THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON.......Publisher
J. E. DOWD.......General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH.......Executive Editor
C. A. McKNIGHT.......Editor

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1949

BARUCH SCORES AGAIN

"WHATEVER the White House meant in saying that Mr. Baruch was misinformed," says the *Washington Post* editorially, "our best information is that no such plan exists today in practicable form."

". . . If semantics are omitted," says Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of the *New York Times*, "there is not much doubt that Mr. Baruch's major contention is correct—the National Security Resources Board has not been used as the law apparently contemplated, and today it is a weak link in the chain of national security."

It would appear from those two usually well-informed sources that the President did not satisfactorily answer Mr. Baruch's complaint that we do not yet have an effective national mobilization plan for use in the event of war. Mr. Truman told a news conference that Mr. Baruch was badly informed when he made the charge in a speech last week.

The elder statesman retorted, in turn, that a plan was presented in May or June of last year, signed by all but one member of the board, and that Mr. Truman could find out all about it if he would check the White House files on the subject.

And there the controversy stands, with neither participant apparently desirous of carrying the argument further. The nation still doesn't know what, if any, mobilization plans have already been made.

The *Washington Post* says the defect is largely one of leadership. Following the resignation of Arthur M. Hill as chairman of the NSRB, the President tried and failed to get his friend, Mon Walgren, appointed to the post. Thwarted in that, Mr. Truman has done nothing. Without leadership, other than the part-time supervision Presidential Assistant John R. Steelman has been giving it, the Board has become badly demoralized.

One reason for its ineffectiveness is that the President himself doesn't believe in a strong board. In May of last year, he wrote Mr. Hill:

"I do not intend to vest in the National Security Resources Board any responsibility for co-ordination of the national security programs of the Government which require the exercise of directive authority over any department and agency or which imply a final power of decision resting with the board.

"It is my view that the proper role of the board is the exercise of its statutory duty to advise the President."

In contrast to this theory, the Eberstadt task force of the Hoover Commission on national security pictured a much more active and influential board which would not only advise the President but would plan for the future. Said the task force report:

"Failure to use the board . . . in a current co-ordinating and regulating function . . . can lead only to one result. Inevitably it must mean the domination of the military over the industrial and great areas of the civilian life of the United States."

It would appear from all this that there is no more important job to be done in Washington at this point than working out the details of an adequate, speedy national mobilization for war. It is utterly inconceivable that this has not been done.

Here we are spending billions for military preparedness, negotiating defense pacts with North Atlantic nations, and pouring money and machines into Western Europe in an effort to push back Communism. On top of all that, we are terribly conscious of the increasing speed of modern offensive warfare. Yet, apparently we have no plan for national mobilization in the event all these defensive preparations come to naught.

Mr. Baruch has rendered notable service to the nation on many prior occasions. If his exposure of the National Security Resources Board's inactivity serves to goad the President into appointing a new chairman and putting the agency to work, he will have scored again.

PASSING OF A COMMUNIST

OUTSIDE the relatively narrow limits of the Communist Party membership, the passing of Georgi Dimitrov, Premier of Bulgaria, will not bring forth any expressions of profound regret.

One of the most loyal of all Communists, intelligent, adroit, and ruthless, he was useful and effective as a lackey of the Kremlin. The marks of his evil work will remain long after his passing.

Dimitrov first gained world fame when he was indicted in 1933 by the Nazi Party for the Reichstag fire. Conducting his own defense in an amazingly skillful fashion, he completely non-plussed his Nazi accusers and won acquittal. Later he was removed to Russia after Moscow protested his continued imprisonment.

In 1934 he was elected Secretary General of the Communist Internationale and directed the activities of that world-wide revolutionary organization until its dissolution in 1943. His next job was as leader of what is popularly known as the "Trojan Horse" department of the Soviet Government.

In 1945 he returned to his native Bulgaria, becoming a member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party in which position he directed the 1946 plebiscite which rejected the monarchy. Subsequently he became Premier.

He engineered the execution of Nikola Petkov, Bulgarian agrarian leader; helped line up mutual assistance pacts with other Balkan nations; bitterly attacked the U. S. and Great Britain; sided with Moscow against Yugoslavia; and finally ousted Traicho Kostov, his second in command, because of "national deviation" and "anti-party errors."

