THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1958

The Public's Interest In A Private Affair

CITY Hall has played ring-around-the-rosy with the public's interest in the two-week-old bus strike.

Thousands of daily bus patrons — including many school children — have literally been left out in the cold while negotiations drag on.

Municipal officials first attempted to ignore the walkout entirely. City Manager Henry A. Yancey even referred to the strike as "a private affair."

Later, Mayor James S. Smith entered the picture with a "plan" which was not immediately disclosed. It turned out to be a suggestion for expanded and less expensive taxi service. The City Council wasn't interested.

Meanwhile, the "private affair" has produced a peculiarly public emergency.

A better organized municipal administration would have been ready for a bus strike. It would have seen immediately that a legitimate public interest was involved and it would have been fully prepared to represent that interest at the proper time and place.

There is nothing unique about the situation. Other cities face it frequently. Most of them are a bit more conscious of their obligations and react forthrightly to end the dispute by agreement or arbitration.

City Hall cannot compel two parties to agree. But public officials can certainly make full, immediate and vigorous use of their good offices to encourage an early settlement. That was what needed to be done in Charlotte — done early in the game before attitudes hardened and battle lines were drawn.

Instead, it has been the old story of too little and too late.

The price Charlotte has paid for this lackadaisical official attitude has been high. Traffic — and traffic accidents — increased. Children who must use buses to travel to and from their schools have been forced to seek other and less satisfactory transportation — or walk. Retail business in the downtown shopping area has suffered. The entire metropolitan community has been profoundly affected.

A "private affair"? Never.

But has the lesson sunk in?

A Day Of Jubilee At Cape Canaveral

FROM a window over Charlotte it is not hard to picture the jubilee which stretched from Cape Canaveral to the American embassy in Moscow when Pioneer left earth.

We see scientist and technician clambering up in stupor from the gadget-lined dimness of pill-boxes, numb from the long countdown, listening to the sharp withdrawing beam of its signal until the lunar probe should come to grips with gravity and pass beyond it.

And then as the celebration expands into the night we see a tiny band, huddled on the sands and defying across a hoisted suds the chill, indifferent silence, the hidden blackness where gravity is but a feeble tug. Where particles of forgotten stars float without force or destiny. It is the path to the moon. They have defied it. Work remains to be done, calculations to be laid, but man's work has pierced the boundary of ages. *He* has defied gravity as never before.

In the ancient world perhaps it would have been different, but then of course the ancients did not have science in our sense. They were astrologers, moon-watchers, star-gazers, but out of a different impulse. The principles of their science, as when Archimedes found in a bathtub of water in Syracuse how to find alloy in the king's gold crown, or as when Pythagoras pondered geometry in the sand with a stylus, were pedestrian to say the least.

There was a timidity, a drawing-back, a reverence, if you will, for the mysteries of which they were not less aware than we. If they had with impetus defied gravity, and both concepts were hazy to their minds, we suspect it would not have been a time of jubilee. No bowls of wine, we imagine, would have been hoisted in the streets of Syracuse. But in the lanes of Palmyra or Ecbatan doors would be shut and barred and wise men would be searching the entrails of birds for divine portents. They were watchers of the skies, for birds and for the opposition of planets, but they were not scientific enough to watch in jaunty boasting. When they dared to take a secret from the air they did it, we imagine, with trembling.

Musing from a window in Charlotte, we wonder what it would have been like if Archimedes could have walked the sands of Cape Canaveral Saturday, when Pioneer swam almost 80,000 miles into the ether. Could he believe it when they told him? Perhaps. But what when they would tell him, hoisting still more suds against the blackness, that beyond the moon there were planets, and beyond that the sun, and beyond that stars, and beyond that galaxies, hundreds and hundreds of them, where a thousand light years is like a mile, bent back into graceful curves and spirals upon themselves?

It would be too much for the unscientific sensibility of a tired ancient. The old boy would choke with awe and fear and something which told him pride was not quite seemly. And the night air of Cape Canaveral would ring with laughter as the retreating figure was lost to sight over the dunes.

Rare & Memorable Flashes Of Education

IF educators could ever find just what key it is that unlocks the mind to sudden enlightenment their problem would be halfway solved.

