THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Two Local Courts--Two Sets Of Rules

EFFECTIVE law enforcement demands reasonable uniformity.

But uniformity is hardly a watchword in the courts that handle reckless driving cases in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

If a driver is convicted of the charge in County Recorder's Court, Judge J. Ed. Stukes says he is bound by the law to hold the maximum punishment to 60 days in jail and/or a $100 fine.

If a driver is convicted of the same charge in City Recorder's Court, Judge Basil Boyd says he is bound simply by the maximum sentence allowed for any other misdemeanor. As Staff Writer Harry Shuford told News readers yesterday, it is generally accepted in North Carolina courts that a misdemeanor is punishable by a maximum of two years in prison and/or a $1,000 fine.

There is some justification for confusion: Contradictory revision of the Motor Vehicle Code by the 1947 General Assembly. In attempting to improve a law, legislators merely muddied it in some vital spots.

It is not surprising. Lawmakers, pressed for time and unskilled in detail work, traditionally handle such matters with all the deftness of a bulldozer.

But that was nine years ago.

It is rather disheartening, not to say amazing, to find the confusion still with us and individual courts in the same county using entirely different interpretations of the rule book.

Judge Stukes said this week: "I think the legislature accidentally lowered the maximum punishment for reckless driving." Before the 1947 Legislature revised the punishment provisions of the law, the maximum for reckless driving was set at $500 and/or six months.

"The limit the law now appears to set of 60 days and $100 isn't enough in some cases. Why, in some cases I hear with wild drivers, the punishment ought to be a lot more than that.

"I may even see if I can't get the legislature to change that. My hands are tied, even in the worst cases, the way it is now."

Across the street, Judge Boyd said that the Motor Vehicle Code calls an offense a misdemeanor, and he treats it as such. "I try to make the punishment fit the case," he said, "and sometimes go way over 60 days or $100.

"If anybody doesn't think that's legal, all he has to do is appeal the case. There have been a lot of good lawyers in my court and not one yet has appealed on the sentence."

Fair enough. But this area of the law is too important for even momentary conflict. A lack of uniformity is a disservice to the cause of justice *and* to the cause of traffic safety.

In response to a request for an opinion from Solicitor Ray Rankin of the County Recorder's Court, the state attorney general's office advised acceptance of 60 days and/or $100 as maximum punishment.

Certainly, in the interests of common sense and "equal justice," this opinion should be accorded countywide acceptance until a ruling can be secured from the Supreme Court or the legislature can mend its law.

Either way, however, uniformity should be the rule.

The Big Eye Bent On The Candidates

IT WASN'T so bad on the Mecklenburg voters.

Some, maybe, missed a few televised innings. Others, by getting to the polls, got out from behind lawnmowers. At any rate, it's all but over for the voter.

All he has to do now is sit in the cool and wait for the scores from ball parks and ballot boxes, and hope the good guys won. If they didn't, he can preach whoever's in sight a little sermon on the low intelligence of managers and fellow voters.

For the candidates, winners and losers, election night is a time for gnawing nails back to the nerves. Nor does Gethsemane end with victory or defeat. There were promises made that must be fulfilled, words spoken that must be taken back, suspicions aroused that must be quieted. Alibis must be devised.

Running for office is climbing under a microscope and asking 30,000 voters to take a look and pronounce you germ free. Some voters, failing to find surface bacteria, want to take off your shoes to see if your feet perspire. Others bend the big eye and decide you're shifty looking, ugly, dishonest or just plain stupid looking. And they mark you down in the little book and they remember you—a long time.

Richard M. Nixon, a man with heavy jowls, was under a king-sized microscope during his hound's tooth television talk in 1952. A California farmer wrote him: "Was it mumps or was it chewing tobacco? I say it's mumps. Joe says it's chewing tobacco. Please settle our bet."

Candidates, it's true, are given to offending the public's intelligence and taste. Some of them place the lowest common denominator too low, and talk to the voter's stomach instead of his head.

But the voter is capable of his cruelties, too, and exercises them.

So, turning away from the microscope, we offer thanks to the winners and losers for giving us a choice.

