THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Mopping Up A Fiscal Mess

"THE SINS of the father are to be laid upon the children," wrote William Shakespeare in THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.

Mayor Phil Van Every is a man who finds no fault with the Bard but he believes that there is a limit even to poetic platitudes—however Shakespearean they may be. He drove the point home yesterday in discussing pensions for Charlotte's firemen.

They (present firemen) should not be made to suffer for past mistakes," said he. "That would be like visiting the sins of the fathers upon the third and fourth generations."

The problem arose when the Fire Dept. suddenly found itself saddled with a retirement plan that is actuarily unsound. City authorities, in a foolish moment years ago, permitted the system to be installed without expert guidance or advice. To everyone's immense chagrin, there is now a huge unfunded accrued liability.

There is, of course, nothing the city can do but bail Fire Dept. employes out of their predicament and belatedly make the best of a bad job. Meanwhile, firemen are willing to help themselves by increasing their contributions from 5 to 6.48 per cent.

It will take a great deal of time and a great deal of money to straighten out the situation. But, as the mayor says, governing authorities have both a moral and a financial obligation to firemen to see that the retirement program is placed at last on a workable, completely sound basis. The new plan should be endorsed by the City Council and sent to Raleigh for the necessary legislative action.

What The Bangkok Meeting Means

RIVAL games of pin-the-tail-on-the donkey are shaping up in the global hotspots rimming Soviet Russia. The Southeast Asia defense conference under way today in Bangkok is working on the premise thta Communist expansion is the chief threat now facing the world. The Afro-Asian conference scheduled for April in Indonesia will probably work on the premise that the western white man's imperialism is what Africa and Asia must fear most.

Both meetings are important. Both could affect the balance of world power and prestige. Obviously, the United States has a stake in the outcome of each. If the diplomatic ball is fumbled now, the stage may well be set for the extension of Communist domination to wide areas of the free world—inside and outside the immediate Afro-Asian target zone.

The goal at Bangkok can be sharply defined. It is to make the Manila Pact a living thing—to provide organizational substance and precise military commitments. The purpose of this is to erect a solid military barrier against any overt aggression by the Red Chinese and their North Viet Nam satellite. Among other things, the establishment of police training programs will be required, along with a system of exchanging information useful in combating Communist subversion.

But there will be an additional task. It is to cut the ground from under the Reds by fostering the economic development of Asia—thus raising the living standards of the Asian people.

This economic challenge is as serious as the military challenge.

The Communist world is cocking its economic weapons—with economic and technical assistance to Afghanistan, an offer to build a steel mill in India, trade bait for the Japanese. In addition, Communist China herself is being rapidly industrialized.

The problem facing the western democracies is to give millions of Asians outside the Communist sphere some hope of relief from their suffering, some guarantee of freedom, some promise of progress and happiness. By striving to accomplish these ends the United States and the rest of the free world will be, in a very real way, insuring their own survival.

Cavaliers, Carolina,& Common Sense

BE IT EVER so humble, there is no place, simply no place like Virginia. But Virginians *humble*? Never!

Two Old Dominion officials, who introduced themselves grandly as "ambassadors of the State of Virginia," visited Raleigh this week. Before mounting white stallions and galloping back to the plantation, they managed to (1) put in a bad word for North Carolina, and (2) put in a good word for Virginia.

Discussing segregation, one H. H. Purcell of the Virginia House of Delegates allowed as how he was "alarmed at somewhat of a defeatist attitude we detect here" in North Carolina. He added briskly: "In Virginia, we believe where there's a will there's a way. We have the will in Virginia and we believe we'll find the way to keep Virginia as southern as it's always been."

Well now, suh, we all in No'th Carolina can be just as suth'n as cawnbread and chittlin's when we take a notion to be.

But being southern does not mean that the state must be deaf, dumb and blind to the political, social and economic realities of the age.

The atmosphere in North Carolina is not one of "defeatism" and it never has been. Perhaps the lowly Tar Heel State lacks a cavalier and aristocratic outlook. This is due to deeply rooted dissimilarities in the economic and social fabric. The mood in North Carolina is and always has been energetic and ambitious—and that mood has set the state strangely apart from some of its south-of-the-Mason-Dixon-Line neighbors. As a matter of fact, North Carolina enjoys a reputation throughout the nation for progressive outlook and action—particularly in industrial development, education and race relations.

