



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1955

Nothing Funny About Political Ban

HOW much time county employes spend pulling political fodder during campaigns is a matter of conjecture. But it is a safe bet few of them work against incumbent county commissioners. Otherwise, that group wouldn't have been so quick to kill Commissioner Sam McIninch's common sense proposal to ban campaign contributions and poll work by employes.

Mr. McIninch's fellow commissioners treated his proposal as a joke. Mr. McIninch didn't detail his reasons for advancing it. Whatever the roots of it, the proposal is good enough to stand on its own feet, and no matter how hard the commissioners hug the political status quo the question will rise again as long as patronage is the test of government employment.

We don't mean to suggest the courthouse sits in the middle of a patronage ring or that county employes are not efficient and honest. We believe the opposite to be true in most cases. A plan to protect employes from political pressure and the government from political hacks, however, is not a fit subject for guffaws, not even on a lazy summer afternoon. There is nothing alien about such a plan. The federal government has the Hatch Act and most efficiently operated cities have civil service systems that make it unnecessary for

employes to politick and unsafe for them if they do.

Even the county over which the commissioners preside has a Civil Service Board which was designed and has operated quite effectively to keep political fingers out of police work. Unfortunately the board's authority does not extend beyond the police department to other county offices.

(It should be noted that Mr. McIninch's proposal may have sounded even better had not been the father of a resolution attempting to advise the Civil Service Board on appointment of a new police chief.)

But the commissioner was eminently correct in saying active political campaigning by county employes should be cause for dismissal. The eventual alternative to such a firm stand is the kind of situation that brought forth the Civil Service Board to clean up the police department. . . . The kind of a situation where department heads coddle, as Commissioner Herbert Garrison said he would, "fire everyone who didn't work" in their campaigns.

And the alternative to that situation might have to be a Civil Service Board that controlled all county jobs while the commissioners met merely to pass resolutions of unwanted advice to the board.

Italy In Crisis: No Need For Anxiety

JUST when the sound of France's political disturbances had dropped to a half-hearted whisper, new explosions were heard across the Alps in Italy. Suddenly, after 16 months' Christian Democratic Premier Mario Scelba was out and President Giovanni Gronchi was searching feverishly for a successor.

The new leader may well be 64-year-old Antonio Segni, scholar and farm reformer who already has the blessing of his own Christian Democrats. He is, however, still seeking enough support elsewhere to form a center coalition government. The crisis was not unexpected. It had been brewing ever since the June 1953 elections when the Christian Democrats won less than a parliamentary majority—292 of 540 seats.

To make matters worse, the party is split into left, center and right wing groups. So long as it remained united—and had the support of the Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals—it was able to maintain a small but workable majority.

Serious trouble began when the right wing Christian Democratic bloc led by

former Premier Giuseppe Pella denounced the three splinter parties as un-Christian appendages and called for an all-Christian Democratic government bolstered with Monarchist support. Then, after a month ago, the Republicans withdrew their support, and disunion within the Christian Democrats increased. In the interests of "party harmony," Scelba was forced to quit.

The prospect is for a long period of government instability. This need not cause great anxiety in the West, however. It is probable that any new government will continue Italy's support of the Atlantic community and its affection for the United States.

In fact Americans can be proud of that combination of skilled diplomacy and timely aid which has helped keep Italy in the West's camp and out of the clutches of the Reds.

Italy, even in the midst of a political tug of war, is not in terrible danger. Under leaders like Scelba and Alcide De Gasperi, it has demonstrated repeatedly in recent years its warm friendship for the democratic West.

When A Farmer Out Walking . . .

A STEELE CREEK farmer named John A. Thompson went walking in the field the other day and on a green stalk he found a white cotton blossom. He did not keep walking.

The blossom gave him pause. Maybe he broke the branch that held it and carried it to the house. Perhaps he just bent over and looked, then searched the rows for other blossoms.

