

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Thomas L. Robinson President and Publisher
Brodie S. Griffith General Manager
Robert H. Lampe Advertising Director
Cecil Prince Editor
Perry Morgan Assistant Editor
R. L. Young Jr. Managing Editor
Ruey Stinson Circulation Manager

MONDAY, MAY 27, 1957

Quiet Response To A Crying Need

AFTER debating the question of reapportionment with all of the righteous clamor and shocked eye-rolling at its command, the State Senate executed an adroit change of pace. On the matter of constitutional reform there was no fuss, no muss—just quiet statesmanship.

In short order, the honorables rejected the Martin bill calling for the people to vote on a constitutional convention with delegates to be chosen on the same basis as the present House of Representatives.

Approved instead was the much more desirable Currie bill calling for a 15-man commission to make a thorough study of constitutional reform and report its recommendations by Dec. 1, 1958.

The Currie formula may require more time and effort but on matters of this sort thoroughness is a necessity. The commission, sponsored by the governor from the ranks of the state's most able leaders, would have the services of a staff of researchers. Rather than leave the initial blueprinting of constitutional changes to the haphazard outcome of convention hoppers, the state would have the benefit of careful scholarship and thoughtful study.

North Carolina's present 1968 Constitution needs modernizing badly. Its crazy-quilt design is anything but an aid to representative government because the machinery of public affairs cannot be

improved unless the Constitution is first modified to allow it. The state cannot hope to retain its efficiency and effectiveness in competition with federal centralizing tendencies, unless it can deal effectively with its own problems.

Consider for a moment the number and diversity of powers which are held by the state. They include power over local government, the chartering and regulation of corporations, the regulation of public utilities and the operation of certain economic services, the maintenance of a free public education system, administration of much of the public welfare field and the whole undefined and seemingly limitless field of the police power—all of the reserved powers needed for public health, safety and morals—and finally civil functions such as taxation, revenues, suffrage and elections, civil liberties and the like. There are others as well. All are worthy of our best interest and attention so that they can be controlled for the public good.

Such efforts are hampered today in North Carolina by an old-fashioned Constitution with a major built-in fault—the weak executive. A reform is long overdue.

The Senate has proposed the tools for that reform. The House should give its blessing to those tools so the work can get underway immediately.

Pills & Pacts: The World Needs Both

TWO GROUPS of men working in England symbolize mankind's best hopes of saving itself from the bombs it has built.

Diplomats from Britain, France, Canada, the U. S. and Russia are in London working on a pact. The pact would be designed to keep nations that do not have nuclear weapons from getting them while the powers that do have them search for ways to keep them from using them on each other. The other group of men, a team of research scientists, is working on a pill. The pill would be designed to protect human bodies from radiation—in case the diplomats fail.

Assuming that both the diplomats and the scientists share the sincere hope of success, their tasks seem almost unsurmountable. The scientist's would seem the easier. The world has pills for almost everything. One can even buy a brief supply of peace pills from the corner drugstore that sells tranquilizers. Still one cannot buy a pill to kill a common cold. The scientists have a long way to go.

But if the human body still offers bafflement to modern science, the human mind is an absolute enigma. Man to man,

the human species would reach instantaneous agreement to ban not only bombs but all weapons of destruction. Nation to nation, the ever-present possibility of immediate annihilation is too terrible to contemplate.

So of the two—the scientist and the diplomat—we would say the scientists have more reason for hope of success. The invention of a pill seems so much easier than invention of peace. And that is a tragedy. For if the diplomats do not succeed, conceivably there could be no one left to take the pills.

One must place most of his hopes with the diplomats, but it is reassuring to know that both groups are working.

Another Triumph

FROM the look of things in Formosa, where rampaging Chinese mobs have wrecked the U. S. Embassy, one would gather that another aim of Secretary Dulles' foreign policy has been accomplished. Chiang Kai-shek has indeed been "unleashed."

Portrait Of The Hulkster As An Artist

WE WERE somewhat surprised to see a man looking much like Kirk Douglas, the Hollywood actor, endorsing a portfolio of Van Gogh prints the other day. Kirk's picture was on the back of a magazine and, true, he looked much like we're told Van Gogh looked.

But it rang a rather strange note. The artist hasn't really needed promotion for some time now and art dealers have found a substantial market for originals. Reprints? A publisher's best recommendation is an endorsement by Douglas, something akin to tennis star Pancho Gonzales and a certain cigarette.

Douglas is as qualified as anyone to say, "These are certainly treasures!" for he played the role of the artist in a motion picture called *Lust For Life*.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

THE SUBVERSIVE WIZARD OF OZ

THE WIZARD OF OZ and all the other 37 Oz books are not listed any longer by the Detroit public library because—hold on to your hat—the librarian feels that the books are stories without any elevating influence or uplift.

