THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Redistricting: The Face Is Familiar

A BRIGHT new gleam was discernible today in the usually worried eyes of down east legislators. All their fears of what might happen if an informed citizenry stood up and demanded senatorial redistricting had fizzled out. The do-nothing die was cast. It was 1951-53 all over again.

There had been a brave try on the part of Sen. F. J. Blythe of Mecklenburg and Sen. O. Arthur Kirkman of Guilford. At Mr. Blythe's insistence, a commission had been appointed to study the matter. But it was packed with legislators from rural counties. Only one member, Sen. Claude Currie of Durham, came from a district containing a populous metropolitan area.

This week the commission—after several fortnights of deep meditation—shrugged off its responsibility by recommending that *another* study commission be appointed to report to the 1957 General Assembly. Meanwhile, members said, no redistricting should be undertaken pending that report.

Sen. Currie filed a lone dissent, urging that a redistricting plan be considered by the Senate now. Said he:

> There is no greater duty owed anyone . . . than to redistrict the state as provided by the constitution and as confirmed by the vote of the people in 1954.

The final reference was, of course, to the proposed constitutional amendment limiting every North Carolina county to one senator. It was rather decisively defeated last November.

The popular vote was significant. But more important, it is the clear and unmistakable command of the constitution to redistrict the state for senators and provide for reallotment of representatives after each federal census.

It is this duty that legislators, who took a solemn oath to support the constitution, are shirking.

It is embarrassing business to watch good men do things that are beneath them. It is actually painful to listen to some of the far-fetched arguments against representative government in North Carolina, to hear Tar Heels attempt to justify a situation that denies people their rightful voice in state affairs.

The men who are fighting to keep the state's populous counties from obtaining proper representation are not evil men. This is not bossism in action. There are no Hagues or Pendergasts here.

What is involved is really just the jealous guarding of power and authority and prestige for areas that have somehow been left behind in North Carolina's march toward progress and bigness. Some of these men are so blinded by pride and prejudice they cannot see that, by clinging to power granted them under an older regime, they are actually denriving others of their legal rights.

This wrong will not be righted until a sense of shame and embarrassment—and duty—filters down to grass roots levels.

This may take years.

There is virtually no hope for redistricting now before 1961—and maybe not even then.

The Moving Finger Points

RESIDENTS of a small village near Stuttgart, Germany, last year erected a statue to, of all people, gossipers and placed it in a prominent spot. The grinning figures of two hausfrauen are shown perched high on a stone pedestal—one whispering roguishly into the ear of the other.

If villagers ever tire of the sculpture, they might consider donating it to the U. S. Women's Army Corps. Not since Herodotus wrote about the goings-on in Themiscyra has one group of women been the subject of so much idle gossip. The sad part about it is that the gossip was 99 44/100 nonsense. But the nonsense has persisted and has continued to harm the reputation of a fine and useful organization.

Just how far this slander went is described in the 800-page WAC section of the official history of World War II issued this week in Washington.

The account, written by Mattie E. Treadwell, a WAC staff officer during the war, notes that what started out as strictly gossip eventually became a full-fledged campaign to accuse Wacs of wholesale immorality.

One interesting report started when German propagandists broadcast that 20 Wacs had been returned home from North Africa because they were pregnant. The story was picked up and repeated until the number allegedly sent home became 250,000.

The peak strength of Wacs in April 1945 was less than 100,000.

Gossip is bad enough in any form. It is at its worst when directed at a whole system or organization when only a tiny percentage of the whole is guilty of anything worth bothering about.

In the case of the WAC, attempts were made to discredit the entire corps because of the indiscretions of a few of its members.

It was not fair to a large group of highminded, patriotic young women who served America well when the need was great.

A Case Of Linguistic Appeasement

UP IN Williamsburg, Va., American Legionnaires are getting a little uncomfortable about calling each other "comrade." In fact, they want to ban the term because it is identified with "certain organizations throughout the world whose governing precepts and activities are at least inconsistent with our ways of life and more often subversive to our established governmental system."

Whoa! That's getting perilously close to appeasement—something Sen. Knowland defined in Charlotte the other day as "surrender on the installment plan."

