed them.

There was, for example, our Aug. 3 charge that the Senate did a shameful thing in assigning the question of Sen. McCarthy to a select committee. We figured the committee wouldn't make its report in time for the Senate to act on it, that the censure issue would become entwined in the campaign and that McCarthy and his crowd could claim a victory because the Senate wouldn't take a stand against him. Senators Watkins, Ervin et al. made us look mighty silly on that one.

Too, last September we observed under the headline "A Powerful Man Heads For Washington" that South Carolina's State Sen. Edgar A. Brown "is virtually assured membership in the U.S. Senate now that the state Democratic committee has nominated him for the seat of the late Sen. Burnet R. Maybank." Mr. Brown, of course, didn't get to be U.S. senator. Obviously, we had discounted the displeasure of South Carolinians over this nomination, and the ability of Strom Thurmond to win a write-in campaign.

Then there are those issues we harp on year after year without getting anywhere. The city needs more offstreet parking facilities and a smoke abatement program, but the present City Council isn't convinced. Charlotte abounds with duplicating and confusingly similar street names, and with streets that are variously named every mile or so, but who, apparently, cares? Police and judges alike continue to be too easy on traffic law violators.

On the other hand, The News likes to feel that it had some small part in progressive measures like the formation of the joint city-county planning board, and its first steps toward obtaining a

professional staff, in the progress of the community colleges and technical institute. In the successful campaign for inter-district zoning, abolition of sales tax exemptions, passage of a car inspection law, increase in workmen's compensation and laws curbing excesses of some small loan operators.

On the national and international fronts, The News in 1954 summed up its most important concern in evaluating the 83rd Congress. We said, on Aug. 24:

"The most important and disturbing feature of the 83rd Congress' record is this: During a time when the Communist machine was rolling on to new victories and the new world alliance was falling apart, Congress shuts its eyes to the danger of external communism. Instead, it concentrated on the vast smaller threat of internal subversion and espionage. . . . In the campaign now starting, candidates must not be permitted to let their department, promoter zoning, abolition of sales tax exemptions, passage of a car inspection law, increase in workmen's compensation and laws curbing excesses of some small loan operators.

Perhaps the failure in foreign policy has not been as complete as we suggested last summer. But the deficiency is sufficient to be alarming. There was the retreat from Indochina and the "Munich" signed at Geneva. The curback of military expenditures, the failure to step up economic, technical and information programs overseas (which the Communists have done). These failures will make 1955, at best, a trying year.

Now The Anti-Communists Are Suspect

IT WAS spring in Washington—1953. James Wechsler, editor of the New York Post, was in a witness chair, under interrogation by Sen. Joe McCarthy. The senator had flailed the editor because of his readily admitted past in the Communist Party. The editor had pointed to his voluminous writings against communism since he broke with the party, and produced a recent denunciation of him by the central committee of the Communist Party. The senator glanced at it and asked:

Did you write that statement?

This was illustrated the "damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't" technique of loyalty determination, by which a man is held suspect if he agrees with the Reds or if he disagrees with them. According to this tortuous theory the suspect has disagreed with the Reds with their permission, as a cover-up.

We had supposed that this preposterous line of reasoning was on the wane along with McCarthy. But it was espoused again in Washington Thursday, by an official of the Eisenhower administration. He is John Glen Cassidy, the security chief of the Agriculture Department, which has labeled Wolf Ladejinsky, land reform expert, a security risk.

Cassidy told newsmen there is no evidence that Ladejinsky is disloyal or has violated security rules. Unlike Wechsler, Ladejinsky has never been a member of the Communist Party. He saw what the Communists did in his native Russia and left it, as a young man, shortly after the

revolution, denouncing communism then and subsequently, in U. S. magazine articles as long as 20 years ago.

Why then is he a security risk? Why, because he wrote anti-Communist articles 10 years ago when he still (he hasn't heard from them in eight years) had relatives in Russia? Cassidy "explained":

"Would you write articles critical of the Communist Party, and articles critical of your family were living in Russia and you knew the tactics the Communist use? It is doubtful anyone would do it unless he had reason to believe his family would not be harmed.

To support his argument, Cassidy pointed out that the Ladejinsky articles "were anti-Communist enough for Tass—the Russian news agency—to attack them. These anti-Communist articles alone would have been enough to bother me when you consider that this man had relatives in Russia."

Russians now in the U. S. have denounced the system in their native country, without using pseudonyms. Their relatives may have suffered, but the Russians were convinced that they should tell what they know. Some of these Russians are Johnnies-comelately. They have said and applauded for their revolutions. Wolf Ladejinsky was critical of communism when anti-communism was unpopular. And now, because he had the courage to speak out, he is suspect.