Throughout his life, beginning with his earliest revolutionary activities against the Bulgarian Government in 1915, Georgi Dimitrov was an advocate and practitioner of cold, cruel violence in order to attain his objectives. He permitted nothing to weaken his fierce loyalty to the Communist creed.

He was more of an ideological robot than a man. The elaborate mourning for him throughout Russia and the satellite nations under its control will stir no similar emotions in the democratic world which knew him all too well.

CASE OF 'THE TRENTON SIX'

"THE Trenton Six" were six Negroes sentenced to die for the murder of a second hand furiture dealer in New Jersey. They were under that death sentence for almost a year before they won a new trial last week from the New Jersey Supreme Court.

But they have won the new trial, which proves that while some policemen and some courts will sacrifice six lives to "close" a case there is still justice and fair play in this nation.

The case of the Trenton Six, ignored by newspapers until left-wing organizations began to stir around in the mess, has now developed into a *cause celebre*. The American Civil Rights Congress has called it "a Northern Scottsboro case."

There is no doubt as to whether the color of the defendants' skin had any bearing on the jury's verdict that the six of them were guilty. But there is considerable doubt about the methods used by New Jersey policemen in obtaining "confessions" from the men.

The first defendant—a youngster named Collis English — was picked up ten days after the slaying. Police hauled him in on a minor complaint. After they had him in custody they began to question him about the slaying. He said he was innocent, but after being grilled for *five days* he "confessed."

Four of his co-defendants were questioned for four days.

They all said they were forced to sign confessions.

A number of reputable organizations, after examining the case, have agreed that the six men were not treated fairly, that there is doubt as to means used in obtaining "confessions."

It is to be feared that such overlong questioning and application of force is not limited to New Jersey's law enforcement officers. It is true that the "rubber hose" is less in evidence in police cases than it once was, but it is still common knowledge that recalcitrant prisoners often get "worked over" by the men quizzing them.

Sometimes a guilty man can be forced to confess if he is beaten by policemen. But to "clear up" one crime by committing another is neither wise nor just. And often it is the innocent man who is forced to confess to a crime.

It is to be hoped that the New Jersey Supreme Court's action will serve as a precedent in other cases in which there is grave doubt as to the means used in obtaining "confessions."

A traffic officer observed a man driving around and around on downtown streets apparently without any aim or purpose. Finally he stopped the man and said, "Brother, you seem lost. Is there anything I can do to help you?" "I'm not lost," said the driver, "but my wife could not come with me today. Would you mind getting into the car and tell me where and how to park?" — *Mattoon (Ill.) Journal-Gazette.*

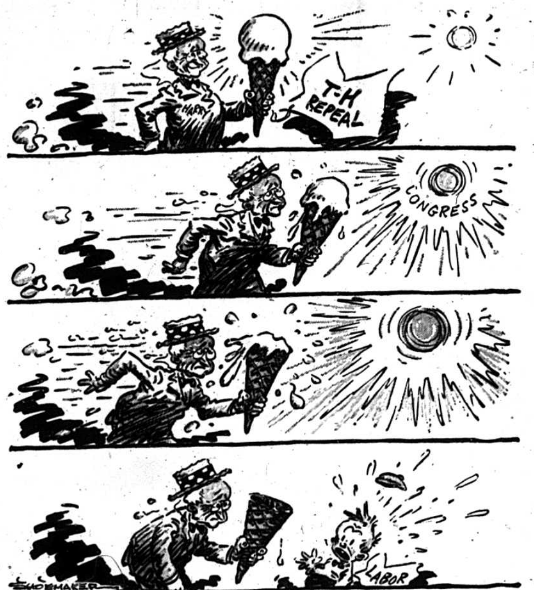
With an organizer in town, it looks as if Carlsbad finally is going to have a Knife and Fork Club. He certainly picked a fortunate time to come to Carlsbad. There hasn't been a single club organized here all week! — *Carlsbad (N. M.) Current-Argus.*

Frances Marascalco usually saves the town from storms by spreading salt in front of the store. Last Friday, Frances was not here and it looked like the town would blow away. — *Grenada County (Miss.) Weekly.*

It's too bad that an eight-cylinder automobile can't be delivered complete with the common sense which ought to go with that much power.—*Portsmouth (Va.) Star.*

