THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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STRANGE POLITICAL LOGIC

THE American voter may view the election of his President as a moving, and rather exciting, event. But the politician looks upon it with the cold, calculating and emotionless eyes of a professional.

Hence, it is not surprising that the Lodge amendment to revise the archaic U. S. electoral college is being given a very close scrutiny in the House of Representatives. Each major party wants to know how its political fortunates would be affected.

The Lodge plan received a painstaking analysis in the Senate before gaining the necessary two-thirds majority vote. Only four Democrats voted against it. Republicans were divided, 25 of them opposing the new plan and eighteen voting for it.

The amendment retains the electoral votes of each state. Instead of giving all of the electoral votes of a state to the candidates who carried that state, it would divide the votes among the candidates in mathematical proportion to the vote cast. That would give the minority voters in each state a voice in the final outcome. They do not have that voice now because their votes count for nothing.

According to the Associated Press, a strange coalition of Republicans and northern Democrats is shaping up against the electoral change. They purportedly fear that the chief beneficiaries will be conservative Southern Democrats.

That reasoning is hard to follow. Conservative Southern Democrats gain their power in Congress through seniority. They win seniority by returning to Congress term after term. They are able to return to Congress term after term because of the one-party system.

By giving the Republican Party a real incentive for campaigning hard in the South at all levels of political activity, the Lodge amendment would subject Southern Democrats to their first real competition, and might even displace some of them.

Politics is not always logical; neither are Congressmen. Let us hope that the logic of the Lodge amendment is so overwhelming that our Representatives will finally see the need for it, just as our Senators did.

MERCY KILLINGS

THE justification for mercy killing, rather than the guilt of Dr. Hermann N. Sander, will be the question in the minds of most of us as the trial progresses in Manchester, N. H. this week.

Dr. Sander has admitted injecting 40 cubic centimeters of air into the veins of Mrs. Abble Borroto as she lay dying of cancer last December. He made note of his action on the death certificate, thus bringing it to the attention of the authorities.

Regardless of the outcome of the trial, the people of this nation will still wonder: Does man, under any circumstances, have the right to end the life of another human?

Most of us would answer negatively. The original admonition, "Thou shalt not kill", has been buttressed by law and tradition down through the centuries. Not even capital punishment by authority of the State for crime against society has been universally accepted.

Few advocates of mercy killing, or euthanasia, will defend Dr. Sander's decision without reservations. Such a terrible responsibility can not conceivably be entrusted to any one man.

But there are believers in euthanasia who argue quite impressively that mercy killings can be justified if the decisions are made by boards representing the medical profession and the lay public.

One drawback to even a properly safeguarded form of euthanasia is the rapid advance of medical science. What could have been Dr. Sander's defense had, on the day after Mrs. Borroto's death a method of curing her been discovered?

The Sander verdict will bring no solution to the dispute; it is but the beginning.

WALLACE IS RIGHT FOR A CHANGE

IT IS not often that Henry Wallace comes up with an acceptable idea. When he does so, he should get full credit.

Wallace proposed, in a statement issued over the week-end, that the North Atlantic Pact signatories issue a joint public declaration that they will not be the first to use atomic weapons.

It had been suggested earlier that both houses of the U. S. Congress and the President join in such a declaration. Wallace goes one step further, and includes those nations which have bound themselves together in a regional defense agreement.

The idea has a great deal of merit—especially during this uncertain stage in the atomic arms race.

If Americans are gravely apprehensive over the prospects of another World War, complete with hydrogen and uranium bombs, how much more apprehensive must be the people of the rest of the world? They have been the pawns in previous world struggles, and they fear they will be pawns again.

Until a workable plan for international control of atomic energy is adopted, and during this period of speedy re-armament and bitter ideological conflict, it would strengthen the cause of the Democracies greatly to say flatly that they will not use atomic weapons again except in retaliation.

The U. S. had no choice but to maintain its leadership in the perfection of new atomic weapons. It can, with profit, take the leadership in a solemn pledge not to use them first.

DOUG BRADSHAW—PUBLIC SERVANT

THERE was one small sign among the many pinned around County Auditor Doug Bradshaw's desk that summed up his idea of a public servant's job. The sign said, "At Your Service—That's What I'm Here For."

