THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1956

Wanted: A Tar Heel Windmill Tilter

RALEIGH observers took one look at the report of the Commission on Legislative Representation. They found therein faint hopes that a reapportionment formula had been achieved which the rural bloc of the General Assembly would buy. On these hopes they blew the cold breath of Raleigh realism and quoth wisely: "It'll never happen."

To read what the commission had to say, citizens had to plow through lengthy obsequies reporters were saying over its report. The sadness made sense. There is nothing to suggest that the General Assembly will obey, after thrice ignoring, the constitutional mandate for reapportionment, nor that it will turn over to a reapportionment commission the power to do what it has refused to do.

Realism has to explain obstacles. But in regard to reapportionment realism has become synonymous with defeatism. It is fashionable to discuss the subject in doom-laden tones, to be so wise over defeat of a democratic principle that one forgets to be angry. Denial of a solemn constitutional obligation by an assembly sworn to uphold it comes to be an accepted part of political sophistication. Urban areas must not be too insistent on their rights. The rural bloc might be peeved into retaliation on other matters. Let us be reasonable.

If this is an accurate description of the prevailing mood, the only remedy is a massive dose of idealism—as determined as it might seem naive.

Gov. Hodges, who is backing sweeping mechanical changes in government, would be just the man to apply the needle. For whatever benefits accrue from streamlining of tax and educational systems will be something more than incongruous in a state that denies a basic principle of representative government.

Mr. Hodges has favored reapportionment with endorsement. We should like to see him favor this state obligation with some of the energy and fire he has devoted to defense of the principle of states rights. If this should make him appear a tilter with windmills, it can be said that larger windmills of lethargy and reaction have been tilted by poorer men than he.

Reapportionment, it seems to us, would make a sound plank for every political platform in the state, particularly for those of young Democrats and Republicans. It would make a subject for discussion and action by civic and business groups. It would make an opportunity for freshening the tide of democracy in the Old North State.

So long as the General Assembly denies the right of Tar Heels to proportional representation, that tide recedes.

Let the under-represented areas of North Carolina be "reasonable." Let them demand unceasingly their constitutional rights. For to lose them is to lose all.

Nuclear Physicists Are Made, Not Born

NORTH Carolina's educational statesmen who regularly lament the low interest in science among Tar Heel school children should pause long and lovingly over News photographer Jeep Hunter's camera study of unbashed enthusiasm at Sharon School yesterday. It showed some two dozen youngsters in various stages of wide-eyed, open-mouthed wonder. They were watching not Hopalong Cassidy riding herd on Red River rustlers but Bob Brown's "Science Circus" demonstration.

Mr. Brown, an ex-science teacher from Asheville, happens to believe physicists and chemists are made in grammar grades and that his touring carnival of scientific "magic" is just the sort of catalyst that can provoke early interest.

But is it enough?

If once-in-a-blue-moon exhibitions of the pure joy of science are so successful in lower grades why don't professional educators take the hint?

Obviously, something resembling a crash program in science-teaching is needed in elementary education.

The scientific manpower shortage is becoming more acute by the day. Unless bold steps are taken now to provide for future needs both the state and the nation are in for some perilous times.

According to a B. F. Goodrich Co. survey released yesterday, America will need within ten years nearly 100,000 more scientists and engineers than current training trends indicate we will have. A shortage could be avoided if just 20 or 30 more students out of each 1,000 graduates attained degrees in science and engineering.

Something *can* be done. Bay City, Mich. is pointing the way. A year ago this northern city of 55,000 population launched an all-out drive to give each elementary pupil in its school system a good science background. Bay City's slogan: "Every teacher a science expert."

The project wasn't an easy one to launch. It meant a broad program of, in-service training for 175 elementary teachers with the help of college experts. Seventeen different subjects were selected, such as geology, astronomy, weather, machines, magnetism, plant life, animal habits, atomic energy and the process of the human body. Special teaching aids were worked up to make the subjects as fascinating as possible.

This fall every elementary pupil in Bay City is taking a heavy dose of science without neglecting any of the traditional courses. What's more, according to Dr. Benjamin Fine, NEW YORK TIMES education expert, they like it. They even ask for more.

