THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE

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A Political Weapon That Backfires

IN AN ERA of artificial earth satellites and machines that think perhaps it was bound to come—the suggestion that a GOP president will invade Dixie next year to help a Democratic senator win renomination in a Democratic primary.

The idea, as expressed in a Washington dispatch Sunday, is that President Eisenhower would go to Georgia to speak kind words for Sen. Walter F. George, assuming both men are candidates and George has strong opposition, presumably former Gov. Herman Talmadge. The purpose would be for Ike to boost George by showing his appreciation for the senator's sturdy foreign policy support and, at the same time, to swing some George backers to his own campaign.

Now this is a very gentlemanly and non-partisan proposal, indeed, but it involves risks for both the President and the senator. For the fact is that political endorsements have built-in backfires and no man knows this better than Walter George.

In the summer of 1936 at Barnesville, Ga., sitting on a platform with another popular president and two opponents, the senator heard Franklin D. Roosevelt damn him with faint praise and then ask Georgians to cast their ballots for Lindley Camp, a federal attorney. The third candidate on the platform was Herman Talmadge's father, Eugene, who was taking on the senator after two terms as governor.

Camp never got off the ground. George and Talmadge shared the votes and many Talmadgeites held their champion would have won except for the support built up for George by Roosevelt's attempt to purge him. Old Gene's disappointment was increased by Ed Rivers' defeat of Talmadge's own endorsee, Charles Redwine, in the race for the governorship.

George has had no serious opposition since the 30s, but in succeeding years no Georgia gubernatorial candidate openly endorsed by former or incumbent governors has ever been elected. Industrialist James V. Carmichael, endorsed by incumbent Ellis Arnall in 1946, was defeated by Eugene Talmadge. In 1948, incumbent M. E. Thompson, endorsed by both Arnall and Rivers, was defeated by Herman Talmadge. In 1954, Talmadge supported his successor, Marvin Griffin, but very carefully avoided an endorsement speech. In Georgia, the endorsers customarily become campaign targets themselves.

A more recent example of back-firing endorsement was the election of A. B. Chandler as governor of Kentucky over a politically clean judge endorsed by both Kentucky senators, Alben Barkley and Earle Clements. Not only did the Barkley-Clements candidate lose, but the senators themselves were brought under the Chandler campaign guns.

The Eisenhower strategists might also consider the fact that white supremacist Talmadge could use an Eisenhower endorsement as a bridge over which to attack both Ike and George on the race issue. From another point of view, Ike's blessing might lend substance to the old charge that George's domestic conservatism is nothing but disguised Republicanism.

Challenged by Talmadge, Sen. George very probably would be in serious trouble, but not the kind of trouble likely to be eased by the endorsement of a Republican President who himself polled only a third of Georgia's vote in 1952.

Just A Line For The Homefolks

TAKE a magazine, any magazine. Pass up the cartoons, pass up the jokes.

Turn to the advertisements. If you're a good, solid Tar Heel chances are a glow of pride will well up in your breast. There'll be an advertisement from some North Carolina firm.

You can't pick up a magazine these days without that experience. It's nice. It means a lot right here at home. It means business and business means prosperity—taxes, wages, sales.

We're proud of our Tar Heel firms.

And on the same pages you may find an advertisement from the eager Conservation & Development boys. They're trying to attract more good industry to the state.

There lies the paradoxical thing about this matter of advertising.

If those prosperous Tar Heel firms just added a little line mentioning their home base in North Carolina, the C & D salesmen would have an easier time of it.

Some are doing it. But not many. Most have general offices or sales offices in New York City. Naturally, they want to plug the sales end.

But look at the pride of Carolina—Cannon, Bur-Mil, Reynolds Tobacco, Hanes, Drexel and others.

What a great advertising boost it would give the state.

How about just a little line, please, just about this size?

Slow Pokes

FOR CHARLOTTEANS, there must be something particularly frustrating about 1955's great advances in the realm of speed.