There's absolutely no need to give up a valuable piece of linguistic real estate without a struggle just because the Commies (that's what all that gobbledygook means—Commies) like it too.

Do this and we Americans will probably have to scour around and find new words for "democracy," "peace" and "freedom" too.

Why comrade is a perfectly respectable American term. Although its ancestry can be traced back to Latin, it has a good clean past. Furthermore, it's been in the language for years.

There's the familiar line from Whitman, for instance:

> *I will write the evangel-poem of comrades and of love.*

Ban comrade?

That, comrades, would be guilt by association.

From The Asheville Citizen

JUST A MILLIDAY OF YOUR TIME

"WHAT will they think of next!" as Sam Goldwyn exclaimed when he saw his first sundial.

Out in Chicago an attorney named Noble Stiboldt wants to replace our system of 60 seconds, one minute; 60 minutes, one hour with a metric time system.

This, says Brother Stiboldt, "would keep pace with our atomic age."

The metric system, you know, measures things by tens and hundreds and so on, and is used in Europe, the Middle East and other foreign places.

There are meters and centimeters and kilometers, and it is all very confusing because our foot is 12 inches and a meter is 39.37 inches.

So when an American tourist is told that "it's only a hundred meters up the hill there" to such-and-such, it's farther than he thinks and it's later than you think when he gets there.

Confusing.

Very.

But we were talking about time.

The Chicago lawyer proposes that 100 seconds, or "beats," be made equal to a minute, or "milliday."

In turn, one hundred milliseconds (or minutes) would be an hour or "deciday." Ten decidays to the day, and everything uniform.

"On a comparative basis," says Mr. S., "five o'clock metric time would be mid-day and 10 o'clock would be midnight, thereby eliminating a.m. and p.m."

While we do not advise you to worry over this for a single beat, just on the spur of the milliday let's consider it.

A metric time system would wreck or maybe revolutionize the clock industry, to say nothing of the commerce in hour glasses and sundials.

Perhaps we could survive that, but what about language, lore and literature?

A 10 o'clock scholar would arrive at midnight, not in mid-morning.

Rescuing something at the eleventh hour, or deciday, would be meaningless since clocks would quit at 10 and start all over again.

We would sound silly and not sage, comforting our readers editorially: "Remember, the darkest deciday is just before the dawn."

And the whole of literature would have to be rewritten.

"I recommend you," Lord Chesterfield would be saying, "to take care of the millidays, for decidays will take care of themselves."

Anyway, who wants to keep pace, metrically, with "our atomic age?"

We'd like to get as many decidays away from it as space will allow.

Too often the only difference between a young man and an old one is that the young one does a foolish thing impulsively while the older fellow thinks about it for awhile before he does it. —LAUREL (MISS.) LEADER-CALL.

People's Platform: Crazy, Mixed-Up Kids Dig The New Sounds

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

IN regard to your Saturday editorial, "The Choke, The Gurgle & The Sob," I would like to give a teenager's viewpoint.

You mentioned the youngster who was giving out with "You'll Never Walk Alone" on a TV variety show. You said that his "Never" came out "eh-eh-eheheh!" Well, I'll have you know that the youngster was probably imitating the one and only Roy Hamilton, that great Negro crooner who has made people forget Billy Eckstine. Tune in on his vocal chords sometime and listen to the greatest of music.

And you also had a nasty slam at the new tune, "No More." For your information, among teenagers today that's tops and I mean tops.

It may have been all right back in the rip-roaring twenties when you were "flapping" and doing the Charleston to dance to the perfected notes of some outmoded singer. But the world is changing rapidly, as you well know, and teen agers change too. We just don't dig those "perfect" sounds any more. People opine that today's teenagers are real crazy, mixed-up kids and maybe we are. But if people think so then why not be that way? And be-bopping to those "new sounds" as you call them is one of the privileges of life!

—LARRY HARRIS

Does U. S. Conduct Goldfish Diplomacy?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

THE United States has, and has had for many decades, an ambassador at London, Tokyo, Rome and at other capitals. Of lesser rank it has ministers and consuls at every lesser capital and important port in the world.

