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TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1957

The Smiting Of Smut In Tarheelia

Senator Smoot (Republican, Ut.)
Is planning a ban on smut.
Oh rooti-ti-toot for Smoot of Ut.
And his reverent occiput.
Smite, Smoot, smite for Ut.,
Grit your molars and do your dut.,
Gird up your l—ns,
Smite h-p and th-gh,
We'll all be Kansas by and by.

SO BEGAN Ogden Nash's playful spoof of Smoot of Ut. The year was 1930 when they were "smuggling smut from Balt. to Butte" and s-x was a two-letter word.

Twenty-seven years has changed little or nothing in the censorship set. Latter-day Smoots are still smiting smut, and with the same loose logic. Smut, when smitten, just enjoys a brisker popularity.

In Raleigh, the House of Representatives has shouted approval of a measure aimed at removing "indecent" literature from North Carolina's news stands. Its bill, however established no standards by which "indecency" can be judged, leaving the whole filmy matter to courts and and juries whose views can be expected to vary.

A particular popular magazine or newspaper might be "indecent" in Rockingham but perfectly all right in Charlotte. At the same time, a paperback edition of Boccaccio's THE DECAMERON might get one news stand operator in trouble with the law while a thousand others may sell it to their heart's content. People have rather strange ideas about these things. Mark Twain's THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN was once banned as "trash" in Henry David Thoreau's home town of Concord, Mass.

Censorship is always a dangerous thing to toy with. Pornographic literature is, of course, beyond the pale of toleration. But there are already laws to deal with this sort of thing. They should be enforced.

Great care should be taken by a law-making body when it increases the scope of censorship in a free society. House members have not exercised that care.

Certainly news stand operators should be relieved of any contractual ties which compel them to sell literature they do not wish to sell—literature they may actually consider indecent. This would permit them to exercise a perfectly healthy sense of personal responsibility. On the other hand, there is nothing healthy or proper about promiscuous censorship which shifts the responsibility for taste and moral influence to police agents.

"Do you want your children reading filth?" ask the censors. Naturally, no right-thinking parent does. But that's not the point. The question is whether Americans are fit to be free and responsible. Who are the censors to say that they are not?

The motives of the gentlemen in Raleigh are certainly good and honorable. But the danger is that to put an end to one evil they would create a larger evil. This is to burn the house to roast the pig.

Harvey Breit of the NEW YORK TIMES had something to say about this problem a few months ago and is worth repeating here. "We do not mean to minimize the problem that confronts public-spirited citizens who are worried about the morals of our youth," he wrote, "but we think they are going about it in the wrong way. We think they are No Sayers. We are frankly weary of those police chiefs who ban books because they don't want their daughters to read them. It is the dreariest kind of No-Think and more scarey than the problem they propose to solve . . . In a brilliant essay, Father John Courtney wrote that 'in society constraint must be for the sake of freedom.' What freedom does the indiscriminate finger, tabooing books by Hemingway and Faulkner, Dos Passos and O'Hara serve? . . . We would like the No Sayers to be Yea Sayers. We would like them not to ban (which is to create a potential Banquo), but to initiate our youth into the pleasures of literature, or what they conceive to be a fruitful literature, even if it isn't. Let them say yes. Let them say no to no."

Where are North Carolina's Yea Sayers?

Eisenhower Program Needs A Leader

SHERMAN ADAMS is an invaluable assistant to President Eisenhower, but his weekend effort to play the "give-'em-hell" role was woefully weak.

Mr. Adams, in the first place, is a hired man. And no one, certainly in the Senate's view, is worthier of disdain than a non-elective official who undertakes to judge the work of Congress. Any effective White House boost for the Eisenhower program will have to come from the President himself, and even he will have to establish first that he believes in his program.

His early remarks on the budget, displaying indecisiveness and a desire to have the budget and cut it, too, gave Congress plenty of room to doubt whether Mr. Eisenhower really wanted action on his program.