How about ALICE IN WONDERLAND? Is Detroit going to put it on the shelves? It hasn't got an ounce of uplift in it. Alice is merely one of the most brilliant pieces of imaginative nonsense in the English language. It would be hard to get any uplift out of the selfish Caterpillar, the timid Dodo, the Red Queen, or Alice herself.

Consider the verses of A. A. Milne. Are we inspired to rush out and make a million dollars, write an epic poem, or knock a home run over the fence? Christopher Robin, about Kangaroo, or about Tigger who was too bouncy? Not at all. But we are vastly amused and entertained.

And what's wrong with that? In the Oz books, so dear to the hearts of childhood, the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Woodsman, the Wicked Witch and the other memorable characters who move about the Emerald City of Oz are creatures of the fancy of Frank L. Baum. There is no more uplift in them than there is in hundreds of delightful stories of fairies and goblins. Or in the epic tale of the THREE LITTLE PIGS, the doings of MIGHTY MOUSE, or BRIER BARBER's heroic exploits. Are these "subversive" works banned in Detroit too?

There was a time when we wasn't

deemed necessary for works of the imagination to point a moral. Sufficient that they afforded a few hours of entertainment to children or grownups. But now the notion is getting 'round, it appears, that all books for young people have to be elevating and inspiring. In other words we are asked to swap Oz books, UNCLE REMUS, and ALICE IN WONDERLAND for REBECCA OR SUNNYBROOK FARM and such Horatio Alger masterpieces as *LUCK AND PLUCK* and *TATTERED TOM*. Include us out!

Four-year-old Bobby was stroking his cat before the fire in perfect content. The cat, also happy, began to purr loudly. Bobby gazed at her for a while, then suddenly seized her by the tail and dragged her roughly away from the hearth. His mother said, "You must not hurt your kitty, Bobby." "I'm not," said Bobby, "but I've got to get her away from the fire. She's beginning to boil."

—FORT MYERS (Fla.) NEWS-PRESS.

First girl: "Why don't you go out with him anymore?" Second girl: "Because I can't do it. I get it in my head and I can't get it out of my head." —LEXINGTON HERALD.

The man phoned the mental hospital to ask if any man had escaped. "No," said a doctor. "Why?" "Well," replied the caller, "I just wondered, . . . somebody has just got out with my wife." —MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

People's Platform

CHARLOTTE
SHAME on the North Carolina legislature for not passing the automobile inspection law. Sure, inspection is a nuisance. But so is getting banged up a nuisance.

The highways are full of fools driving cars around with faulty brakes, defective steering and burned-out tail lights. An automobile inspection law would have run these junk heaps off the roads.

Sure, speed causes most accidents. But some accidents are still caused by faulty equipment, and some people still get killed. Aren't those lives worth saving? Apparently not. The people back home voted in high heaven about having to stop by a garage and have a safety check made so the good gentlemen who represent them voted down a good bill.

Sure, highways are big and wide and straight nowadays and it doesn't take much effort to drive on them. But bad brakes can still cause a fatal accident and a burned-out tail light can still cause a terrible pileup.

Don't those fellows want to save lives?

—J. A. TAYLOR

Censorship Only Excites Curiosity

PITTSBORO
I SHARE your apprehension as to censorship of obscene and lascivious literature and what appears upon the stage and on TV. For such censorship is certainly to be abused, and what is obscene and lascivious is not adequately defined, even if that can be done, which is doubtful.

And furthermore a ban on anything that excites curiosity, or what may be defined as the "forbidden fruit" feature of man's behavior. Man's disposition is to be where he is not needed, in fact, where he can help but be in the way of those charged with duties to perform, such as at a fire or an automobile wreck.

And the hard core of the situation and the angle from which the problem should be approached is a solution, not a solution you protecting in this censorship business. The obvious and superficial answer is the young people of the country and the trouble of morality and the observance of common decencies of civilized society. But are you not running into a dead-end in that solution? The Protestant Churches of America and the British Isles have combined to destroy the racial identities of men. The God of us all has wanted only the best of men. He would have made it one race; instead He created racial species just as He did as to fowl, fishes, beasts and reptiles. With the Divine instinct to reproduce after its kind.

—JOHN W. HESTER.

Straws In The Wind

Hope For Foreign Aid?

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
THE FOREIGN aid bill is off to a much faster start than the budget, but it is far from home yet.

The Appropriations Committees are running this Congress, and some of their most influential members will be a substantial cut in the President's figures.

The administration has its own problems in promoting foreign aid at this particular time. In one of his better speeches last week, the President did a good job for his program. But at the same time he is defending and promoting the idea that disarmament and a relaxation of tensions are possible.