More DPs from Europe are coming to Louisiana farms, where they will look into the timetables for Chicago, Pittsburgh and other large cities. — *New Orleans (La.) States.*

Summer Time In Washington



People's Platform

Picture Of Catawba Protested

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

IT IS customary at some time during the Summer months when hundreds of Charlotte residents are enjoying the recreational and sporting facilities afforded by the Catawba River for our newspapers to stress the safety measures which should be taken by those who frequent the river, but to the many people who enjoy this type of recreation and who spend their time on the Catawba from choice rather than the fact that they can afford nothing different, your article showing the worst phases of river recreation and containing many false and misleading statements, must evoke many protests.

My family is now enjoying the eighteenth Summer spent on the river and I feel sure that our evaluation of its merits would be a truer one than the impressions of a newspaper reporter who used his one experience of visiting on the river as typical of the hundreds of miles of lake frontage, of living conditions, of sporting opportunities and facilities for vacationing. His picture is no more typical than would be the picture of a fisherman's shanty compared with the more luxurious homes at any of our beaches.

Since the Catawba lake was created by a dam built many miles down the river the terms used to describe the river have become obsolete and erroneous. As for there being any current, this would be disproved by the fact that a boat left adrift will invariably move in the direction of the wind. In eighteen years I have never seen the evidence of current but once, and that was at a time when all other streams were at flood stage. As for the river being treacherous and claiming the lives of many people every year, any body of water will do the same, if people continue to disregard ordinary safety measures. Since this is an impounded body of water, there are no whirlpools, no suckholes, no current.

I know of no accident on the river claiming the life of any person which might truthfully be laid to the treachery of the river. Inability to swim, overloading of boats, excessive speeding, intoxication, fright and poor judgment of people not accustomed to being around water will be found to be contributing causes for such accidents and I believe that we cannot too often stress ordinary safety precautions. To report such accidents in any other manner I believe to be false and misrepresentation of the facts.

Anyone will admit that recreational facilities in Charlotte are not adequate for our growing population, and it would seem that you might be doing a real service if you would embark upon a program of education as to how our people might get the most from a facility so easily accessible to most of our population.

As we embark upon the spending of huge sums of money in Charlotte to provide additional recreational facilities, which are greatly needed and which I approve, let us be grateful to the Duke Power Co. which was many years ahead of our government in the development of our natural resources, the result of which was this beautiful and healthful recreational area, and let us be zealous in our teaching and observing of ordinary safety measures so that more of our people will be encouraged to enjoy its benefits.

—LOUIS G. ROGERS.

Intolerance Charged

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

MAY I borrow a few words from Minister H. L. Ferguson's letter and say that Mrs. C. R. Hirsh sure "hit the nail on the head" when she said your editorial "Separation of Church and State" was an outburst of intolerance in the guise of "democracy."

No fair-minded, intelligent person can deny that the facts she presented are any infringement on the separation of Church and State. What about Protestant England? She has never discriminated against any of her children. She knew they were British and was fair to all, even in Ireland. She not only supported their schools but built new ones, where necessary, with never any interference as to religious teaching, and if Minister L. D. Newton thinks the abolition of nuns in schools is something to gloat about, he is uninformed. (We, my family for generations) have been educated in Catholic schools and colleges, where we all have been well trained to obey God's laws, to love and serve Him, to love our fellowman and, though we may not agree with our neighbor's views on religion or otherwise, we must at least respect him and never malign him.

The Rev. Newton mentions Baptists having sealed their convictions with blood. Having studied the "History of Religions" by the Protestant historians years ago, I think they prove that Catholics have shed more blood in defense of their faith than many others put together.

I wonder if the Rev. Ferguson knows what he is talking about when he refers to the specific religious doctrine believed by Catholics only. I would like him to look up facts and discover how many of the most cultured minds during the last hundred years have come into the Catholic Church of their own volition. Does he think that all the millions of Catholics in the world are out of step with true Christianity? Could anyone be so obtuse? And what's wonderful about having statues and plaster casts removed of the Holy Family and saints? They all are symbols only to remind us of their good deed and sanctity and to try to imitate them. No, we don't pray to images in spite of all the foolish stories to the contrary.

—MRS. THOMAS CROWE.