Anyway, there was fascination and excitement in the little white bloom. We know there was because Mr. Thompson told a county agent, the agent told a reporter and so there was a little item in the paper about the first cotton bloom of the year.

We wonder why. There was no story about the first rose blossom. The early corn tassels goes unheralded. And only the hummingbird attends the birth of the tiny blossoms in the hedge rows.

It's taken decades for the truth about the South to even start to be assimilated by non-southerners. How long it will take for a similar truth about the mountains and the mountain people to be accepted nobody knows, for that myth is even more strange—and flattering.

To most non-mountaineers the average resident of Southern Appalachia, as John Parise pointed out in Sunday's Asheville Citizen-Times, still is "a tall, slouching, bearded climber with a squirrel-fur in one hand and a jug in the other, a bearded, tobacco-chewin' hillbilly who spends all his time a-fiddlin', a-feudin', and a-fightin' . . . a distiller of corn likker . . . the overlord of a one-room log cabin with a dozen mouths to feed and a passel

Certainly, Mr. Thompson is no slave to the deformed king. Of his 200 acres the item said, only six are planted to cotton. He pays more attention to beef cattle and chickens. And so does all the South, the new South that raises factories in fields, covers the red wounds of the earth with kudzu and lespedeza, and finds a measure of the prosperity that always used to be just around the corner.

Still, first love is a long time dying. Although the South and the cotton that was king fell into quarreling a long time ago, there has been only separation, not divorce.

And when a farmer out walking meets a virgin cotton bloom face to face with the cows and the chickens for a moment are forgotten, there is a fascination and an excitement . . . and there is an item in the paper.

WHO ARE ALL THOSE OTHERS?

THERE is not one South, but many Souths, and so there is no such thing as a typical southerner.

That has been pointed out so convincingly, so many times, over a period of so many years, that at last that truth is beginning to be accepted, even outside the South. At least among the more intelligent non-southerners, it is beginning to be recognized that the typical southerner is neither a snarling, pillared portico, slipping mint julep, nor lives on Tobacco Road.

Such illusions die hard, though, people hold onto them through wishful thinking. They find it pleasant to believe there are people so different from themselves—and flattering to believe there are people so inferior to themselves.

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of bound dogs in the yard . . . Time was when that myth gave offense to most of us mountain people. We were hurt and indignant that people should have such unflattering ideas about us. We were likely to be on the defensive.

Hopefully, that feeling is about gone. Today we can joke about being "mountain whites" and hillbillies. We can, because we ourselves have managed to shed an equally stupid illusion, the illusion that maybe we were a bit inferior. We can now take a look at ourselves at first of all, we've had a good look at what passes for civilization in many parts of America, and found the contrast revealing. And we can laugh about it because we find it amusing that people elsewhere should be so ignorant about any section of this country.

Fact is, if we don't watch out, it will be we who will be indulging a sense of superiority!

The average young man can hold his own in dancing, says a teacher, but why so close?—BRUNSWICK (GA.) NEWS.

If our highway death toll continues at its present rate, the Russians can forget about building a better Hombot—FORT MYERS (FLA.) NEWS-PRESS.

Barber—Your hair is thinning, sir. Ever try our hair preparations?
Customer—No, I can't blame it on that.—GREENVILLE (TENN.) SUN.

People's Platform

Charlotte
Editors: The News
MAKE ambulances slow down, by all means, but what about fire trucks? When one of those big monsters hits anybody they stay hit.

In Hartford, Conn., and Montreal, Canada, fire truck drivers on their way to a fire have to bring their vehicles to a halt at stop signs before going into an intersection. That plan would help in Charlotte too.

The same idea ought to apply to all emergency vehicles. I agree with your editorial suggesting that ambulances should observe all normal traffic regulations. But it looks as if the people down at City Hall are always looking for a compromise. So why not the Hartford-Montreal plan—applied to all emergency vehicles?—SAMUEL M. SMITH

Police Cars Need Speed Ban More

Charlotte
Editors: The News
FROM the driver's viewpoint I can't see why so much fuss over the ambulances. If there's to be any safety, it should be put on the city police cars.