The Tar Heel segregation problem is as complex as that of any other southern state. North Carolina is attacking that problem with cool wisdom, common sense and discretion. In official circles there is hardly a trace of the sulky arrogance so evident in some other states. Certainly, North Carolina has differences of opinion on the subject of segregation. There are the Sam Worthingtons and the John W. Clarks and the Professor Georges. But the state also has men like Gov. Luther Hodges, voices of moderation and reason.

North Carolina will solve today's problems as it has solved its problems in the past—with intelligence, hard work and patience. It will do this, remaining "southern" and without "defeatism."

From The Plainview (Tex.) Evening Herald

DESIRE TO GET AHEAD

EVEN before the days when the Horatio Alger books started getting around, the desire to get ahead was a well-respected quality. There never was anything wrong with the desire to move up from boiler room to executive suite . . . from push-broom and dust-pan to ulcers and 8 aspirin a day.

But out on the concrete strips, the desire to get ahead is a horse of a different hue. Someone once summed it up in a nutshell: "If all the cars in the world were put end to end, 98 per cent of the drivers would immediately pull out of line to pass the guy ahead."

You've seen this special kind of insanity time and again—especially in a long, tight traffic line. If a certain, wild-eyed type of character is gnashing his gears behind you, the gap ahead of your front bumper is bait he can't resist. There's space ahead, and he's got to grab it! He roars around like a Cherokee Strip homesteader and knifes in ahead of you . . . and miles on down the road he's probably still there smack in front of you, frothing and frustrated—and it'd take an Olympic stopwatch to clock the time he saved by passing you!

And if you think this is exaggerated, Employers Mutuals of Wausau comes up with this report.

Two cars were driven the same 300 miles of highway in a special test. One car, driven at a top speed of 65 mph, averaged 46 mph and passed 126 other cars. The other traveled at a 50 mph top speed, averaged 43 mph, and passed only 62 cars. The speedster made the trip in 6 hours and 25 minutes; the easy-going one made it in 6 hours and 50 minutes. So—11 per cent more gas, 50 per cent more oil, and who knows how much more risk . . . all for 25 measly minutes.

There have been many instances reported recently where the hearts of patients undergoing operations have stopped and have been started again. Many a mother has had much the same experience watching her children cross the street. GREENVILLE (S. C.) PIEDMONT.

A sunny disposition is the power which makes you convinced that today is the best time of the year.—LAUREL (MISS.) LEADER-CALL.

Small boy explaining a broken window to policemen: "I was cleaning my slingshot and it went off."—MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

Posterity may be puzzled at us—keeping America strong and free and broke all at the same time.—MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

There's a story going around about the collegiate Texas oil heir whose dad bought him a university for him to drive his convertible to.—DALLAS NEWS.

People's Platform

Proposed Milk Law Favors Special Interests

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WAS astonished that a Senate committee has reported favorably the milk price fixing bill.

As you know the bill is offered in the interest of the milk processors and distributors, but does not help, but hurts the buyers and consumers of milk.

Since I have an investment in a processing plant, the law could benefit me, but it is class legislation in the interest of a restricted group, and it surprises me that the General Assembly would pass such a bill.

The reasoning of Sen. Scott is that the bill treats milk as a public utility, and therefore the price fixing is justified. What apparently did not appear to the committee is that when the state fixes public utility rates, it fixes the maximum, not the minimum, but in this bill the Milk Commission is authorized to fix the "minimum" retail and wholesale prices. In the case of the telephone rate the commission fixes the maximum rate to be charged. If the reasoning of the proponents of this bill is accepted and applied to the telephone rate, my residence telephone would be "at least" $5.37 per month, and there would be no ceiling on it.

The bill does not instruct and authorize the Milk Commission to prevent unreasonably high prices to protect the public, and enable families who need more milk to buy it, but directs the processor to charge at least the price fixed, with authority to charge as much more as it desires. To my simple mind, this is a cockeyed, not to say a monstrous thing.

I am surprised that the General Assembly would consider enacting legislation for the benefit of a restricted group without taking into consideration the interest of the public.

—J. F. FLOWERS

'Thank God For Social Security'

Laurinburg

Editors, The News:

WE ARE farmers. We were born on the farm, lived on the farm all of our lives until our health failed and we were compelled to give up farming when the children grew up and married.

We always listen to the farm news and enjoy hearing it. I was so glad to hear that the farmers would have social security cards. Thank God for that. Some of us stayed on the farm through good years and bad and did the best we could to make an honest living, while some gave up. Some of us sharecropped and some years we couldn't meet expenses.