England The Seducer

ASHEVILLE

Editors, The News:

THREE times, by my count, has England pleasured President Truman's ear by seductive whispers urging him to present himself to the world as the world's savior, humanity's great uplifter.

With consummate skill and guileful flattery England has achieved some of her most fabulous financial and political deals with other nations. With soft, low words, breathed into President Roosevelt's ear by Churchill, England took the United States into World War II, entailing a loss to the United States of some $500 billion, and tens of thousands of her best young men—all for the good of England with no conceivable benefit to this country.

Now, for the third time England has tendered Mr. Truman the bauble of world spotlight. He has asked Congress for forty million dollars for a preliminary survey to determine what can and ought to be done to inaugurate and further this world undertaking.

If this money is supplied him and the billions more required to carry on this prodigious conception, money from the American people, nine dollars out of every ten will find a permanent home in British-East Africa and other British territory. Don't ever doubt it.

—JOSEPH SELBY.

Joseph Alsop

Line Of Battle

WASHINGTON

NOT since the days of James F. Byrnes, has any member of the Senate displayed such technically effective legislative leadership as did Robert A. Taft of Ohio last week. The day before, even the hour before the key vote, Senate Majority Leader Scott Lucas was still assuring the White House that the Senate would do to the Taft-Hartley Act substantially what the President wanted done.

But on the big day, Taft began the task of putting the final pressure and persuasion on the waverers at 7 A. M. Long prior to the vote that afternoon, he knew the secret purposes of every Senator, and correctly predicted his own victory by the narrowest possible margin. It was almost ludicrous to see Capehart of Indiana, for example, who must face a labor electorate next year, quaking like a vast political blanc mange as he cast his vote for Taft. Yet is was also a remarkable tribute to Taft's grim efficiency and force.

Taft's triumph has already been sufficiently celebrated, however. What now deserves investigation is the probable political result of this senate action, which will certainly produce a ringing Presidential veto of the new labor bill. What will Taft's triumph do to Taft himself, to Taft's party, and to the allied Southern Democrats?

Taft was above all astonishingly successful in committing his party in the Senate to his viewpoint. Only six Republican Senators differed with him in the vote on the crucial Lucas amendment, which was defeated 46 to 44. He had to build roaring political fires under such Senators as Capehart and Hendrickson of New Jersey. These men quite openly hankered to vote the other way, yet yielded in the end to the business leaders and the Republican organization chieftains mobilized by Taft.

The test of desirability of this commitment to the Taft brand of Republicanism will obviously come in 1950. Although there will be other important contests, all will turn in the end upon Taft's own battle in Ohio, which he regards as so important that he will begin stumping the state late this Summer, fourteen months before the election. What he did last week has squarely posed the issue and drawn the lines for the fight.

Taft's most dangerous Ohio opponent, Gov. Frank Lausche, has definitely taken himself out of the Senatorial race because he wants to have the state delegation at the Democratic Presidential convention in 1952. But this means that Lausche will seek re-election as governor, adding his pulling power to the Democratic ticket. Meanwhile, the Democratic Senatorial candidate will probably be the State Auditor, Joseph Ferguson, the kind of genial, rather uninspiring political professional who is always known as a "good vote-getter," and can call most inhabitants of the state by their first names.

Immense forces will be rallied for this Ohio struggle. The labor groups will put everything they have into the effort to defeat Taft. And while the Republicans sanctimoniously complain about "outside labor money," it is an open secret that right wing businessmen all over the country are already laying the cash on the line to aid the Taft campaign.

What Taft really wants is the Republican Presidential nomination in 1952. There are various other Republicans who are also making advance plans. For instance, in New York, it seems very probable that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey means to retain control of the state delegation; to become the Warwick of the next Republican convention; and having made his king, to take some such reward as the Secretaryship of State. But Dewey and all Taft's rivals will be almost powerless, if the Ohio Senator wins re-election by any sort of majority in 1950. In that event, the convention will be dominated by the sort of Republican who complained about Dewey's "me-too" tactics last time. Taft will be the odds-on favorite to get the nomination he wants so badly and has tried for so often.