Suddenly, according to Dr Fine, 6,300 children from kindergarten through the eighth grade, have become science conscious. They talk glibly of atoms and molecules, the big and little dipper, warm and cold air currents and nuclear and solar physics.

The situation in North Carolina schools is not very different from the way things used to be in Bay City. Science is inadequately taught at elementary and junior high school levels. By the time a pupil reaches secondary school he has often lost whatever love he might have had for the subject. He avoids math, takes as little of the physical sciences as possible, keeps away from physics and chemistry.

An all-out drive to improve science teaching and make science more palatable to the very young is clearly the answer.

It is already working wonders in Bay City. "Last year," said 12-year-old Margo Bernhart, "I wanted to be a trapeze swinger. Now I'm going to study photosynthesis." Enough said

On A Frosty Morn, Armed Combat

THE movement of traffic into midtown these chilly mornings is not unlike an advance by massed columns of Patton tanks thoroughly buttoned-up for an armed assault

The resemblance is entirely one of similar limitations on the drivers' vision.

A tank operator peers through a narrow port in the front of his hardtop. A fairly typical Charlotte motorist, whose car has been out in the elements all night, peers vaguely through a frosted windshield that has been inadequately cleared of ice.

Unequipped with a sixth sense or the skill of a tanker, the driver with restricted vision is a menace. The best he deserves is arrest.

A rash of accidents traced to frosted windshields has already been reported. More serious ones might be avoided if police would keep a cold weather eye out for offenders. A simple word of warning could do wonders.

Meanwhile, it should be standard operating procedure for motorists with frost-bitten cars to make sure that *all* windows—fore, aft and side—are cleared before movement is attempted. Call it first echelon maintenance.

From The Richmond News Leader

NO PLACE TO HIDE

SOMEWHERE in Marjorie Kinnan Rawling's novel, SOUTH MOON UNDER, a North Florida resident remarked, as he set out to shoot alligators, that their hides were bringing good prices now, but the market probably would drop soon because everyone would start hunting them. The trouble was, he said, that whenever a good thing came along, people ran it to death.

We were reminded of this episode in reading that Spain is trying to retain its recent popularity as a tourist center by giving visitors to the country a more favorable rate of exchange. During the past five years Spain has been considered a tourist paradise because of its low prices and high rate of exchange in favor of the tourists. "Be sure to go to Spain!" the experienced European traveler would tell the friend back home. France and Italy were "spoiled," but Spain was still genuine and cheap. Now, however, Spain too has begun to suffer from tourist-inspired inflation. Prices for lodgings and goods have more than doubled; Spain is no longer the mecca it used to be.

It is ever thus. The inhabitants of the Carolina Banks no longer talk Elizabethan English. The tea rooms in Charleston have air conditioning. In New Orleans only the tourists listen to New Orleans jazz. Reality is fast closing in; there are few places left where a man can escape.

A large gaseous body is reported hovering over Illinois, and is believed to be either a lost Air Force balloon or an unidentified politician. — RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH.

A new bed-rest pillow has a special pocket for cigarettes. Nothing was said, however, about a built-in bed fire extinguisher, too.—RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER.

Shame-Faced European Intellectuals Ditch Communism

By MARQUIS CHILDS

PARIS

TO HAVE predicted two months ago that communism in Western Europe would be bankrupt and the Communist empire in Eastern Europe cracked wide open would have been to invite loud jeers of skepticism. Yet that is approximately the status of communism in Europe today.

The Hungarian revolution and its barbarous suppression by Soviet tanks and guns shattered at one blow the last vestige of the claim communism has had on European intellectuals who continued, despite all the evidence, to see in the Soviet Union the hope of a new and better world.

ALMOST COMIC

The fellow travelers and the partisans have been recanting with varying expressions of shame and disgust ever since the full horror of Hungary became known. The spectacle, if it were not pathetic, would be almost comic.

Such naive veterans of the Communist wars as Pablo Picasso, the artist, felt compelled to speak out against the shame of Hungary. This is a real blow to world communism, since Picasso had served the cause well. The peace dove he designed has been reproduced again and again as the symbol of the Kremlin's claims to champion the cause of peace.