Through our glass we saw some small bores and, perhaps, some candidates too big for their britches, but among them all no vermin.

Matter of fact, it wouldn't have been much of an election day without the boys under the big eye.

Foreign Aid: No Idea, No Action

EVER since Moscow mounted its own foreign aid offensive, Washington has been in search of an idea to combat it.

The administration's wrinkle was to add long-term guarantees to the present concept of U. S. aid and continue it. Search for the new idea was to go on with the aid of a special presidential commission to be authorized by Congress.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee has now told the President to get up his own commission of thinkers.

The committee also struck off the long-term guarantees, reduced the military aid fund by one third, and overruled the administration on particulars of how the military aid should be distributed.

The administration has failed to provide the new and challenging concept demanded by restyling of Russian foreign policy. The House committee would simply provide less money for the old concept, avoiding all responsibility for improving it.

Meantime, of course, Congress will continue to view the Russian program with alarm and to twit Secretary Dulles at any sign of optimism.

Meantime, too, the Kremlin will push its malevolent charities among the underdeveloped nations.

Sometime in the future—with all deliberate delay—the Congress may decide to translate alarm into positive action.

Louis Graves In The Chapel Hill Weekly

ON MAILING LETTERS

IN BRING ON THE GIRLS, a book by P. G. Wodehouse (native of England) and Guy Bolton (native of the United States) about their collaboration in playwriting, it is related that during a stay in London Wodehouse astonished Bolton by pitching out of his top-floor apartment window the letters he wanted mailed.

"But suppose somebody stole the stamp and threw the letter away," said Bolton.

Wodehouse said he had found from long experience that the inhabitants of London didn't act like that.

"Somebody always picks it up and posts it," he said. "It saves me sweating up and down four flights of stairs every time I want to mail a letter."

This reminds me of the time when I was passing Christ Church in Raleigh one Sunday half an hour before the morning services were to begin. I went inside and left a letter to Nell Battle Lewis near the door in the center aisle. I didn't know then that Miss Lewis attended not Christ but the Good Shepherd. But a member of the Christ Church congregation picked up the letter and, after the services, took it to her at her home.

Of course you would expect people attending church to be on a higher level of honesty than people walking up and down the streets every day of the week, but there must be a great number of people who mail letters they find on a sidewalk or in a post office lobby. I know it happens often in Chapel Hill. I have picked up and mailed lost letters, and much more often other people have mailed mine. One day last week Phillips Russell called on the telephone to say that he had found on the street and mailed a postcard addressed to my wife's brother in Nashville, Tenn. This was a case that pinned guilt on me, for I was the one to whom the card had been entrusted for mailing.

The fellow moved up to a new acquaintance at a party, and said, "Say, have I told you about my grandchildren?" "No," said the man, "and I certainly do appreciate it."—HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE.

Maybe it says something about the two countries, when over in England they "stand" for election, and over here they "run."—EATONTON (GA.) MESSENGER.

Why does a woman say she's been shopping when she hasn't bought anything? For the same reason a man says he's been fishing when he hasn't caught anything.—CHAPEL HILL WEEKLY.

ADLAI STEVENSON
A Fattening Diary

'New' Adlai No Different From The Old

By STEWART ALSOP

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.

ADLAI E. Stevenson, fighting for his political life here in the Florida primaries, presents an unusual spectacle in several ways. For one thing—and this is most unusual—he is a man doing something he hates doing, and doing it well.

It is no secret that Stevenson never wanted to enter any primaries at all, and balked like a mule when his advisors told him he had to. It is equally no secret that, now that he is up to his neck in primaries, he hates it. He bitterly describes the whole primary system as "this mad endurance contest."

If you spend a day or so campaigning with Stevenson, you can't blame him. Only a madman—or possibly an Estes Keauver—could possibly enjoy the primary routine. Consider the following diary of a typical Stevenson day this week.

