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Charlotte, Catfish And Youst Clubs

WHEN was the last time you thought of Charlotte as a southern city? The question was posed without answer by a South Carolina newspaper columnist the other day... It raises a corollary question. What determines the southern quality of a city? Geography? Charlotte lies northward from Montgomery...

beans. Catfish, too. Religion? Protestant mostly. The churches are full of them. Recreation? The usual southern things, ranging from creek fishing to country clubbing in tie and tails. Perhaps Charlotte has sinned by watching ice hockey, but the organist played Dixie while the fans cheered Yankee players. If the deed was wrong, the tune was right. Fashions? For summer, plenty of seersucker and organdy. Also Panama hats. In winter, wool hats, like they wear in Georgia and Saluda, S. C. Charlotte does feign to be Montana, but Houston, Texas, has Nellian-Marcus. And even Montaldo's sells cottons. Population? A southern mixture — Scotch, Irish, Jew, Negro, German — with a Youst element welcomed in traditional southern hospitality. Housing? Admittedly, the city's getting short of shanties. But the southern exposure is wonderful in the thousands of contemporary dwellings going up. Charlotte qualifies as a southern city on any of those factors, but we haven't mentioned the nature of its citizens. How southern do they feel? Enough, we think, to get hopping mad at any side-winding implication that their town is something other than a southern city.

Getting The Backfires Out Of ABC

GOV. Hodges has decided to take some of the backfires out of the administrative machinery of the State ABC Board. The shop work is needed. That has been obvious since the board blindly fired one of its best inspectors on a trumped-up charge, only to reinstate him a few days later with apology. On the heels of another firing there were charges that Chairman Tom Allen and some of his staff members had accepted favors from liquor companies. Mr. Allen denied it, but admitted a liquor firm had paid expenses of himself and a staff member on a two-day business trip to New York. There has been no proof of dishonesty on the board. We don't believe Gov. Hodges would countenance that for a moment. Besides, board members are men of solid reputation.

But the mistaken firing and the expense-paid business trip are ample evidence that the ABC board lacks full comprehension of fundamental practices required to discharge properly the duties of a public office. The board, the governor said, has been muddling along with "no clear-cut policy" and has often "dealt in personalities" in handling its affairs. He means to correct that. He has sent the board an outline of a suggested policy to guide it in dealing with the beverage industry and the public. Specifically, it will lay down rules on favors and gratuities. Of all state agencies the ABC board ought to be above suspicion. The governor knows that, and he is doing something about it with commendable forthrightness.

Charlotte's Red Peril: Congress Is Late

FROM all the journalistic clatter about a subcommittee of the House Committee on Un-American Activities coming to Charlotte, some unsuspecting man from Mars might get the impression that the Red Peril is hovering just overhead. It isn't. As a matter of fact, Charlotte hasn't had a Red Peril worth mentioning in 27 years — the last being the rumpus of 1929 when Fred Beal's Communist-controlled National Textile Workers Union muscled into the Gastonia strike. The action was just next door but Charlotte could properly be described as an active spectator at the time. This was the staging area for the Red braves who were rushed to the scene and this was the setting for the remarkable trial that followed the slaying of Gastonia Police Chief O. F. Adherolt. Beal was sentenced to 17 years for conspiracy but jumped and fled to Russia. He returned four years later thoroughly disillusioned, served four years, was paroled and spent the rest of his life preaching against communism. In November 1954, he died of a heart attack. Communists didn't touch off the labor dispute in Gastonia but, when it exploded, they rushed in to take charge. Before the gun smoke had drifted away more than a little blood had been shed. Chief Adherolt was slain during an attack on the strikers' tent city. A woman was killed when gunmen in a speeding car fired into the truck in which she was riding. There were other casualties on both sides — some equally as grim.

These outbreaks produced sudden fear in Charlotte and across the state. The late W. J. Cash, a former editorialist for The News, wrote later: "Rebellion — I heard of the time in North Carolina at the time from the mouths of most powerful political personages of the state to farmers and clerks and little government. And what was plainly contained in it was the idea of rebellion both against the State (in the generic use of the term) and against all other states. Communism had become a Tar Heel nightmare. When a powerful North Carolina newspaper editorialized that, since Communists wanted to destroy the existing government they were not entitled to protection under its laws, a mob of masked men raided the hut in which Gastonia strikers and their Red leaders maintained headquarters and destroyed it. It was for the calmer voices of men like President Harry Woodburn Chase of the University of North Carolina and President William Louis Potote of Wake Forest College to insist that strikers' civil liberties be respected. The strike failed, of course. It was doomed when the Reds stormed in to take over. The AFL hastened upon the stage — but too late — and for years labor unions plus strikers equaled Communists in many a southerner's mind. Communists? Charlotte had its heady dose. Today's Reds — a sinister weepy, ineffectual crew — are pale by comparison. They may pound the table militantly when the subcommittee is rapped to order here. But that will be all. The congressmen, 27 years too late, missed the main event.