The new artificial satellite, for instance, will travel about 18,000 miles per hour around the earth.

Scientists at Princeton University have stirred up a breeze in one of their hypersonic wind tunnels that blows at 11,000 miles per hour.

But back home in pokey old Charlotte it still takes suburbanites a half hour to get to work in the morning.

Safety, Like Charity, Begins At Home

WHEN you get right down to it, it is just about as dangerous for Mecklenburgers to be at home, at work or at play as it is for them to be out joyriding on the county's so obviously dangerous streets and highways.

According to the North Carolina Board of Health, only 50.52 per cent of Mecklenburg's 97 accidental deaths in 1954 had anything to do with motor vehicles.

The statistics expose a serious gap in local safety programs. The very nature of highway accidents makes them easy to dramatize as a major source of death in North Carolina. But safety in the home and on the farm—dangerous locales that deserve special attention—is difficult if not impossible to sell.

Across the state last year, automobiles accounted for only 43.68 per cent of North Carolina's 2,541 fatal accidents. After traffic fatalities, drownings, falls and burns, in that order, accounted for the largest number of deaths.

It is somewhat ironic that the pattern of accidents in the home—especially as applied to children and housewives—almost invariably falls into half a dozen categories which can be predicted. Yet the accidents persist. The human element, as ever, remains unchanged.

It's time that somebody noticed: Safety, like charity, begins at home.

From The Times, London

TWICE SHY

METER-READERS employed by the Yorkshire Electricity Board are to have lessons from an inspector of the (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) in how to avoid being bitten by dogs. There is, one suspects, no short, easy solution to their problem. . . The lady who is chairman of the Doncaster branch of the RSPCA gave some general guidance in the matter when she said: "If you don't want to get bitten by a dog, approach it as you would a human being." But what sort of human being? Human beings, like dogs, vary. There is a difference, and not a very subtle one at that, between the manner in which we accost the old friend with whom we are lunching, and the policeman whom we find standing, note-book in hand, beside our parked car after luncheon. . .

It is moreover questionable whether dogs are any keener on being treated as if they were human beings than human beings are on being treated as if they were dogs. Is there really much future in asking an angry elk-hound if it has read any good books lately? Are French dogs less likely to bite one if one takes of fone's hat to them? . . .

Sheer lack of experience prevents us from knowing how to behave towards human beings who insist on sniffing at our ankles, making a low rumbling noise the while. No doubt this minatory procedure corresponds closely to some form of human behavior, but it is not very easy to think of a riposte which would make the right impression on the dog.

Anything that lessens the occupational hazards of a meter-reader's career is a step towards the full flowering of the welfare state, and the progress of the experiment in Yorkshire will be followed with interest. On the whole it seems doubtful whether complete success will be achieved by the adoption of the formula suggested; the real point is, surely, not for the meter-readers to modify their attitude to the dogs, but for the dogs to modify their attitude to the meter-readers.

Diogenes, were he around with his lantern today, would probably be looking—unsuccessfully, of course—for a decent cup of roadhouse coffee.

What's wrong with the Kremlin? Days go by with no claim that the Russian Navy has more canned hamburger than ours.—HARTFORD (CONN.) COURANT.

A large manufacturer says the do-it-yourself fad hasn't hurt business—it has helped. He suggests changing the name to "start-it-yourself-and-let-someone-else-finish-it."—TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT.

Americans are living 25 per cent better than a few years ago. Some do it with increased incomes, others with increased installments.—MATTOON (ILL.) JOURNAL-GAZETTE.

Pentagon Leaders Playing Confidence Trick On Nation

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

WITH THE help of the convenient cloak of official secrecy a really dangerous confidence trick is being played on this country by the present leadership at the Pentagon.