Up at dawn or thereabouts, in Miami. Breakfast with twittering ladies — charm must be turned on. Radio recordings—must sound statesmanlike but not stuffy. Leave eight o'clock on two and half hour plane trip to Tallahassee. Meet with governor and governor's cabinet at capitol — must be especially nice to two perennial cabinet members with great influence. Speech on capitol steps to state employes released for occasion—crisis when ex-Gov. Caldwell, introducing, calls Kefauver "sycophant" of Negroes, implying Stevenson indifferent to Negro vote. Could be fatal in California.

SPEECH AT DUSK

Lunch at university (ham and very sweet potato) and speech. Speech prepared for university audience—audience turns out to be mostly business men. Much hand-shaking with students. Side trip to meet governor's wife (governor friendly but uncommitted and very important). By plane to Lake City. Press conference called to deal with Caldwell matter. Speech at dusk on main square. This woolhat country — must deal somehow with segregation issue. Speech success. Much hand-shaking. By plane to Jacksonville. Final lengthy conferences. And so to bed.

This sort of thing goes on day after day. The demands on the candidate — to put up with the endless frustrations and delays, to deal with the inevitable crises, to make real contact with the voters, above all to be nice when he does not feel like being nice, to smile when he does not feel like smiling, to bounce when he does not feel like bouncing—must be almost intolerable, especially to such a candidate as Adlai Stevenson. Yet Stevenson does it all, on the whole, very well indeed.

Stevenson is still the interesting, courageous, highly intelligent, oddly contrary candidate he was then. He makes, if anything, more jokes than ever, many genuinely funny. There is the familiar strain of self-depreciation, grown with time. He is himself the butt of most of his jokes, and to the despair of his advisors, he likes to call himself an "unemployed politician," and to point out that the Florida counties he won in 1952 were the ones he did not visit.

Much has been written about the "new Stevenson." It is undoubtedly true that his Minnesota defeat persuaded Stevenson that he had to fight to survive, and in some ways he is fighting harder now than in 1952. But essentially he is the same old Stevenson — he says, accurately, that he could not change if he wanted to.

People's Platform

Public Schools And Religion

Rock Hill, S. C.

Editors, The News:

EXPERIENCE has shown that whenever religious groups invoke the use of government institutions such as schools on behalf of religious education, citizens become divided along religious lines, conflict and acrimony follow and the community finds itself in disunity. Religious education in tax supported schools often results in an inconciliatory atmosphere.

Recent incidents go a long way to point up this basic conflict. Cadets at West Point for many years have been required to attend Protestant and Catholic chapels conducted by clergymen paid and selected by the academy. Jewish cadets attend services at the synagogue in town.

The Protestant chaplain has always been chosen from the Episcopalian denomination. The Baptist Joint Committee and the American Lutheran Church have registered protests against this practice. The matter has failed to be resolved and the tradition continues.

Another incident occurred in New Jersey. School children from Cliffside Park in accordance with state law read five verses of the Bible daily. Because the King James Protestant Bible was used the local Catholic church claimed that use of this version of the Bible was "contrary to and forbidden by the religious beliefs" of Catholic children. Since a majority of the children were Roman Catholics their pastor urged that the Catholic version of the Bible be substituted. Conflict and disputes followed. A "compromise" for the time being followed.

Only such verses of the Bible as are identical would be read. In another incident, in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Catholic educators stated that the custom of releasing students for a late hour one day each week from public school to attend religious schools was unsatisfactory. They asked that the hour be changed so that instead of the last hour in the day, the first hour be used for religious instruction.

Dissatisfaction followed when the local Protestant clergy and the rabbi claimed that the time change would be impracticable for their religious programs. The school board, all of whose members are Catholics, unanimously overruled an inter-faith advisory committee and voted to change the released hour.

The three non-Catholic members of the advisory committee issued a bitter statement and withdrew their children from the released time program. Again inter-religious friction was the result of the use of public schools for religious study. Direct or indirect involvement of the government in religious activity is and should be a matter of grave concern for those citizens who desire harmony and unity in their communities.

—D. EMIS

ROBERT B. HOUSE
Deserves UNC's Best

Chancellor House, Too, Deserves Great Honor

Pittsboro

Editor, The News:

THE papers have been very liberal, both editorially and in the news columns, of the presentation of the portrait of Dr. Frank P. Graham to the University, Chapel Hill unit, which pleases me no little

During the campaign for the U. S. Senate all three branches of the University "doctored" Dr. Graham. I protested that such was politics and out of place, and I am still of that opinion.

