



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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A Whole New Constitution Is Needed

THERE was a certain classic and poignant irony in the scene as it was described by ex-Northern Burke Davis after the bustle and bustle of North Carolina's 1956 Democratic primary.

There in Richmond County Courthouse was the aging Negro, Oliver Pankey, frowning and stumbling as he read and wrote passages from the state constitution to secure his challenged right to register and vote.

He cut a strangely archaic figure, performing his rather antiquated chore with obvious difficulty. But as he finished, winning his first vote, he carefully wrote on his "test" paper: "Const. 1868."

It not only dated the procedure, which is more than a little barbarous, but also the outmoded, patch-up document that permitted the procedure. Everything that was primitive about the scene was sharply etched in the memories of all who watched.

For a constitution that is a model of justice and political efficiency, an age of 88 is not necessarily excessive. The instrument in question no such model. It has certain admirable qualities but it is far from ideal. Over the years it has become little more than a hodgepodge of amendments which were adopted with little thought and interest.

Now, the General Assembly of North Carolina is being asked to tinker with the document again.

The need for changes is obvious. But before any more changes are made, Tar Heel citizens will be far more squarely the need for an entirely new constitution which will provide the efficiency, responsibility, economy and (especially) North Carolina needs to solve 20th century problems of government.

Dr. Robert S. Rankin, chairman of Duke University's Political Science Department, wrote recently:

We are living in a new age, and there are many constitutions that were drawn that do not fit present times and needs but seriously hinder governmental agencies and individuals in the performance of their duties. Constitutional revision, although not at the present time a live issue in the state, should take place within the next decade as a necessary part of any program to make the state government more effective and efficient.

Lefler and Newsom, in their history of North Carolina, note that the 1868 constitution was written primarily by seafarers and carpenters. As many as 90 amendments have been added in one year (1875).

Today it retains certain basic weaknesses which need attention — an inadequate executive department, an inefficient judicial system, outdated references to governmental functions no longer necessary or proper and biennial legislative sessions, to mention a few.

A new constitution — geared to protect certain basic rights and yet gifted with flexibility and adaptability needed to meet the problems of a modern state — is a must in North Carolina. The time to think about it is now, before new patchwork is applied.

'What Do You Make Of This Rock 'N' Roll Stuff?'



Era Of Wonderful Nonsense Made A Bum Out Of Primo

BY ROBERT C. RUARK

I SHOULD'N'T imagine that poor old Primo Carnera will get over with his million-dollar half suit against the picture power for the invasion of his "privacy," alleged "ridicule," and loss of friends, with his friends, neighbors and business associates. He never owned any of the things he mentioned as lost.

Da Preem is suing Columbia Pictures over a thing of Bud Sharrow's, called "The Hammer They Say." He reckons it's him they portrayed, and he was never righter. But the only thing the picture has to do, if this picture industry ever sees a court, is read a chapter from a book by Paul Gallico, called "The Great Sport," published by Knopf in 1938, and the case is closed.

SHARROW'S SPLASH

Primo was a fighter who couldn't fight. He couldn't have knocked out your old great-aunt if he had been wearing brass knuckles and the old lady was tethered to a tree.

It is generally admitted in print, over the years, that when Leo J. Sharkey did a classic dive in Miami, the splash was heard in Lincoln, whence poor old Carnera came from a little town called Sequas.

For, you see, Carnera was operated by the mob boys, just like fighters are operated today. A guy named Leo See found him in a traveling fair as a Greek-Roman rascal. He put him into Leo J. Sharkey's Salle Wagram in Paris, to see if he could stand up with a man of his size.

SERIES OF SETUPS

Paul Gallico wandered into the point by accident and thereforward knew all there was to know about Primo's capabilities.

This was in what Westrock Peck called "The Era Of Wonderful Nonsense," when champions abandoned and the hoodlums were aristocrats of entertainment fields — just like today.

Westrock thought Carnera to America, made a deal with the mob, and the greatest series of setups since Jack and the Beanstalk took place.

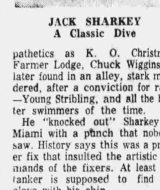
Carnera—we will lose Monsieur See—was steered by such claiming types as Uncle Will Duffy—when he was out of the sneering, Francis de Munge, Roy Boo-Hoff, Gwney Madden, and a beautiful man named Good Time called the "Foolish Man."

PEPPERED EYES

These kids carried what was called "the difference." Gallico queries a fight when a big California Negro named Bomba Chevalier got fascinated with Carnera's monumental chin and started to chip himself a Gutzon Borglum when Chevalier's own attendants rubbed red pepper in his eyes.

In Philadelphia, another fighter named Ace Clark was preparing to fight on the side of Carnera, but when somebody in the steering committee showed him what he had under his coat and asked him to identify the caliber, his trademark. He was only a club fighter but he dug "38" and "44" and "Weaver" very hard.

"They built Primo with such



JACK SHARKEY
A Classic Dive

A Partnership Prospectus Stevenson And Kennedy?