Every educational thinker has pointed to the sudden illumination, the flash in the dark, which marks the birth of an insight. Plato did it in his image of the cave, when his learners saw the men rather than shadows flickering on the stone.

Dean of student affairs at Chapel Hill, Fred H. Weaver, was treading familiar ground when he talked of the same moment of truth to freshmen. But he did so in exceptionally fresh terms:

". . . Somewhere along the line something quite remarkable must happen, something so vivid that its impact is unmistakable. Perhaps you will take French literature, and if you *really* understand Voltaire, de Vigny, or Chateaubriand, you will find that you have entered a new realm of thought.

"Perhaps the meaning of 'Dover Beach' will come across to you quite suddenly and you will discover that a poem contains the power to transform. In a right angle triangle the square on the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of squares on the other two legs' you will recite. Possibly one day you will decide that memory is not sufficient authority for knowledge and strive to see the fact as Pythagoras himself saw it writing on the sand. Such experiences are rare and memorable. But they are the promise of learning more than a grade of A, more even than Phi Beta Kappa. John Keats at the very pitch of excitement from reading Chapmans' translation of Homer wrote an ode which expresses the thrill of intelectual discovery.

"Then I felt like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken;
Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes
He star'd at the Pacific — and all his men
Looked at each other with a wild surmise —
Silent, upon a peak in Darien."

Only thing wrong with Dean Weaver's remarks is that they're years out of date. For platonic cave imagine a darkened parlor. For flash in the dark imagine the bluish flicker of channel X. For stout Cortez read Arthur Godfrey.

From The Birmingham News

DON'T BEMOAN THAT DIXIELAND

LO, now comes Dr. Edmond Souchon of the storied old Crescent City to opine that New Orleans jazz is dying.

Dr. Souchon says that too many Negro musicians of the old town are becoming "cerebral" in their music-making. We assume from this that he means they're "thinking" their music instead of just opening up and playing from the heart, from the soul—from wherever it is that jazz really comes.

We are not as despondent as the good doctor. True, as he says, in the ginmills of Bourbon Street the musicians are harried by the tourists nightly to play the same old songs over and over again. But is Dr. Souchon correct in saying that when a tune such as MUSKRAT RAMBLE is played six or eight times an evening something is lost? We certainly hope not.

At any rate we are pleased to note that the jazz hounds of N. O. are soon to hold a real jazz festival, complete with Louis Armstrong and other famous old New Orleans graduates. The date is October and if anyone likes good jazz, then the place to be should not be hard to determine.

Actually, as we get it, the jazz festival to be held there is largely the result of a suggestion by a New Orleans States columnist, Pie Dufour. Mr. Dufour got to thinking along these lines—San Francisco has an annual jazz festival, there's one up East at Newport — but here was New Orleans, commonly conceded to be the birthplace of jazz, and it had no festival. The question was pertinent, and now there is to be one.

We have nothing against festivals, but really they are a kind of lacy addendum to New Orleans jazz. The real jazz is there night after night, as we see it, in the tiny places where the musicians stand or sit and blow on their high stools to the rear of the bartender.

Dr. Souchon is a little too pessimistic for us. We have no doubt that jazz will live in New Orleans forever.

People's Platform — Clark & Jonas: 'Nice Guys' Who Think Alike?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

AIN'T politics grand? I have read the campaign literature of both candidates for Congress in the Tenth District and I have listened to them campaign. Unless I am awful doggone wrong, both gents are saying about the same thing. Where in hades is the difference?

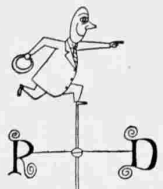
Okay. One is a Republican and one is a Democrat.

But look again. Isn't the Democrat a little Republican in his thinking at times and isn't the Republican a little Democratic at times?

It all adds up to two "nice guys" who think just about alike.

Yawn.

—FRED B. OPPER



Political Forecasters . . .

Washington who kills elephants instead of one who swats at gnats. Let's vote for Dave Clark.

— BILL ROBINSON

Democrats Don't Care About Home Cooking

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I SEE where Charles Raper Jonas has been criticized for sending out cookbooks to his constituents. I don't think it's fair. If he sent out cookbooks it means he really cares about the people and how they eat. The Democrats couldn't care less, I suppose.