IN DEFENSE OF THE CANE

THERE can be no question about it: that once — popular accessory, the cane, or walking stick, has just about gone the way of the blunderbuss. Since, however, a noted orthopedic surgeon has called for "propaganda to counteract this prejudice" which, he holds, is responsible for the change, it would be unfeeling not to lend a hand. The medical argument in itself is potent, since it is pointed out that many with physical infirmities need a cane but refuse to use one because today's public looks upon it as a sign of deprecation. But beyond that, what has happened to change the walking stick from an asset to a liability, and all in a generation or two? Relatively speaking, it has not been long since this instrument, or whatever it may be termed, was both dapper and fashionable. Young bloods sported a "stick" on occasions for effect as well as utility. The habit prevailed when people went out "for a walk," which they seem to do no more.

If we had to guess, blame for the altered attitude could be blamed on the automobile which has been a discouragement to the leisurely art of strolling. Orthopedic aspects of the matter we leave to experts but the thought that an unyielding railing to cane-carrying is one to be combated. Cane models do not change like those of automobiles, and chances are that the ones treasured by grandfather still will have their attractions if given half a try. Gold-head or Black Thorn, it matters not. An unyielding railing might be educational and revealing. Father is never too old to learn, and his sons are never too young to think they can't teach him. — BURTON (Ga.) ADVERTISER. Untold wealth can get you into a lot of trouble if it's untold on your income tax report. — FORT MYERS (Fla.) NEWS-PRESS.

People's Platform Southerners Talk Too Much About Segregation

Charles L. Robinson... Editor, The News: A Southerner to the South, I am horrified at the attention that segregation gets among southerners. I realize that it is an important problem. But why is it that everywhere you go it is segregation, segregation, segregation. It wouldn't be so had it the people doing all of the talking knew what they were talking about. There are facts, you know. But most of the people I have encountered insist on dealing with the problem entirely in terms of prejudice. Don't mean just the segregationists either. The integrationists are just as bad. Both sides have done so much talking (shouting mostly) that each has lost the ability to deal with the problem objectively and unemotionally. What we need most is a little less talking and a little more thinking. Maybe if everybody would stop babbling for a moment the problem would work itself out. J. THOMAS BRADY



For The 'Jeerers' A Pointed Question Charles L. Robinson... Editor, The News: I HAVE read news reports and letters in the two Charlotte papers written by individuals jeering at the segregationists for the small turn out of people on two different occasions. Now what I would like to know is, how many "scalawags" and "carpetbaggers" would show up for an integration rally? —BILL JOHNSON

Plays For Moderation 'Weak & Nonchalant' Charles L. Robinson... Editor, The News: IN YOUR editorial of Jan. 26, urging Gov. Hodges to scorn interposition, you state that "honorable" means can be found to meet the challenge of the court's decision on integration. Excellent. Clearly, you regard interposition as a dishonorable means. Was that thought to be in the beginning a "sympathetic" southern people, but had nearly two years come forward with one or more "honorable means" for meeting the challenge of the court's decision. It is not necessary to be "neutralized" you, Mr. Editor — and from their point of view, that's about as dandy as having you in their camp as an outspoken ally. I challenge you to meet the acid test of your stated belief in the southern people, and your allegiance to them in this crisis. Come forth with positive "honorable" suggestions for meeting the challenge of the court's decision. Only then will we be able to understand precisely what you mean by your hopeful comment that the challenge can be met. Beyond doubt, we will know too that by "meeting the challenge" you do not mean that we must capitulate to the insidious forces endeavoring to exterminate southern culture and obliterate the Tenth Amendment. Any honorable idea at all which you believe can be utilized to preserve an integral part of our great heritage (segregated public schools), let us have it, please! We'll try it, and if it works, a grateful people and their descendants will long remember your genius and courage. Significant too, they will remember you as southerners who did indeed prove by action that you were "disappointed with the court's decision." —J. R. CHERRY JR.

"To blazes with social amenities—let's discuss segregation!" Amendment. Any honorable idea at all which you believe can be utilized to preserve an integral part of our great heritage (segregated public schools), let us have it, please! We'll try it, and if it works, a grateful people and their descendants will long remember your genius and courage. Significant too, they will remember you as southerners who did indeed prove by action that you were "disappointed with the court's decision." —J. R. CHERRY JR.