We farmed 43 years on the same plantation after we married and when we were compelled to retire, we had to retire on God's mercies through our children.

If we get a pension they want us to give up one little shelter over our head that we all sacrificed and bought to live in when we became too old to work. We are not here on our own accord, but we are here. I don't think it's fair, in the sight of God, when among the few old farmers who are still living at ages from 69 and 72, there are so many who failed in some way to try to buy a house now get a pension. There are just a few of us old ones. Some left the farm years ago and some tried to stick to it because somebody must farm.

If our people had some kind of factory work here, or either part-time work, our children would be at home and there would be more money in our county for everybody to live on.

When the men retire from the farm if they are able to work, the first thing they ask is, "How old are you?" The next thing they say is, "We can't use you." What now? At that, the old farmers are just thrown away, just on the mercy of God, but we still thank God for this social security, for the new farmers. We didn't have a chance, so we did the best we could while we could work trying to keep the farming going on.

—A. McMILLAN

Cancer Forums—An Annual Event?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

IT MUST be inspiring to a newspaper management to know that they have made so important a contribution to the success of a community betterment effort such as our recent Cancer Forum.

Favorable public reaction to this project has led us to believe we should make the forum an annual event.

I am convinced that the excellent publicity given by your paper contributed tremendously towards the success of these forums.

On behalf of the Mecklenburg Unit of the American Cancer Society, please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation.

—LOUISE S. DAVIS
Executive Secretary

Eggheads United: The Highbrow In American Politics

By ARTHUR SCHLESINGER JR.
Condensed From Partisan Review

AMID the other perplexities it bequeathed the American people, the campaign of 1952 bequeathed a particular perplexity to the philologists. In September of that year, Stewart Alsop, the well-known syndicated columnist, was traveling through Connecticut with Gov. Stevenson. In order to get a Republican estimate of the local situation, he phoned his brother, John Alsop of Avon, a prominent younger figure in Connecticut politics. In the course of the conversation, Stewart Alsop pointed out that certain intellectuals, who had backed Gen. Eisenhower up to the convention, were now deserting him. This comment somewhat irritated John Alsop; so, dredging a term up from his subconscious, he dismissed these defections as the "egghead" vote.

AMIABLE EPITHET

John Alsop did not invent the term "egghead"; but no one had ever before applied it to the nation's intellectuals. "I suppose if one were to analyze the term," John Alsop wrote later, "one would say that it is a visual figure of speech, tending to depict a large, oval head, smooth, faceless, unemotional, but a little bit haughty and condescending." It should be emphasized that for the Alsops, graduates of Yale and anti-anti-intellectuals, "egghead" was still an amiable epithet; and it was in this sense that the word made its debut in the language.

On Sept. 26, after a visit to Springfield, Stewart Alsop used the word publicly in a column, applying it both to those intellectuals who were swinging to Gov. Stevenson and to the young men who were active in the Stevenson headquarters in Springfield. At this stage, "egghead" had rather an Ivy League connotation — an A. B. degree, button-down collars, tweeds and flannels, perhaps pipes and crew haircuts, with a lively but amateur interest in the intellectual life and a capacity to read without moving one's lips. Gov. Stevenson himself was amused by the word and used it while speaking to an egghead audience at the University of Wisconsin. In the next weeks the term caught on with a rapidity which suggested that it filled some precise need in American discourse or perhaps touched some sensitive nerve in the social organism.

ROUGH JUSTICE

Certainly there was rough justice in the application. While Gov. Stevenson had no more eggheads about him than Franklin D. Roosevelt used to have, he diluted them less with the professional politicians, the admirals, the old Harvard cronies and the other non-intellectual types who moved in the Roosevelt entourage. Moreover, while Roosevelt had an active and detailed interest in issues of public policy, his reactions to art or literature were perfunctory and conventional. Stevenson, with his literate and well-stocked mind, his urbane and apt allusions and quotations, gave the impression of being a man of far broader and more humane culture.

To the intellectuals of the country, he seemed one of their own; and they responded to him as they had never responded to Roosevelt. Or, at least, so I have been repeatedly told since the campaign; and, when I have wondered whether this was simply the application of the rule that people in love find all their previous affairs tawdry and superficial, I have been told no—that there was a sense of kinship and sympathy with Stevenson which had never been felt with the more remote, abstract, contrived Roosevelt.

