



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Sugar Creek: A Community Problem

LIKE King Auegas of the Epelans, Charlotte was still in search of a Hercules today.

According to Greek legend, old Auegas had 3,000 cattle, including 12 sacred white bulls. But the stable he kept them in hadn't been cleaned in 30 years. It may be assumed that some of the neighbors had begun to complain. So, along came Hercules. The mighty man stepped gingerly inside, sniffed around and agreed to clear out the stables unaided in a single day.

He did it too. Charlotte's Auegas stable is Sugar Creek.

Certainly the legendary king's cattle stalls could have been no smaller. Certainly Sugar Creek's neighbors are wringing their noses in classic alarm.

But nobody wants to clean up Sugar Creek. For awhile Thursday it looked as if Sen. F. J. Blythe was ready to help with the mop and pail. At least he introduced legislation to enable the County Commissioners to clean up the controversial stream by ordering construction of a concrete culvert—to be paid for by property owners within a half mile at the rate of a nickel a square foot of land.

By 8 a.m. Friday after protests waited up from back-home Mecklenburg, Mr. Blythe explained that he was "not selling the Sugar Creek bill. I am merely giving 'em a wagon to ride in."

He meant that he was just proposing the legal machinery for a cleanup if the county wanted to use it.

The principle involved is not new. Actually the 1911 drainage act permits an assessment of \$5 an acre for land within the half mile range.

But the Blythe bill, by upping the ante

considerably, adjusts the principle to modern construction costs.

Any plan for clearing up an Auegas stable is worthy of careful consideration. But this one, we believe is simply not feasible. It has certain major flaws.

First of all, the Sugar Creek stretch is not just bad for the property along its banks. It affects the reputation and pride of the whole city. By allowing such conditions to exist, the entire community is to blame. The burden of responsibility cannot be localized.

Nor is its ugliness confined to arbitrary half mile boundary lines. It is an open wound that runs across the face of the community. As such, it mars the charm and beauty of a whole city. It is the entire community's responsibility to heal it.

Any improvement in the Sugar Creek situation will help the whole town. Property values near the banks might be increased somewhat if the odor problem is solved. But this is hardly reason enough to soak people within a half mile of the stream for the full cost of a community improvement project. Mere proximity to the source of a community problem is an unsatisfactory basis for collecting revenue to solve the problem. If a municipal sewer line should burst on your street, it would hardly be fair for the city to demand that the people on your block alone pay to patch it up.

The search for a Hercules should go on. Charlotte's Auegas stable must be cleaned. If the Industrial Waste Ordinance does not do the job, then some other method must be adopted. If a levy is the answer, then the cost of construction is a burden the entire community should share.

'Full Ballot' Bill Is Unreasonable

SEN. C. V. HENKEL'S proposal to out-law single-shot voting in North Carolina carries apprehension about the political power of minority groups to absurd lengths.

It is perfectly true that, under the single-shot system, special interest blocs can boost a particular candidate's strength by voting for him alone—even though the election is to fill several vacancies on board, council, commission or legislative delegation.

By demanding that an elector cast his vote for as many candidates as there are offices to be filled the state would indeed eliminate a device that has been useful to voters who are interested in one man and one man alone.

But in halting one undesirable practice the law would be imposing an unfair and unreasonable requirement on the voter.

Surely, there is nothing in the democratic tradition which compels an elector to vote for someone or something he doesn't want—just to get his vote counted for someone or something he does want.

It is an important obligation of citizenship to learn all there is to know about all candidates. But some citizens just don't get around to it. Should we compel them to vote blindly for people they know nothing about just to fill up a ballot when they have no interest in the candidates?

Mr. Henkel's bill, however well intended, is ill-conceived and unfair.

Applause For 'A Man Called Peter'

SELDON has a motion picture tucked at the heartstrings of Charlotte with such compelling force as A MAN CALLED PETER. Seldon has an essentially spiritual theme been handled with such taste, basic warmth and profundity by Hollywood.

The film is based, of course, on Catherine Marshall's 1951 bestseller. It is the story of her husband, the late Peter Marshall, one of the most forceful and remarkable Presbyterian ministers of recent years. He was appointed Moderator of the U. S. Senate in 1947 and he held this office until his death in 1949.

He was not only one of the youngest men to become chairman but he was the only naturalized American to hold the post. Dr. Marshall was born in Scotland in 1902 and did not come to America until 1927.