It is a simple trick. High officials piously declare that the "American lead" in such fields as aircraft and missile development can never be challenged by the wretched and uncultured Russians. Everyone likes to believe that there is an American lead. The hard facts of Soviet technical progress are heavily classified. So none but the closest students of the problem doubt the official claims.

FALSE CLAIMS

But in fact the official claims are false; and what is more they are consciously false, unless the Pentagon leaders have persuaded themselves not to credit the hard and disagreeable facts presented to them by the American intelligence.

As an example of the kind of nature-faking that is currently going on, the real story of the satellite was revealed in this space. The American decision to build a small earth satellite was presented to the country as one more proof of the "American lead." In fact, it was a proof of the American lag.

WARNING

The decision was taken because the policy - makers had been warned that the Soviets were already building a larger and more militarily significant earth satellite than that now planned in this country; and because there was indications that the Kremlin shortly intended to announce this fact to the world.

The Soviet lead in the satellite race may perhaps be concealed from the country by the American policy-makers' forced choice of a satellite type which has the useful virtues of being relatively cheap and easy to build.

BALANCE SHEET

But publicity techniques will not work forever. Consider, for example, the following balance sheet of the state of the long-range guided missile program in this country and the Soviet Union.

First, the Soviets set up a Manhattan District-style organization to press guided missile development immediately after the war; and this organization has been working full blast, with top-priority call on men and materiel, ever since that moment. They started with more Russian and captured German scientists experienced in rocketry that we had. While General Electric was building one Chinese copy of a German V-2, the Soviets were producing 1,000 improved models in the captured V-2 factory in East Germany. In short, they took the lead at the start.

NEW MOTOR

Second, hard intelligence was received at least a year ago that the Soviets had successfully designed and produced a new rocket motor, the M-102, with the enormous thrust of 264,000 pounds per second at sea level. The actual design and production of the M-102 had occurred considerably more than a year ago. This clearly indicated a Soviet lead in high-powered rocket engine design.

WILSON AND QUARLES
Will The New Man Catch Up?

Third, it is now accepted as quite certain that the Soviets have also designed and produced a two-stage rocket, with the M-102 engine powering the first or take-off stage, with the very great range of about 1,500 miles. Such a rocket represents the last step but one before the successful design and production of the ultimate weapon, the inter-continental ballistic missile or staged rocket that can strike from continent to continent. We do not seem to have reached this last but one step.

Fourth, despite all the evidences of Soviet progress in the most important of all development fields, the American long-range missile program is still organized on a strictly business-as-usual basis.

The job to be done is as vast and complex as the job that was done by the Manhattan District. At the end of the war, Los Alamos Laboratory, the great synthetic brain that directed the Manhattan District, had 4,000 scientists at work behind its guarded fences. The directing brain of our long-range guided missile projects now consists of the headquarters of an Air Force brigadier general, staffed with 100 persons including clerks, plus the staff of a scientific - industrial corporation, the Ramo-Woolridge Company, plus a chief scientist, Dr. John Von Neumann, who has to double in brass as an Atomic Energy Commissioner.

Furthermore, a ferocious struggle is now going on within the Pentagon about whether an additional $200 millions will or will not be provided, next year, to speed up the long-range missile program. The Air Force authorities who have the grave responsibilities of long-range missile development are pleading for the money on their knees. The chances are they will not get more than half of it, if as much as that.

Maybe it is tiresome to keep harping on the acute danger of this sort of situation. Maybe the able new Secretary of the Air Force, Donald Quarles, will be able to take the appropriate corrective steps. But until corrective steps have been taken, the claim of an "American lead" ought not to be made again.

Era Lived In Coonskin Coat

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain

MY OLD buddy from Texas, Carl Little, did a piece the other day about what happened to father's ancient coonskin coat. It seems these mothbit hides are being chopped up into Davy Crockett caps, and are drawing down a fat price with the furriers.