It was no mere slogan, and like the others, was not put up for decorative purposes. Doug Bradshaw always thought of himself as a public servant instead of a public official, and acted accordingly when any resident of Mecklenburg County came to him for information.

He was an unusually competent public official, well informed, faithful to his duties, loyal to the various Boards of Commissioners he served under, and immensely proud of his county of Mecklenburg. And he was rigidly honest. Once, a few years ago, he threatened privately to resign rather than approve one small voucher of dubious legality authorized by a County Chairman. The voucher was withdrawn.

His stock of anecdotes was endless, many of them told at his own expense. He was a gentle person, too. If a child became lost in the Courthouse, he was generally clutching a shiny new coin when reunited with his parents, given him by the kindly old gentleman.

His employer and old friend, County Chairman Sid Y. McAden, always described Mr. Bradshaw as "a wonder." It is, we think, an apt description of a man who gave the best years of his life to serving the people of Mecklenburg County, and serving them exceptionally well.

From The Winston-Salem Journal

WISE DELAY

THE Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen acted wisely, we believe, in deferring definite action on the petition of the Board of Realtors for an end of rent controls in Winston-Salem

The time may be at hand for the termination of controls here. Although there is acute need for the replacement of hundreds of sub-standard or slum housing units in Winston-Salem, the considerable progress in other fields of housing construction during the past three or four years may have alleviated the home unit shortage in the middle and low middle income field to the point where the natural forces of competition would suffice now to hold rental charges within reason.

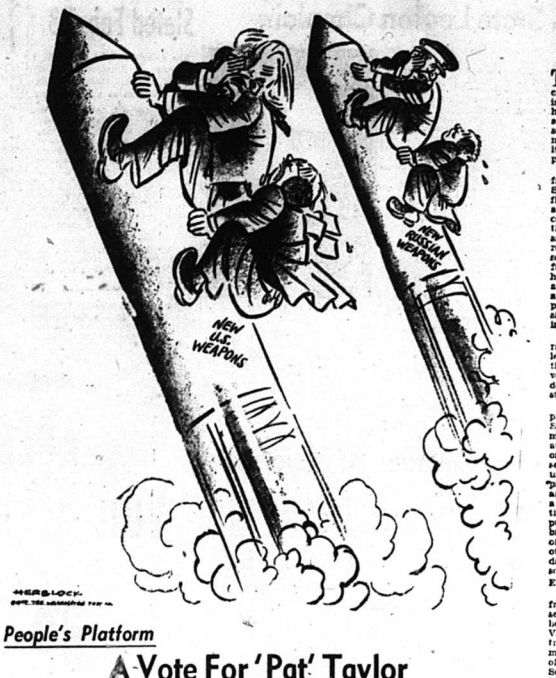
But this is mere conjecture. Thus far there has been, insofar as we know, no thorough and detailed survey of the rental housing situation here to determine all the facts in this relation. Such a survey, we understand, however, is proposed by rent control authorities. It should be made, we feel, and all the pertinent facts objectively set forth before definite and final action is taken.

We believe this would be to the advantage of the landlords and realtors as well as to that of the tenants in housing units. An impartial, objective study of the whole housing situation here would provide invaluable information regarding the progress of home and apartment construction and enable realtors, builders and landlords to determine whether there is a trend toward over-building in certain types of housing, and show in what field of rental housing the greatest continuing need or demand presently exists. The survey should show whether progress in providing new housing has reached or is approaching the point where normal competitive market conditions should suffice to regulate adequately the charges for rent.

Rent control and all other war-born Government restrictions which have lingered with us in the postwar era should be removed as soon as practical. But the vast national housing shortage plus the all-too patent attempts at profiteering on the part of some selfish landlords in cities where controls have been lifted have served as potent factors in holding the "lid" on urban rents.

If the suggested or forthcoming survey here shows that housing conditions now are at or near prewar, or normal conditions, controls should be lifted, but with the mutual understanding that if increases that are not warranted are imposed the controls would be restored.

