

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## The Better Business Opportunity — I

SUCH is the state of prosperity hereabouts that Chamber of Commerce boosters might as well be tongue-tied.

The adjectives and rolling phrases aren't necessary to describe the leaps and bounds of business progress. A finger pointed at bank clear statistics, home building starts, the Wachovia construction project, etc., will suffice. A visitor eyeing the skyline and hearing the buzz and thump of saw and pile driver would be suitably slack-jawed with wonder.

But if the visitor asked how Charlotte business is doing in inspiring public confidence in business, in protecting itself from chisellers and con men, in squashing unfair competition, explanations would have to be made.

The booster could point to the Better Business Bureau. He could recite the valuable services the Bureau has rendered to the public and the business community since its founding in 1949. But if he was asked whether the Bureau

has maximum support of the business community, whether it is doing the best job possible, he would have to say "no."

The fact is that the Bureau is under-sold to the business community. The result is that the public and burgeoning business activity are demanding more services of the Bureau than it can perform under its current budget. The remedy is for more business firms to become members of the Bureau, and help the Bureau to further spread its protective wings over the community.

Some 343 business firms are members of the Better Business Bureau. Roughly 1,000 other eligible firms are not members.

Next week the member firms are going out to sell the non-members. We wish them well. For membership in the Better Business Bureau is a good investment. It pays off in self interest, the public interest and in the interest of a self-respecting, enterprising system.

(Tomorrow: The Self Interest)

## Grin And Win Vs. Bluff And Bluster

I BELIEVE that in the future we shall come to feel that Stalin's foreign policy, instead of being so diabolically clever as it is claimed to be, has been merely opportunistic and stupid.

This was George Orwell's opinion in 1943.

The judgment is shared today not only by most Western diplomats but also by the new rulers of the Kremlin.

This inherited hindsight offers small comfort to the West, however. Stalin's heirs profited handsomely from the late marshal's stupidity. The "grin and win" line is the result, and it is far more dangerous than the old master's bluff and bluster.

In a point, the Soviet Union's announcement that it will cut its armed forces within a year by 1,200,000 men and use the manpower in "peaceful" endeavors. At the same time it was announced that the U. S. S. R. would put 375 ships of the Soviet Navy in mothballs.

Significantly, the announcement came at the very time Russia's most powerful opponent, the United States, was involved in a great debate over defense—at the very time in fact when the matter of increased appropriations for air power is one of the hottest issues before Congress.

Said the Soviet Union: "Other governments such as those of the United States, Britain and France wishing to contribute to the strengthening of peace, cannot but follow this example."

Diabolical? Yes. Opportunistic? Yes. Stupid? No.

Even in an election year, when budget balancing and tax slashing are popular exercises, it would be tragic if the United States succumbed to Soviet temptations and relaxed.

We are in an era of technological revolution. It is altogether possible for

the Soviet Union to discharge some soldiers and put a few over-age destroyers in mothballs and still bolster its military might.

There is no promise of a Soviet slowdown in the manufacture of long-range bombers and missiles and in the production of new nuclear weapons. These are the important areas of interest where the United States has been in danger of falling woefully behind its Red competitors. These are areas, too, where the administration's economy moves have already been extended beyond prudent limits.

The smile that creases the Communist countenance is indeed broader than that but we cannot assume that it indicates any real change of heart.

Periodic examination of our military potential is proper and inevitable. Congress has both a right and a duty to evaluate often the demands of the hour. But the temptation to pause now in the efforts to arm this nation adequately should be resisted. Disarmament would not adequate safeguards is unthinkable.

## Ugly Entrance

CITY officials, bent on impressing Esultimour Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro Jr. and party with Charlotte's new auditorium and coliseum, had to apologize first for the sickly sight of a tumble-down railroad terminal.

For a city famed for its progress, the depot is indeed a sadly misleading introduction.

Southern Railway President Harry A. DeButts' promise last night to "do something about" the structure is welcome. The railroad, too, has a reputation for progress to protect. Let the promise be fulfilled without needless delay.

## Eisenhower And The Book Banners

THE book burners have their work cut out for them. According to NEWSWEEK's report on Dwight D. Eisenhower's reading habits, "reference works" in the presidential offices include the writings of Marx and Hegel as well as Freud, Darwin, Kant, Tolstoy and Adam Smith.

Furthermore, the chief executive indicated to newsmen recently that he was thoroughly familiar with a little volume entitled PROBLEMS OF LENINISM. Its author: The late Joseph V. Stalin.

Nor can it be overlooked that, despite his fondness for westerns, he is not afraid to read controversial books like PROBLEMS OF AMERICA and recommend them to his friends.