Hollywood departed from the usual movie formula in producing A MAN CALLED PETER. It is both a success story and a love story. But, more important, it is a story told in terms of God's intimate participation in the affairs of man. It is a faithful portrayal of a great and humble man, a man who, incidentally, was no stranger to Charlotte.

From The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

WHY SPOIL THE STORY OF LADY GODIVA?

OUR FIRST reaction to the debunking of the legend of Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom by historian John Shelton, is that Mr. Shelton should be sent to Coventry. That is, his friends should become ex-friends and no one should have any further association with him. Unfortunately, Mr. Shelton already lives in Coventry (in Warwickshire, England), and it seems unsatisfactory to send to Coventry a man already living in Coventry.

Lady Godiva, the legend says, was the wife of Leofric, the Earl of Mercia and lord of Coventry. In the eleventh century, Leofric imposed oppressive taxes, and Lady Godiva nagged at him about it until the earl, in a fit of exasperation not unknown to families under such circumstances, said he would lower the taxes when Godiva rode through town unclothed on a horse. Lady Godiva sent a proclamation through the town advising of her intentions. She rode through the town unclothed except for her hair, and all the townspeople kept their eyes closed and shades drawn over their eyes. Tom who was caught, struck blind and labeled through the ages as "Peeping Tom."

Mr. Shelton, who is the Coventry city chamberlain, cites two principal errors in the legend. First, he says that the

ride took place in 1042, at which time, he says, Lady Godiva would have been 60 years old. That, we submit, doesn't kill the story.

The point is that there must have been something good, daring and attractive about Lady Godiva's life to provide the motivation for legendmaking. And if the peasants, women, cobblers, smithies and knights gradually improved the story as the years went by, what harm was done? Mr. Shelton finds, after 400 years of research, that Leofric was a good, kind, generous man. He would never, never think of spoiling a good story. Particularly a story that compliments his wife. Mr. Shelton of Coventry (geographical) should spend a few months in Coventry (metaphorical).

POME IN WHICH IS CONTAINED A TWO-WORD DESCRIPTION OF A PERSON TOO CONSERVATIVE IN THE MATTER OF SPENDING MONEY.

Purse Nurse—ATLANTA JOURNAL

No matter what kind of car you buy you can be sure, from a study of the ads, that it will look just swell in front of a \$100,000 mansion, with a blonde waving at it from the swimming pool.—FLORIDA TIMES-UNION.

Off-Shore Islands: 'Strategical & Political Liabilities'

By WALTER LIPPMAN

NEW YORK

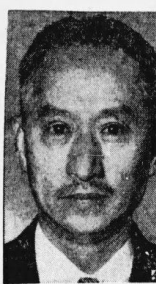
LAST MONDAY the Chinese Ambassador, Dr. Wellington Koo, delivered a long and interesting speech on the attitude of his government in Formosa. They will reject, indeed they will resist, any proposal which calls for their withdrawal from the off-shore islands. There was much passion in the speech. For while Dr. Koo observed the diplomatic niceties and pretended that he was talking about the "well-meaning pacifists of the free world" who are "the sponsors of fanciful formulas," he was quite plainly thinking about Mr. Adlai Stevenson's speech of the week before, and he was talking at, or over the head of, Mr. Dulles.

TWO THEMES

The formulas, of which many have been talked about in the capital of the world and in the corridors of the U. N., are all of them, I believe, variations on two basic themes. The first collection of formulas are designed to strike a balance with Peking in which the off-shore islands, plus perhaps other considerations such as the U. N. seat, are to be given to Peking in return for a cease-fire. Peking for its part would be agreeing not to use the islands as a base for the attack on the mainland, and would be assenting to a military co-existence with Chiang's regime. I think it is correct to say that this was the general idea in Washington.

PEACESETTER

Dr. Koo is right, it seems to me, in calling these formulas "fanciful," and indeed in even going so far as to accuse the government in Formosa, but it is hard to believe that Dr. Koo is really worrying about formulas which have become so unreal and so fanciful. For they have



DR. WELLINGTON KOO

'Fanciful Formulas'

ton when the Formosa resolution was being offered to Congress.

APPEASEMENT?