BY JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

ADLAI Stevenson's strategies are using the bandwagon technique to a fare—thee—well. There is, they say with careless confidence, no longer any serious question about the nomination—Stevenson can probably have it on the first ballot if he wants it that way. The real questions now, the Stevenson men say, are the vice-presidential choice and post-convention strategy.

The bandwagon technique is a very old one, of course. But the confidence expressed in the Stevenson camp sounds so convincing and most observers agree that it is probably justified. The Stevenson men sound a good deal less convincing when they claim that, having been nominated, Stevenson can also be elected. But their version of how the thing can be done is worth describing.

DIXIE'S IN THE BAG

They claim that the South, including Texas, but probably excluding Florida, will return to the fold this year. In that case, Stevenson only needs to win the normally Democratic border states, plus a handful of Northern industrial states — Pennsylvania, Michigan and Massachusetts are cited as examples of states in which Stevenson should have a good chance.

But the Stevenson men assume that the Republican ticket, again, Eisenhower-Nixon, and they agree that in order to win the needed handful of northern industrial states, something effective must be done to counter the Republicans' great asset, the President's remarkable personal popularity. The something to be done is in a slogan which will be much heard in months to come — "A Vote For Eisenhower Is A Vote For Nixon." The slogan neatly wraps up in one package the "health issue" and the supposed unpopularity of the incumbent.

The Stevenson post-convention strategy is largely based, in short, on hammering home the Nixon health theme. Indeed, the hammering will start in earnest at the convention, which is being carried on the importance of the vice presidency.

The Democratic National Convention has proposed a plan to this end. The balloting for the presidential nominee, according to this plan, would end on Wednesday, Aug. 13, followed by an interim day to hold suspense, with speeches by former President Truman and Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt. The highlight of the final day, Friday, would be the vice-presidential balloting, since it is feared that Stevenson and his advisers strongly agree on the need for emphasizing the vice-presidential choice at the convention and entering Democratic fire on Nixon there after.

Stevenson himself will do his share of the firing, Stevenson hardly dislikes the vice president. "If there's anyone the governor's enemies would like to see elected, it's me," Stevenson has remarked, "it's that guy. If Nixon tries to play the high level stuff, the governor will needle the hell out of him, and he'll soon come down to earth."

This seems a shrewd appraisal of the high partisan instincts which

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Try Stuffing Your Ears With Cotton

The farmer's farming every day, making money and then crying "CLAP! CLAP! Don't let 'em take it away!"

If this sort of infantile balderdash appalled you during the 1952 presidential campaign, you are in for a bad autumn. The huckstering of political candidates and parties is about to become even more blatant and shameless than ever before.

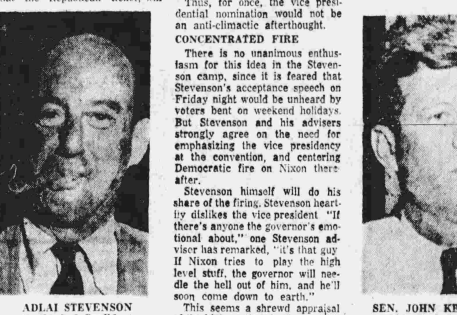
Political campaigns are no longer born in smoke-filled rooms. They are hatched in the walnut cubicles of Madison Avenue where the crowned heads of the advertising world nurse their megalomaniac and mad ideas.

Even the Democrats, who got there latest with the least in 1952's game of "gray flannel politics," have succumbed to the necessities of the times.

Business Week reports that the Democratic National Committee is advising its party candidates all across the country: "If you can afford it, you should hire professional advertising and publicity experts to assist you—because 'the assistance is well worth the cost.'"

Between them, Democratic and Republican national committees will spend something like \$6 million, with additional millions poured out by affiliated groups — congressional campaign committees, Citizens for Eisenhower, etc. The GOP has already signed up \$2 million worth of television time.

The political speech will actually be the least offensive of the adman's assaults on the electorate. Instead of so many dreary speeches that will be something called merchandising. It will be like selling soap. There will be jingles ("They'll promise you the sky, They'll promise you the earth. But what's



ADLAI STEVENSON Ready And Confident
SEN. JOHN KENNEDY Able And Catholic

A Great Scratching In Lafayette Park

AFTER the anonymous tip came in a very serious investigation took place around the White House.

Uniformed men began beating the bushes and sying about through field glasses. What they found out was reported quickly to men with authority to take strong counter measures. These measures have been taken but the threat still is conspicuous by its presence.

There's no blinking the fact that the squirrels residing in Lafayette Park, across from the White House, have a itch. It is not political itch, the almost incurable kind; nor the traveling itch that keeps Mr. John Foster Dulles perpetually on the go, and it is not allied to the hoof-in-mouth disease epidemic in the Pentagon.

The Lafayette Park squirrels have the seven-year variety, and there is great concern that they may scratch across Pennsylvania avenue and give it to the White House squirrels. This would be a grave matter.

The White House squirrels already are under threat of banishment if they return to their old habit of digging divots out of the President's putting green.

Very sensibly, they have been on good behavior. The President is a very powerful and influential neighbor, too powerful for the squirrels to find much comfort in the fact that they have a congressional spokesman in the person of the junior senator from Oregon, Mr. Neuberger.