ABCUT FACE

Frederic Joliot-Curie, who actually gave up his post as head of France's Atomic Energy Commission because of his Communist convictions, has also turned on Moscow. So has Jean Paul Sartre, the philosopher of existentialism who provided a respectable rationalization for communism with many intellectuals.

In France, where intellectuals have a higher status than in any other country, these defections are significant. But that they seem to reflect a deep groundswell among the 25 per cent of the voters who have supported communism is far more important. In some instances the intellectuals may have felt it necessary to jump before the mass caught up with them.

SPLITTING PROCESS

In Italy, prior to Hungary, cracks had begun to appear in the Communist facade with the left-wing, fellow-traveling Socialists beginning to split away as divisions developed in the top Communist leadership. The splitting process in the ranks of the largest Communist party in Europe has been greatly accelerated by the Hungarian tragedy.

The disaster Moscow has suffered in the satellite empire is evident enough. Reports published recently in Europe say that the Russian military has been compelled to move into Rumania to take away from satellite Rumanian divisions the arms furnished them under the Warsaw Pact.

But despite these extraordinary developments there is little rejoicing in Western Europe for reasons, some of which are obvious, some not so obvious. The most obvious reason, of course, is the crack in the Western alliance and the fearful muddle in the Middle East precipitated by the British-French invasion of Egypt. For many, this seems to offset the setback to communism, and naturally the Communists are exploiting it to the hilt.

DEEPER REASONS

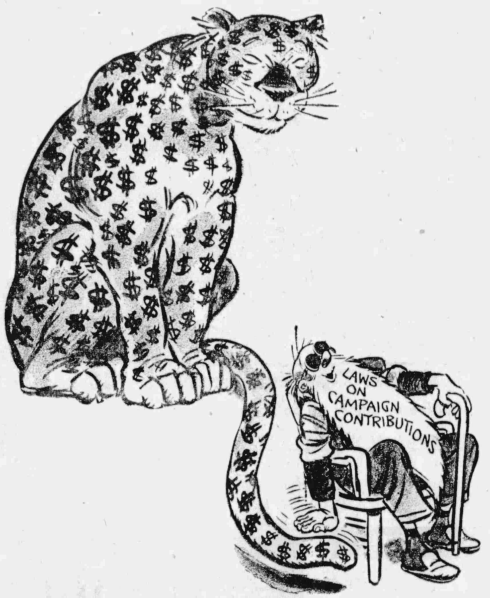
But there are perhaps deeper reasons for the pessimism that pervades Europe. In a brief time this reporter has talked with prime ministers, cabinet members, parliamentarians, ambassadors of East, West and Asian nations and with many plain citizens. They have almost all expressed the fear that the controls have been removed and that, therefore, an accident — and perhaps an irretrievable accident — can occur.

All this adds up in the European view to the kind of uncertainty, the unsureness of purpose in rival power blocks, that has meant war in the past.

The weapons of total destruction may be the positive insurance against catastrophe that almost everyone had come to assume. But that confidence has been shaken on this continent, with its long and weary experience of the follies and the blunders of those who, in a more comfortable day, were called statesmen.

PABLO PICASSO
Shame And Disgust

'Nice Little Kitty'



HERBLOCK
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Jeepers, Creepers!

Eye-Crutches Come Of Age

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain

I WAS rummaging around in the old lady's effects the other day, looking for a pair of pliers or something, and came upon a trove of spectacles.

Now, Mama is as blind as a bat, but I had not realized how many pairs of specs she had. About three dozen, at last count.

There were harlequin specs, and zebra and tiger and leopard-rummed specs, gold-dusted specs for evening, jeweled specs, black, white, red-rimmed specs, and flocks of just ordinary specs. They are as much a part of her costume as a dress.

TAKEN TO HEART

It occurs to me that not so many years ago anybody who had to wear them was an inconspicuous about it as possible. Dorothy Parker wrote that famous line about people not making passes at girls who wear glasses, and the girls took it to heart.

When I was courting, I practically had to beat my bride-to-be to make her wear the things, because she was falling all over the place and getting hump-shouldered from peering.

