THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1956

Now Is The Time To Speak Out

THIS is not a time when silence is golden in North Carolina.

Reason will triumph in Raleigh next week only if Tar Heels raise their voices in assertions of individual conscience and conviction.

It cannot be assumed that the General Assembly has made up its collective mind with firm inflexibility on every phase of the school proposals presented by Gov. Hodges. The state's chief executive has prepared his case well. Legislative briefing sessions have no doubt been effective.

But opinion is never so cut and dried in a political body that it is impervious to well-expressed public viewpoints.

There is ample opportunity for the people to speak out between now and the special session's adjournment. Later, if there is an election to act on a constitutional amendment, additional opportunities will be available. But many errors in legislation may have been committed by then.

A better forum will be provided in the form of public hearings scheduled to open in Raleigh at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. It is at these sessions that conscientious citizens can give the legislature the benefit of their opinions and, at the same time, isolate and clarify the real issues involved, hacking away the by-products of misunderstanding and confusion.

In this delicate area of interpretation, much remains to be done.

For instance, it cannot be fairly stated that a vote for the governor's plan is a vote to destroy the public school system in North Carolina. That's overstating it.

As a matter of fact, there is much in the Hodges proposals which merits favorable attention. Our principal objection is that the two major proposals—"local option" to close schools in any given locality and tuition grants—are bound together in a single package. Their fate would depend on the fate of the constitutional amendment which the governor proposes to submit to the people in September. If passed, that amendment would allow local communities to suspend their public schools by vote—thus permitting the state to sidestep its constitutional obligation to provide a statewide system of free public schools. Public education is too precious in North Carolina to submit it to these calculated risks. We believe that the people deserve the right to vote on "local option" and tuition grants separately. The tuition grant offers the hope of providing the necessary safety valve without endangering the concept of public education.

The merit of the tuition grant lies largely in the guarantee that no child would be compelled to attend mixed schools against his will.

These and other aspects of the school problem must be given a full airing in Raleigh. It is the public's duty to contribute to that discussion. At the moment, silence is reason's worst enemy.

The Fable Of The Automotive Horse

HAVE you heard the fable about the automotive horse?

It goes like this: Once upon a time an automobile was built that would run faster than a draft horse—not much faster, but enough to make spoilsports say the whole idea was sinful.

Running about a little faster than a farm horse wasn't sinful, but it soon became as tired as sin. People wanted to go a lot faster than a horse, and the auto makers began putting more horsepower under the hood.

This was popular and if some people got killed by going too fast—well, dead men tell no tales. Speed was salable and the auto makers made speed and sold it as such. They might have called it pickup or get-up-and-go, but by any name it was power. The automotive horse grew faster and more powerful every year.

There came a time when the automotive horse ran so fast the people were in a quandary. They still liked power, but so many people were getting killed. It got to the point that you couldn't go down the road at 90 miles an hour without running the danger of getting clobbered. So, quite sensibly, they made a law that you could go only 50 or 60 miles per hour.

The auto makers found out that people were blaming them for making cars too powerful and thereby helping people to leave this world. Surprisingly, though, they found out people still wanted the annual boost of power even though they had made laws saying they couldn't use all of it.

Well, that didn't make sense. So they dreamed up a fable which says that the more power your car has the safer you are. You can get out of tight spots in a hurry.

Some people said that doesn't make sense either. They pointed out that more power will get you into a tight spot sooner than it will get you out. They said it tended to make drivers take reckless chances. One insurance spokesman said "the truth is that errors of judgment committed with today's superpowered cars are a lot more likely to be fatal than when horsepowers were lower and drivers didn't consider it a point of honor to be able to trim other makes in traffic-light drag races."

That makes sense, but the automakers are still adding to the horsepower and they are still saying it means safety.

Fables, after all, don't have to make sense.

Charlotte: The City Left Off The Signs

ALL ROADS don't lead to Charlotte and the ones that do aren't marked so you'd know it.

This was the disappointment of a visitor who left Arizona several weeks ago on a swing across to New York and down to Florida. Driving through the Midwest she was impressed by the advance notice signposts gave even the runtiest villages—Tanktown, 217 miles; Blotchburg, 319 miles; Hungry, 91 miles.