Dr. Koo is right, it seems to me, in calling these formulas "fanciful," and indeed in even going so far as to accuse the government in Formosa, but it is hard to believe that Dr. Koo is really worrying about formulas which have become so unreal and so fanciful. For they have

more emphatically by the government in Peking. What must really be worrying him is the second line of negotiations, which he did, however refer to expressly. This is the attempt to negotiate not with the Chinese Communists but among the Allies. Here the bargain would be an Allied guarantee of Formosa in return for a disengagement from the off-shore islands.

A formula of this sort might help the President and Mr. Dulles to disentangle themselves in Congress. But if it were a serious and candid international agreement, it would have to be a guarantee against the military conquest of Formosa in return for an American guarantee not to give military support to the return of Chiang to the mainland, and to treat his regime as provisional until there is a settlement by international agreement of the status of Formosa.

The declaration in Dr. Koo's speech that the Nationalist troops will remain, if necessary, alone on the off-shore islands is directed primarily at these discussions among the Allies. Dr. Koo is saying that if Mr. Dulles were to strike such a bargain with Sir Anthony Eden, the Generalissimo would still refuse to leave the off-shore islands. And if this is so, by implication—if the Generalissimo refuses to leave the islands, then the President's hard position will remain.



JOHN FOSTER DULLES

Tainted Epithets

For the Nationalist troops are reported to be about a third of Chiang's army. As used to be said of the French troops which were locked up in Dienbienu, they are like a goat tethered in the jungle as bait for the tiger. The President is being cast for the role of the hunter with the big gun who has promised his friends to sacrifice the goat because he will not shoot the tiger.

The moral of all this is, I submit, that it is an illusion to regard the off-shore islands as assets in bargaining either with the Communists or with our Allies. The truth upon which American policy ought to be based is that the off-shore islands are liabilities. They are strategical and political liabilities. Our problem is not how to sell them but how—with honor—to liquidate these liabilities without a tragedy.

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

Contrary to a widespread opinion, the security of Formosa is not enhanced, it is on the contrary jeopardized, by Chiang's stand on off-shore islands. They are related to the security of Formosa only because they greatly increase the insecurity of Formosa.

For if a general war with China were to break out—and if it were to be fought with atom

ic weapons in the Carney style—how could Formosa be defended? Suppose, as is more likely than not, that the Red Chinese have received from the Soviet Union, or have been promised, some nuclear weapons of their own. Only the most headstrong of their recklessness will deny that what is so possible is also probable. Formosa is a most vulnerable target to atomic bombing. Being a small island without space behind it, Formosa is infinitely more vulnerable to atomic destruction than is mainland China with its vast space and its vast depth and its enormous population.

JAPAN'S ROLE

And what are we to suppose that Japan would do in such a war? It is reasonable to imagine that Japan would not permit the United States to use her territory as a base in an atomic war against the ally of the Soviet Union—which has air force and a stockpile of nuclear weapons, and is two hours flying time from Japan.

It would be well for Dr. Koo and his American friends to stop pretending that only "well-meaning pacifists" or "badly-meaning appeasers" are in favor of disentangling the United States, and if possible, the United Nations, from the military trap in the off-shore islands. The issues involved are debatable, but the comparison of the off-shore islands with the off-shore ways and means to disentangle the commitment calls for deliberation and debate. The issues cannot be disposed of by contemptuous adjectives, like "well-meaning" and by tainted epithets like pacifist and appeaser.

SERIOUS BUSINESS

This is a very serious business, involving the vital interests of the United States throughout the world. Those who hold the view that these off-shore islands are a liability and a dangerous entanglement include military leaders and statesmen as well as those who need fear no comparison with Admiral Radford, Admiral Carney, Gen. Van Fleet, or Sen. Knowland—their comparison on the ground of their professional competence, their political experience and their record of resistance to tyranny. Copyright, 1955, New York Herald Tribune Inc.

'Look—Why Not Take A Penalty Stroke And Get Back On The Fairway?'



HERB BLOCK

People's Platform

Confidence In Smith

Is Not Misplaced

CHARLOTTE

IT IS worth noting that Mayor

Van Tass has had one

confidence in Mayor Pro-Tem Jim

Smith for him to have gone to

Europe as the Charlotte repre-

sentative at the World Festival. As

a citizen and a voter, I would

like to call attention to the fact

that when we gave him Smith

the largest vote for the City Coun-

cil two years ago, he did not mis-

place our confidence, and I would

like to see him re-elected with an

even greater majority this time.

Charlotte is growing, and for

our continued progress we need

more of the independent viewpoint

in government. Put me down as

an ardent supporter of Jim Smith

in next week's election, and I re-

spectively urge my fellow citizens

to give this their consideration too.