Even the men were pretty chary of spectacles, and such terms as "owl eyes" and "four eyes" were common. But something changed it all — maybe Dave Garroway or Bobby Clark. The ladies, and the gentlemen as well, are not chic unless they come out in horn rims that make Clark's painted-on jobs look modest.

DOROTHY PARKER
They Still Make Passes

The use of eye-crutches has cut across all ethnic and economic lines. Cab drivers, ball players, jazz musicians, debutantes, and everybody who works in the advertising business sports a set of cheaters.

I can't believe that so many people have suddenly come down with faulty eyesight. Heavy specs have become costume jewelry for the dames, and a form of swagger stick for the men. Points are made by stabbing glasses at you. Thought is indicated by twirling them. Nervous people fiddle with them. They are excellent for holding down papers on desks.

Not so long ago I was discussing this with a friend and he clinched the point for me. Seems he was lunching with an ad agency friend, who suddenly got up to make a phone call and left his horn-rims on the table.

STRANGE WORLD

The other fellow, out of curiosity, picked up the specs and tried them on. This fellow has 20-20 vision and the glasses didn't do a thing. They were cheaters for sure, because the lenses were just ordinary glass.

It is, indeed, a strange world of appearances today. People who used to dye gray hair black now dye it white. Grown men go around with crew-cuts and offer a curious sample of pointed head. Dolls smoke pipes. Everybody uses cigarette holders, once thought to be mannered, if not sissy.

And everybody wears glasses—including, I shouldn't wonder, Mrs. Dorothy Parker.

People's Platform

Ike Bungled Crisis

Pittsboro

Editor, The News:

YOU SAY right much in your editorial of Nov. 30 under the caption, "Pious Pique Endangers Western Cause," but you leave a lot unsaid.

If the way the U.N. and Mr. Eisenhower have handled the Middle East crisis is a sample or preview of what is to come, I am in favor of dispensing with the U.N. for keeps and sending Mr. Eisenhower to some school where the rudiments of equity and justice are taught.

Aggression is only one of the many crimes against international law and the peace of the world. Repudiating without cause international commitments and the violent seizure of another nation's property are also crimes against international law and the peace of the world.

Judging from the U.N. record, France and England went into Egypt without provocation or cause, while the truth is that they went there to recover their property which had been violently seized, just as we would have done had the Panama Canal been seized.

Mr. Dulles, not France or England, occasioned Mr. Nasser's seizure of the Suez Canal when he told him that the United States was no longer interested in the construction of the Aswan Dam, which this government, through Mr. Dulles, had promised aid in the construction. England and France were not advised that Mr. Dulles had changed his mind. Mr. Nasser, of course, had no moral or other right to seize someone else's property out of pique at Mr. Dulles.

But here's the obvious inherent injustice of the whole situation: Mr. Nasser, current ruler of Egypt, should have received the condemnation of the U.N. and disapproval of the United States, but nothing of the kind was done. Failing to get aid from either the U.N. or the United States in their efforts to recover their property or convincing assurances that the Suez Canal would be operated in the interest of the users indiscriminately, France and England elected to get it alone. At this point, with the cue or go-sign given by Mr. Eisenhower, resolutions of censure began to fly from the U.N. like bats out of a cave depicting France and England as naked aggressors, while not one word of censure or displeasure came from the U.N. as to what Mr. Nasser had done.

Upon top of the foregoing, Mr. Eisenhower took time out to add insult to injury by proclaiming to the world that we could not have one policy for our enemies and another for our friends, while, in truth, we had no policy at all.

What had been demonstrated is the fact that the U.N. General Assembly is a purely political body subject to the whims and caprices of all political organizations and that Mr. Eisenhower has employed his talents and office to curry favor with the Asian and African members of that body at the expense of fairness and justice to two of the most substantial and worthy members of the organization, and to permanently discredit that body as an arbiter of right and wrong among the nations of the earth.

True, Mr. Eisenhower has seen the error of his way, but it will take time and much effort to undo the damage he has done England and France, and the status of a disinterested arbiter of right and wrong will never again attend the activities of the U.N.