She figured she'd begin seeing Charlotte signs at least 150 miles away. She remembered it as the colossus of the Carolinas from her childhood. It must be even more colossal now. She didn't see the signs, but her marked map showed Charlotte *was* on U. S. 29.

She kept traveling, and worrying about what had happened to Charlotte. Reaching Greensboro was a relief. It hadn't grown much in 20 years but at least it was still there.

Quickly through the skimpy traffic of that incorporated municipality she hurried this 'away, but still without the certainty of a road sign.

Finally, at Salisbury, 40 miles away, she saw one.

She found Charlotte colossal, but not so's a southbound motorist would know it. The tanktowns got better notices.

Philip Harsham In The Louisville Courier-Journal

LITTLE CARS AND BIG BULLIES

THERE'S something about the saucy roar of a bull-chested sports car that brings out the bully in people. I can't imagine why. But then, I drive a sports car. One with a saucy roar. A down-right impertinent roar, actually.

I'd had it exactly eight minutes when a traffic policeman stopped me. He said I'd run a stop sign. I hadn't. And he knew it. But it gave him a wonderful chance to deliver a well-prepared sermon. He didn't like sports cars. Or the guys who drive them.

Then I drove onto a busy highway in the rain. It was a heavy rain and it left deep puddles. My exhaust muffler dragged in some of them, which shows how deep they really were. About three inches.

Anyway, those strange people who drive automobiles seemed to find this amusing. One yelled to ask if I were wearing rubber pants.

It's all great sport, though. And drivers of those big trailer-trucks are usually sportsmen. I'm talking about the big trailer-trucks with air brakes. I'm glad they have air brakes. The drivers like to roar up behind sports cars and slam on the air brakes at the last minute. It startled me a bit the first time I looked around and found myself staring eye-level at a big truck's bumper.

I can always run off and leave the trailer-trucks, of course. But chances are there'll be a speed cop around the bend. And he'll go for the sports car. Not the trailer-truck.

The kids in the junk heaps are a problem, too. They like to race. And they taunt sports cars, trying to egg them on. Especially those who drive the now-beaten-up products Mr. Ford turned out about five years ago.

Now, with all due apologies to Mr. Ford, the average sports car can run circles around his 1950 product. And I wish somebody would tell the kids that. To put it logically, I have an aversion to funerals.

I don't know why people always refer to sports cars as bull-chested. I suppose mine is sort of bull-chested, at that. And some say it roars like an angry lion. Sports cars are animalish, come to think of it. Matter of fact, I wish I could train mine to bite.

The only way women cannot compete with men in business is in putting their feet on desks and being nonchalant at the same time.—GREENVILLE (S. C.) PIEDMONT.

The Democrats contend that we have a part-time President, and you get an even more rudderless feeling from the realization that we don't have any heavyweight champion at all.—RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH.

People's Platform

How To Solve The School Segregation Problem

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

THOSE who love North Carolina will jump at the chance to share in the great responsibility now confronting our governor and the members of the special session of the state legislature. The proposals submitted by Gov. Hodges and his Advisory Education Committee include the following: (a) The elimination of the compulsory attendance statute "to prevent any child from being forced to attend a school with a child of another race." (b) The establishment of an education expense grant for education in a private school, in the case "of a child assigned to a school attended by a child of another race." (c) A "uniform system of local option," whereby a majority vote of the folks in a school district may suspend or close a school when the situation becomes "intolerable."

But suppose a Negro child applies for an education expense grant, and says he wants to go to the private school too? There are 14 recent Supreme Court decisions governing the use of public funds, whereas there are only two recent decisions eliminating racial discrimination in the public schools.

The governor has said that critics of these proposals have not offered constructive advice or alternatives. Permit me therefore to offer a proposal for the consideration of the special session. A careful study of my plan, as outlined in the current issue of the Carolina Israelite, will show that it will save millions of dollars in tax funds and eliminate forever any danger to our public education system. Before I outline my plan it is necessary that I give you some background.

