



Thomas L. Robinson, President and Publisher; Brodie S. Griffith, General Manager; Robert H. Lampes, Advertising Director; Cecil Prince, Editor; Perry Morgan, Associate Editor; R. L. Young Jr., Managing Editor; Huey Stinson, Circulation Manager.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1957

'You Wanted An Open Door, Didn't You?'

Puzzled By Fallout Reports, Congress Still Supports Ike

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON - Most members of Congress, like their constituents, admit they are not ready to give the go-ahead to the problem of radioactive fallout.

A majority of those who have an opinion on the highly technical issue of nuclear bombing testing back President Eisenhower's stance for continuing the tests until a "general, controlled and inspected" disarmament agreement is reached with Russia.

Some Democrats who endorse the general lines of the President's policy also call for new United States "initiatives" on the problem.

Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) said, "I have no blueprint for the diplomatic means by which an international agreement to halt the testing of large and ever larger hydrogen bombs is to be achieved. But I think in the first instance the move should be initiated in dramatic fashion by the President."

Three of the 46 Congressmen—all of them Democrats—will in the fall send the United States should stop testing hydrogen bombs immediately and challenge Russia to do the same thing.

The proposal first made in the 1956 presidential campaign by Adlai E. Stevenson, was endorsed jointly by Rep. Clark Hollister (D-Calif.) who headed the two-week hearing by the Atomic Energy Subcommittee.

SEN. NEUBERGER A Hunt For Facts

For the same purpose, Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) has a bill to create a National Radiation Health Institute.

Fact-finding, though, is about as far as any congressman wants to go. The poll turned up almost no sentiment for a congressional declaration of national policy on the bomb tests. Most congressmen either endorse or are willing to accept President Eisenhower's judgment on the matter.

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People's Platform

Fight the Fires

Charlotte - Having just read the article appearing in Monday's issue of The News concerning the crash of the Air National Guard Douglas C-124 transport plane at the crash scene one minute and fifty-six seconds after the accident occurred.

This, sir, is not a fair appraisal of the accident. The actual account appeared on the front page of your Saturday edition which stated that a truck arrived "about fourteen minutes after the crash." It is apparent that your Monday article was written after your reporter "got to the airport manager or vice versa."

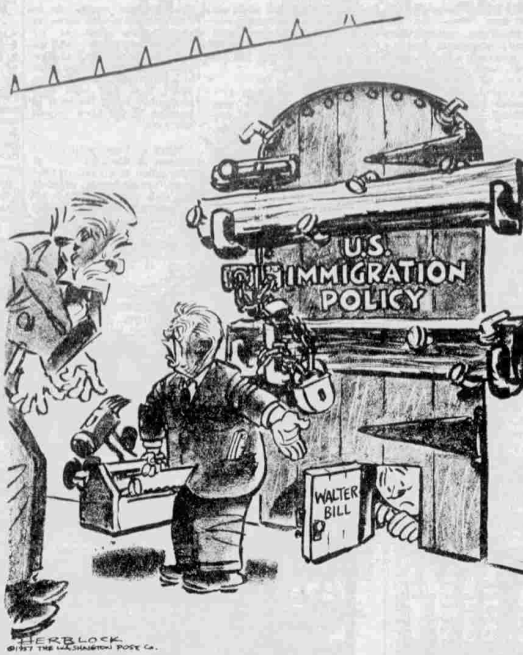
One should not belittle the efforts made to save the lives of those who tried to cope with Friday's crash. They did the best they could but plainly had neither the equipment nor know-how. The gross inadequacy of facilities could only be surmised by those witnessing the event such as myself.

I submit to you that this question of adequate disaster facilities at the airport is a matter of grave importance. The disconcerting part being the utterly negative approach of the airport manager to the problem. The sheer ridiculousness of some statements emanating from his office is causing me to say the least.

At one instance the manager states, "legally, we do not have to provide crash fire protection." This seems a rather shallow comment from a man of such position. Legally, I don't suppose anyone is obligated to provide a traffic light at the square, health center, or a dog catcher; but it is the mark of a well-balanced society to have these conveniences.

On the other hand the airport manager states: "We have as good fire protection as any except Chicago, La Guardia, or Miami."

