



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## Wasteproofing Public Assistance

IT IS a dreary commentary of modern civilization that it is necessary to compel people by law to support their aged and infirm parents. But this seems to be the case in North Carolina. Mockleburg's Sen. F. J. Blythe has introduced a bill to make it a misdemeanor, punishable in the discretion of the court, for a person over 21 to refuse to support needy parents when they are able to do so after reasonably providing for their immediate family.

The purpose of the bill is sound. The only question about it is all is whether it is strong enough. Most states already have relative responsibility laws on the books. When effectively drawn and enforced, they constitute the most positive step available for improving the administration of public assistance. Unfortunately, the enforcement provisions of the laws in many states are woefully weak.

An example of the extent to which relative responsibility provisions can be violated was turned up a few years ago

in New York. There, a grand jury investigating in Clinton County found that many people were receiving public assistance while children earning \$6,000 and \$7,000 a year were contributing virtually nothing to their support.

In Oregon, reports supplied welfare officials from income tax returns in 1953 disclosed that hundreds of persons were potentially liable under relative responsibility laws for the support of parents receiving public aid.

Any new North Carolina legislation to cover the subject should be airtight—even up to a provision covering fixed schedules for contributions that must be made by legally responsible and financially able children on behalf of welfare recipients or would-be recipients.

Properly drawn, a compulsory support law would make a significant contribution toward wasteproofing welfare legislation in North Carolina. The lien law was a start. This newest proposal would plug another hole.

## A Lid For A Box Of Fears

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S appointment of Harold Stassen as special assistant for disarmament last week has two-fold significance.

First, it should demonstrate to the doubtful nations of the world that the U. S. attaches enough importance to the desirability of promoting permanent peace to create a Cabinet rank position for this job.

Secondly, the creation of this new post should enable the U. S. to have on hand for presentation at any opportune time, definite plans and blueprints for complete or partial disarmament. Such blueprints could be used either as an initial proposal for disarmament or as a counter-proposal to a Kremlin-sponsored offer on the subject which the U. S. might deem undesirable or dangerous.

The West has been caught unprepared too many times by Soviet proposals which were patently insincere. It may seem paradoxical that the U. S. is creating a Cabinet-level post for disarmament while it continues to spend billions of dollars annually for the development and manufacture of the most lethal weapons ever known to mankind.

Former Air Force secretary Thomas K. Finletter pointed up this situation graphically in his recent book, *Power and Policy*. After underlining the desperate need of the U. S. to spend more on defense and the necessary war manpower and materials, he dwells solely in the latter half of the volume on the equally great need of all nations, in the interest of self-preservation, to give up their arms and develop some sort of international law enforcement system under which no nation would dare play the role of an aggressor.

It should be apparent, then, that as in most paradoxical situations both the interest of self-preservation and the need of the U. S. must, as long as there are nations bent on aggression, maintain the military potential to protect itself. But at the same time, it should always be working on a plan to close the Pandora's box of war. Without such a plan there will be nothing to do but fear. And the fear will grow and grow and grow—until a handful of us will wake up some stormy morning to find it too late for plans.

# Ivory Tower Rumpus: Progressives vs. Traditionalists

By HENRY STEINHAUER  
In Antioch Notes

(Editor's Note: Mr. Steinhauer is professor of German at Antioch College.)

FOR some years a cold war has been raging in the ivory tower. The advocates of progressive education, who have dominated the American schoolroom for a generation, are being attacked by the traditionalists, who question both the philosophy and the results of progressive education. It is unfortunate that, in this war of ideas, the traditionalists have been joined by a contingent of unwanted allies from the market place, who are not so much opposed to progressive education as to education in general, that is to anything that goes beyond the rudimentary skills necessary for

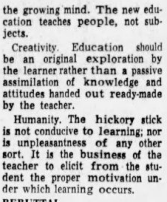
earning a livelihood. If we leave these suspect warriors out of the picture, we shall find that the forces aligned against each other are fighting over the following issues:

**FIVE POINTS**  
The progressives claim that they have brought about a revolution in American education. Their achievements may be summed up under five points:

Utility. The new curriculum asks: "Knowledge for what?" And answers: For effective living in modern American society.  
Democracy. Every member of a democratic society has a right to such education as he can absorb. The old "academic" curriculum was at once too remote from real life and too exacting intellectually for the mass of

young people who were reaching ever higher on the educational ladder. Faced by a challenge they could not meet, they came to hate all learning.