'Rules Of Procedure' Don't Protect Witness Buies Creek Charles L. Robinson... Editor, The News: I HAVE received a subpoena to appear before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on March 12, in Charlotte. I wish to inform my friends and people of this state that I shall reveal before this committee neither my own political beliefs and associations nor those of anyone else. Political beliefs lie in the realm of personal conviction and conscience, and no governmental power has the right to force a person to reveal them against his own free-will. Wherever these committees have held their hearings, the attempt has been made to terrorize the people into giving up their constitutional rights, to become suspicious of their friends and neighbors, to lapse into a "safe" silence, and to refrain from any activity which might displease the investigators. UNDER ATTACK The people of this state must not suppose that only the Communist Party, labor unions, "left-wing" groups, and the University will be under attack. I am on the faculty of Campbell College, a Baptist-sponsored school, an denominational schools become subject to the harassments of

'All Right, You Guys — Line Up'



Drew Pearson's Oil Millionaires Supported McCarthy

WASHINGTON McCarthy's greatest asset today is the cash that pours in from H. R. Hunt and Texas millionaires from certain oil companies in California such as Bill Keck of Superior Oil. As a result, he has more political money to spend than any other member of Congress — and will parcel out this money to various less fortunate Republican candidates next fall. Finally, it is significant that John Naff, the Superior lobbyist who handed out \$2,500 to Sen. Case, was registered as a lobbyist before the Nebraska legislature, but is not registered as a lobbyist in Washington. He obviously utilized the lobby law by trying to influence members of Congress without registering. Trucking Lobby On the heels of one victory for the big lobby boys, another big lobbying battle is shaping up in the House of Representatives. This time it's over the highway construction bill, or, more accurately, the American Trucking Association's

this committee, can our churches and ministers be far behind? Last there should remain one citizen in this area who still harbors any illusion as to the fairness of these hearings. It is a quote from the "Rules of Procedure": "The participation of counsel shall be limited to advising said witness as to his legal rights." (page 3-4) "... the rules of evidence, including cross-examination, are not applicable." (page 7) "The confidential relationship between husband and wife shall be respected..." (page 7) "... except when a majority of the Committee or Sub-committee shall determine otherwise." (page 7) HYPOCHRISY Nowhere in these "Rules of Procedure" is an accused given the right to a bill of particulars, to present defense witnesses, or even to see or cross-examine his accusers. Can one not conclude from this that the expressed concern of these people with defending the constitution is nothing but hypocrisy? Can any self-respecting person therefore consider seriously "co-operating" with them? Let it be clearly understood that if a witness answers so much as one question germane to the topic under investigation, it can be ruled that he has "waived" his right to refuse to answer any other questions about himself or others. Taking advantage of this technically, the committee has been known to force a witness to refuse to answer to the most fantastic charges. The people must understand, therefore, that silence under these rules does not necessarily imply guilt. —JOHN W. MYERS

J. Foster Barnes Left Fine Record Durham Charles L. Robinson... Editor, The News: THE enclosed editorial appeared in The Durham Sun on Feb. 10. Mr. Barnes had so many friends in Charlotte that I thought you might be interested in putting it in your editorial columns. —MRS. T. D. NEWELL JR.

Smiling, gracious, sociable, Foster Barnes won friends wherever he walked and was especially helpful to Durham, arranging and providing music for its public events and entering wholeheartedly into the fellowship of its civic clubs. Of highest character, of great personal diligence and imbued with a deep sense of responsibility, he gave his life utmost meaning and left behind a record of constructive service to his university, his state, and to the ideals of his nation. Hospital Accountants Express Appreciation Raleigh Charles L. Robinson... Editor, The News: ON BEHALF of the directors, officers and members of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Association of Hospital Accountants, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and the members of your staff for the excellent news coverage of our Winter Institute meeting at the Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte on Feb. 8. As you may know, the North Carolina Chapter of Hospital Accountants serves an important medium in fostering greater understanding and closer cooperation between hospitals and associated health interests. It is our aim to cultivate harmonious relationships between hospitals and hospital-minded individuals, to promote uniformity and efficiency in hospital accounting by providing worthwhile adult educational programs. Inasmuch as public education is mandatory if we are to accomplish this aim, your fine coverage of our meeting provided wonderful assistance. We applaud your interest and your genuine cooperation. —OSCAR M. MARVIN JR. White House aide Jack Martin, however, has warned a representative of the American Trucking Association that the Eisenhower administration will not sit by and let the truck owners get off so easily. Secretary of Commerce Weeks wants the truckers to pay more and so does Treasury Secretary Humphrey.