Editors Note: The News urged in its lead editorial Tuesday that the matter have immediate and thoughtful consideration. It recommends that plea in today's lead editorial.



Arms And The Man

The Storm Around Stassen

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON - Any disarmament agreement signed with the Soviet Union must be ratified by the Senate to become effective, and it is here that Harold Stassen's role as chief negotiator for the United States is most dubious.

Among conservative Republicans, he is an object of scorn and distrust. These conservatives—Sen. William F. Knowland, Styles Bridges, Bonke, B. Hickel, and John W. Bricker—could, with the help of conservative Democrats, block any arms treaty they disapproved of.

Their distrust of Stassen antedates his attempt last year to displace Vice President Richard M. Nixon as President Eisenhower's running mate. But that public challenge of one whom the conservatives felt was their man stirred the old resentment to new anger. And, as if this were not enough, Stassen returned to the attack not long ago, saying on a television program that Nixon's presence on the ticket cost the Republicans the Senate and the House despite the Eisenhower landslide.

Stassen's blunder in sitting down with Soviet representative Valerian Zorin before he had cleared the American disarmament proposal with America's allies has produced an "I told you so" attitude in his Senate colleagues. This, they are saying, is exactly what you could expect from that eager beaver.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON - The Dixie-Republican coalition which has operated so successfully for so many years is dead.

This was behind the furious statement of Mississippi Congressman Bill Colmer who, turning to Republicans on the left of the House floor, blurted: "I remind my friends on the left that there have been times in the history of Congress in recent years, during the Roosevelt and the Truman administrations as well as the Eisenhower administration when support from that section of the country known as the South has been welcomed but it has been sought."

Vote Trade

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HAROLD STASSEN Trouble Follows Him

been heightened. A month ago, when Stassen went to London against the background of "cautious hope" raised by what seemed to be a basic change in the Soviet approach to disarmament, news stories were written to the effect that Stassen now had a splendid opportunity to rehabilitate himself politically.

He had nothing to do with inspiring these stories. He has, in fact, been excessively cautious about talking with newspaper reporters ever since last December—when he put out a background interview on the American disarmament position that was promptly repudiated by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

These stories nevertheless were a distinct disservice to Stassen, since they revived memories of his unimpeachable presidential

campaign. It is an experiment, as all life is an experiment. Every year if not every day we have to wager our salvation upon some prophecy based upon imperfect knowledge. While that experiment is part of our system I think that we should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expressions of opinions that we loathe and believe to be fraught with death, unless they so immeminently threaten immediate interference with the lawful and pressing purposes of the law that an immediate check is required to save the country.

Stassen still has, so far as one can determine, the confidence of the President, who believes in his deep sincerity and his dedication to the cause. As the negotiations continue—and Stassen himself has said that any agreement will require months of patient effort—the recent unfortunate episode will be forgotten and the handicap the American delegate has been put under will be overcome.

Short of his replacement, this must be the hope of all great men coming out of the current negotiations: for it cannot be denied that his handicap is very great.

Deal Proposed

The hour-trading has now turned to the Senate, where Mississippi's cigar-puffing big Jim Eastland has proposed deals on Hells Canyon in order to get trial by jury inserted in the civil rights

favoring Negroes and bills favoring labor and public power was dead.

Eastland even invoked such civil rights bills as Jim Murray of Montana, Warren Magnuson of Washington and Joe O'Mahoney of Wyoming.

Help Needed

Originally Murray had come to Eastland seeking votes to approve a federal dam on the Snake River at Hells Canyon. Murray has 43 votes. Eastland needed only five more to guarantee passage.

Eastland said, "I need help on civil rights," Eastland shot back.

Obviously Murray was tempted in Montana, civil rights is no problem, but Hells Canyon is a big issue. But no deal was made.

Buck-Passing Is Not The Answer

CHARLOTTE'S Douglas Municipal Airport could build public confidence today by shouldering some responsibility for solving its own safety problem.

Sooner or later, it will have to take the initiative. Why not now?

Buck-passing, evasiveness and pique can only serve to postpone urgently needed solutions.

This is not a problem that can be solved by turning in a fire alarm when an aircraft crashes and explodes.

In the strictest sense it is not a fire department problem at all. Plane crashes are highly specialized emergencies. Conventional firefighting equipment and technicians are virtually useless.