On the other hand, if Taft is beaten in Ohio next year, his brand of Republicanism will be finished forever. The uncertainty that even now afflicts the other Republican right wingers was splendidly symbolized by the quaking Capehart, than whom no Senator has a more reactionary record. A Taft defeat will be a grisly warning, sending them all running for cover. And in that event, the Southern Democrats in Congress will also be left isolated and unprotected, and may be expected in the end to wither on the political vine. Before very long, in fact, we are really going to know where this country is heading.

Marquis Childs

What's In The Future?

WASHINGTON

LIKE MOST other Americans, President Truman has been thinking hopefully about vacation plans. So long as Congress is in session, any plan must remain a tentative and wistful hope.

But in the White House there has been discussion of a possible trip that would take the President to both Hawaii and Alaska. If Congress should adjourn by the middle of August or earlier, the President might go through with that plan.

Since he would travel in his own plane, the Independence, the trip to Honolulu would be a matter of hours rather than days. After a relatively brief stay in Hawaii, the President and his party would fly to Alaska and from there back to Washington by way of the Pacific Northwest with a possible stopover of a day or two in California.

The trip, if it is made and there are many "ifs," would not have altogether the look of a vacation. The issue of statehood for both the territories will be one of continuing urgency and the President would have a legitimate interest in making a firsthand inspection. Gov. Ernest Gruening has long urged Mr. Truman to visit Alaska.

This last is an important consideration in every move the President makes. Anyone who expected Mr. Truman after his surprise victory of last November to coast gently through his first full term toward retirement from public life has by now had a chance to correct that impression.

Here at the halfway mark of the first year of the new term is a man acutely conscious of his stand on the major issues of the day as that stand relates to his own future. One of the most astute and sensitive observers in the Administration who had considerable to do with the campaign last Fall puts it this way:

"I've never heard him say a single thing about it. But if I had to make a guess today, I would say that he would run again in 1952. He is handling every issue in such a way that his position will be clear and unmistakable in a future campaign."

That view is confirmed by others close to the President, all of whom agree that they have had not the faintest hint from their man as to any future intentions. When Interstate Commerce Commissioner J. Monroe Johnson, an ardent Truman admirer, made a quip about another term in the President's presence at Little Rock, Arkansas, recently, Mr. Truman did not spurn the suggestion.

One consequence of the Nov. 2 victory was to confirm in the men around Truman the conviction of the President's superior political judgment. They see him now as exercising that judgment with a long view of his own and his party's future, countering the grave handicap of the opposition from Southern Democrats.

The Nov. 2 triumph strengthened the President's deep feeling of loyalty to those who stayed loyal to him. The men around him believe this is often in his mind and it explains certain of his moves that otherwise seem inexplicable.

The President will not soon forget those days of late September and October when the Republicans were flush with money and overconfidence, aided and abetted by virtually all the press and radio. He will not forget the afternoon in early September when he personally made an almost abject appeal to a group of prosperous Democrats who had been dragooned by Democratic Chairman Howard McGrath into coming to the White House. That appeal was received with something less than enthusiasm and the committee continued to live from hand to mouth.

This feeling is behind the break with Bernard M. Baruch which was aired last week. Baruch last Fall tersely rejected a suggestion from Mr. Truman that he take part in helping to raise party funds.

In 1952 the President will be 68 years old. But in terms of the inheritance of longevity which he appears to have from at least one side of the family, that is not old.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Barden Defends His Stand On Education

WASHINGTON

THE weather was hot outside, but not half as hot as the atmosphere behind the closed doors of the House Education & Labor Committee when Chairman John Lesinski of Michigan, Catholic, and Rep. Graham Barden of North Carolina, Presbyterian, squared off on the issue of Federal aid to parochial schools. Both are Democrats.

Barden, whose aid-to-education bill has been under attack by the Catholic hierarchy, angrily assailed Lesinski for calling him a "bigot."

"I don't like this long-range sniping," asserted the North Carolinian as he sat at the committee table within eighteen inches of Lesinski. "I like to look a man in the eye when I have something to say about him, rather than give out a statement to the press. You went out of your way to malign not only my integrity, but my character.

"And you did not speak the truth," Barden continued, looking at Lesinski. "I have never felt, nor have I ever said or done anything in the fifteen years I have been in Congress that was discriminatory against any religion."

Lesinski replied that the press had misquoted his criticism of Barden.

"That," shot back the North Carolinian, "is a most cowardly retreat. You may try to shift the blame to the newspaper reporters, but I don't accept that explanation.