DULLES IN A DITHER

This impales the secretary of state on the horns of a dilemma. John Foster Dulles does not climb too far out on the limb of need for helping and having allies. Fairly soon he may have to crawl back to the main trunk and find a fresh perch marked "disarmament."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
IT isn't being talked about for quotation but some members of the President's official family are having a big sigh of relief at the news of the most recent issue of the Cabinet, Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey. There are three reasons for their sighs:

Trouble-Maker

It was Humphrey with his unprecedented statement about the budget deficit that set off a chain of events which has led to the present budget troubles. No President in recent years has had so much trouble so soon after a sweeping electoral victory as that stirred up by Humphrey over the budget.

Treasury Degenerated

Humphrey's tight money policy has raised interest rates so high that the government has trouble floating its own bonds. Though hailed as a master financier, Humphrey has permitted the Treasury to degenerate to a point where it is now the lowest in modern American history.

Memories Of Mellon

"I think if something isn't done about it, the country isn't told about it," said Humphrey. "We may have a repetition of what we had under Andrew Mellon."

In the form of a depression? Roosevelt was asked.

"Exactly," was the reply.

Humphrey's Conflicts

Asked for specific examples of Secretary Humphrey's errors, Roosevelt pointed out that Humphrey had refused to sell his stock in the giant M. A. Hanna Co. Roosevelt then cited a nickel con-

Better Highways Demand Safer Vehicles



Centennial Coverage Receives A Salute

ALBEMARLE
I AM glad to read about the many ways being used at Billy Graham's meeting. I feel sure God is working in New York—and it is God's work, not Billy's. He is simply God's messenger.

I heard an evangelist say one night that he met a drunk on the street. "Don't you remember me?" said the man. "You saved me the other night."

"It looks like my work," said the minister. "It sure isn't God's."

—MRS. MAYME BARGER.

Gaffney Editor's Stand Questioned

GASTONIA

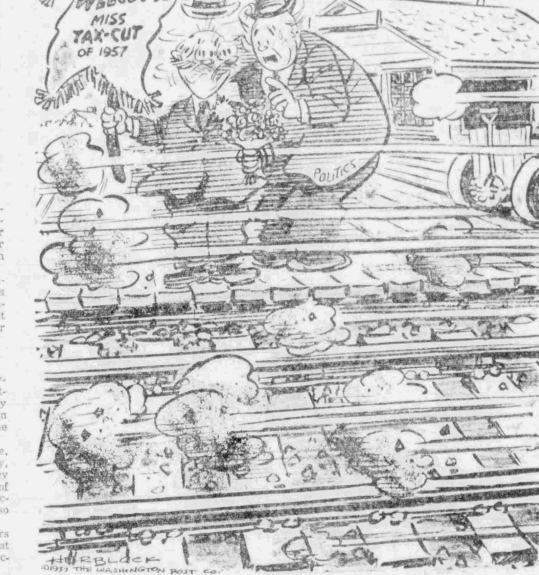
HOW MANY readers noticed the "strange" defense made by the editor of the Gaffney *Leader*, Gaffney, S. C., in the local union charges that some southern newspapers have joined hands in corrupt anti-union conniving by employers, police and local politicians?

The editor, Mr. S. C. Littlejohn, stated: "It has always been our understanding that newspapers have the right to accept or reject news or advertising."

I wonder if any of his fellow editors or newspaper publishers in the Carolina intend to make editorial comment on such a distorted comment on "freedom of the press" as practiced in Gaffney?

—J. R. FRESTWOOD

'I Forgot To Tell You—The Schedule's Been Changed'



Humphrey's Departure Will Be Cheered

WASHINGTON
HUMPHREY'S departure from the Treasury will be cheered by many who have been disappointed by his handling of the budget and the economy.

Guaranteed Profit

"They were guaranteed a profit. They took no risk, and yet a few days later this individual became secretary of the Treasury," said the congressman from California.

Phony Deal

"That company, Aramco, used to pay taxes in the United States," said Roosevelt. "Then it worked out a phony deal with the King of Saudi Arabia whereby, instead of royalties to him, they pay taxes to him. And now whereas this company used to pay millions of dollars in taxes to the United States government, in recent years it hasn't paid a penny in

taxes. The King of Saudi Arabia is getting it, and the taxpayer of the United States is being defrauded."

Humphrey's Competitor

"Another case is that of his great competitor, Cyrus Eaton," continued Roosevelt. "But he and Humphrey own properties up in Canada. But in that case, the Treasury sued Cyrus Eaton's company for \$2 million in back taxes. And despite the protests from Canada that this was double taxation, the Treasury insisted on pushing through the suit."

Double Standard

"It is interesting to note that the Tax Court of Appeals threw out—reversed—Humphrey's suit."

"This involved a direct competitor of his," concluded Roosevelt. "In other words, there's one law for the friends of the secretary of the Treasury and a different law for his competitors."