Integration. The old academic curriculum developed the intellect only. It is far more important to educate the emotions and to instill proper attitudes in



the growing mind. The new education teaches people, not subjects.  
Creativity. Education should be an original exploration by the learner rather than a passive assimilation of knowledge and attitudes handed out ready-made by the teacher.

**REBUTTAL**  
All this, the traditionalists claim, sounds wonderful on paper. But, after being subjected to a generation of trial, these theories have proved themselves to be what they have been: a deception. It is a population which leaves school unable to perform the basic operations in the basic disciplines of languages, literature, history, and mathematics, but which talks glibly (though ungrammatically) about the great social and political problems that confront our civilization today.

Since space compels me to present this largely unedited and condensed shorthand, I should like to introduce into this controversy a couple of wrinkles which my own teaching experience on both sides of the American-Canadian border has revealed to me.

**IMPARTIAL AMAZEMENT**  
The progressive educators weave statistics to us to prove that the level of education is substantially higher than it was a generation ago. But it comes face to face daily with numerous concrete statistics which prove that the English used by sales clerks, radio announcers, doctors, journalists, and university professors is definitely inferior to that of their counterparts in Great Britain and Canada. Like my colleagues I am shocked at the outrages committed by the students and mature journalists against their mother tongue. And I am perpetually amazed to find that my students are seemingly unable to master the elements of a foreign language (work that really belongs on the level of first year high school or earlier), though teaching methods have vastly improved since the days when I first learned the same material.

**BALEFUL FORCE**  
From the complex forces which have cooperated to bring about the situation that has led to the declaration of war on progressive education, I would single out one which seems to me especially baleful: The fiction, promulgated by the progressives, that learning is fun. Such fiction is very satisfactory in the early stages of the educational process, as a decoy for luring children into the subject of learning; it has long been recognized as such, at least as far back as the Renaissance. But there is not a time when the pupil is not aware that real learning is not "fun," but hard work.

It is man's story that he is ready to endure the drudgery and mental agony involved in learning a skill, an exact mental discipline, or an art or in opening up new pains in science

and learning. At the end of the process there is to be sure, the pleasure that results from achievement; but the learning or exploration itself is highly painful.

**BEYOND THE REALM?**  
One would think that the mountains of testimony supplied by great minds on this matter would have taken it beyond the realm of dispute. But the newspaper advertisements keep on trying to elicit from the student it's fun to write, it's fun to play the violin like Heifetz (in twelve easy lessons). A highly imaginative Korean War and one of our generals learned to speak seven languages fluently at odd moments in between fighting operations. And the progressive educators have been sweating for a generation to make education fun for the kids. They have had fun, but little education worthy of the name. When they come to college, they are still looking for fun (and too often they get it).

The following bits of evidence were deposited on my doorknob recently. A student ended his paper on the "Drive Comedy" with this statement: "If the story were to be modernized to make the reading easy and understandable by replacing Danie's characters by personalities which my own teaching experience on both sides of the American-Canadian border has revealed to me he could not learn German because he had 'mental blocks' against classical methods of teaching. When I asked him what he meant by 'classical methods of teaching' he couldn't assimilate grammatical jargon."

**FAUSTIAN MAN**  
The old schoolmaster who said that it doesn't matter what they teach them, as long as they have it, was oversteering a sad but honest course. He was really around the crisis: "We must raise academic standards" and "We must restore the basic disciplines to their former place in the curriculum." These slogans have none of the magic of words like utility, democracy, integration, creativity, humanity; moreover, they have become stale with repetition, but they are the medicine that American education needs. Until now even our high schools have been teaching Americans of laziness. Are we not the classic example of Spengler's "Faustian man," the dynamo of energy, of infinite effort? But several more decades of education "without tears," and the horrors of "Brave New World" and "1984" will be upon us.