In comparing the two I've always been able to see and hear the ambulance driver and must believe the reason being that the ambulances have more red lights flashing and also sirens seem to be louder, so I'd think they are larger than the ones used on city police cars. I've never seen one of those ambulances in a less than a less-than manner by ambulance and I have seen the police cars driven much faster and appearing to be more careless.

So why is the issue just being made over the ambulances alone when from my viewpoint they least deserve it?—BILL HORNSBY

Grant Ambulances The Right Of Way

Rock Hill, S. C.
Editors: The News
I AM writing this in a spirit of deep humility and concern for public safety and the saving of lives in emergencies.

I am now referring to a case of which I am sure you are familiar. In room 524 Memorial Hospital is a man in a cast that he will doubtless have for several months and must be crippled for the remainder of his life, and his wife is dead and his automobile is wrecked, all because an 18-year-old Negro boy driving an ambulance did not use reasonable judgment and caution while making an emergency call.

In this same hospital room is my father, a 73-year-old man who is alive only by the grace of God, who was brought to the hospital hemorrhaging profusely from the stomach, and was almost dead by the time he reached the hospital where he got a blood transfusion started, and the ambulance driver saved him 15 or 20 minutes could have been saved in moving him from the car on the Wilson Blvd. The hospital had not been required to observe the stop signs and other traffic regulations as a result of a new city ordinance following the tragic accident aforementioned.

I am sure your City Council has acted in what they thought best for public safety but certainly there are two sides to the matter, and as you well know 10 to 20 minutes can and often does mean the difference between saving a life or losing a life.

Certainly I am not trying to tell you exactly how to run its affairs but I believe this is a matter vital enough to merit a re-consideration.

In my opinion it is a tragic mistake to allow an 18-year-old boy to drive an ambulance. I feel that these drivers should be at least 25 years of age and thoroughly screened as to qualifications and particularly as to their attitude toward safety. Certainly a careful driver can make good speed and yet slow enough at street intersections to avoid striking a person who may have not heard the siren. I believe you will agree that it is just as important to save a person's life who is bleeding to death as to save one crossing the street.

I mean no offense, but you will understand my concern as it almost cost the life of my father.

—C. M. FREEMAN.
Editors: Note: A law requiring ambulances to observe normal traffic regulations has been discussed but, at this writing, has not been enacted. This is correct.

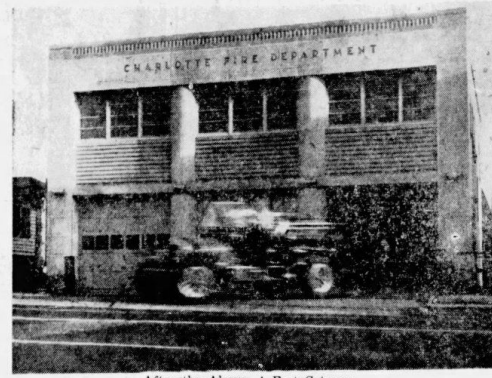
Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
INSIDE reason why V. M. Molotov at first wasn't going to hear Harry Truman speak in San Francisco was quite simple. Truman once gave Molotov the bawling-out of his life.

Arriving in Washington on route to San Francisco 10 years ago, Molo headed toward the State Department. Ed Muskie, then ambassador to Russia who served as interpreter, told Truman that he had never heard a top official get such a scolding. Truman's story of the bawling-out would be told in his book.

Hollywood Intruder
Retired brass hats at the Army-Navy club haven't relished the intrusion of Gary Cooper, who's playing the part of Billy Mitchell in a new Warner Brothers picture, "The Trial of Billy Mitchell." Part of the picture is being shown at the Army-Navy Club after midnight in order not to interfere with retired brass hats. Even so, some don't

Speeding Ban: Why Stop With Ambulances?