These officials have competent staffs. They are well paid, trained, and the diplomatic service is considered, or has been considered, a career for the ablest men. They are sent to their posts in order to keep in close touch with the different peoples and governments, and to keep Washington informed upon every phase of conditions political, military, and economic existing in the countries to which they are respectively assigned.

The United States secretary of state can talk any hour of the day with these representatives of our government at the principal capitals.

Since Mr. Dulles has been at the head of our State Department he has visited London innumerable times, Paris, the Philippines, Canada and so on. It has been stated that he has traveled upon these trips more than 200,000 miles and that is equivalent to passing all the way around the world eight times. He evidently travels on airplanes and carries a staff with him.

Aside from the expense to the people, which must be several hundred thousand dollars, what do the people of the foreign countries think? That our regular United States representatives are incompetent, or mistrusted? That we have sent them inferior men and our secretary of state must come to them in person in order to know what is going on? Is our diplomatic service discredited? Don't we need Russia? France? Japan? Germany? Formosa? Does Mr. Dulles distrust the reports these governments make to our officials, or, does he distrust the reports these officials make to Washington?

I can't find reports of Churchill running all over the world. Nor the Frenchmen. Nor the Japanese. Nor Chiang Kai-shek.

What is Dulles doing? Trying to find out what they are doing? Or, trying to tell them what to do?

Does not Dulles know that when he goes to any country every other government in the world knows it? That every other country has their eyes on him; and how much do they find out? Would we not call this goldfish diplomacy?

—HOYT EAVES

'Majority Rule'? It Just Isn't So

Kannapolis

Editors, The News:

I HAVE taken The News for many years. It is a fine paper. I read your editorials, both the good ones and the lousy. If someone happens to be in favor of a veterans bonus, you start yelling about why should many have a bill to pay for a few, that in the long run the veterans themselves would pay for it. I believe that since each county has veterans that the bonus question should be put before the voters of North Carolina. I would like to ask you a question now: Do you think the rest of the state should decide whether Mecklenburg County should be wet or dry? If you believe your own editorials you're darn right you don't. What I want to bring out is this: If the people of Mecklenburg County are intelligent enough—and I'm sure they are—to decide what is good or what is bad for them, then I believe the rest of the state could do equally as well with the bonus question. It's a little silly for people to go on kidding themselves that in these United States majority rules. It just isn't so.

Take the recent pay increase Congress so generously voted themselves. If that proposal had been put before the people for a vote as it should have been, even UNIVAC would have had trouble computing its margin of defeat.

—BARNEY LINDSAY

White Man Restricts Negro's Opportunities

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

AFTER reading the letter on segregation in last Wednesday's News, I would like to comment on it.

I didn't realize that a so-called intelligent person could be so misinformed. Of course, the white man has advanced more than the Negro, because his opportunities were greater.

'Listen to that . . . New Sounds . . . they call that music . . . these youngsters are mad, I tell you, mad, mad, mad. . .'

I'm wondering if he's peeved because the Negroes are qualified for better jobs and he is afraid of losing his job because of a lack of qualifications.

He said that you could make nothing out of nothing. Does that not mean that the Negroes have nothing and will have nothing unless they make it themselves?

I'm sure this was said to make the Negroes feel inferior but we refuse to. I want him to know that we are thinking too that we are just as good as he is.

Let me remind him that the important medicines and weapons were not all contributed to society by his race.

He said that the Negro could not get anything without the white man's aid. This is not so because of Negroes such as C. C. Spaulding, George Washington Carver, Gen. Benjamin Davis, W. C. Handy, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes and Adam Powell. Perhaps I should tell him what each of these individuals did but I'm sure he already knows if he is so intelligent.

There are intelligent people in all races but unfortunately there are also people like him and myself.

Maybe he doesn't know it but the first surgeon in Louisiana was a Negro.

—SHIRLEY GRAHAM

Congress Moves To Trim The Claws Of Monopoly

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON

CONGRESS circling its elusive prey warily, hopes to trim the claws of monopoly without curbing the growth of efficiency in a high-powered economy.