We are ashamed that such an Orwellian concept as Mr. Cassidy's is currently advanced in this country. And we are ashamed of the President and secretary of agriculture for their tacit acquiescence.

Dr. Vann Marshall Matthews

THE horse and buggy family doctor is fast becoming a fond memory of "the good old days." Physicians, like the rest of mankind, are becoming specialists.

One of the vanishing race was Dr. Vann Marshall Matthews, who practiced medicine in Charlotte for 34 years, from October, 1920 until he became ill in September of this year. Dr. Matthews was a general practitioner. He was a family doctor.

But he was also very interested in the specialty of obstetrics. Dr. Matthews had an influential part in establishing Mercy Hospital's new maternity wing, and one of the honors of which he was proudest was his election as a director of the American Congress on Maternal Welfare.

Literally thousands of Mecklenburgers have brought to this world by "Dr. Vann." He will be sorely missed in this community which he served so well.

THE MCCARTHY GAME

SEN. RALPH E. FLANDERS of Vermont doesn't trust his senatorial colleague and arch-enemy, J. Raymond McCarthy (as THE CHARLOTTE NEWS has called Joe) as far as J. Raymond can spit venom.

So he is ready should Joe try to make anything of the following rather flimsy relationship between himself and Alger Hiss:

A brother of Hiss's wife was his (Flanders') brother's wife's sister's divorced husband.

Diagrammed on paper, this tells us that the sister of Flanders' sister-in-law was married to Hiss's brother-in-law. But not any more; they're divorced now.

Sen. Flanders may think he's kidding

when he says he thinks Joe might try to do this against him. We just hope he's not kidding when he says he is "prepared."

In case he is not prepared really, we suggest he gird up his loins. And what better way to prepare himself than in the manner of the stable-flecked character assassin himself?

Sen. Flanders should investigate the family tree of the McCarthys. He might find that a female cousin of Joe's great-grandmother went to London as an Irish maid and there found employment in the household of Karl Marx. Or he might find that the wife of a cousin of a friend of Joe's voted for Henry Wallace in 1948.

There are all kinds of possibilities if you care to play the McCarthy game.

Epidemic Lunacy: A Kaleidoscope Of Teenage Fads

By LESTER RAND

Condensed From The New York Times Magazine

IF IN THE next few months the teenage males of this country start wearing silk hats with their dungarees and the young females start wearing rubber boots to school proms, no one should be surprised. There is no sign of either trend now. But who can say what bizarre and inexplicable mode of speech or mass mannerism youthful faddists will adopt next? It has been going on for years, of course, but nowadays it goes on faster than ever before.

FRENZY WRITING For instance, right now in the Middle West (there are indications that the same thing is occurring in other sections) teenage girls are engaged in a frenzy of letter writing. They are not letters to editors or to Congress or to movie and TV stars. They are letters to their dearest chums, whom they have seen all day and will see again tomorrow. And they are no hurried notes, either. They are five and six pages long.

How did this come about? Parents cracked down on those endless telephone calls ever since the girls, however, simply couldn't keep their thoughts and their gossip bottled up overnight. So they began writing letters to their friends in the morning.

NO ONE KNOWS WHY In the case of the letter writing, it is possible to pin down the origin of the craze. But no one seems to know why, for a few examples:

Teen-age couples walk along the street "handuffed" by means of paper clips attached to their wristwatches.

High-school youths go around with small plaques pinned to their neckties, viz.: Who's Louisa's new boyfriend? and "Don't forget the dance Friday night."

Girls are wearing as many as three "Slim Jim" or "Texas" ties on their blouses at the same time.

Some Midwesterners simultaneously go into full "mourn- ing" when flunking an exam.

Girls in various parts of the country are known for a few days at a time by the names of ranking movie stars (they announce the names themselves.)

Similarly, a few seasons ago, no one seemed to know why girls wore dog collars around their necks (or different-colored ribbons to denote their "dating status"), and boys put "dashmarks" on their sleeves to show their years in high school, and a couple "going steady" would draw up an elaborate memorandum pact after a quarrel.

ELUSIVE QUESTION The "why" of it all is pretty elusive. Usually speaking, the teenagers want acceptance by their contemporaries; "conformity" within the social group is a form of self-insurance against when things can be pretty confusing. It is a period of natural resistance, but not alienation from—the control of parents and teachers, so the youngsters find comfort in being like others of their own age.

In doing this they nevertheless seek to express their individuality by wearing more and crzier clothes, or being the first to use a new bit of slang.

Asian Munich

Reds Reach For Southern Indochina

By JOSEPH ALSOP

THE GREAT Asian drama of the moment is the struggle for southern Indochina. It is being watched by a large audience of Americans and Siamese, and Indonesians and Burmans, who want to know which side to choose when the drama recommences in their own countries.