**OPPORTUNITY**  
The next few years will afford us an opportunity of putting into practice a more rigorous standard of achievement in secondary education. We are facing an upsurge in enrollment; masses of young people will be clamoring for admission. It would be wonderful if we had the courage and the wisdom to say to them: If you want us to certify that you are an educated man, you must justify the expense and effort that your parents, your teachers, and the state are investing in you by meeting respectable academic standards. If you are an educationally deficient man, every effort to supply you with some substitute that will make you a useful member of society. But you are an educationally deficient man, you are a high school or college graduate if the word education is to have any meaning.

## The Case Against Spring

SPRING strutted into Charlotte at 3:30 a.m. today and we're not entirely happy about it. Spring is the only season that can't be trusted. Old Stepmother Nature always seems to have something nasty up her sleeve between March 21 and June 21.

"Spring is like a perhaps hand," wrote poet E. Cummings, "springing things in a window." Mr. Cummings was quite aware that "perhaps" is an adverb and not an adjective but he wanted to indicate the tentative quality of the season. Obviously, there is no word quite as tentative as "perhaps."

Spring is tentative and that's what bothers us. Land of sweetness, gentle sunshine, flowers, first robins and a young man's fancy? Nonsense. That's just the guff of monstrous philosophers. Spring can be full of trials and tribulations. Exhibits A through Z: Spring Fever, spring cleaning, spring chills, spring colds, spring foot, spring chills, spring

tonic, spring mud, spring flood, spring plowing, spring planting, spring weeding, spring tomatoes, spring cramps, spring houseguests, spring liniment, spring beetles, spring cankerworms, spring rash, spring catarrh, spring railfrogs, spring toads, spring colic, spring flies, spring pocket, spring sunburn and spring panels.

And we don't want to be alarmed but a good spring sleet storm is always lurking around the corner too. Spring also contains such terrors as April Fool memory and desire, spring hats, puppy love, bee stings, chicken pox, lawn cutting, prickly heat, and occasionally, snow blindness.

As long as we're on the attack we might as well encompass the full notion that people feel better in the spring. Too many frustrations. They feel better in the fall when all the frustrations are behind them. The prosecution rests.

## From The Richmond News Leader

### VIVE LA DIFFERENCE!

ACCORDING to a piece of fairly incredible news that just came across the desk, the Frenchwoman has just been measured for the first time. Or, to be precise, "This is the first time that a profoundly scientific study has been made of the general proportions of Frenchwomen."

Anyway, it's interesting. One Suzanne de Felice did it for a thesis presented before the Faculty of Sciences. She wanted 400 subjects but got only 140, which is a right small sample for womanly researchers. But she seems to have encountered more resistance than the pollsters of Dr. Kinsey encountered. Mile de Felice reported that "every peasant woman approached refused violently."

The conclusion reached was that the average Frenchwoman is pretty well stacked. This in itself is no surprise, as any GI of the late lamented unpleasant will testify. Here are the vital statistics:

Average height, 5 feet 3 3/4 inches, but 40 per cent surprisingly were taller than foot-seven; average weight about 122 pounds; long torso and long arms, hence shorter legs than American women; waistline about 28 inches, hips about 36 1/2; leg measurement from the hipbone, 35 1/2 inches, calf 13.

The summary goes on to say that the Frenchwoman is brachycephalic (that's science for you—means short-headed); but her face is long with rounded contours, a high wide brow and wide mouth—2 inches. Seventy per cent of the women were found to have light eyes—gray, blue-gray or gray-green, brown eyes with

yellow or orange flecks. About 10 per cent had dark brown eyes. Hair color was 44 per cent black or dark brown, light chestnut 30 per cent, and only 15 per cent ash or golden blonde.

Yes, science also covered the chest department, and the report's statistical findings can be summarized in two words: rather large.

In all, 8,260 measurements were taken, which is a right small sample for womanly researchers. But she seems to have encountered more resistance than the pollsters of Dr. Kinsey encountered. Mile de Felice reported that "every peasant woman approached refused violently."

Well, the result of all this has been a changing of ready-to-wear sizes by a number of French manufacturers and a lot of tape-measure work by other Frenchwomen.

We hope Mile de Felice got her doctorate or whatever she was after with this data. Anyhow, her remarkably varied findings are in pleasant contrast to the plump prediction of an American artist the other day that our own women are headed for the "New Unlook," in which is in addition to what the guests brought themselves. We think Billy Graham doesn't think it's likely to happen here, and clearly it isn't happening in Paris. *Vive la France!* And *vive la difference*, too!

A hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., used \$245,000 worth of dice in the last 18 months, also 95,000 decks of cards. This is in addition to what the guests brought themselves. We think Billy Graham doesn't think it's likely to happen here, and clearly it isn't happening in Paris. *Vive la France!* And *vive la difference*, too!

## 'Maybe I Shouldn't Have Pulled The Trigger'



## People's Platform

# Charlotte Does Its Part

## Rebuild The Army On The Same Spot

Charlotte Editors, The News: In the interest of the complex, its munitions and its facilities for caring for its indigent ill patients, I would like to make known the following facts concerning the cancer victim who was the subject of a letter by Mrs. Wade Allison in People's Platform on March 16.

The cancer victim has since last July been in a patient in a local hospital on three different occasions. His hospital bill was paid each time by Charity Hospitalization of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County—a tax-supported department of our local government.

Five local physicians have been called by the patient and his family since the diagnosis of his incurable illness. In each instance, the physician has responded to the call. One of the physicians made a charge of \$5 for a home visit but told the family that whenever the drug supply was exhausted to notify him and that he would, without additional charge, would phone a prescription to the drug store. The operation (biopsy) for the diagnosis of the disease was done without charge and X-ray treatment has been given the patient without any charge to him. It was pointed

out by the Welfare Dept. in the News, March 17, that the patient was eligible for admittance to the North Carolina Cancer Institute, a home for incurable cancer patients in Lumberton. This home was established by and receives its support from the American Cancer Society. The patient refuses to go to the home.

The bandages which the man is receiving through the City Nursing Service are provided free of charge by the American Cancer Society.

The local Cancer Unit has not received a request of any kind from this man or on his behalf, although one of the functions of the society is to provide aid within the limits of ACS policies and to advise and refer people to proper sources for services which it cannot provide.

In view of this information, and the fact that it would seem that all the facts were not made known and that the community and its agencies are not responsible for the needy and do provide accordingly.

—LOUISE S. DAVIS  
Executive Secretary,  
American Cancer Society

## Uneasy Memory

## No Safety In Ignorance

By GERALD JOHNSON  
ON WAKM, Baltimore

LAST WEEK the United States Post Office Dept. quit delivering Russian newspapers to any American except a very restricted class, mostly officials.

It meant nothing to me intellectually because I can't read Russian, but it meant a great deal to me politically, because it reminded me of the frantic efforts of John C. Calhoun and his followers to prevent the Post Office from delivering abolition newspapers in the South before the Civil War.

The policy of trying to stifle

## Release Of Yalta Papers Slap At Churchill

## Dismembering Germany

## Churchill Gets Slapped

In his memoirs, Churchill claimed he had nothing to do with the concessions given Stalin to get Russia into the war against Japan. This, he said, was an American decision.

The Yalta record shows, however, that it was Eden who vigorously opposed concessions to Russia. A summary of the British-American conference in Malta, just before the Yalta parity, has this to say about Eden and Russian concessions:

"In his (Eden's) view, if the Russians decided to enter the war against Japan they would take the decision because they considered it in their interests that the Japanese war should not be successfully finished by the U. S. and Great Britain alone. It was necessary for us to offer a high price for their participation, and if we were prepared to agree to their territorial demands in the Far East we should see that it was obtained a good return in respect of the points on which we re-

quired concessions from them."

On two other vitally important points, the British Prime Minister is shown up in bad light: the dismemberment of Germany and the organization of the United Nations.

In his memoirs, Churchill has always taken credit for the slaps at the dismemberment of Germany. However, the Yalta records show it was Anthony Eden. What Eden did was to shut the question of dismembering Germany to a council of foreign ministers to be held after the Yalta conference, thereby giving time for tempering a cool.

Churchill also threw his weight in favor of the big powers and against the little nations in a new lead-up to the framework of the United Nations. Today, of course, the smaller nations have been the great bulwark of peace while the Russian veto has almost stymied the United Nations.

These are some of the slaps at America's best British friend that still exist as well have been left unpublished during his lifetime. All it did was bring a cloud of gloom from the Communist press. Communist newspapers in the Post in Red China: "The disclosure is not good for Churchill or the British government. At the same time played between London and Washington is not so harmonious."