Congressional study will pick up momentum after release of a report—already "leaked"—by a Justice Department advisory committee. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell Jr., asked the committee to figure out how to "give clarity, produce uniformity and insure a common-sense approach to enforcement" of antitrust laws.

Both political parties will try to swing 1956 votes with the monopoly issue. It's been a political bonanza ever since Teddy Roosevelt demonstrated the drama of "trust-busting."

Brownell's outline of his committee's job points up hazards of the battle against monopoly. Legislators, administrators, and judges have had trouble finding a clear, uniform, common-sense formula to curb "bad" monopoly without stunting "good' bigness. They've been trying since the Sherman Act of 1890.

Assistant Attorney General Stanley N. Barnes, who heads the Justice Department's Antitrust Division and is co-chairman of Brownell's study committee, told Congressional Quarterly "conflicting philosophies and theories" prevent mechanical, black-and-white administration of the laws.

Take government procurement: Should Uncle Sam always buy from the low bidder — saving the taxpayer money—or should he stimulate competition by spreading federal dollars among small, high-cost companies?

"No one of these conflicting philosophies can be supreme," Barnes said; "discretion" is needed.

But exercise of discretion—the administrator's and judge's concept of "common sense"—sparks "a political barrage of abuse," he added. Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.), who earned a reputation as a "trust-buster" in the late '30s, told CQ that "Congress should define clearly what is prohibited" and what is permitted. "Ambiguous laws. . .transfer the legislative function to the judiciary."

INTERPRETATIONS

Barnes, however, said "broad principles" in the law permit interpretation necessary to "meet new situations."

Chairman Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) of the House Judiciary Antitrust Subcommittee told CQ interpretation sometimes subverts even clear congressional policy. The Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission, he said, have displayed "too much timidity" in enforcement. Committee hearings, he hopes, will help impress congressional intent on administrators; new laws may be kept to a minimum.

TWO ROADS

The greatest number of 1955 antitrust bills have been introduced to settle a conflict over interpretation of the Clayton and Robinson-Patman Acts, which ban certain forms of price discrimination. One set of bills would tighten the prohibitions, while others would affirm current judicial interpretations that permit considerable leeway in defense against charges of price discrimination.

More specific legislation also is under consideration. A bill to raise the maximum fine from $5,000 to $50,000 has been reported to the House. Hearings have been held or. a bill to permit the federal government to sue for civil damages.

OFF-SHOOTS

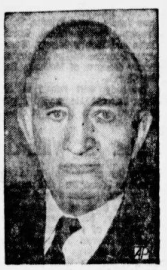
Also in the hopper are bills to regulate bank holding companies, curb bank mergers, broaden the definition of "trade" and "commerce," and clear the path for investigating the records of companies with foreign subsidiaries.

And Congress will debate offshoots of the antitrust issue. Opponents of the Dixon-Yates power contract contend it would allow monopolistic private utilities to invade the Tennessee Valley Authority's domain. The Justice Department committee reportedly will recommend curbs on "monopolistic" labor union practices, and amendment or repeal of "fair trade" laws, which permit manufacturers to fix prices on some products. Critics have challenged the sale of federal rubber plants to large corporations, and plans for industrial atomic energy. Others have questioned whether the Federal Communications Commission and Civil Aeronautics Board promote or hinder desirable competition in allocating television channels and cerifying air lines.

INNOVATION

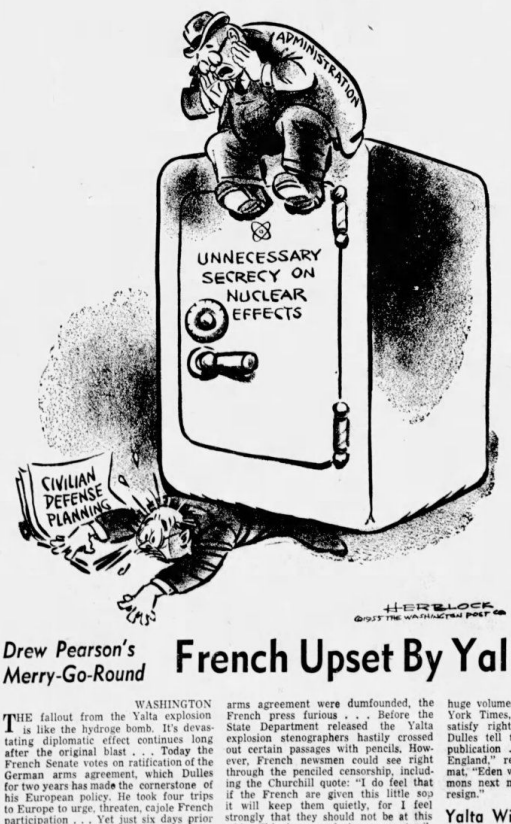
O'Mahoney is working on an innovation by which the federal agencies, rather than states, would issue corporation charters. Congress would set the standards, forbidding such "abuses" as interlocking directorates, and perhaps restricting a company's spread into businesses other than the one for which it was chartered.