After the Alarm, A Fast Getaway

already a law on the books requiring operators of public carriers to be at least 21 years of age. The ambulance driver involved in the June 9 fatal accident was 19.

Nation Cannot Cut Corners On Wages

Myrtle Beach, S. C.
Editors: The News
I note much ado about a guaranteed wage for workers in the auto industry.

The point in hand is this: The automobile manufacturers give the public nothing free. They have seen this all too plainly in the case of our President, Mr. Eisenhower. He started out as one man but, due to the rigid barriers deliberately placed around him, many of us strongly feel that he is neither in touch with or in sympathy with the average citizen of this nation and cannot be reached directly by anyone. Too many secretaries, too much, as the folks say in Georgia, "rubbin' on the hog." This is lamentable for when a person ruling doesn't meet the problems of the average poor stiff on the street, he is apt to believe there is no poverty nor suffering among them, nor any problems.

The average working man cannot dig into his pocket for expensive (and possibly unnecessary) shots and treatment. Yet

the American Medical Association has come out against free shots of Salk vaccine. But who is to pay the bill for the poor man's children?

DIVING HARD

In the meanwhile when the big folk think in terms of pay for their workers they might also think in terms of money, no prosperity ideas of industrial peonage die hard but a free labor is a good labor. Labor under duress is unhappy and unable to meet the pressures of modern industry. Industries with the best paid labor seldom have labor troubles.

HIGH ON THE HOG

The reasons are basic. The laboring men are happier, they do not worry about the wolf at the door, they have ample leisure and therefore do not get sore and blow off against their employers under ordinary conditions. There is nothing to argue about.

So while you knock labor, think about your own business and the interests of the welfare. He is human too, you know.

—DR. WALDO H. JONES
People Have Defense Against Hate-Mongers
Rock Hill, S. C.
Editors: The News
ARE Bryant Bowles and A. R. National Association for the Advancement of White People a minority problem, or are they

the concern of the large majority of white Christian Americans? I believe that Bowles and his enterprise of bigotry, prejudice and psychopathic hatred are the business and concern of the vast majority of Christian Americans.

The supposed victims, members of minority groups are not the real victims of his activity. The injured are the entire American people. The sufferers are the millions of unaware peoples in our country.

Our concern with Bowles is not that he disagrees with us as to segregation, education or politics. He has a right to his view. But, does Bowles, the super-patriot, who holds in contempt constitutional protections of everyone save himself, smear anyone with whom he disagrees?

Our country is today in a state of national emergency. We are faced with powerful enemies from behind the Iron Curtain. It is in these times that the hate-mongers are a danger to all the people. It is the discollecting salesman of fear and hate who would create discord and disunion among the people, playing the game of our enemies, setting group against group, sowing suspicion and giving the enemy abroad a chance at attempting to divide the free world.

The American people have traditionally defended against the hate-mongers. They have a sense of fair play and a dignity that rises up against violations of justice.

MINORITY MEMBER Name Withheld By Request

Did Paper Blunder In Wedding Story?
Charlotte
Editors: The News
REPORTING of the Rubenstein-Edwards wedding is about the worst piece of reporting I have seen. The reporter evidently knows nothing about Michigan and its schools.

The Michigan State University is located at Ann Arbor, not East Lansing. The school located at East Lansing is Michigan State College. —

These two schools are very proud of their titles and are rivals in sports, especially football.

Why not correct this blunder in your next issue? —R. LEWIS

Editors: Note: The universities certainly are proud of their titles. The University of Michigan, located at the story said at Ann Arbor, protested vigorously last spring when the state legislature changed the name of Michigan State College to Michigan State University which, as the story said, is located at East Lansing. The reporter and the story were correct.

