



Thomas L. Robinson President and Publisher
Brodie S. Griffith General Manager
R. J. Alford Advertising Director
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Thomas G. Fesperman Managing Editor
W. W. Siron Circulation Manager

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People's Platform
Key To Carrousel

Editors, The News:
A LETTER posted from Charlotte by a reader refers to our city's recent parade as a Christmas party in all manner of disguise.

She complains of the "shame that Charlotte does not ever recognize the season enough to give Him honor and praise at Christmas." My contention was the Chamber of Commerce and the merchants association called the exhibition The Carolina Carrousel, only titled as such. It was not and, of course, was not intended to be a religious ceremony and was by no means alive to any religion, Christian or other.

INCIDENTAL
I thought it to be rather incidental that even "one of 36 floats," as the writer said, "had anything at all pertaining to the church." That beautiful, magnificent, glorious parade, including the float with the "polygamous harem" was financed and sponsored by the most risk-taking group of folks in the U.S.A., the merchants of this city. They footed the entire bill with the fervent hope that they can swing some profit out of their investment in merchandise that must be sold in only 30 days or be faced with carrying merchandise to another season or sacrifice it on an after-Christmas sale. I understand the Winston merchants lost their investment. They were ruined out. Furthermore, your readers may learn that (with diligent study) the season of Christmas was promulgated by Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

GUARANTEE
The Oester or Easter season commemorates Christ's real mission on earth in that His supreme sacrifice guaranteed his followers eternal salvation. Not discounting any of the glorious qualities of Christmas, it belongs to those who make it a joyous occasion. As for the Carrousel, it belongs to the merchants, the Christmas faithful, to the church. "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God that which is God's."

—GRAHAM C. REICH
P. S. I am not a merchant!

his power and influence, what little he has, it will never go forward again. People will pay no attention to a man of Truman's caliber when he will give them all the good news they want and ask the people to pray for peace. What a character!
ADVICE
I dare say that God advised him to pray. If the Democratic Party wants to make a start for a comeback it will have to name a candidate other than Adlai Stevenson. They might win in 1960 because "Ike" has four more years if he wants it. We hope he will recover from his illness and his answer to the GOP will be "yes, I'll accept the nomination for the second term."

Christmas: Spell It Out

Editors, The News:
AN OPEN letter to Citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County:

Each year at this time as the Christmas season approaches we become more and more in a hurry to make shortcuts. We of the Charlotte Junior Chamber of Commerce wish to remind you that Christ is the reason for our most important part of this holiday season. It has been noted in advertisements and other written matter that some of us are having a shortage of writing "Xmas" instead of the full word of "Christmas." The purpose of this letter addresses the issue and everyone is to ask you to keep Christ in Christmas and therefore keep the reminder that Christmas is everyone would be no Christmas. The time saved by such an abbreviation would not amount to much but the thought conveyed by spelling it out would be greater than can be measured by a man.

—ONE OF THE WILLIAMS
Director
Religious Activities

Is The Next Step Weather Control?

Editors, The News:
WE are going to waste \$8,000 or \$10,000 a year on a smog-control engineer, who not only hire an additional engineer to control and put an end to all these foggy, rainy, wet, and cold days. One makes as much sense as the other.

What we need more than anything else, is men in public office that know when the taxpayers' burdens are heavy enough and will stop waste. We don't seem to have any of that kind in office now. —PARKS A. YANDLE

Southern People Respect The Law

Editors, The News:
THE PEOPLE down South have been treated long enough with this gang carrying on their racial and class discrimination. We are associated with them in any way. We have respect of our Constitution and its laws of civil rights.

We want and ask that action be taken at once for them, and the full penalty of the law, for their defiance and violation of the law of the country with their racial and class violations. We want action and it is high time for it for them. —MRS. J. D. BIGGERS

Quote, Unquote

Frank Howard, football coach at Clemson, asked who would do the kicking this year on the "The Almcn."—Greenville (S.C.) Piedmont.
"You say you quit your job with that retired general as his secretary because of military trouble?" "Yes, but I don't think that's the way to maneuver me into a retreat in the mountains." —Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

Labor Grows In Political Power

IN SCOPE, and detail, the political significance of the AFL-CIO merger will become clear. With Congress reopening its doors next month and a national election less than a year away, organized labor has ready-made proving grounds at its disposal.

Wetting a finger and holding it to the U.S. breeze, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, who fancies himself as a shrewd political weatherman, predicted that the merger's impact will be deeply felt throughout the nation.