One of the factors involved in our tremendous industrial growth and economic prosperity has been the fact that the South has voluntarily all but eliminated vertical racial segregation. The tremendous buying power of the 12 million Negroes in the South has been based wholly on the absence of racial segregation.

The white and Negro races stand at the same grocery and super market counters, deposit money at the same bank-teller's window, walk through the same dime and department stores, pay light and telephone bills and taxes to the same clerks, and stand at the same drug-store counters. It is only when the Negro sits down that the fur begins to fly, and the folks become panicky.

Now since the South is not even thinking of restoring vertical segregation, I think my plan would fulfill our three requirements of the moment: (a) comply with the Supreme Court decisions, (b) save our public schools, and (c) maintain sitting-down segregation. Now here is the Golden Vertical Negro Plan. Instead of all these complicated proposals, all the special session need do is pass one small amendment which would provide only desks in all our public schools, no seats.

The desks should be those stand-up jobs, like the old-fashioned bookkeeping desks. Since no one in the South pays the slightest attention to a vertical Negro, this should completely solve our problem. And it should not be a great inconvenience to our young people to stand up in their classrooms. In fact this may be a blessing in disguise. They are not learning the read sitting-down; maybe standing up will help. This will save more millions of dollars in the cost of our "remedial English" courses when the kids enter college.

In every direction, the Golden Vertical Negro Plan saves millions of dollars, and forever eliminates any danger to our public education system upon which rests the destiny, the hopes, and the happiness of this society.

— HARRY L. GOLDEN

GOV. HODGES
A Challenge Accepted

loving American democrats is, "Who are the real subversives?" Those who would by evasion, delay or deliberate sabotage negate the Constitution of the United States as it applies to our schools? Or those who through patient, but persistent, efforts through the courts under the Constitution seek redress from grievous wrong. How can any clear thinking American of integrity hesitate in his answer? Gov. Hodges and the State Board of Education, with their proposals for new legislation to "save the public school system," do the cause of democracy, justice and religion a disservice.

—EDWARD A. CAHILL

"Does the law ever think about adults . . . They get hot in summer, too . . .!"

'Neutralism' Defined

The Quest For A Black Cat

By WALTER LIPPMANN

NEW YORK

MR. DULLES on neutralism has been behaving for all the world like the man who went into a dark room looking for a black cat that wasn't there. The black cat Mr. Dulles has been looking for is a universal all-purpose definition of neutrality which will announce the exact temperature of our official moral disapproval. He seems to feel that it is somehow the business of the United States, and of himself as secretary of state, to pronounce a wholesale blanket verdict on all countries which do not belong to NATO, SEATO or METO, on countries as diverse as India and Ireland, as Sweden and Egypt, as Switzerland and Yugoslavia. Because this cannot be done, he has within the past month or so found it necessary to contradict the Vice President who had contradicted the President, and to contradict himself.

CONFUSION OF MIND

Such a thing ought not to happen in a well conducted government. For it betrays a confusion of mind which is more damaging than the attacks of our adversaries. On June 9 at Ames, Iowa, Mr. Dulles declared that, except under very exceptional circumstances, the principle of neutrality is obsolete, short-sighted, and immoral. This blanket verdict that they are all immoral irritated the non-joiners who are a multitude in South Asia, the Middle East and Europe. The trouble was compounded by Vice President Nixon's howler in attacking Indian policy when he was in Pakistan. So Mr. Dulles had to go back into the dark room looking for his black cat. Last Wednesday, at his press conference he emerged with a new version of the Dulles doctrine. As of July 11 countries belonging to the U.N. (which includes all countries, excepting only Switzerland, that are able to get themselves admitted) are no longer immoral neutrals, and Switzerland is not an immoral neutral because it has been neutral for so long a time.

This reduces to absurdity the attempt to generalize about the morality of neutrals. For having started with a blanket disapproval, Mr. Dulles has ended with another generalization which leaves him with no neutrals to disapprove of. The official doctrine at the moment is that neutrality is immoral but that there are no neutrals who are immoral.