Presumably, he will become in his television appearances a bona fide advocate. But when he has done that, another obstacle to passage of his program will remain—the lack of support given it by his own party. Adams charged up the lack of action to having a Congress controlled by Democrats, borrowing a leaf from Harry Truman's attack on the Republican-controlled 80th Congress. Both Adams and Truman obscured the fact that the real opposition was bipartisan. The administration's leader in the Senate, Knowland of California, is noted more for opposition to than sympathy for the President's proposals. The ranks of "modern Republicanism," are thin indeed, and Adams' complaint of Democratic obstruction is somewhat misleading.

The central fact behind the failure of the Eisenhower program to move along is the failure of the White House to push it with conviction and energy. On television the President may recover some of the lost ground. Certainly if his program is to be salvaged, he must lead the fight.

Sherman Adams can't push Congress.

Gettysburg

BEFORE historical writers regroup to re-fight the Battle of Gettysburg, it should be recalled that a man who knew more about the weaknesses of generals than either President Eisenhower or Marshal Montgomery has already settled the question of second-guessing:

Said Abraham Lincoln on Nov. 19, 1863: "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

Curtains For A Most Convincing Villain

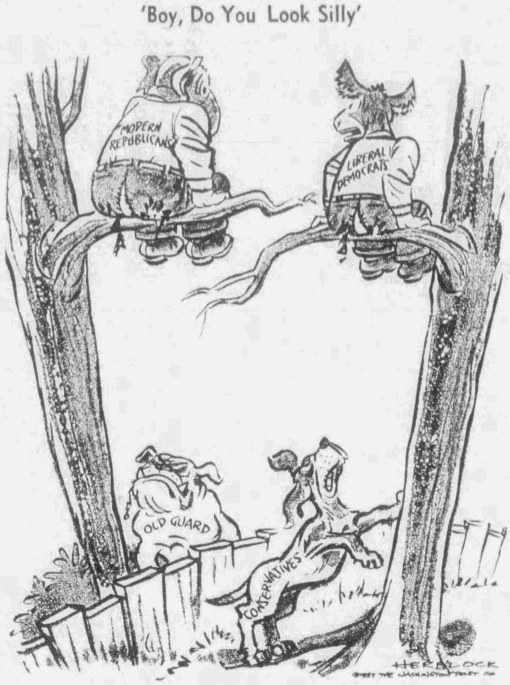
IN THE REALM of make believe, a bad man is hard to find.

The death in Paris of Erich von Stroheim cost the films another durable villain and a fine artist as well. Coming so soon after the passing of Humphrey Bogart, his death was a double shock to movie fans who found a certain fascination in convincing portrayals of hard-heartedness.

With the departure of Bogart and von Stroheim, the cast of believable villains is almost totally depleted. Boris Karloff is having fun and making a new career with recordings of gentle stories for the kiddies. Peter Lorre shows up occasionally, but seems too fat and too tired to be feared. Sidney Greenstreet is long gone.

To find a real villain at the movies nowadays, one has to look at the newsreels. And that isn't any fun—because those villains aren't acting.

'Boy, Do You Look Silly'



Temper Is Useful

Truman Saved His Budgets

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Eisenhower's belated last stand against the fierce attack on his budget suggests a somewhat surprising question. Did Congress trust Harry S. Truman and Dean G. Acheson more than it trusts Dwight Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles, in the field of foreign policy?

Consider the contrast. Despite the President's intention of "going to the people," most observers agree that the chances are still high that the Congress will cut the liver and lights out of the Eisenhower-Dulles foreign program, carving great hunks out of the foreign aid program, the foreign information program, and the State Department budget.

A MIRACLE

It will be considered a miracle if the President holds the foreign aid program, originally budgeted at $4.4 billion, at much over $3 billion. Now look at the Truman-Acheson record on foreign aid.

In 1948-49 the Truman administration asked for $6.8 billion in foreign aid and got $6.4 billion; in 1950 for $5.5 billion and got $5.2 billion; in 1951 for $7.8 billion and got $7.4 billion; in 1952 for $7.5 billion and got $7.3. In short, the Truman-Acheson programs were cut by the small, manageable percentage points—around 5 per cent — a budget-maker always allows for, while the Eisenhower-Dulles program was cut by almost a quarter last year, and may be cut by a third this year.