John L. Lewis, American labor's most rebellious churl, said that the AFL and CIO have merely built themselves a "rope of sand."

The truth is somewhere between these two views. Organized labor political position has obviously been strengthened. But its principal power is confined to those highly industrialized areas where union activity has been greatest in the past. In many other areas—Dixie, for instance—labor's growing pains will be severe and it will not have any real muscles to flex for some time.

It should not be forgotten that some areas retain a strong antipathy to organized labor. Eleven states below the Mason-Dixon line have, in fact, given new meaning to the term "Solid South" by passing so-called "right to work" laws banning compulsory union membership. The AFL-CIO merger may well sharpen this antipathy when the new union sets forth on a major campaign to organize southern workers.

BUT this much can be expected wherever there is any union membership: The new Big Union will step up efforts to elect its friends (including labor leaders themselves) and to defeat its enemies, to get more citizens to register and vote, to obtain the enactment of legislation favorable to labor, especially at the state level.

The merger will certainly put an end to the negative effect of divided and sometimes conflicting efforts. Last year, for example, the AFL, endorsed Gov. Goodwin J. Knight, a Republican running in the California gubernatorial contest, while the CIO endorsed his Democratic opponent, Richard P. Graves. Campaign spending economies will also flow from the merger. Operating separ-

ately, the CIO's Political Action Committee and the AFL's Labor's League for Political Education have on occasion found themselves trying to outspend one another in supporting a mutually desired candidate for public office.

But the suggestion that the AFL-CIO merger will spawn a new political party is patently absurd. It is even doubtful that CIO President Walter Reuther was any nearer the truth when he said that "basic political forces" in the nation will bring about a "fundamental realignment" of the two major parties along liberal and conservative lines.

Nationally at least, the Democratic Party is already the principal beneficiary of labor's support. Labor's voice may be slightly stronger in the party but the Democratic Party's survival depends upon its natural flexibility, its ability to compromise between the firmly held viewpoints of several regions and many groups. It is not likely to check these qualities out of the window and undergo any "fundamental realignment" and become a straight-down-the-line liberal party. It can't win as a straight-down-the-line liberal party. And it can't.

As for a labor party emerging, that will happen only if U.S. labor is completely foreclosed from achieving its goals within the framework of the present two-party system.

GENERALLY, the merger means an increase in labor's political potential. An increase in labor's power will demand a corresponding increase in labor's responsibility. Big labor cannot go it alone any more than can big business. Its future lies in serving the community interest as well as the shop interest. When it comes to a showdown the community is boss. The CIO's Raymond Walsh stated the case well more than a decade ago in ACTOHR Review:

I believe the greatest single object of organized labor should be graduation from the purely pressure group approach to problems of both party, wages, hours and working conditions, to one of national leadership in the welfare of this country. The day of the selfish pressure group is past. Instead, this is a time when no group can be secure in an insecure society; a time when the pragmatist works for the security of his fellow men in order to secure his own.

error has demonstrated an affinity for planning and work. If he offered no convincing solution to the school problem, neither did he close the door on one that must be developed in time and restraint.

Throughout the speech reflected more for a recognition of problems and the need for a rational, non-partisan atmosphere in which to solve them, than it did the projection of an imaginative and inspiring program for the future. But the governor has demonstrated by his energy, his grasp of the intricacies of government, his attitude and his political craftsmanship that he can lead the state constructively. He has made solid beginnings in his first year, a fact attested by his wide popularity. The hardest tests of Luther Hodges and his leadership lie in the future, as does any realistic appraisal of his achievements.

Conquest might not dance at Churchill's side but she has his temperament and appearance would better complement Sir Winston. We always thought the poodle was more a Chamberlain type of dog.

Hodges: A Year Of Good Beginnings

GOV. HODGES' report this week to "the stockholders" of the State of North Carolina was aptly named. It was a dry recital of tumultuous events that have pressed about him in the 12 months since he became governor, events ranging from his own ascendancy to the office, to the great physical destruction of hurricanes, to the tangled web of the segregation problem. The speech was distinguished chiefly by the steady undertone of sincerity and devotion to the state that his personality better expresses than his words.

But we see no reason for complaint in the low key quality of his address. The most crucial problems that face the state—preservation and improvement of the public schools, expansion of industry and increasing per capita income—will yield more quickly to careful planning and hard work than to exhortation. The governor has demonstrated an affinity for planning and work. If he offered no convincing solution to the school problem, neither did he close the door on one that must be developed in time and restraint.