But, Heaven knows, I love Frank Graham and always will, although I challenge his judgment in many things. If there is living today a man filled with the fervor and spirit of the Christians and their conduct described in verses 44, 45, 46 and 47 of Acts, Chapter 2, so far as I know, that man is Frank Graham.

Sometimes I am puzzled as to the meaning of the Golden Rule when I relate it to Frank Graham. He is so utterly selfless (except as to commendation, with which weakness all mankind is afflicted) I think that if we did to others as he would have them do to him, we would have a very lop-sided society, if not complete anarchy. Perhaps others would be wholly neglected.

But lest we forget, I want to nominate for the highest honor the alumni of the University Chapel Hill unit, can bestow upon one of its servants — Boo House — who almost single-handed has kept the old institution intact for the past quarter of the century.

Others may have found outside fields in which to serve, but Bob has always been happy and content to give his great heart and all his talents (and they are many) to the University, Chapel Hill unit. I do not know in what form Bob should be honored. He is too old to be made president, which he richly deserves. I will leave the form to one who has more imagination than I possess; but I want it to be a top honor.

And now passing to the prosaic, if not the ridiculous, I wish to suggest that it is going to be exceedingly difficult to get a top outside man to come here and take the throttle at Chapel Hill.

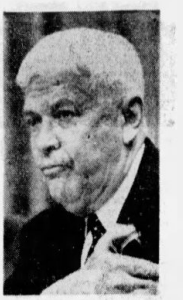
He would rank two landings from the top—below both the Ramsey Committee and Dr. Purks. This would be a position an outside man would not relish.

It might suit Victor Bryant or the present acting head of the Greater University, Mr. Friday; in fact, it would make but little difference for the next few years, as Bob House would run the institution anyway.

If Big Jim Tatum can beat Duke in the meantime, we will give him the institution, lock, stock and barrel. Of course, it's a gamble, but an attractive one. Gov. Bird, of Maryland, went from the position of coach via the presidency of Maryland University to the office of governor of his state. Anything can happen these days, and the UNC alumni would give a coach that could beat Duke the earth with a fence around it.

—JOHN W. HESTER.

Strauss In The Wind



SECRETARY WILSON
Over His Head

Military Fuss Grows Out Of Korean War

By WALTER LIPPMANN

NEW YORK

SECRETARY Wilson, with the President's support, is insisting that the dispute among the services must not be argued out in public. He said that the administration will not tolerate the kind of propaganda which was launched last week-end by the Air Force and by the Army.

Whether the policy of supressing the dispute is sound depends, it seems to me, on what the dispute is about. It is reasonably plain from what Secretary Wilson said at the big Pentagon press exhibition that he believes the issue to be "the roles and mission business," — that is to say, which of the services is to have which of the new expensive weapons. He must have been hearing more than he likes to hear about these rivalries, and he is very much annoyed at finding that the services have gone over his head, hoping to work up public opinion and congressional support.

ROLES AND MISSIONS

There is not much real doubt, it seems to me, that if only "the roles and the mission business" are at issue, then these issues should be settled within the Pentagon and the National Security Council. The relative value of one guided missile over another, the military capabilities of the aircraft carriers, the role of the Army in aerial defense — these are questions which neither the general public nor the Congress are competent to decide. They are by their very nature questions which have to be answered by the services themselves under the guidance of the President and the Secretary of Defense.

HIGH STRATEGY

But is there not more to this dispute than the roles and mission business of the three services? We know that there is at bottom a much bigger question, which was raised some time ago by Gen. Ridgway, of high strategy in the age of nuclear weapons. There is no use pretending that this question has as yet been settled, that a clear policy has been arrived at by which the services can be guided.

It would clear the air a good deal if the administration was to admit that policy is in the making but is not made, and that the military art is developing faster than our strategical understanding of its consequences. Here there is not only room for public discussion but an urgent need of it.