We would not have mentioned the matter but for the sudden re-emergence of literary sniping and book banning as political sport.

A fairly typical example was the resolution passed by the South Carolina Legislature asking the State Library Board to remove existing books and screen future books that are "antagonistic and inimical to the traditions and mores of this state."

The action itself was, of course, antagonistic and inimical to the traditions and customs of a democratic society.

Any attempt to censor the reading available in public libraries is based upon the assumption that the citizen is not fit to be free and responsible.

This is nonsense. It is a fundamental premise of democracy that some responsibility for his behavior be left to the individual citizen. As William C. Cheney pointed out in *Passions Or Two Passes*, reading is a voluntary act. If a man finds that a book contains matter offensive to him there is no one to command his reading. "The assumption that any individual that be fit to decide what other men should be permitted to read or to know or to think is obviously impudent, impertinent and un-American," he wrote.

The book burners are perfectly right when they say that ideas can be dangerous. Of course, they can. But in a democratic society, the suppression of ideas is fatal.

## 'We're Agreed, Then—The Supreme Court Is Unconstitutional'



## People's Platform

# Bring The Met To Charlotte

Rock Hill, S. C.

Editors, The News:

I AM getting a belly full of the letters lauding the Charlotte performance of "Aida". The "loosely-used" "professional" "thrilling" "wonderful" are getting me down. Come off it, my amateurish friends. The palpable handiwork, inspired by a lack of melodic expressiveness, in the so-called performance would have turned Verdi and librettist Antonio Ghilzantoni away from music had they the misfortune to hear their work performed as it was.

If music lovers of Charlotte and its environs feel the need for the most emotionally realistic of all stage works, the enduring and popular grand opera, then let them, like the city of Atlanta, pay for it. For four wonderful days each year, Atlanta's thrill to the glorious and inspiring music of the Metropolitan Opera troupe. Undiminished, after a history of close to 70 years, the Met really sends the Georgians.

And simply enough, it would only take money to bring this troupe with its great talent to your fair city.

Hardly believable, but true, the great artists of the Met are able to project emotion through words and music that makes their performance so real and beautiful that it is sometimes unbearable.

Pass the hat around boys, don't let little of Atlanta shame your cultural strivings and see if you can bring Hines, Peerce, Roberts, Peters, Gorin, and the host of stars to Charlotte. I'll sit in the balcony and cheer.

—RAD MEMPHIS

## The American Farmer Paid To Do Nothing

Cherax, S. C.

Editors, The News:

I WILL take the time to call to the attention of my fellow Americans the question of the farm bill that at this time is being discussed in Congress.

I feel it is not fair to the rest of our people with the high cost of living and high taxes, and the farmer coming in and taking the industrial worker's job.

I know by experience, for I need a job. But around here you can hardly get a job for the farmers coming in and taking over. If I were an employer I would never hire someone who could live without it, and let those who need a public job do without. But you will always find those who care nothing for their fellow man's condition just so they prosper in life.

—ELIZABETH LEAK

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THE welcome accorded foreign dignitaries as they drive down Elmshaded Constitution Ave. was never more important than today when President Eisenhower receives the President of the youngest but third largest republic in the world—Soekarno of Indonesia.

Age Of Anxiety

President Soekarno has been a bit nervous about this trip; just as his country has been nervous about the precarious political path it has trod in these days when every Eastern nation is besieged and beleaguered by communism.

Mother's Blessing

Before leaving for Washington, Soekarno went to his birthplace in East Java to ask his mother's blessing on the pilgrimage. And he visited his father's grave in the Jakarta Moslem cemetery to pray for his mother's blessing and strengthened friendship with the U.S.A.

It was the U. S. A., as he and other Indonesians well remember, which played

## Algeria's Climate Of Conflict Prevents Clear-Cut Solutions

By WALTER LIPPMANN

It is a hold man who, coming from the outside, presumes to talk about the French problem in North Africa. For many years we cannot see far into the problem for which there is not, so far as I know, any example anywhere else of a successful solution.

Yet it is plain enough that a crucial test is about to begin. In about four weeks the French government in Paris will have deployed in Algeria the military forces—about 400,000 men—that it judges to be necessary to pacify the country and to contain the active rebels in their northern fastnesses. When that has been done as now planned, Paris plans to hold elections. From them there are to emerge Arab leaders willing and able to negotiate a peace. The terms of that peace are not published but they are based on the concept of autonomy for the Algerian Arabs within the framework of a French state.

EARLY TEST

There are some, as good judges as any, who believe that this policy will be tested by the autumn.