SENSE OF BELIEF

The intellectuals desired Stevenson's victory, not to attain public objectives or even to affect public policy, but to affirm an interior sense of admiration and of belief.

This passion of the intellectuals for Stevenson, while not to be a major factor in the outcome, could not escape due notice in the heat of the campaign. The Republicans became considerably irritated by what appeared to be a closing of the literary and academic ranks behind the Democratic candidate. Anti-intellectualism is always epidemic in the business community; and the campaign of Sen. McCarthy and his associates, as well, doubtless, as past excesses of the intellectuals themselves, had spread the infection through much of the country. In the last weeks of the campaign, the Republicans made a calculated effort to rouse and exploit this accumulating exasperation.

NEW PHASE

It was in the course of this effort that the word "egghead" entered a new phase of its evolution. What had started out as an affable and friendly term now began to acquire uglier connotations. Sen. McCarthy, while avoiding the word, devoted two nation-wide broadcasts to attacks on the Stevenson advisers, a sinister crew of people which included two Pulitzer Prize historians, one of them a former editor of the Saturday Review of Literature, as well as a Bollingen Prize poet and former Librarian of Congress. Others seized with relish on the new word itself. "There has come a wonderful new expression," exulted Louis Bromfield, a McCarthy admirer, on Oct. 26, "to define a certain shady element of our American population. Who conceived the expression, I do not know. . . It seems to have arisen spontaneously from the people themselves."

Mr. Bromfield went on to offer a voluble and excited definition—"a person of intellectual pretensions, often a professor or the protege of a professor. . . superficial in approach to any problem . . . feminine. . . supercilious. . . surfeited with conceit. . . a doctrinaire . . . supporter of middle-European socialism. . . a self-conscious prig . . . a bleeding heart."

RISE TO CLIMAX

What these expressions signaled was a rise to climax of the hatred of the intellectuals which had long been stewing and stirring in various sections of American society.

On Nov. 4 the Republican victory licensed those feelings and, in a sense, established them in power.

The new President, of course, was no particular enemy of the intellectuals. He had himself been a university president, of a sort; and even before his inauguration, he had appointed three other captains of education to key positions in his administration (though, perhaps significantly, no university professors). But other members of his party were less admiring of the life of the mind. A number of Republican senators and congressmen, flushed with political victory, now sought to convert the Democratic defeat into an egg-head rout by tracking the intellectual down to his final stronghold, the university.

SOCIAL PRESSURES

Today, as a consequence of the election, the American intellectual finds himself in a situation he has not known for a generation.

In the '20s, this situation was manageable. The social pressures were heavy, but escape was easy. Satire was an available weapon: Mencken, Lewis, Lardner and their imitators could cope with society by ridiculing it.

CLOSING HORIZON

In the generation since, the horizon has closed in. The cold war and the Soviet threat have necessarily narrowed alternatives and the indulgence of freedom must inevitably take second place in the real world to the harsh requirements of survival. And the intellectuals themselves, in many cases, have forfeited sympathy or respect because of the arrogance and egotism they displayed when they were riding high—an arrogance too often accompanied by political imbecility, if not by political guilt. Yet the demagogues of the right, trying to pluck power out of anxiety, have narrowed the alternatives far beyond the point of necessity. And, though the intellectuals may have deserved much in the way of correction, they did not deserve as the instrument of chastisement a blatant liar whose own awakening to the Communist threat was delayed until Feb. 9, 1950—a date by which time all but the most obtuse intellectuals had long since tumbled to the facts of life.

OBVIOUS SCAPEGOAT

The intellectual has become the natural and obvious scapegoat for the country's new rulers; he caused the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, lost China, invented the graduated income tax and piled up the national debt; anti-intellectualism has long been the anti-Semitism of the businessman. Escape into satire "only worsens the intellectual's position in the United States. Escape into foreign lands only deepens his predicament and his melancholy; after all, Jean-Paul Sartre is both far more irritating and a far greater enemy of freedom than Herbert Brownell. Publication, in general, will be far more difficult than ever before; the problem of the mass media ever more pressing; the attack on cultural diversity ever more methodical and effective.

This is far deeper than a political problem; but, like all problems in this age, it has a political cast. The intellectual should take heed from the "egghead" episode. He is on the run today in American society; and he cannot hope to escape by silence or by retiring to cultivate his garden or—certainly—by sidling up to his pursuer and offering his services.