NO DECISION

The need of it is manifest not only within the Pentagon in the dispute over the strategic roles of the Army and Navy but in such matters as the differences between Mr. Dulles and Mr. Stassen. There being as yet no firm decision about the role of the Army in future wars, Mr. Dulles and Mr. Stassen do not have an agreed view of what to say about the reduction of the Red Army.

The unresolved question, which haunts and perturbs American military thinking, is whether the Korean war was a precedent which established a new policy, or whether it was a unique affair marking the exception to a settled policy. If Korea was a precedent, as many seem to think it was, if we need to be ready to fight a series of wars of the Korean type, then General Ridgway and the Army are obviously right. But if Korea was an exception to the general rule that in regard to Asia we are not a land power but a sea and air power, then the responsibility of the ground army has been greatly reduced.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

The Blunders Of John Foster Dulles

WASHINGTON

YESTERDAY I suggested that in order to rescue our flagging, skidding foreign relations, Ike should appoint Clare Boothe Luce to a high post in the State Department, possibly as secretary of state, with Dick Nixon as undersecretary.

No Kidding

Doubtless some readers thought I did this with tongue in cheek.

However, let's take a look at what's happening to our foreign policy and at the men responsible for its disastrous tailspin.

When Herbert Hoover Jr., our undersecretary of state, was asked about the island of Cyprus last winter, he replied, pleasantly and naively:

"I don't know much about Cyprus. I guess I'll have to bone up on it."

Danger Spot

Yet Cyprus for almost a year had been the second most potential danger spot in the Mediterranean—the first being Israel-Egypt. It is the job of a diplomat to look ahead and prevent international fires, not run around with a bucket trying to put them out after they get started. Hoover and the State Department did not do this. As a result, the fire on Cyprus is so intense that years of firefighting will not quench the blaze.

Young Hoover is nice, naive, but totally unqualified to run the State Department. Yet with Dulles away most of the time the undersecretary has to run it.

Dulles And Hitler

When John Foster Dulles was retained by New York banks and bond houses in the 1920's he made several trips to Germany and each time he stepped off the boat on his return he made learned statements to the press that Germany was a sound investment, perfectly safe for American bondholders.

After every such statement more American money was poured into Germany—eventually to go down the drain.

No Secret

At that same time, however, it was no secret that many American economists were worried over the unsafe foundation of the German economy and the heavy reparations burden Germany owed to France. They knew the money poured in by American investors was being siphoned on to France and that eventually the whole bubble would burst.

Their worry was one reason why the bankers hired Dulles to allay those fears. At any rate, Dulles kept on making bullish statements about Germany.

Great Blunder

"Our bankers have performed a great service, both to this country and to the world," he announced in 1928.

"Germany has made great progress," he said again on Oct. 21, 1930. "Her national income and government income have grown to a point where the reparations charge constitutes a readily bearable percentage."

End result of this investment splurge and Dulles' encouragement of it was that the American people helped to finance Hitler for World War II. This was one of the great blunders of the man who became Secretary of State. But it wasn't the only one.

Another Blunder

In the spring of 1939 Dulles was speaking before the Economic Club of New York.

"These dynamic peoples," he said, referring to Germany, Italy and Japan, "determined to take destiny into their own hands and attain that enlarged status . . . which had been denied them."

This speech was an apology for Hitler and Mussolini. It was made after Hitler had gobbled all of Austria and Czechoslovakia, after Mussolini had swallowed Ethiopia, and after Japan had occupied much of north and central China.

Again on Oct. 29, 1939, after Hitler had attacked Poland and all western Europe was embroiled in war, Dulles made a second speech before the National Council of the YMCA.

Hysteria

"There is no reason to believe that any totalitarian states, separately or collectively, would attempt to attack the United States," he said. "Only hysteria entertains the idea that Germany, Italy or Japan contemplate war upon us."

It was a speech that Mr. Dulles badly wanted to forget.

The trouble is that Dulles has made speech after speech and statement after statement that he would like to forget, dating from 1939 to "agonizing reappraisal" to "massive retaliation" to "brink-of-war."