I should hate to think that gross commercialism would tempt any man who went to school in my time to sell anything as cherishable as a coonskin coat. I never had one, but I was in high school at the height of the coonskin coat era, and man, my eyes turned green with sheerest envy when I saw one of those Joe Colleges home on vacation wearing about 50 pounds of dessicated coon.

SLICKERS

The boys wore painted slickers with racy mottos and the picture of the current best girl on the back. We wore wide pants, and I mean wide. I had me a pair that measured 28 inches on the cuff, and stood out in front of the toes of my shoes.

Neckties were tied in as big a knot as possible, and the shirt collar was always two sizes too large, so that when you dragged it down with an elastic band mounted to a pants button, the tie spread flat on the chest, and the Adam's apple had plenty of breathing room.

Them as could afford them owned beat-up jalopies, with the tops cut off, and they too bore mottos. The favorite of my time was a sign on the stern, which said: "Hit me easy, I'm getting old."

BETWEEN DANCES

We were just between the Charleston and the jitterbug, so we compromised on something called the shag. It vaguely resembled the hunch of Masai warriors competing in a large ngoma.

I treasure very few things from the past, but I can always look at an old slicker and smell honeysuckle heavy on a late spring night, just as by hanging onto an old Naval uniform I can remember what being free of care for three years was really like. If I had a coonskin coat I've have it mounted and hung on the wall, because it would mean youth and names like Helen and Nan and Gracie and Mary, with all of whom I was desperately in love, with youth's particular desperation.

'The Summit Was So Nice, Let's Go A Little Higher'

Refugee List Long, Tragic

By DORIS FLEESON

BEIRUT, Lebanon

THE world has seen much too much of the refugee problem in these times. The list is long and tragic and by an irony of history it stretches from the displaced persons camps of Germany where could be found the Jewish remnant which escaped Hitler to the Palestine refugee camps resulting from the establishment of the Jewish homeland in Palestine, now Israel.

The United States and Great Britain have accepted major responsibility for the care of 905,966 registered Palestine refugees now in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Gaza. The agency in charge is the United Nations Relief and Works Administration.

JUST PEANUTS

Of its $205 million budget, the United States gave $137 million, Britain $38 million. France and Canada and others gave relatively small amounts. The contribution of the Arab states was $4,848,000. This of course is peanuts compared to Saudi Arabia's oil royalties of $350 million annually.

UNRWA officials reply that the tradition of helping the underdog does not exist in the Middle East. It is said too that some local politicians do not want to liquidate the issue by re-settling the refugees.

NOT TO WORK

Little Lebanon, however, with an unemployment problem of its own has taken in 103,600 which is nearly eight per cent of its population. It does not make them citizens and they are not supposed to work but probably some do.

Jordan, very nearly a British dependent, shelters 360,000 which is a little more than half its population. It gave them citizenship and they can work—if they can find it which is rarely. Syria, a nation of four million, has received 80,000. Gaza, the border area now so bitterly disputed, has doubled its population with 214,000 refugees.

POOR FARMERS

Although many Palestine refugees are poor farmers, the Palestinian on the average has reached a higher and better stage of evolutionary progress than Arabs in some states. This has contributed to his resettlement problem: he does not want to pioneer the underdeveloped Arab areas. He wants to go home.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Truman Gives Views On Delinquency

WASHINGTON

HARRY TRUMAN, who achieved almost as much fame as a letter-writer as he did as President, has written a lettter to Sen. Kefauver of Tennessee.

It's not one of those music critic letters, nor is it a political letter. There was a time when Harry might well have written Estes a political letter for the former President wasn't too happy when the senator from Tennessee entered the New Hampshire primary against him. But that now seems to be water over the dam.

Getting Along

This letter, which indicates the two men are now getting along famously together, is on the subject of kids. Sen. Kefauver is chairman of the Senate Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and wrote Mr. Truman a letter asking his views on that subject. The ex-president replied in typical, simple, down-to-earth Truman language.