A Young Bull For Sir Winston

MRS. BARBARA WOODHOUSE of Hertfordshire, England, and Winston Churchill of Kent ought to trade pets. Mrs. Woodhouse wants to find a home for a young bull named Conquest. His lineage is not of sufficient quality to justify keeping him at stud and yet wanting "the best bull in the district" to have Conquest butchered. Mr. Churchill, we noted in another item, has a pet poodle named Rufus which, the

story said, has a habit of "dancing excitedly" at the old warrier's side.

For the sake of appearances and the need for putting things in their proper places, couldn't Sir Winston give Mrs. Woodhouse the poodle and take the bull for himself?

PIGS IS STILL PIGS

"PIGS are a race unjustly calumniated," once said Samuel Johnson. "Pig has, it seems, not been wanting to man, but man to pig. We do not allow him time for his education; we kill him at a year old."

Pig is not wanting to man, it is true. He provides him with ham, bacon, sausage, souse meat, liver pudding, spare ribs, backbone, tenderloin, streaked meat, fatback and, if you'll pardon the expression, chitterlings. Whether man is wanting pig is another question. Certainly the pig's life is a happy if short one. His days are carefree, he is urged to stuff himself at all times, he is not required to pull carts or to act as a watchdog or to catch mice or, for that matter, to do any farm chores. He is just asked to be himself, to eat heartily, to keep well and to be happy.

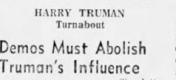
Of course, as with all creatures, he must in time fulfill his destiny. That trust that lay heavy on the ground this morning brought him to mind. It presages colder days and the coming of the time when the pig forsakes his careless youth and faces reality.

bacon, the sausage, the souse meat, the liver pudding, the spare ribs, the backbone, the tenderloin, the streaked meat and the fatback. Leave off, too, the chitterlings. But that will be no hardship.

An ad for children's Christmas stockings says the boys' stockings contain top hydrogen bombs and the girls' toy dolls with cradles. If that's an indication of the difference between boys and girls, maybe it's time for the hand that rocks the cradle to rule the world.—TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT.

A local third grade teacher said a youngster crept up to her desk after the final bell and asked her attention. "Yes, what is it?" she said. "I don't want to scare you or anything Mrs. —," the boy whispered, "but Daddy said if I didn't bring home better marks, some one is due for a licking."—HOOT POETRY ENTERPRISE.

Some of the old-fashioned mothers who can remember their husbands' first kids are more regretful—are efficient first-babys.—CHARLES (N.M.) CEMENT-BUGS.



HARRY TRUMAN Turnabout

Demos Must Abolish Truman's Influence

Editors, The News:
SINCE the death of President Roosevelt the Democratic Party has been drifting downward. As long as the New Deal was the effect we got along fine but as soon as the Fair Deal stepped in Harry Truman stepped in and he kicked this year on the "The Almcn."—Greenville (S.C.) Piedmont.

Many colonists seem to think that Adlai Stevenson will be the people's choice for nomination in 1956, but I don't think so. Because he is still following in Harry Truman's footsteps. As long as the party allows Truman to use

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
ADM. Lewis Strauss, austere chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, is not happy about being on a national television program.

On the program he had been asked about the now defunct Dixon-Yates contracts which for months he steadfastly championed despite criticism from Congress, from the Tennessee Valley, and even from inside the Eisenhower Cabinet.

Routine Reply
On TV, Admiral Strauss gave a perfunctory, routine answer. But after he was away from the TV cameras and sitting in relaxed mood with friends, he remarked that he wished he could have given answer to the Dixon-Yates question.

Asked what the other answer would have been, Strauss replied: "I think I would like to have said that the Dixon-Yates contract is connected with the earth satellite program. 'I suppose somebody would then have asked me, 'How come?' Strauss continued.

"To which I would have further replied, 'I don't like to put the Dixon-Yates contract in the earth satellite and shoot it into outer space.'"

Put Dixon-Yates On Earth Satellite?

The first has done what Ike always thought could be done even before he became president—handled practically all problems except top-top policy. The second has created both public confidence in Ike's health and Ike's confidence in his own health.

Private Hope

The man who did the first, Sherman Adams, has largely fulfilled Eisenhower's hope that the job of being President of the United States could be more like the job of being president of a large corporation, with the chief executive officer in charge of the company's day-to-day operations, while the president handles the company's public relations and other matters.