Crash crews must be equipped with heavy, flame-smothering foam. They must be highly trained in the use of other special apparatus. For maximum effectiveness they have to be standing by, ready for action, every time a plane takes off or lands.

Douglas Municipal Airport has no such facilities. The F-84 Thunderjet that crashed and burned here last Friday night brought this fact into painfully sharp focus.

Airline representatives expressed some concern about the situation. They were promptly rebuffed by airport authorities for trying "to make an issue of this matter." Naturally, the air lines are interested in the safety of their passengers. So is the airport, but it has been somewhat less than convincing in its efforts to demonstrate this interest. This is unfortunate for all concerned.

All that is necessary is for the airport to acknowledge its own primary responsibility in this matter and to take immediate steps to provide appropriate crash facilities. Properly approached, the air lines and the Air National Guard would undoubtedly cooperate in the venture.

Did Confucius Have A Word For It?

A hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend.

ABOUT those 12 words spoken by Mao Tse-tung, a modern Chinese barbarian with a taste for antique poetics, a million more will be written.

Communist and anti-Communist pundits already are busily measuring the phrase to see if it portends an important new kink in the Communist line. On its face, it seems to suggest that Mao has decreed at least some freedom of speech behind the Bamboo Curtain. And, indeed, he does admit that conflicts can and do exist between the masses and their Communist overlords—an admission that Moscow is unwilling to make.

According to the Kremlin, the only differences of opinion that exist in Communist society is between the leaders and "enemies of the people." Thus, the Soviets charge up the Hungarian revolution to outside spies and saboteurs, and Khrushchev proclaims that the Hungarian people, after being freed by Russian gunfire of these saboteurs, are happy and content.

But somehow Mao doesn't quite bring off his flowery invitation for the Chinese people to criticize the government openly. Who wants to argue with a government, by Mao's own admission, has liquidated 800,000 Chinese in the last ten years?

Whether or not Confucius had a word for it we don't know, but Shakespeare said: "... one may smile, and smile, and be a villain."

Walter's Committee Goes Too Far

EFFORTS of the House Committee on Un-American Activities to force John Cogley to reveal confidential sources of information for his book on black-listing smacks of unparliamentary interference in U. S. journalism that a reporter's confidential relationship with his sources is deserving of protection and respect. To yield to the committee's bullying would be to surrender the right of the individual to express himself fully and freely without the danger of inquisition.

The Cogley book, published more than a year ago under the auspices of the Fund for the Republic, was a journalistic enterprise. It is an ancient and honorable rite in U. S. journalism that a reporter's confidential relationship with his sources is deserving of protection and respect. To yield to the committee's bullying would be to surrender the right of the individual to express himself fully and freely without the danger of inquisition.

Mr. Cogley himself is accused of nothing. It is not even suggested that he may have a subversive record. He has merely compiled a set of facts which displeases Chairman Francis Walter.

Ships That Pass In The Reprints

ALTHOUGH Mayflower II had some trouble at sea just off Plymouth, the winds of publicity have been exceedingly favorable. So favorable, in fact, that its arrival took the play away from Virginia's 350th anniversary celebration of the Jamestown landing.

The little ship hailed in most of the big headlines Virginia had expected to harvest by assembling a massive naval armada just off Jamestown. This turn of events, understandably, has not exactly served as a salute to Virginia's pride.

Thus the NORFOLK LEADER-DISPATCH reprinted—with alacrity—this sympathetic comment by THE BALTIMORE SUN:

"Could there be people in England, like so many in this country, who because of the prominence enjoyed by the Mayflower, are quite unaware of the landing at Jamestown 13 years before the Pilgrims. Some day perhaps the Virginians will manage to put on a celebration in which the Mayflower will be kept out of the picture. Then countless thousands for the first time will learn about the prior landing at Jamestown. When that day comes the revelation should be as sensational as the finding of the Dead Sea scrolls."

Whereupon the BALTIMORE NEWS & OPINION, which also has a good memory, made a comment which we reprint—with alacrity.

"We are on the Virginia's side in this rumput but the real revelation will come when the BALTIMORE SUN and the NORFOLK LEADER-DISPATCH are aware not merely of the landing at Jamestown 13 years before the Pilgrims reached Plymouth, but even the colony on Roanoke Island 22 years before that."

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