POLITICAL FREEDOM

Nothing has been more pathetic than the scurrying to cover of certain intellectuals when called upon to stand up for the freedom of expression. And this freedom too, in the long run, affords the only basis on which the problems of mass culture can be answered. Tocqueville commented a century ago that many people considered equality of conditions as one evil and political freedom as a second. "When they are obliged to yield to the former, they strive at least to escape from the latter. But I contend, that in order to combat the evils which equality may produce, there is only one effectual remedy—namely, political freedom."

CLASS INTERESTS

Not all intellectuals may be willing or able to understand the complexities of the dollar gap or the price-support program. But they should at least, like the trade unionist or the catfleman or the oil magnate, be willing to understand their own class interests.

Much as the highbrow in his present mood may dislike politics, he cannot escape or reject it. We hear that the new intellectual is entering into a phase of contemplation and withdrawal. But, if he decides to flee it all and become a Yogi, he will have no one else to blame if Sen. McCarthy becomes the Commissar.

'It's The B-B-B-Bold N-New P-Program'

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Race Rider On School Bill Needless

AFTER almost two months of calling no meetings of his House Labor and Education Committee—except one to organize—good old Congressman Graham Barden of North Carolina is holding hearings on the school construction bill.

Ordinarily Barden would be strong for helping education. He's a former schoolteacher himself. But he aims to block any school bill which carries any hint of segregation. And Sen. Ives of New York, with Bender of Ohio, both Republicans, jolted the chances of a school bill by tacking a segregation ban on the bill in the Senate.

BARDEN

This will win votes in Harlem and Cincinnati, but will never get a school bill through Congress.

Meanwhile, sagacious Congressmen Cleveland Bailey of West Virginia, Democrat, and Carroll Kearns of Pennsylvania, Republican, are arguing that nonsegregation is already the law of the land and the Supreme Court needs no additional legislation to support its ruling. So they have persuaded Barden to proceed with school bill hearings.

Democrat Bailey has also been smart enough to take Kearns' Republican bill and urge its passage, rather than a Democratic bill. This will get more Republican support and should pass Congress.

It's a safe bet, however, that the Eisenhower school bill will not pass. Republicans and Democrats both consider it inadequate.

New Job For Hall?

Big, bluff, wise-cracking Len Hall, who rode herd on the Republican committee without rubbing any fur the wrong way last week, may not be in that spot when the campaign gets going in '56.

Though Ike likes Len, he feels happier with Jim Murphy, head of the Citizens for Eisenhower Committee; so Len Hall may get one of the prize plums of government, the law business of General Aniline and Film. This is the big German company seized and operated by the U. S. government. The job pays about $75,000.

For a time it looked as if ex-Gov. Tom Dewey was slated to get General Aniline legal business. Word came to the Justice Department from Dewey several months ago that his old friend, Attorney General Brownell, should clean all Democratic holdovers out of General Aniline. That was why Jack Frye, a Republican appointed by Truman, was ousted as president.

Dewey apparently was not looking for legal business for himself, however, but for an easy way by which Len Hall might retire from the Republican National Committee.

Note—Top jobs in American-seized foreign companies have usually been political. Louis Johnson, former secretary of defense, was former counsel for General Aniline. Frye, retiring president, is an old friend of former Attorney General Tom Clark who got him the General Aniline job when Frye exited from Trans World Airlines.

Blitz Campaigning

Strategy behind the GOP plan to hold the Republican national convention at the latest date ever is twofold:

1. The boys around Ike know that he won't go for a long campaign. It wears him out, makes him nervous, interferes with doctors' orders that he must take regular rests. If confronted with a three-month drag of oratory and whistle-stops, they figured he would throw up his hands and refuse to run.

2. GOP campaign experts also figure that by astute use of their advertising agent friends on Madison Ave, they can accomplish the same political results in six weeks that they could in the customary twelve.

This was what happened last November.

First tried, however, in 1952, the blitz campaign was worked out by Lester Weinrott and Rosser Reeves of the Ted Bates Advertising Agency, with Red Rudge of Fisher, Rudge & Neblett. Weinrott took Ike to a Long Island film studio and spent a whole day filming and recording one-minute TV and radio spots. Then Reeves persuaded the big advertisers to relinquish their network time.

Because most of the big advertisers were Republicans (only one big New York advertising agency is Democratic), it was a simple matter to get the TV and radio time relinquished. The plan worked miracles, and present strategy is to repeat in 1956.