"The best cure," he said, "is for the mamas and papas to stay home."

Too Lazy

"I do not believe in baby-sitters," he went on to observe, "or sending children to boarding schools just because the parents are too lazy to look after them. Besides, children nowadays have too many gadgets to fool with and not enough chores."

The full text of the Truman letter, written from the Federal Reserve Bank Building, Kansas City, July 19, follows:

"Dear Senator: I certainly appreciated the letter you sent me last Friday from the Morrison Hotel in Chicago. I am more than sorry I missed you while I was there. I had a wonderful time, but they nearly roasted me and almost wore me out.

His Opinion

"I wish you every success in your hearings on juvenile delinquency. If you want my opinion—which you did not request but which I gladly volunteer—the best cure is for the mamas and papas to stay at home and raise their families. The responsibility of bringing up the next generation rests squarely on their shoulders. I do not believe in baby-sitters or sending children to boarding schools just because the parents are too lazy to look after them. Besides, children nowadays have too many gadgets to fool with and not enough chores. Sincerely yours, /S/ Harry S. Truman."

Kefauver's comment was, "I have never seen the story so succinctly told."

Benson's Boys

Brother Benson has been keeping it very hush-hush but he's been forced to rehire six top Agriculture Department executives previously fired, and pay them back salaries of about $100,000.

Benson's reversal came as a result of his purge of the Farmers Home Administration, which has the job of aiding small farmers. As in many other parts of the Agriculture Department, Benson kicked out or transferred the old Civil Service workers, replacing them with deserving Republicans.

Among others, he down-graded, transferred or fired most of the state directors of the Farmers Home Administration. He did this by first changing their status to non-Civil Service Schedule A, which the Supreme Court later ruled was illegal. So Benson has had to make new jobs for the state directors whom he fired.

Some Failed

Actually, Benson only had to rehire six state directors, partly because some didn't want to come back, partly because some failed to read the federal register.

After the Supreme Court decision forced Benson's hand, Department Order 754 was published in the Federal Register stating that if employes terminated under Rule 6 did not appeal in 90 days they could not get their jobs back.

Purge Roll Call

The Federal Register is an official government publication magazine read by a very small fraction of the 160,000,000 people in the United States. And some ex-employes of the Agriculture Department, now scattered all over the U. S., did not see this notice, therefore did not appeal until it was too late. Even so, Benson will have to pay around $100,000 in back salaries to the men who have either been reinstated or offered reinstatement.

Freezing Farm Loans

Tragedy of the Farmers Home Administration, however, is not so much the upsetting of people's jobs and the extra $100,000 to be paid by the taxpayer, but the complete demoralization of an agency set up to help small farmers. Benson, a friend of the big farmer and the big co-op, who has even indicated that small farms might have to fall by the wayside, would just as soon abolish the Farmers Home Administration. But whenever he tries to cut its budget, Congress rebuffs him.

So Benson has put the Farmers Home Administration in the hands of men not particularly sympathetic to small farmers. Robert McLeaish, its head, is a McAllen, Texas, citrus waste plant operator, who acts as if small farmers were enemies, not friends. One of the first things McLeaish did was to recommend a one per cent hike in interest to farmers, though local banks whom he consulted were opposed.

Once Fired

Benson also appointed, in charge of loans to farmers, William D. Mitchell, whom Eisenhower had fired as head of the Small Business Administration on the recommendation of Sen. Thye (R-Minn) because of Mitchell's failure to loan money to small businessmen. Mitchell applied the same tight-fisted policy to loans to farmers, finally resigned.

In place of the career state directors whom Benson fired, he appointed men neither particularly sympathetic to farmers nor well versed in farm problems; Among them are Max Schwabe, reactionary ex-congressman who became state director for Missouri; Kenneth W. Sawyer, for Oregon, for eight years employed by the Portland Chamber of Commerce; and Carl O. Hansen, for Montana, former cattle buyer for Swift.