MAIN TARGET

The Eisenhower-Dulles foreign aid program is lower than the Truman-Acheson programs by from one to three billion dollars. Truman, moreover, was very far from a universally popular President in the period of "Korea, Communism, and corruption." As for Acheson he was the main political target of the Republicans, and he found precious few defenders among the Democrats.

Dwight D. Eisenhower was re-elected only six months ago by the second largest majority in history, and he is still phenomenally popular. His secretary of state is not universally well-liked, but he has never become a central political target, and he has had an infinitely more kindly press than his predecessor. Yet Truman and Acheson always, without exception, got essentially what they wanted out of Congress, in matters affecting foreign policy, while Eisenhower and Dulles will be lucky to save the bare bones of their foreign program. Why the contrast?

As usual, there are all sorts of reasons. There is the new budget-consciousness among the voters, which has awed the whole Congress. There is the growing economic isolationism of the South, one of the most important political phenomena of the Eisenhower years. There is the fact that foreign aid has been with us for a long time now, and the save-the-world fervor of the early Marshall Plan era is all gone now.

But it is also true that the President and his secretary of state have been hoist on their own petards. Petard number one was the "peace" propaganda of the 1956 campaign. It was undoubtedly effective politics. But it also persuaded a lot of voters that the time had come to sink back happily into what Time magazine has called "the new normalcy," and stop worrying about all those bothersome foreigners.

PHONY SAVINGS

Petard number two is the way the foreign aid program was managed in the first Eisenhower administration. In the early Eisenhower years the program was cut way down to close to the $3 billion mark, in the name of "economy." But these "savings" were largely phony — it was a process of living off fat in the form of accumulated previous appropriations. Where the fat is almost all gone, the administration was forced to ask for a sudden sharp increase in foreign aid, which was both irritating and inexplicable to Congress and the country.

But there is another reason too. President Truman's partisan belligerency often did harm. But it had its uses. He defended his budget, for example, with the instinctive ferocity of a mother bear defending her cub. But when Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey said that "there are a lot of places in this budget that can be cut," President Eisenhower at first blandly agreed with him.

At that precise moment (though he did not know it at the time) the President pulled the trap door on his foreign aid program, and other important items in his program as well. He is now trying to replace the trap door. But it will be uphill work. The betting still is that Congress will do to the popular Eisenhower what it never dared do to the unpopular Truman — hack away at his whole foreign policy program with a meat-axe all along the line.

"This Better Be A Whale Of A Toot, Little Boy Blue"

Big City Backstopping Solons With Team Of Paid Lobbyists

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON

PHILADELPHIA, the site of the first Continental Congress, has come up with a novel idea for the 85th Congress.

It plans to spend $12,000 for seats in the third house of Congress—the lobbies — to reinforce its ex-mayor sitting in the Senate and its six representatives in the House.

Although other cities have sent people to the capitol from time to time to look out for their interests, it is believed Philadelphia is the first to hire an outside firm of registered lobbyists. The action could alter the responsibilities of congressmen if other cities followed suit.

Philadelphia Mayor Richardson Dilworth, a Democrat, contends "our congressmen are just too busy with committee work and other responsibilities to take care of all those details important to Philadelphia's interest." He says the city fathers agree, predicting they will approve his tentative contract with the firm this month.

PLAN ENDORSED

And instead of feeling obsolete because of the proposal, Philadelphia's congressional delegation reacted enthusiastically when Dilworth explained his plan to them over a recent Washington breakfast.

Even Rep. Hugh Scott, the lone Republican in Philadelphia's congressional delegation, endorsed the lobby idea heartily. He said it was "very desirable" because lobbyists could "pursue things for the city such as urban renewal and dog it along."

Rep. Kathryn E. Granahan, the only woman in the delegation, termed the proposal "an excellent idea. We'll be able to accomplish a great deal more. We just don't have time now to follow up all those things concerning the city. And sometimes things were unwittingly neglected."