If, however, the squirrels should catch the itch consisting of a crisis would develop. Beseet by the imperative need to scratch they might forget themselves and scratch up some more divots. Banishment would be in order, but banishment to where? The White House would find itself hard put to find a suitable limbo for itchy squirrels.

It is exceedingly plain, therefore, that the itch must not be allowed to cross Pennsylvania Avenue.

The nation will be saved trouble in the long run if an iron curtain is thrown up immediately around Lafayette Park.

They were ducking arrows ourselves not so long ago, inspired by a British Robin Hood TV program.

It's sort of embarrassing to confront the 17-year lousest one again. Last time we saw them we had our hair, a promising future and \$738 in the bank.

—FLORIDA TIMES-UNION.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round CAA Guilty Of Inexcusable Negligence

WASHINGTON

BURIED in the files of the Civil Aeronautics Administration and the Civil Aeronautics Board are reports on near-air tragedies that don't make happy reading. Maybe that's why they are still buried.

They also show inexcusable negligence or buck-passing on the part of government officials and on the part of some air lines.

Disturbing Information

In view of the increasing congestion in the air, with near misses and collisions happening several times a day, here is some of the disturbing information buried in CAB-CAA files.

One file shows failure of an important air line to change its propeller mechanism on the DC-7B operators that, and the failure of the CAA to force a change — until after a near accident.

Slow Motion

In November, 1955, the Hamilton Standard Propeller Company had informed all DC-7B operators that it was replacing the drive shafts of its propellers on the DC-7B with an improved part. However, the CAA did not make this change mandatory and Pan American Airways continued to operate its DC-7Bs until such time as it was possible to change them.

Engine Catches Fire

On Dec. 28, 1955, following this, a Pan American DC-7B caught fire in its No. 3 engine while flying between Teheran and New York. The plane was about to attempt a forced landing by moonlight on the beach at Venice, Italy, when the engine fell out and it was able to continue and land safely at Rome.

CAB's Report

A CAB examiner retrieved the fallen motor and found that the governor drive shaft had failed, just as the Hamilton Standard Propeller Company had warned. The CAB examiner further reported: "A review of past governor drive shaft failures of this type revealed four others that occurred during October and December, 1955."

Too Late

In too many, despite four failures, the CAA which enforces safety rules had not grounded the DC-7B until the propeller shaft defects could be remedied.

Only after the near tragedy over Venice on Dec. 28, did the CAA act on Jan. 16, 1956, it made the change mandatory.

Tragedy Over Pacific

Another tragedy that could have been prevented occurred on March 17, 1955, when a Pan American Boeing 377 was ditched 35 miles off the Oregon coast while en route to Australia. The plane had lost its No. 3 engine and had gone out of control. Three people drowned and one died of shock.

CAA Forewarned

The CAB investigation revealed that the pilot had been unable to increase the power of the three good engines in order to compensate for the loss of No. 3, due to electrical failure.

Here again both the air line and the CAA had been forewarned.

Recommendation Ignored

On Dec. 1, 1953, the propeller manufacturer, Hamilton Standard, had recommended in its Service Bulletin No. 283 that the circuit breaker and fuses be replaced in order to prevent such failure.

However, CAA did not make the change mandatory. And while Pan American had made the change on its DC-6s, it hadn't got around to altering its Boeing 377s.

'Not Mandatory'

"Compliance with this bulletin was not mandatory by the CAA," wrote the CAB examiner, "although the importance of the bulletin was effectively demonstrated by the circumstances of this accident."

Only on April 21, 1955, after the accident over the Oregon coast, was it required that this change in the Boeing 377. This, however, was after three people had been drowned and one died of shock in the ditching off the Oregon coast.

Washington Pipeline

Ex-President Truman, just back from Europe, has promised Democrats that he'll wage his usual "give-'em-hell" campaign against the Republicans this year.

Pennsylvania Democrats may have hit on a way to counteract the big money going into GOP campaign coffers. In Lancaster, they have organized "Dues For Democracy," a plan whereby people can back a month for five months — the first of the month.

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, and the letter should be in the discretion of the editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Court Majority Denied 'Evidence Of Senses'

Monroe

THE Supreme Court's decision in striking down the state sedition laws was a "cripping blow to the safety and defense of our country against subversion."

This is the opinion of Rep. Howard W. Smith, author of the national anti-sedition act. It is an opinion shared by many others who realize the diabolic cunning of the Communists.

Of equal importance with the court's decision, however, was the revelation of the court's philosophy as expressed by the majority in its opinion. It is a philosophy that automatically evades the question of whether or not the law has been violated and denies the evidence of the senses.

The court majority stated that "the Smith Act of 1940... supersedes the enforceability" of a state sedition act "which proscribes the same conduct." This

From The Detroit Free Press

SERVES 'EM RIGHT!

AS IF England hasn't got troubles enough, the Davy Crockett crane has invaded the tight little isle. It's causing our British old cousins acute pain in more ways than one, because the air is full of arrows shot all over the landscape by young Limey-type frontiersmen.

We know how the English feel, and we sympathize with them. After all, we