'This'll Scare Hell Out Of 'Em'



People's Platform

A Vote For 'Pat' Taylor

PURVIS

Editors, THE NEWS:

I AM afraid I am taking advantage of your good nature, but the matter involved does and has lain so heavily on my heart and mind, until I am going to risk being tiresome and burdensome to your excellent newspaper and to the reading public on this one subject. The people of North Carolina do not want either the Hon. Robert R. Reynolds or Governor Scott-appointed Sen. Frank P. Graham as our representative in the United States Senate.

Well, you say, Mr. Robertson, who the hell are you to make such foolish and rash statement? I have contributed several days of my worthless time, a few postage stamps, and a dime of my wife's money (she owns me and the money) finding out just what the people of North Carolina do want and do not want in our future Eastern North Carolina United States Senator. They do not want Gov. Scott or his appointee, Sen. Frank P. Graham, but they have told me in no uncertain terms that they will even vote for "Our Bob" again before they will allow my good friend and our too-progressive Governor to "dictate" to them who shall or shall not be in Washington as the colleague of my highly respected and well loved friend, the Hon. Clyde R. Hoey. We all love, respect, and give due honors to our great Statesman and Christian Gentleman, the Hon. Clyde R. Hoey. It is my well founded and personal belief and desire that Sen. Hoey has no opposition, simply because we cannot possibly better ourselves in his position.

I have been trying ever since Mr. Reynolds made his announcement to get my wartime buddy and well loved and respected friend, Lt.-Gov. "Pat" Taylor of Wadesboro, and Hertford, N. C., to go to Washington and serve the United States along with Sen. Clyde R. Hoey.

It is true that he might not get all the publicity and ballyhoo that my good friend the Governor gets, but I positively know that North Carolina as a whole would be wisely and honestly and capably represented in our great and well loved nation.

Editors, if we get a few more Grahams and Trumans in Washington, I am very much afraid that through benevolence and charity and poor management that there won't be any more Washington or even a United States that will have any standing among the great nations of the world.

If we can get a man like "Pat" Taylor there, a stop will be put to some of our wild drunken extravagance with the people's money.

Senator Hoey and Lt.-Gov. Taylor have the common sense to see that so many thousands of Federal employees are unnecessary and in fact get in everybody's way and they both have the courage to call a halt to further robbing of my taxpayers!

Editors, let's draft Mr. Taylor for a candidate to the United States Senate if he will run. I know that he can beat the crook that is already running!

—JOHN PAUL ROBERTSON.

Republican 'Invasion'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I SEE where Mr. Guy Gabrielson, the greatest Republican National Chairman since Caroll Reese, will soon visit Charlotte. The Republicans are swooping down on this state like the Persians swept down upon the River Oxus, and with as much good. The Democratic Alexander will meet them again at Arbela and teach them a lesson for the 16th or 17th time.

The two Republicans now fighting for the nomination for Congress from this district should read Shakespeare, especially his comedy, "Love's Labor Lost", or even "Much Ado About Nothing".

You are very smart, otherwise you would not be an editor. Kindly give me an "Editor's Note", under this letter, answering this question:

How come that the latest annual reports of U. S. Steel Corp., International Business Machines, Standard Oil of N. J., and American Brass Co., all show that they made more money (after taxes) than at any time in the history of America; and yet, these people through their many associations, civic clubs, favorable newspapers, etc., harp constantly on the "terrible Socialism" of President Truman and the Democratic Administration? Are they mad because of these greatest profits in history? What is their argument, beyond "habit"?

Please answer, and oblige.

P. L. LINDSAY.

(NOTE: The question should be directed to the board chairmen of the above concerns. Perhaps, if they read Mr. Lindsay's beloved W. Shakespeare, they would scrutinize the question closely as a "seeming truth which cunning times put on to entrap the wisest" (The Merchant), mutter to themselves "Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look; He thinks too much: such men are dangerous" (Julius Caesar), and reply, with some measure of truth, "We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd it." (Macbeth). —Editors, THE NEWS.)