The federal government has become so complicated, she said, "that you almost need a lobbyist to get things through." She added that she "wouldn't be a bit surprised" if other cities followed suit and hired lobbyists for Washington.

COMMUTING SOLONS

Scott and Mrs. Granahan are the only ones of the six-member House delegation who maintain Washington residences and usually stay in the Capital Monday through Friday. The other four representatives commute between Washington and their Philadelphia homes and normally spend only part of the work week in Washington. The city's other four representatives are William A. Barrett, James A. Byrne, Earl Chudoff and William J. Greene Jr., all Democrats.

At the suggestion to Dilworth that maybe Philadelphia wouldn't need to hire lobbyists to pursue its interests if its House delegation stayed in Congress all week, Dilworth laughed and said: "I love our congressional delegation. You're not going to get me to say anything to get me in trouble with them."

RICHARDSON DILWORTH
Congress Is Too Busy

Dilworth said the lobby idea originated with Sen. Joseph S. Clark Jr. (D) when he was mayor of Philadelphia (1952 through 1955). Dilworth said talks with Mayor Robert F. Wagner (D) of New York reinforced the idea. Dilworth said New York already uses lobbyists in Washington, but a spokesman for Wagner denied this.

NO OTHER CITY

Patrick Healy Jr., executive director of the American Municipal Assn., said he knew of no other city in the United States that has hired an outside firm to represent it in Washington over an extended period. San Francisco has a legislative representative in Washington, but he is attached to the city and county of San Francisco as well as the port of San Francisco.

The firm hired by Dilworth, subject to city government approval, is called National Counsel Associates. It is headed by Maurice Rosenblatt, 41, who was a registered lobbyist for Trans American Airlines, and William L. Sturdevant Jr., 40, who worked for the same firm. They have retained as counsel Harry J. Maginnis, 41, who has registered as a lobbyist for the Associated Third Class Mail Users.

Rosenblatt also is an officer with the National Committee for an Effective Congress, an organization which says its purpose is "to channel practical and direct support toward the election of qualified liberals to the national legislature."

Rosenblatt said his firm would go to work for Philadelphia even before its contract is officially approved by the city government, but he said he and his associates would not register with Congress as lobbyists for Philadelphia until after the contract was approved. The contract stipulates that the firm will be paid $12,000 for the balance of 1957. The yearly salaries of the one senator and six representatives from Philadelphia total $137,500.

People's Platform

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

McCarthy's Critics Unqualified To Judge

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

THE NEWS seems to be hard-pressed to defend its position with respect to the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy. I've been reading the admirable defense of the senator at the "grass roots" level—that is, by the readers of The News.

With the exception of your own thoughtless editorial, the first opposition thrown in against the senator was the "bottom of the liberal barrel" columnist, Drew Pearson, whom even self respecting liberals (and I hear they do exist) look down on. The next defamer you "threw in the dyke" against the renowned "watchman of the citadel" is the egghead CBS commentator, Eric Sevareid.

Without discussing the distortions and misstatements of facts contained in the Sevareid article, it is sufficient to simply obliterate Sevareid's qualifications for commenting on any citizen of any country who is possessed with the lofty traits of patriotism — as was Senator McCarthy.

In 1946 the publisher Alfred Knopf published a book by Sevareid titled "Not So Wild a Dream." In that book Sevareid states that while at Minnesota University he took what he termed the American version of the "Oxford Oath," which version was: "I will not bear arms for flag or country."

Such is the character and bent of mind of a man who has the audacity to criticize a patriot like Joe McCarthy, who would and did defend his country's flag against enemies.

I wonder what . . . liberal journalist or commentator The News will next "throw in the dyke" to defile the name of the gallant "fallen warrior," Joe McCarthy.

— J. S. DEVONDE JR.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

THE DEPARTURE OF THE MALE SODA CLERK

FOR better or for worse, the drugstore cowboy is rapidly approaching the extinction of the squeeduck. No more does he stand beneath the multi-colored awning, a bureau of puerile information, a maker of quips, an unpolished Edward R. Murrow seeing it all now and shaking up with the loose change in his pocket the expedients, vexations and heart-throbs of his constituents. Golf and warfare and the price of steak probably didn't run him off his nest. The corner drugstore, which now sells everything but whaling harpoons, isn't the gregarious place it once was. The male soda clerk, the incubator, is gone, a casualty of the fruit-basket-change of World War II.