"I'm not much good in a name-calling contest," Barden continued, referring to Cardinal Spellman's blast against him. "It never accomplishes anything and I wish this one had never started. Any person should have the right in free America to conscientiously oppose something, or to be for something, without having his patriotism questioned by those who do not agree with him. God forbid that we should ever lose that right, as have the people of Czechoslovakia."

Just then the bell rang, summoning House members to the floor. With an expression of relief, Chairman Lesinski adjourned the meeting.

Congressional Law Firms

A CONGRESSMAN'S name on a law firm's letterhead means money in the bank. For it means that a lot of doors can be opened in Washington and fancy fees collected because of his influence. Some legislators make the most of it.

A few, on the other hand, do not. For instance, when gangling, cowlicked Rep. Andrew Jacobs, freshman Democrat from Indiana, got a phone call from a constituent recently soliciting his legal services, the Congressman replied:

"When I was elected to Congress, one of the first things I did was to take a razor blade and scratch my name off the door of my Indianapolis office I have only one client now—the Eleventh Congressional District of Indiana."

Gas Companies Win

THE gas and oil lobby scored a great victory when millionaire Sen. Bob Kerr's bill, exempting from Federal rate controls natural gas sold to pipeline companies, was approved by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee in a closed-door 7-to-5 vote.

This was not done, however, before two Senators—Republican Owen Brewster of Maine and Democratic Warren Magnuson of Washington—walked out, protesting the steamroller tactics of Chairman Ed Johnson of Colorado and Ernest McFarland of Arizona, both Democrats.

Sen. "Gentle" Lyndon Johnson of Texas teed off the steamroller methods. Lyndon was elected on a pledge to vote the opposite of Pappy O'Daniel whom he replaced, but he has been slowly veering over to Pappy's point of view. At the closed-door meeting, gentle Lyndon made a long speech on behalf of the bill, which opens the door to unlimited price boosts on natural gas retailed to consumers. Immediately thereafter Arizona's McFarland demanded that the committee vote "right now."

"This is outrageous," protested Brewster. "The bill has been revised and we haven't had time to study it."

"We've delayed long enough," persisted McFarland. "Every member has made up his mind how he will vote. Further study won't change the result. So let's get to a vote."

When Chairman Ed Johnson sided with McFarland, Brewster angrily asserted: "Then you can count me out."

"I feel the same way," said Magnuson of Washington. Both Senators picked up their papers and stalked out of the room. The surprise move left their colleagues in temporary dismay. However, Ed Johnson, fearful that the row might leak to the press, quickly took command. He decided that the two prodigals be given two more days, after which they would be "polled" and their votes added to the official roll call.

Brewster and Magnuson, therefore, eventually joined Senators Charles Tobey (R.) of New Hampshire, Francis Myers (D.) of Pennsylvania and Estes Kefauver (D) of Tennessee in voting "No."

The seven men who voted for the big gas companies were Johnson of Colorado and Johnson of Texas, McFarland, Brien McMahon (D.) of Connecticut, Clyde Reed (R.) of Kansas, Homer Capehart (R.) of Indiana and John Bricker (R.) of Ohio.

King Farouk And Hitler

BEFORE Adolf Hitler's $1,500,000 luxury yacht sailed for New York, where it is now on exhibition, King Farouk of Egypt came down to the Cairo waterfront for a look at it. Impressed, he sent word to the British textile king, George Arida, who now owns the vessel, to clear off all his guests, because the royal party wished to come aboard.

Arida, a British diplomat in Lebanon, gracefully complied. Once the decks were cleared, King Farouk strutted up the gangplank and, with the pomposity of Hitler himself, gave the ship the royal once-over.

The Egyptian monarch was chiefly fascinated with Hitler's binoculars. Built of lightweight metal with special eyepads, they were once used by Hitler to gaze moodily at the horizon. King Farouk adjusted them to his eyes, and gave the waterfront a sweep.

"Marvelous!" he exclaimed.

Then he calmly slung them over his shoulder and continued the tour. As the royal party was about to leave, Farouk showed no inclination to give up the binoculars. As a hint, a ship's officer brought the binocular case and explained delicately that the binoculars fit inside. But the king only grunted and picked up the case.

Then, without a word, he exercised his royal prerogative and walked off with both.