Quote, Unquote

THE MINT JULEP: A DEFINITION

The mint julep is a drink made of Kentucky bourbon, mint, sugar, crushed ice and a small quantity of water, the ingredients having been combined with loving care and strictly in a step-by-step observance of an ancient ritual, as described by the late Judge Soule Smith of Lexington in an ecstatic essay that has long been recognized as a classic. With a mint julep so defined, we'll cut the ground right out from under the feet of impious Marylanders who actually have been known to stand up and defend the adulteration of what Judge Smith called "the very dream of drinks"—its adulteration with (ugh) rye whisky. They won't have a leg to stand on—or, if they do have a leg, they can't stand on it, with the ground all cut out. —Lexington (Ky.) Leader.

BEHOLD THE HEN

Louisiana's champion Plymouth Rock hen has set a national record by laying 329 eggs during a 12-month period. We must commend this hen for her outstanding production record, and at the same time admonish the men and women of Louisiana that they must emulate this bird in their own endeavors if this country is to re-establish itself on some kind of permanent economic basis that will build up the state for future progress and prosperity. —Crowley (La.) Signal.

Joint Chiefs Appear Trained To Give The Proper Answers

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

THE HARDEST question to answer about Louis A. Johnson's economy and disarmament program is why the Joint Chiefs of Staff have stood for it so long. The answer would seem to fall into several parts. The first part is the new atmosphere of blended favoritism and intimidation that now pervades the Defense Dept.

A pretty good symbol of the favoritism is to be found in the Secretary of Defense's outer office. Brig. Gen. Louis Renfrow, a plump relic of Johnson's American Legion machine, now presides there as his patron's special assistant. For a far from brilliant reserve officer serving as Johnson's appointments secretary, Renfrow has received remarkably high promotion. But that is not all. He was once a dentist. He is also drawing $100 a month supplementary pay under a rule designed to attract young dentists into the services.

The sum is not large. The arrangement is at least technically legal. But the symbol remains: the crony gets his perquisites while Johnson's "economies" bite deep into the sinews of American strength.

As for the intimidation, there is plenty of evidence concerning the Secretary of Defense's special methods of getting his way. One authenticated incident involved one of the two or three ablest senior officers in the Army, whose unpopularity with Johnson may probably be traced to his serious approach to defense problems. At a large meeting, because of a relatively petty disagreement, Johnson publicly threatened to drive this brilliant and disinterested man out of the military service. Several other general officers who have dared to argue have had the same sort of experience.

EARLY TRAINING

Mere threats would of course not frighten the Joint Chiefs themselves. Yet it must be remembered that Bradley and Collins, Vandenberg and Sherman were all trained in an earlier period, as members of the defense services of a country that had no defense. Secretaries of the Army and Navy, in those days, were customarily pretty awful. The services made do with whatever was granted, either in leadership or in appropriations. America, in those days, was not in the first line.

This pre-war psychology has quite visibly survived, for example, in Gen. J. Lawton Collins, who is fond of repeating that his ground forces are in better shape than ever. It is true, and has been recorded in this space, that the Army alone has maintained its fighting units under the impact of Johnsonian "economy." It is also true that these fighting units are in a fine state of training.

At least in his public statements, this seems to satisfy Gen. Collins, yet he is making do with second world war weapons which are in many cases obsolescent or actually obsolete. He has no tank force worth speaking of. He has in prospect only the smallest trickle of the new anti-tank weapons. Above all, because of Air Force "economies," he cannot count on the slightest effective close air support, without which modern armies literally cannot take the field. Over all, the facts Gen. Collins omits are infinitely more significant than the facts he proves to.

This pre-war psychology, which leads to the unwarranted optimism of Gen. Collins, is strengthened by the consciousness of past folly, from which the Joint Chiefs no doubt suffer.

FORGET DEFENSE

Finally, the Joint Chiefs must be well aware that in this matter of defense "economy," the Secretary of Defense only differs from the President in wishing to go further and faster. The President made the original decision, in 1948, to forget the requirements of a serious defense, and to sacrifice defense planning to budgetary convenience.

At that time, it was also agreed that the Joint Chiefs would draw up each year a new "requirements" plan and budget, against which the budget-ceiling or "capabilities" plan could be measured. This year, the chiefs were called to the White House, to be given their $13,000,000,000 budget ceiling by the President in person. Thereafter a spasmodic effort was made to draw up the regular, annual "requirements" program. But in the end this seemed so fruitless that the task was never completed—the JCS temporarily surrendered.