—JOHN W. HESTER

"I Sure Hope You Know Where We're Going"

Keep Christ In Christmas

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WOULD like to make an appeal to the public on behalf of the Charlotte Jaycees to remember to Keep Christ in Christmas this year.

We are conducting this project in an effort to preserve the religious significance of Christmas in our community, as opposed to the over - emphasized "Santa Claus" aspect.

Several leading department stores have received letters from us, encouraging them to erect a religious window display. An essay contest for the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades in our schools is also being conducted on the subject, "What Christmas Means to Me," with a $25 gift certificate to Johney's Hobby House as the prize to the winner.

We hope that this project will be beneficial to the continued betterment of our community.

—BASIL M. WATKINS JR.
Religious Activities Committee
Charlotte Junior Chamber of Commerce

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

They Love To Probe The Virgin Isles

WASHINGTON

THE sun smiles warmly these days in the Virgin Islands. The azure beaches have great allure. That, perhaps is why two congressmen have been batting each other over the head via Western Union, arguing which should investigate the Virgin Islands. Finally they decided that both would investigate.

Giveaway Vacation

Tiny though fascinating, the Virgin Islands actually don't need much, if any, investigating. But Congressman Earl Chudoff, Democrat of Philadelphia, who has a good record, got the idea that now would be a fine time to hold hearings in the semi-tropics for his subcommittee on government operations. Chudoff is chairman of a committee dealing with the Interior Department which supervises the Virgin Islands, and has been doing a fine job probing giveaways. How ever, he decided he would give his staff, himself, and other members of his committee a giveaway vacation in the Caribbean.

It developed, however, that Congressman Leo O'Brien, Democrat of Albany, N. Y., who is chairman of the House Territories subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Virgin Islands, already had made plans to hold hearings in those pleasant isles.

He knew that Chudoff had held one-man hearings in the Virgin Islands, with himself as the sole member, just a year before, yet had failed to publish a report. Therefore, O'Brien reasoned that a new investigation by Chudoff would lead to no additional report and was in fact a vacation boondoggle.

Vitriolic Telegrams

So the Democrat from Albany fired a hot telegram to the Democrat from Philadelphia charging him with overstepping his jurisdiction, and wanting to know what was the big idea.

Chudoff promptly fired back this telegraphic broadside:

"Was amazed and insulted when I received your telegram of November 15.

"It appears to me that in all decency before allowing a telegram of the type sent out evidently by a member of your staff you would make sure of its contents. I tried to give your subcommittee every possible courtesy and on November 14 had a conference . . . in order that there would be no conflict or duplication of jurisdiction . . .

"I resent your implication of bias of my subcommittee. Congressman Engle had personally commended myself and the subcommittee and its staff for its work. A copy of the commendation is in my file . .

'Feel Free'

"Finally I believe it would have been a courteous thing to do to have had you call me on the telephone personally here in Philadelphia, and I am sure we would have been able to work out any differences that might exist between the two subcommittees. (My) subcommittee . . . will start hearings in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, on December 3, 1956. If you feel your subcommitee would be embarrassed by our presence, you may feel free to cancel or postpone your visit."

That looked like a pretty tough ultimatum. But Congressman O'Brien was not easily deterred.

Finally California's Clair Engle, Chairman of the full House Interior Committee, stepped in as referee.

Result: The two subcommittees are now holding joint hearings.

Prior to the actual hearings on Dec. 3, however, four employes of the Government Operations Committee left for the Virgin Islands on Nov. 22 to lay groundwork—or you might say, establish a "beachhead."

Jonas To Attend

They've been enjoying the sun at the Virgin Isles Hotel where they were scheduled to be joined by Chudoff and other subcommittee members. The latter include Robert Mollohan of West Virginia, Democrat; and Charles Jonas of North Carolina, Victor Knox of Michigan, and William Minshall of Ohio, Republicans. GOP Representative Clare Hoffman of Michigan had planned to attend but canceled out at the last minute.

After the Virgin Islands hearings, the Chudoff subcommittee is scheduled to fly to Miami Beach to "inspect" the Everglades National Park. This, too, is a repeat of last year's investigation.