The old-time soda jerk, especially in the smaller places, was a cross between an Irish bartender, the town crier, and a psychiatrist. He not only knew if you wanted lemon in your Coca-Cola. He knew who was pitching for Chicago, where fish were biting, what time Joe would return from Durham, how much fire insurance there was on the burned house, what was good for the summer complaint, and why old Johnson contemplated suicide last fall. The soda clerk was the tree of fact and information and the cowboys in front of the store were leaves flashing his radiance. True, often service was slow, but you got a lot more than a Coca-Cola for your five cents.

The male soda clerk left and took the horseless cowboys with him. Now the ladies have taken over. They make the best banana splits you ever tasted, but they don't even know who is on the jury the next term of court.

Another creature that looks lost and forlorn is the man who grocery-shops only in a dire emergency, wandering around in a large super-market.—JACKSON (MISS.) STATE TIMES.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Chicago Bus Battle Needs Investigation

WASHINGTON

HERE'S a tip to the Senate committee probing labor and management rackets: Take a look at the cancellation of the Parmalee bus contract in Chicago.

You will find that after 102 years of hauling passengers and baggage between railroad terminals in Chicago, Parmalee suddenly lost out to a Chicago trucker named John Keeshin.

Some Questions

How did Keeshin upset the contract? He had no bus or taxi drivers working for him at the time. How was he able to satisfy the railroads that he could take over this important transfer operation?

That, of course, is for the Senate committee to find out. But here are some important clues pointing to the answer.

On page 469 of the House investigation of welfare funds and racketeering, November, 1953, you will find that James Hoffa, head of midwest Teamsters, testified he had borrowed $5,000 from Keeshin without interest, collateral, or promissory note. They were good friends.

For A Friend

Keeshin took Parmalee bus drivers both away from Parmalee and away from Hoffa's AFL Teamsters Union, and signed them up with an independent union, the "Chicago Truck Drivers, Chauffeurs and Helpers Union, Local 705." Rough, tough Jimmy Hoffa is not one to let drivers leave his union easily. He does not tolerate raids. He does not like to lose union membership. But in this case he let his men join an independent union. Friendship with Keeshin seemed more important than union membership.

Inferior Contract

The contract Keeshin signed with the independent union called for about 20 cents an hour lower pay than the AFL teamsters scale in Chicago. The contract also called for about 15 cents an hour less than the men had been getting from Parmalee. Yet Hoffa did not fight against this inferior contract for his teamsters.

Quick Deal

In the files of the Northwestern Railroad, you will find a memo dated July 29, 1955 from C. F. Steward, assistant general passenger agent, advising that Keeshin had a six-year labor contract before he engaged a single employee and two months before he started to haul baggage and passengers for the railroads.

Cooperation

In the files of the Santa Fe Railroad you will find a letter, June 28, 1955, from E. W. Saylor, director of Santa Fe personnel, stating: "Mr. Keeshin again assured the committee that both Ed Fenner, head of Drivers Union Local 705 (the independent union) and James Hoffa . . . had assured Mr. Keeshin of their cooperation . . . and further stated they would be glad to meet with the railroad committee and give them their personal assurance."

Satisfactory Service

In the files of the New York Central Railroad you will find a letter, Jan. 15, 1955, from J. L. Keeshin stating that "James Hoffa assured me of every cooperation to maintain complete harmony in order to have a satisfactory service available at all times."

In brief, the railroads were looking for stable labor relations. Keeshin had assurances from the most powerful labor leader in the midwest, Jimmy Hoffa, that relations would be stable — even though his teamsters joined a different union and worked for less money than his AFL teamsters.

The railroads probably didn't know Hoffa was such an intimate friend of Keeshin's that he had borrowed $5,000 without security. Or, if they did, it would have meant increasing evidence Hoffa would carry out his no-strike pledge.