Now that we have arrived at this thundering anti-climax, the question is how did we become entangled in so stultifying and damaging an argument. This is the morning after, and we must try to remember what touched off last night's talking match.

GREAT CHANGE

At the moment of it there is a truly perplexing and difficult situation. The basic assumption of the cold war, that the world is divided into two camps, has been overtaken by the course of events, and a great change has come upon the world situation. Among the developments which have caused this changes the most influential has been the attainment of nuclear parity by the Soviet Union, the success of the forced industrialization of the Soviet Union followed by the reaction against Stalinism, the consolidation of the Red regime in China. These developments in their combined effect have worked for neutralism, have worked against the idea that nations which have no nuclear weapons can find security by joining one or the other of the two military coalitions.

In the face of this new situation there have arisen in Washington two schools of thought. The one, represented by Sen. Knowland, would like to refuse American aid to any country which does not join one of our military alliances. The other, which has had encouragement from the President himself, would recognize that the weak and under-developed countries may have good reason for not joining military alliances, and would nevertheless give them economic aid.

Neither school of thought has as yet produced a policy which can be applied indiscriminately to all the neutrals. No one will ever produce such a policy. In the reality of things the question of how to treat Tito's Yugoslavia is distinct and specifically different from the question of how to treat Nasser's Egypt. In the Asian sub-continent we have a vital interest in being friends both in India and with Pakistan. But it is impossible to formulate a generalized policy which is equally good for both.

The root of the trouble about defining neutrals has been the practice, unfortunately rather common in our inexperienced diplomacy of trying to deal with specific and diverse and hard problems by sweeping them under the rug of a moral generalization. This is a political vice which can be, and frequently has been, ruinous to an effective and realistic and genuinely moral policy. It is the business of the statesmen to work out an Egyptian policy, and a Yugoslav policy, and an Indian policy, and a Swedish policy, and an Irish policy, and to refrain from upsetting the applecart by pronouncing moral judgment on "neutrals" as such and in the abstract.

BLANKET JUDGMENT

There are people who, when they hear an official use of the word "moral," feel that morality is being promoted and defended. It may not be so. Nobody thinks it to be moral and high-minded for a man to issue blanket moral judgment on his fellow men. He is likely to get himself thoroughly distrusted and disliked. For each of us expects to be treated as an individual person, not as part of a generalized lump.

So it is among the nations. They are proud, as we are proud, and they resent, as we would resent, being put publicly on trial to be judged for their moral character. They resent it all the more when the judgment is generalized and when they are treated as faceless objects, having no distinct individuality of their own.

Hodges' Proposals Just Double Talk

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I HAVE just finished reading a newspaper account of the proposed legislation entitled "Proposals Shaped to Save Schools."

Who is threatening public schools in North Carolina, and from what "insidious," subversive force must the schools be saved? I am a product of the American public school system and, if my memory serves me correctly, I was taught in my public school courses in American history and civics that the Constitution of the United States was the foundation of American democracy. Are we to infer from the double talk issuing from Raleigh that the Constitution of the United States interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States is threatening our public schools in America?

Let's cut out the double talk and call a spade a shovel, if doing so will clarify the problem. The only threat to the public schools of North Carolina comes from that extremist fringe of our population who have no respect for the Constitution of the U. S. and who would precipitate this region into a period of confusion and virtual anarchy, rather than re-examine their irreligious and undemocratic biases and prejudices.

The real question before liberty-loving American democrats is, "Who are the real subversives?" Those who would by evasion, delay or deliberate sabotage negate the Constitution of the United States as it applies to our schools? Or those who through patient, but persistent, efforts through the courts under the Constitution seek redress from grievous wrong. How can any clear thinking American of integrity hesitate in his answer? Gov. Hodges and the State Board of Education, with their proposals for new legislation to "save the public school system," do the cause of democracy, justice and religion a disservice.

—EDWARD A. CAHILL

Presley Just Puts His Heart Into It

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I SEEM to be hearing more and more about Elvis Presley. If there is nothing to him why are all his critics making such a fuss?

In my opinion, I think he is just what the teenagers need. He's young, good looking and I might add that he has a lot of talent in his own way!