A visitor soon learns to realize that the must not think of Algeria as another in that series of countries to be evacuated—in the series which began with Lebanon and Syria, went on to Indochina and has recently come to include Tunis and Morocco. These are the cases in which the French never were, the French think of Algeria as a national issue. That is because at least one-seventh of the people of Algeria are Frenchmen. Algeria is not an economic asset. Indeed, it is a liability. It is the large community of Frenchmen that the French at home feel themselves called to defend. There is a mounting popular will to stand by them and not to let them be a helpless minority in a foreign Arab state.

TWO QUESTIONS

In the months to come there firmly be put to the test two questions. Can the rebellion be subdued by a dense concentration of troops in the main population areas? If they are subdued, can the Arabs be induced to participate in elections and, shutting their eyes to Cairo, to negotiate for something less than sovereign independence?

There is a difference between a negotiated settlement on the French terms, it may be said, not very bright. At the least, assuming

## Farewell, World Globe-Trotter's Return

By ROBERT C. RUARK

HEADING HOME

MAN, I'm beat! My clothes are tattered, my shirts frayed, my temper likewise, and my digestion is a thing to make me shudder. I have spent the last six months on the walkabout, and I don't care if I never see another American officer in a military dress baggage check as long as I live. For at least six months, of course.

I do not travel on expense account, so I have not been spending my own dough, on the off-chance that some day I'll get my bill back if I know a few extra things about a few more places that right now my pockets are full of crumpled bills and my back rivals my digestion in wreckage.

The heating up my tummy takes is facile. I was having some elephant-heart stew the other day—there being nothing else available—and it did not strike me as unusual, even when chased with coconut milk.

GETTING ACUSTOMED

This is because Australian food, New Guinea food, Egyptian food, Chinese food, Filipino backpacker food—fish, heads mainly I think—and raw fish in Japan, plus a few sharks' fins and birds' nests and seaweed and the stomach is a sturdy total confusion. A little Colombo curry, a fried browned or ordinary air-line fare is not apt to unduly upset you.

The same applies to you. Get accustomed to such things as gin, palm, tandoori, arak, raki, sake, Chinese whiskey, vodka, Australian whiskey and African beer, and you have no need to fear any local infection by drinking the local water. There is no germ which could stay alive

## FRESH PROBLEMS

I have had haircuts you wouldn't believe, some done with knives and forks, some done merely with spoons. I have been cold, wet, dry and frightened. I have traveled in single-engine aircraft in New Guinea and Africa, and have redwooded the tower of prayer, I was run down by a bicycle in Zanzibar.

Communications are always a bother, and I often wonder how you get that things printed. Once I gave some columns to a man in Goroka, who would talk them to a man he knew who was leaving Lae for Brisbane, who would mail them to a man I knew in Sydney, who would find them to British United Press in Montreal who would get them to United Features in Chicago and New York. They got printed, too, despite the cleft stick technique.

But now I'm finally heading home for a set of fresh problems. But I don't aim to tackle any until I've slept a week and located a fresh pair of pants which will shine on the stark, Farrell world. You're on your own for a spell.

## Soekarno Is Nervous About Washington

WASHINGTON

THE senator with top seniority to take Barkley's place among those who want the post, is Paul Douglas of Illinois, former economics professor of the University of Chicago and the most skilled economist-finance expert in the Senate.

Dead Opposed

However, Douglas is dead opposed to the tax favors given the oil-gas industry and other interests. He has skillfully kept such opponents off the tax-rating Finance Committee. At the moment he has been discreetly sounding out other senators who would lose them votes.

Watchful Waiting

So seniority is a time-honored custom in the Senate. It was why race-baiting Sen. Eastland of Mississippi became chairman of the Judiciary Committee when all Democrats knew it would lose them votes.

So Senate colleagues are watching to see whether seniority or Texas oil men's greed will win the day in filling the vacancy in the Finance Committee.

## SAD, SAD LIFE

WE HAVE LONG been unhappily aware that while the juice of the grape and the grain may bring cheer it can also bring trouble with the liver. And we are getting pretty reconciled to the fact that the joys of nicotine, which in trying hours steady the nerves and in quiet hours bring peaceful meditation, are not unduly with perils to the lungs.

But now comes the shattering news that those charcoal broiled steaks, which we have been anticipating for summer evenings, will also embroil us in all manner of ills. From the Federation of American Scientists for Experimental Biology comes word that a nibble of filet mignon is also a nibble at our arteries.

Nor is that all. Milk, which we thought we never outgrew the need of, and those two-minute eggs that have long brightened gloom the winter mornings—these, too, are slowly depositing fats and waxes to line our blood-vessel with

Progress report: Some of the new fashions make excellent sliding shorts for men with hilly stomachs. —MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.