The senator contends his proposal would result in "less government regulation." Regulation, he said, has mushroomed because state charters are "blank checks" which permit abuses. To control these abuses, federal agencies spring up to enforce what O'Mahoney called "the fundamental law." If Congress spells out corporations' "powers, duties, and responsibilities," he predicted, it "will stop the trend of big government taking over when concentration becomes too great."



JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY
Stalking An Elusive Prey

'Run For Your Life!'



Quote, Unquote

"Men," she declared contemptuously, "are absolutely lacking in self-control, judgment and good taste." "Possibly, my dear," he responded, "but just think how many old maids there would be if they were not!"—Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

French Upset By Yalta Revelations

WASHINGTON

THE fallout from the Yalta explosion is like the hydroge bomb. It's devastating diplomatic effect continues long after the original blast . . . Today the French Senate votes on ratification of the German arms agreement, which Dulles for two years has made the cornerstone of his European policy. He took four trips to Europe to urge, threaten, cajole French participation . . . Yet just six days prior to French Senate debate on ratification he released a document quoting Winston Churchill as saying: "No solution has been found for controlling the French while they are controlling the Germans. If the French wish to be tiresome they could produce trouble in their zone which would cause trouble in the other zones. If we decide to be strict they could be lenient. If we decide to be lenient they could be strict." . . . French diplomats working for ratification of the German arms agreement were dumfounded, the French press furious . . . Before the State Department released the Yalta explosion stenographers hastily crossed out certain passages with pencils. However, French newsmen could see right through the pencilled censorship, including the Churchill quote: "I do feel that if the French are given this little sop it will keep them quietly, for I feel strongly that they should not be at this table. This is an exclusive group (smiling) and the entrance subscription is at least five million soldiers." . . . Naturally this was headlined in Paris.

Surprised By Dulles

What flabbergasted the British was that the secretary of state himself should leak the documents. They knew, as the entire press and diplomatic corps now knows, that it was none other than John Foster Dulles who authorized that two huge volumes be planted with The New York Times, a technique calculated to satisfy right-wing Republicans yet let Dulles tell the British he was against publication . . . "If that happened in England," remarked one British diplomat, "Eden would face questions in Commons next morning and might have to resign."

Yalta Wisecracks

With the weight of the war on their shoulders the old gentlemen at Yalta were full of wisecracks, which is one reason Senator Knowland demanded publication. However, Churchill and Roosevelt always wisecracked, war or no war . . . Here are some Yalta-cracks: . . . Churchill: "We are pursuing the Atlantic Charter. I sent a copy of this interpretation to Wendell Willkie." Roosevelt: "Is that what killed him?" . . . Roosevelt "recalled there had been an organization called the Ku Klux Klan that had hated the Catholics and Jews, and when he had been on a visit to a small town in the South he had been the guest of the president of the local chamber of commerce. He had sat next to an Italian on one side and a Jew on the other and had asked the president of the chamber of commerce whether they were members of the Ku Klux Klan, to which the president replied that they were, but that they were considered all right since everyone in the community knew them. The President remarked that it was a good illustration of how difficult it was to have any prejudice—racial, religious or otherwise—if you really knew people." . . . Roosevelt told this in supporting a Churchill toast for peaceful cooperation with Russia "that the common danger of war had removed the impediments to understanding and the fires of war had wiped out old animosities."