—MRS. CHARLES WARD

Wanted: Congressman To Kill Elephants

Lincolnton

Editors, The News:

IF I had served in Congress six years I certainly would hope to have more accomplishment to point to than to have introduced someone else's bill and to have answered a high percentage of quorum calls.

I gather from Congressman Jonas' television speeches that that is all he has to talk about.

A congressman who is conscientiously attending to his committee work and studying the great national problems doesn't spend his time running over to the House to answer every insignificant roll call. I'm sure you'll find that the great figures of both houses of Congress have a low percentage of answering these calls. They're at work on more important business.

Let's send a congressman to Washington who kills elephants instead of one who swats at gnats. Let's vote for Dave Clark.

— BILL ROBINSON

A Check List Of Vital Votes

Lincolnton

Editors, The News:

IT IS a well-known fact that if you cannot have true democracy and secrecy in government at the same time. To keep the freedom the people must know what our government is doing and there are many of us who feel that the so-called top level secrecy is one of the greatest threats to our freedom.

Mr. Jonas must undoubtedly realize the great threat involved in secrecy in government, but what has he done during his six years toward preventing the rapid growth of secrecy in government? During his terms of office the following matters have been before the House of Representatives:

1. Motion to investigate the Federal Open Market Committee's control of credit conditions. This 12-man group acts for the Federal Reserve Board in determining how much the government will help loosen or tighten credit and in determining the price of government bonds. It acts almost entirely independent of any control from Congress or the President. What instigated the motion was the fact that three New York banks had made $26 million profit in one year from dealing in government securities. Mr. Jonas voted against the motion.

2. Resolution to appropriate funds to investigate 17 federal regulatory agencies including the FCC, the SEC and others. This resolution passed and resulted in disclosure of corruption in the FCC and in the entire Goldfine-Adams scandal. Mr. Jonas voted against the resolution.

3. Motion to recommit bill providing standards for government advisory committees including the requirement that minutes of meetings be kept. Mr. Jonas voted for the motion to recommit and thus against the bill.

4. Kennedy-Ives labor bill. This was designed to curb activities of the Becks and the Hoffas by requiring public accountings as to the use of union funds. Mr. Jonas voted against the bill and it was killed in the House though the Senate had voted for it by a vote of 88-1.

I think these facts should be laid before your readers.

—SHELDON M. ROPER

'He's Not My Kind Of Man'

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I HEAR that there was a bill before Congress giving unemployment pay rights to more people that was so good that out of 435 members of the House, only 36 members voted against it, and one of those 36 was our Congressman Jonas.

I had been told Jonas was for the working man, but if he's that hard against unemployment pay, he's not my kind of man.

—JOHN B. HARDIN

Jonas Helped Kill Kennedy-Ives Bill

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I HAVE followed with much interest this year the long Senate committee hearings about union racketeering which exposed Dave Beck and Jimmy Hoffa, and I hoped something could be done about these things.

The committee bill, known as the Kennedy-Ives bill, passed the Senate by a vote of 88-1 and then, to my amazement, was killed in the House, mainly by the votes of Republicans, including our own congressman, Charles Raper Jonas.

I since have learned that Beck and Hoffa are Republicans and contributed heavily to their campaign.

Mr. Jonas need not expect my vote if he's going to run with that crowd.

— ARNOLD E. TARR

One-Party System Not Good For Counties

Iron Station

Editors, The News:

THE statement of David Clark, Tenth District Democratic candidate for Congress, that he isn't campaigning against incumbent Congressman C. R. Jonas, but "against Republicans and the Republican Party," should be right down Mr. Jonas' alley.

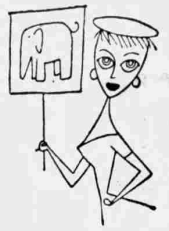
Mr. Clark certainly can't campaign, with honest conscience, in behalf of his "one-party" state, and his "one - party" hometown (Lincolnton) and home county (Lincoln). They've been Democratic-controlled and "run" for long, long years by Clark's own Democratic party. Let him try, if you will, to extoll the so-called progressiveness of his own county. There's little evidence he could produce — whereas touching on all sides of his native Lincoln are counties, with strong two-party systems, that are among the state's most progressive.