He makes his living by being part of the teenagers — as a simple-minded all-American boy. He is just as good as anybody else and, as for his actions, look at Johnnie Ray and Frankie Lane. He only puts his heart into it, just as they do. That's what makes him so great!

So, for goodness sake, pick on somebody else; this is going a little too far.

—SUDIE PORTER

Watermelon Carnival An Amazing Success

Pageland, S. C.

Editors, The News:

WE OF THE Pageland Watermelon Carnival's steering committee and, in fact, the entire town of Pageland want to thank you for the wonderful cooperation The Charlotte News gave us before, during and after the big event.

The 1956 carnival was an amazing success for so small a town. Attendance has been estimated between 30,000 and 35,000 people, and we feel that much of the credit for this attendance is due to your interest in the carnival and your liberal coverage of all phases of advance information and to reports of the events on carnival day.

It was a pleasure having your representative, Jim Bayburry, here for the carnival day.

—H. E. CARRAWAY
President
Pageland Chamber of Commerce

Knowledge

Space-Maker Supreme

By HARRY and BONARO OVERSTREET
In "The Mind Goes Forth: The Drama Of Understanding"

WHAT A person knows serves him, we might say, as lens through which to look at this world and see beyond its surface appearances. Knowledge turns the opaque into the translucent or transparent, and gives the individual new materials for his response to life. To be sure, it does not automatically do this; for he may carry within himself emotional resistances to what he learns. Or he may be using his knowledge as a compensation for failure in areas of human relationship, and may make it a wall between himself and his world, rather than a lens through which to see more deeply into the subtleties of life. Yet because knowledge does, in general, give new dimensions to our consciousness it is one of the greatest of space-makers.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Latin Dictators May Duck Bullets

WASHINGTON

SOME of the most wanted men in the Western Hemisphere will be the potential "targets for today" at the Conference of Presidents of the American Republics, which President Eisenhower is attending this weekend.

Gun-Toting Exiles

These president-dictators are "wanted" by gun-toting exiles from their respective countries, and security agents are worried sick over the possibility of an incident. Never before in history have so many presidents gathered together in one place.

Human Targets

Among the most "wanted" presidents are Trujillo of Santo Domingo, Somoza of Nicaragua, Perez Jimenez of Venezuela, and Rojas Pinillas of Colombia.

These dictators are responsible for the assassination of many thousands of people, and avenging relatives and political supporters may be lying in wait for them, virtually on the banks of Uncle Sam's Panama Canal.

Sitting Duck

Those who talk about "security measures" in the Republic of Panama are reminded that the President of Panama, Col. Jose A. Remon, was shot to death like a sitting duck in the very presence of secret police and bodyguards at the Juan Franco Race Track in Panama on Jan. 2, 1955.

Panamanian Promise

The Panamanians were unable to protect their own president, who had complete control of the National Guard and the Panamanian secret police. Yet they now claim they can protect 16 presidents who will be assembled with Eisenhower in Panama.

Though Eisenhower is protected by the U. S. Secret Service, it has no actual authority in Panama.

Panama is jealous of her sovereignty, and how much extra-territorial privileges will be permitted Americans in the presence of high officials from all the other American republics is doubtful. The same applies to the security forces and bodyguards which the Latin American presidents will bring with them.

George's Last Battle

The weighty, sometimes pro-Eisenhower prestige of elder statesman George of Georgia was thrown into the fight over Hells Canyon — against his old friends, the Georgia Power Company and other utilities. George, who retires from the Senate this year, made the proposed big federal dam on the Snake River the last senatorial battle of his career, told deserting Democratic colleagues how important it was for them to vote solidly against the private utilities.

Johnson Helps

Sen. Lyndon Johnson also threw his persuasive charm into full gear and talked to each deserting Democrat — twice. The two made some converts.

Among the arguments they used is the fact that the Eisenhower administration is not against federal power in principle, but only against federal power when it comes to the good damsites; and for federal power when it comes to the poor damsites.

Or, as Sen. Neuberger of Oregon puts it: "Ike would give the cream to the private utilities, the skimmed milk to the government."