On one side in this crucial struggle, is the passionate conviction, the frantically dynamism, the remarkable power to do much with little which this reporter saw at first hand in the main southern base of the Viet Minh. There is also the power, never forgotten in southern Indochina, of the Communist military force that the Communists are building up here in the North.

On the struggle's other side, meanwhile, there is nothing as yet but an obscure basket of eggs. After months of open warfare between the civil and military branches of the non-Communist government of southern Indochina, the crisis has ended in a "solution" which parodies the weak solutions of Chiang Kai-shek's last year on the mainland.

AIMLESS CHAOS The army is generalized and disorganized. The civil administration is generally corrupt where it exists at all and in most places it has less authority than the underground administration of the Viet Minh. Wide regions are also controlled by the private armies of the native "seeds" which more closely resemble the Capone mob than any normal regional organization. And over this squally, aimless chaos, Ngo Dinh Diem, honest and virtuous but wholly out of contact with reality, presides with obsolete certainty that all will yet be well.

The combined efforts of the French commander, Gen. Ely, and his old friend and partner, President Eisenhower's representative, Gen. Lawton Collins, have failed to straighten out a single eel in the basket. For the moment, the French and American policy of trying to "bolster up" the non-Communist government of southern Indochina is being continued in a blindly aimless way. But how do you hold it together?

NO SERIOUS HOPE Maybe the position would be better today, if the Washington policy makers had not deprived Gen. Collins of all bargaining power by committing him to absolute support of President Diem. As matters stand, President Diem has rejected almost all the good advice Collins and Ely have given him, and there is no serious hope of improvement in sight.

What is very much in sight, is open acknowledgement of Communist victory in southern Indochina. The French government has the heavy responsibility of 40,000 native Frenchmen and many tens of thousands more of Vietnamese holding French citizenship, all of whom must be offered an opportunity to evacuate if southern Indochina seems likely to fall into Communist hands.

This immense evacuation of people, with all their goods as well, cannot be accomplished overnight. A year at least will be needed for it. That means that the French government must give the warning to evacuate some time this spring or summer, in order to have reasonable leeway before the Indochinese election in July, 1956.

As matters stand, it is hard to see how the giving of the warning can be avoided, for southern Indochina certainly seems likely to fall into Communist hands as

Beyond this, they would appear to be responsive to larger social forces around them. The extreme "Slippy Joe" styles among the girls that marked the end of World War II may well have been a general indication that: (1) many of the older girls were going off to factory jobs in slacks and sweaters, (2) there was a general prosperity that made fancy dressing seem out of order; (3) there were fewer young men around for whom to look attractive. Now there is a definite trend toward trimmer dress, even in casual clothes; the girls continue to wear "man-tailored" shirts, but they are in fact very feminine—and the short-tails are tucked in. They are using more cosmetics, but using them better. Why? Probably because there is more social life, more dating, than the war years afforded.

RIGHT TO BE ZANY During and just after the war the boys who were too young for military service admired these in uniform. Maybe that explains why they all dressed and walked, as nearly as they could, like their crews heading out for a mission—the bulky jackets and long scarves, the shambling stride as though they were in uniform. Maybe with parachutes and oxygen masks. Now the young man in his teens wears a much more conventional dandy, while the young man on the right to a few nifty manifestations.

So the go-together couple carve each other's initials in the soles of their shoes; they use locks of each other's hair as hooks for their keys; they name their opposites in their lapels. They are, all in all, pseudo-sophisticates (teetering on the edge of being) or being the first to use a new bit of slang.

People's Platform

Protect The Farmer Against 'Extinction'

Editors, The News: Charlotte

THE Democratic-controlled 84th Congress has a solemn obligation to the people of this country to put the old farm price support system back into effect—a system that gave the farmer some protection against complete extinction.

If we continue to permit farm prices to be unduly depressed then we will be setting the pattern for a general recession or depression.

In this respect, I would like to remind you of the words of William Jennings Bryan:

"Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic; but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."

—ERNEST EDWARDS

terly opposed to the re-arming of Germany? The answer in my opinion: they are afraid of our military might and the German ability on the field of battle to win over larger forces of men and no sensible people do. But we all admire the ability of the German who has done the most in whatever they undertake to do.

—J. A. GRAHAM

There Are So Many Who Gave So Much

Editors, The News: Charlotte

CHRISTMAS has come and gone and hundreds were made happy because so many people opened their hearts and helped the ones who were unable to help themselves. I think the greatest show ever put on television was the United Appeal for the Christmas season. Anyone who could sit through this great drama of human kindness and then make the United Appeal in the love of Christ in his heart. If people were selfish enough to begin with, the United Appeal would have gotten the money it needed without television's help. But thank God there were so many who gave.