—E. A. BROOKS

Vice Pres. in Charge of Sales

Co. Mfg. Co.

Smith Is Man Of

Character, Integrity

CHARLOTTE

EDITORS, THE NEWS:

I came to Charlotte with my

family the latter part of 1916

and shortly thereafter, met a boy

across the street, Jim Smith.

Since that time, I have gone to

grammar school, high school, and

have been associated with Jim in

church, school, community work,

civic clubs, and charity endeavors.

I believe that if anyone knows

a man of honest integrity, I do.

In my long friendship and asso-

ciation with Jim Smith, he has

always stood for the thing that

was right for the most people and

since the passing of his father,

has been successful in operation

of his business. Two years

ago his many friends urged him

to run for the City Council, feel-

ing the need for a man of his

character and integrity. Jim ac-

cepted their urge and ran as an

independent. Thanks to the

people, the vote was so great

that he was elected mayor pro-

tem. I feel it only just at this time

to write this letter to let the many

people know what an honest up-

right man Mr. Smith is, and I

recommend him to the good citi-

zens of our city in the coming

primary.

—PRYDE W. BASINGER

Drew Pearson's

Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

NOT since Jan. 11, 1954 has Secre-

tary of Defense Wilson issued a

list of the first 100 companies getting

defense contracts. This was a practice

regularly in the past, but the last

list showed Wilson's company, General

Motors, was out in front with 72

per cent of all contracts.

General Motors Favored

Since then, the likable, persistent

General Motors head has issued no

list though urged by subordinates to do so.

Instead, he has clamped an even tighter

censorship on his department, which

spends 70 per cent of the taxpayers'

money on meeting in Washington, at

ready under attack by Harry Truman

for not printing the truth about the

Red administration.

Here is a cross-section of news which

has been censored, either during or

shortly before Wilson's regime:

1953, Ford and Chrysler, former

producers of the Patton M-48 tank,

were arbitrarily declared out of

production with General Motors continuing

production. Studebaker, an inde-

pendent company, was ordered to

construct the 2.5 ton truck

Chrysler and American Locomotive

were ordered to stop production on the

M-48 tank. In contrast, the M-48 tank was

continued at full speed at GM's Cadillac

plant. General Motors was ordered

to take over unfilled GM gun prod-

uction, cutting out American Car &

Foundry. All these orders, direct

from the Pentagon, were censored.

The Defense Department is required by

law to submit its contracts to competi-

tive bidding. This is done in only 9

per cent of the contracts. The law is

shockingly disobeyed, with the result that

business gets the contracts. News re-

garding this is censored.

GM's Fisher body division was given

a contract to make 757 vertical turret

lathes at a cost of \$90,600 per lathe.

though it had no experience in this

field and though the Bullard Co. of Bridge-

port, Conn., an experienced firm, charged

only \$33,000. The contract went to

General Motors on the recommendation

of H. B. Boyer, a General Motors of-

ficial loaned to the government. His

advice cost the taxpayers \$60,000.

GM also got a free gift of 427

units of advance cost machinery. This

occurred because Chrysler took over

defense, and the facts were censored—

as are all facts which prove embarrass-

ing or involve sluggishness.

The Allison Motors division of General

Motors made over 100 engines for the Air

Force in 1953 at a profit of 39 per

cent. They did this by charging a 10

or 12 per cent profit by the GM au-

thority, then a profit by the next GM

subsidiary, then another profit by the

third GM subsidiary. While lagging

far behind in sales jet production, Gen-

eral Motors executives had time to get

houses and barns built for themselves

at cost by a construction company doing

business for the government—Huber

Hunt and Nichols. Daniel Fabock,

chief engineer for GM's Allison division,

got a \$31,000 home built for \$15,800.

Edward B. McNeil, a GM vice presi-

dent, got an air-conditioned house in-

stalled at cost—\$3,800.13. GM

official I. E. Settle got a barn built at

cost. All these facts were censored.

A sore throat later dug out and pub-

lished in this column Jan. 24, 1953.

Brass-Hat Waste

Censoring news coincides with the

views of many brass hats, though not all.

Some officers welcome public scrutiny,

and the taxpayers are entitled to know

the truth. Some exceptions: Brig.

Gen. Emil Kiehl who sent a special plane

from Ecuador to Panama to get his di