Horse Show Helped A Worthy Cause

Editors: The News
I KNOW that I am speaking for all of those interested in the Charlotte Charity Horse Show and the Stouffer Hospital in saying "thank you" for your generous support.

You and other friends have made this annual event a success for a most worthy and touching cause. — BEN BOSTICK
General Chairman

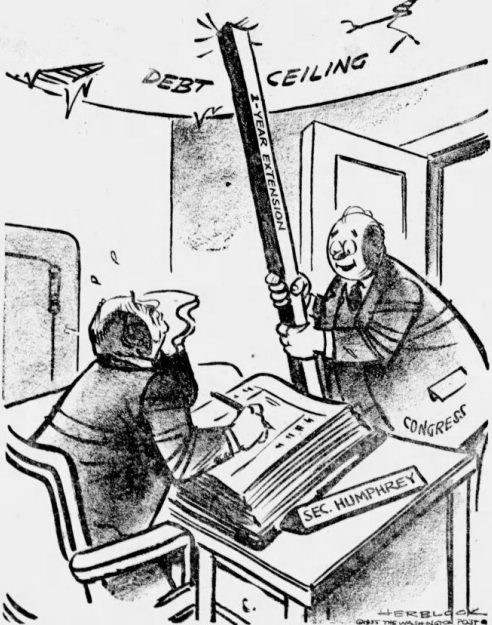
'Voice' Production Was A Big Success

Editors: The News
I WANT to take this opportunity of thanking you and your colleagues at The Charlotte News for the splendid cooperation which you gave us in the Mecklenburg Foundation's dramatic collaboration. We particularly want to thank you for your time, Miss Helen Parks for her splendid articles, and Tommy Franklin and "Joep" Hunter for the fine photographs.

"Voice in the Wilderness" was an outstanding success. After we had turned away spectators on three nights, we scheduled another performance and over 20,000 people saw this drama in less than one week.

We know that the publicity that you gave to this event contributed largely to its success. —JAMES R. KUYKENDALL

'There — Feel More Comfortable Now?'



Molotov Remembers HST's Scolding

like it. Remarks Col. Bob Guggenheim, retired ambassador to Portugal. "It's the only quiet place a man has to go. He can't stay home."

Muskie Snubbed?

The rumor that Ike was snubbing the one Democrat governor of New England, Ed Muskie, got started when Fred Serivier, Republican national committee man from Maine, gumbled about Eisenhower visiting a Democrat, also when the trip to Augusta was canceled. Reason for the cancellation was too short runways for the Columbine to land, not because Ike didn't want to see Muskie. He saw him later at Skowhegan.

Boundary Claims Unsure

The real truth of the Alaska shooting incident is that we don't know whether our plane was over alleged Siberian territory when forced down. The Russians claim sovereignty 20 miles out to sea. The U.S. claims 12 miles. Only it's possible the patrol plane might have been over the Russian area.

Boundaries are difficult in this remote part of the world and in one part of the Bering Sea, Little Diamede Island and Big Diamede Island—no Russian, one American—are so close that Eskimos paddle back and forth with little worry about nationality. . . . The Russian claim of 20 miles sovereignty at sea is one reason the State Department opposes Texas and Louisiana claims of 10 miles sovereignty over submerged oil off their coasts. The State Department argues that if the U.S. abandons the three-mile limit there we give Russia, Mexico and other nations a chance to cite Texas and Louisiana to justify their claims.

Military Grant-Hunt

Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson has gone on a fishing expedition for military scandals. His Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee has written 27 letters to the Defense Department, Reason for the cancellation was too short runways for the Columbine to land, not because Ike didn't want to see Muskie. He saw him later at Skowhegan.

Defend Quemoy?

The United States has been quietly pouring equipment into Quemoy, hottest spot in the East. It looks as if the administration is preparing to call the Red bluff over the disputed coastal islands. At present Eisenhower doesn't intend to give up the islands in advance, though he is willing to turn them over to the Reds as part of a Far Eastern settlement.