Thus far, Secretary Johnson has been able to count upon the Joint Chiefs' acquiescence, and to take advantage of it. But that acquiescence may not endure forever.

'Operation Vittles' Part Of Everyday School Life

By HENRY C. MCFADYEN

ALBEMARLE

IT HASN'T BEEN very long since we grown - ups were eating our ham biscuits and peanut butter sandwiches out of a paper bag. In most schools those days are gone forever. Almost every school or any size now has a lunch-room. It is generally accepted that operating a lunchroom is a part of the business of running a school. Certainly it is a convenience for mother, who no longer has to pack those lunches. Furthermore it makes it possible for the children to get a hot and well-balanced lunch at very low cost.

You may have wondered how the school can afford to serve a meal with milk, meat, a vegetable, and some sort of dessert for 15 or 20 cents. Of course, the school does not have to make a profit or to pay rent and taxes as an uptown cafe would. The main reason the school can serve a lunch for 15 cents, however, is that the Federal Government pays for part of your child's lunch. Maybe you did not know this. For every meal that the school cafeteria serves to children, it gets up to seven cents from the National School Lunch Program. If your little girl eats at school a hundred times during the year, Uncle Sam is probably paying $7.00 of the bill.

FREE COMMODITIES

The cafeteria also receives many surplus commodities during the year free of charge. These may be potatoes, cheese, orange juice, butter, prunes, dried apples, or anything else that the Department of Agriculture buys up when the price drops too low. Thus it is safe to say that the Federal Government pays at least a third of the cost of the lunch your little girl eats.

Here in North Carolina around 1,500 schools have lunchrooms. Of this number 1,371 are on the National School Lunch Program and receive subsidies from the Federal Government. About 277,000 children ate in these lunch rooms each day last year, and the money North Carolina schools received from the Federal Government came to almost two million dollars. That is getting to be big business.

The purpose behind the lunch program is to supply each child with a well-balanced meal. Teachers who inquire into the eating habits of their pupils are often shocked to find how many of them would rarely get a balanced meal if they did not get it at school. Any child who is unable to pay for his school lunch gets it free of charge and with no embarrassment.

In the elementary schools the lunch hour is more than just a time to eat. It is an opportunity to teach cleanliness, table manners, and health. Before children go to eat they are given a chance to wash their hands. Modern lunchrooms are likely to have facilities for this near the cafeteria, so that half a dozen little folks can be scrubbing their hands at the same time.

At the tables teachers are in charge of small groups of children, and it is here that table manners are taught. Children also develop habits of helpfulness in the cafeteria, for they take back their own trays and leave their table in good order. The lunch period is as much a part of the teaching day as the geography lesson. Incidentally, this is hard on teachers, for it means that they are with the children all day without a break for relaxation. Mothers will know what I mean.

The army called the Berlin air lift "operation vittles." The schools are in the vittle business too.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

No Defense Offered In Tax Fraud Case

WASHINGTON

AROUND the giant Pentagon Building, just across the Potomac, winds a labyrinth of beautiful boulevards built during the war at considerable cost to American taxpayers.

The other day in Richmond, Va., the two builders of these boulevards, MeKenzie Davison and W. J. "Doc" Hardy, walked into court and pleaded "no contest" to four or six counts accusing them of defrauding the Government of $217,806 in taxes—the same Government which paid them handsomely on war contracts.

Behind this virtual plea of guilty lies a long story, dating back to October 1948, in which this column exposed Hardy and Davison, not only for income-tax evasion, but for political wirepulling, concealment, and dodging. When this column published the story on Oct. 19, 1948, it was so sensational that some papers refused to print it.

The two road contractors had made out false invoices, written checks to other contractors, who then cashed the checks themselves, and generally falsified. Yet for eight months after this column exposed the story, they argued, pleaded, and haggled with the patient Justice Dept. attorneys.