—MRS. MAYME BERGER

Fire Chief Thanks City For Assistance

Editors, The News: Charlotte

IT IS with a feeling of deep gratitude that we of the Charlotte Fire Dept. acknowledge the many courtesies and the unfailing assistance extended us during the past year by the citizens of this city and Mecklenburg County; by the city manager, the honorable mayor, members of the Civil Service Commission; the city department heads and all city employees.

We wish also to thank the press, the radio and television stations, the Charlotte Rescue and Life Saving Squad, and civic organizations for their splendid cooperation during 1954. We wish especially to express to the members of the Charlotte Fire Dept. our appreciation for their untiring efforts in maintaining a traditionally high standard of public service.

—DONALD S. CHARLES
 Chief Charlotte Fire Dept.

The Perfect Solution For Charlotte Traffic

Editors, The News: Charlotte

I READ with interest your editorial on Charlotte's horrendous traffic problem. I share your enthusiasm for the work of Mr. Hesse, the city traffic engineer, and agree that he needs to be given every iota of help possible to effect. But there is only one sure way to solve Charlotte's traffic problems. That is to pass a law making it mandatory for half the drivers in the city to deflate their tires every hour on the hour. While they are getting them pumped up again maybe some of the other citizens of Charlotte could get a chance to ride around on the streets in comfort.

—RALPH E. MORGAN

America Still Has Long Way To Go

Cheraw, S. C.

Editors, The News: Charlotte

WE began our year as citizens of a great nation of the world, can be proud. We look back to many accomplishments and much progress we have made for the advancement of all mankind and for the betterment of all peoples throughout the world by the people. Yet we have a long way to go yet in our dealings with other nations as it seems we are losing ground.

One question I would like to ask, Why is Soviet Russia so bil-

'Backward People'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

HEREWITH is a New Year salute to the following people, big and little, who have done something to make government better, their country greater and the world a finer place to live in during 1954. To them, some of whom you've never heard of, is given the brass ring good for one free ride on the 1955 Washington Merry-Go-Round.

Stanley McConnell—Of the Federal Supply Service, who saved the Atomic Energy Commission about \$23,000 by locating 23 brand-new automobiles languishing in a Midwest warehouse, put there by a regional AEC bureaucrat who had some surplus money at the end of the year and spent it on autos rather than let it go back to the U. S. Treasury.

Thomas S. Proctor—Post Office chief of production, who found that mailbags sent to Iron Curtain countries didn't come back. He substituted cheap burlap bags. Now the Reds don't chop their mail.

Hil Kleinstuber—Of General Services, who found that 480,000 worn-out mailbags had piled up in the Post Office.

They weren't good enough to carry mail, but were too good to throw away. Kleinstuber decided to send them to the foreign aid administration where they were now used to carry rice to Indochina.

Helen Koles of Lorain, Ohio—A 72-year-old, Polish-born, naturalized American who set a fabulous record for selling government bonds. Feeling it was her duty as a citizen to sell them, she worked through both World Wars, peddled bonds on the street, took trips at her own expense to visit Polish-Americans. Her total sales have never been tabulated, but they are in the millions of dollars. She worked until her death just a few days ago.

Federal physicians at the Atlanta Penitentiary—Voluntarily attended themselves to be infected with malaria to help find a cure. As a result, a cure for the disease has just been discovered—the first in history.

Jiggs Donohue—Former commissioner for the District of Columbia, who defied, without cost, Val Lewin, the State Department official accused by McCarthy of being a Communist. After four years

of accusation and indictment, the Justice Department went into court, said it had no case and asked that the indictments be dismissed.

Alf Lorwin—Who, though living under a cloud for four years, did not become bitter.

Joseph A. Faelll—The Washington attorney who died, never lost his sense of humor, never let the party touch.

The Wall Street Journal—Which bucked the censorship of big business and sacrificed \$250,000 of General Motors advertising by insisting on the right to publish the Nation of New General Motors models.

The Aloop Brothers—For exposing some of the long-accepted security system; especially the professional record of Paul Church, the duplicate Security Department witness.

Bob Hope—For his Christmas at home so many years to entertain American troops in the Arctic.

Bishop Bernard Sheil of Chicago—For his great work in the Arctic, which already has begun to suffer since Cardinal Spellman forced his retirement.

Father Robert C. Barnett—Editor of the Jesuit magazine, who for his courageous and penetrating editorials on McCarthyism.

Rev. A. Powell Davies of Washington—Who has carried the torch valiantly for tolerance and free speech.

Bishop G. Bromley Drexner—Who, despite unfair attacks by members of the Un-American Activities Committee, has not flinched in his fight against witch-hunting.