Sherman Adams has done this. He did it as well as he could before Ike became ill, but he has done it 99 per cent because ill. Adams not only is assistant president, but he is largely the Cabinet. He is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Cabinet. With a few exceptions, they report to him.

Even Secretary Dulles, who does report to Ike on foreign policy, was careful at Denver not to take up too many major issues connected with the Geneva conference. It might have been better, incidentally, if he had.

Hagerty And Health

Jim Hagerty, the other potent figure on the White House team, is not only one of the most astute public relations men ever to put on a Washington suit, but he has also become the confidant of the President and to some extent his appointing officer. He has been in the White House for a week in and week out, Hagerty had closer contact with Eisenhower than any other man, and as much as Sherman Ad-



Economic Troublespots Boom Talk May Boomerang On GOP

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON
THE 1956 Republican campaign slogan, "Everything is booming except the guns," could boomerang in 200 counties scattered through 27 states.

These localities are included in the 19 major and 74 smaller labor market areas which, according to the Department of Labor, are still suffering 6 per cent or more unemployment.

Trouble spots in North Carolina are Asheville, Durham, Fayetteville, Winston, Mount Airy, Rocky Mount, Shelby, Kings Mountain, and Waverlyville.

A Congressional Quarterly study shows that a total of 79 congressional districts are involved—44 held by Democrats, 25 by Republicans. As members of the party in power, it is the GOP incumbents who are in trouble.

LOAN FUND
This helps to explain why the Eisenhower Administration will ask Congress for a \$9 billion loan fund to help the so-called depressed areas of the nation. Also, why Democrats will offer a plan of their own. Gains or losses in the districts involved could determine which party controls the 85th Congress.

Latest clue to the direction of political winds comes from South Bend, Indiana, where Rep. Shapard I. Crumpacker (R) announced this week he would not seek reelection in 1956 because he wants "something more stable and permanent than political office."

Crumpacker's Third District, which he first won in 1950, includes four counties, two of which are classed as areas of substantial labor surplus. Crumpacker, who won with 54.5 percent of the vote in 1952, skidded back in with 50.4 per cent in 1954.

In the nation as a whole, unemployment has eased greatly since the Congressional election a year ago, when 51 of the 149 major labor market areas were classed in the "substantial labor surplus" category. Total unemployment, meanwhile, has dropped from an estimated 3,540,5 million persons to 2.1 million persons.

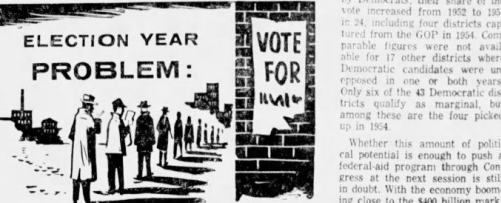
But 25 per cent or more of the remaining unemployment is concentrated in the chronically distressed areas, located largely in the coal and textile regions of the East. For example, heavy unemployment persists in parts of 12 of Pennsylvania's 30 congressional districts, all of West Virginia's six districts, five of Massachusetts' 14 districts. Thus the acuteness of the political problem.

NARROW ESCAPE
Among those pressing the Administration to pump federal aid into these districts were several GOP representatives who narrowly escaped defeat in 1954. When the administration announced its intention to offer a plan to Congress in January, Sen. Ralph Flanders (R-Vt.) said "I'm sorry its political possibilities as well as its human possibilities were not recognized sooner by the Republicans."

In its survey of the 79 districts with substantial unemployment, CQ found that in 31 of the 36 held by Republicans, the GOP share of the two-party vote dropped between 1952 and 1954, markedly only six of the 43 Democratic districts were won by Democrats in 1954 by less than 55 per cent of the vote, classing them as marginal districts where Democrats will have their best chances in 1956.

MARGINAL
In the 43 affected districts held by Democrats their share of the vote increased from 1952 to 1954 in 24, including four districts captured from the GOP in 1954. Comparable figures were not available for 17 other districts where Democratic candidates were unopposed in one or both years. Only six of the 43 Democratic districts qualify as marginal, but among these are the four picked up in 1954.

Whether this amount of political potential is enough to push a federal-aid program through Congress at the next session is still in the dog days. The economy booming close to the \$400 billion mark, any program to combat spot unemployment may fall on deaf ears. But the politicians of both parties now are alerted to the dangers of inaction.



CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT Pinches 79 Congressional Districts

From The Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont

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