Finally, last July the case was sent to the U. S. Attorney in Richmond for prosecution, where, however, it dragged. And it was not until after this column, on Oct. 21, 1949, again reviewed the lengthy delay that the tax-evading road builders finally were indicted.

Grave Russian Preparations

PERHAPS the gravest briefing given to Congressional leaders since V-J Day took place at the Pentagon Building last week. The substance of the closed-door session was that Russia must be overwarne for aggressive war.

The briefing was given by Lt. Gen. Alfred Gruenther, on behalf of the joint chiefs of staff to members of both the Senate and House Appropriations Committee and Armed Services Committees.

Gen. Gruenther was cautious in his statements, confined himself largely to a discussion of Soviet armed strength, let the Congressmen draw their own conclusions.

After listening to the report, however, Congressmen Engel of Michigan, Sikes of Florida and Cannon of Missouri spoke out that Russia could have only one purpose in building such a powerful arsenal: to wage war.

Here are some of the main facts presented by Gen. Gruenther—facts which Moscow already knows since there is no particular secret about our armed strength. Russia, he said, is spending 18 per cent of her national wealth on war preparations, twice as much as United States is spending. Even taking our top budget figure of $15,500,000,000—which includes stockpiling—the United States is investing only 6 per cent of her wealth in defense.

Russia has 40,000 tanks. This includes the best heavy tank in the world—the Joe Stalin Mark III. In contrast, the U. S. Army has only 7,000 tanks, none of them heavy. In the air, Russia has 17,000 planes, including 300 heavy bombers of the B-29 type. Meanwhile Soviet factories are working feverishly to build a strategic air force. Production of long-range bombers and jet fighters has been stepped up.

To challenge our Navy, the Russians have 280 submarines of the latest, speediest German make. Most worrisome, however, is a new Russian torpedo, piloted by an electronic brain that seeks out its own target. This ingenious torpedo can locate and blow up a ship eight miles away.

Despite all this firepower, the backbone of Soviet military might is still her manpower, Gen. Gruenther stressed. Russia can muster over 500 divisions at the drop of a bomb.

Johnson Keeps Quiet

THROUGHOUT the briefings, Secretary of Defense Johnson took a back seat and let military spokesmen talk. At one point, however, he broke in only to be slapped down by Congressman Sheppard of California.

Sheppard wanted to know how reliable the information on Soviet strength was, and while a civilian expert was trying to explain that the Iron Curtain was drawing tighter, Johnson tried to brush aside the question.

"If we can't get an answer," snapped Sheppard, "we may as well go home."

The Secretary of Defense subsided.

Some Senators and Congressmen feared the military chiefs were trying to scare Congress with their harrowing report into increasing appropriations. But, perhaps because of Johnson's stern eye, the military men made little positive comment.

Gen. Gruenther brushed aside questions about increased military needs by warning: "Don't ask me. I am liable to be biased."

Once he cupped: "As Senator Wherry has said, military people would fortify the moon."

Gruenther also warned that we must not bleed ourselves by overspending, that some people are too concerned about security and not about preparedness. Finally, Secretary of Defense Johnson broke in and suggested that the chiefs of staff should join Gen. Gruenther in answering some of the questions.

One by one, General Bradley, Army Chief of Staff Collins, and Chief of Naval Operations Sherman agreed that economy comes first. Johnson beamed like a schoolteacher whose pupils are reciting their answers.

Bradley reported that our occupation troops are in areas where they are strategically useful, and assured that we could meet any attack by quickly concentrating our forces.

Vandenberg Spills Beans

THIS harmony over economy was finally shattered, however, when Air Force Chief of Staff Vandenberg was asked about the Air Force's needs.

"Before Pearl Harbor, bomb, the Air Force took the position that it needed 70 groups," replied Vandenberg coolly. "There is no reason to change that position now that Russia has the bomb."

The talk about economy was so unanimous, however, that it disturbed Senator Knowland of California. Though he usually preaches economy, he finally broke in: "I want to know what we should spend in the judgment of the military people, regardless of what we can afford. Congress and the executive branch will determine what we can afford. But we can't make a proper evaluation if the military is going to tell us what we can afford."

General Vandenberg, however, remained the only dissenting voice to the general note of economy.