Mr. Clark talks of North Carolina's progressiveness — and how it has prospered under the Democrats (Yet, his own legislature, of which he has been a part, can't give the "working" man — which his party claims to be the hero of a 75-cents an hour minimum wage).

But, where's the state's biggest progress been made? It's not in the Democratic - ruled counties. It's where the counties have a strong two-party system. Highway 27 through this community is crowded daily with Lincoln County commuters, going to and from their work in Charlotte and other area towns. Clark's so-called progressive Democratic party produces no jobs or opportunities for them in his home county.

We need a strong two - party North Carolina. We need more Republicans from this state in Washington — not a "one-party" (Democratic) delegation. If that is done, our state will have better representation, benefit in many more ways. Let's keep the best—Jonas—there.

— C. L. REILY



. . . Seem To Disagree

said that he "intends to represent only Democrats."

I think that statements such as the one included in that announcement can only point up the Republican Party's intent to carry on a congressional campaign using exaggerations, half-truths and misstatements, instead of discussing the vital issues which affect all the people of this district.

—WILLIAM SMITH

Democrats Responsible For Social Security

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

HOW silly and foolish can people get?

One man who has been writing letters to the editor in favor of the Republican candidate for Congress says he is for Mr. Jonas because he answers his letters about social security. If this man has sufficient intelligence to know it and sufficient integrity to admit it he would be writing letters of thanks to the Democrats for passing the Social Security Law. Does he not know the Republican Party fought the Social Security Law, tooth and nail, and but for the Democrats he would have to waste his postage for other reasons when he writes to Mr. Jonas?

Furthermore, he can go to the Social Security office at 331 N. Tryon Street and learn more about his Democratic Social Security in ten minutes than he can learn from a whole month's correspondence with Mr. Jonas.

— MRS. G. C. THOMAS JR.

How Jonas Looks After Our Money

Drexel

Editors, The News:

PEOPLE pretty generally know now that our congressman, Charles Raper Jonas, can be counted on to vote against any government appropriaton, no matter how small, that would mean service to the general public. However, a lot of people think this is a good thing because it would save them tax.

What they don't know is that Mr. Jonas is perfectly willing to spend tremendous amounts of government money that will bring no benefit to the public but will go directly into the hands of the great corporations.

I'll give you two examples:

He voted for the version of the highway bill that would have meant that the government pay to the bankers $2.7 billion in absolutely unnecessary interest payments. That amount is twenty-seven hundred million dollars, and it only missed a few votes of passing. How many of his $50 or $75,000 cuts from the services to the average fellow would it take to make up that?

He voted to give away, in exchange for nothing at all, $40 billion worth of off-shore oil land which beyond any doubt belonged to the federal government. This give-away did no good whatever to North Carolina or the Tenth District. Forty Billion dollars is Forty Thousand million dollars. It's too much even to imagine.

I don't think Mr. Jonas has done a very good job of looking after our money, and I think it's about time we took steps toward replacing him.

—J. F. NICHOLSON

'You Call It Advertising, I Call It Indirect Aggression'

Republicans Raised The Federal Debt

Rt. 1, Lincolnton

Editors, The News:

I'M against inflation. It eats away like termites at savings and insurance benefits and it keeps pushing cost of living higher than income.

I think the main reason for inflation is increasing the federal debt.

Mr. Jonas talks against inflation but under the Republican administration, the federal debt has reached an all time peacetime high.

I'm sick of Republicans from the top on down. Let's all vote for David Clark this time.

—MRS. J. W. CHRISTOPHER

Misstatements Not For Campaigns

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

IN a letter to patients and friends announcing a change of office location, a local dentist enclosed a piece of political literature which contained a deliberate misstatement by the Republican Party. It reads in part: "We have a choice for Congress this year between a man who says he will represent the Democratic Party and one who has shown over the past few years that he tries to represent all the people of this district."

As a voter of this district I object to misstatements such as this. David Clark, the Democratic candidate for Congress, has said that he feels the best interests of all the people of this district can be served by Democratic representation in Congress, but at no time has he

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round — Ike's Optimism Is Tempered By Gloom

WASHINGTON

WHEN Chairman Meade Alcorn of the Republican National Committee came out of Eisenhower's conference with Republican leaders he read a strong statement to the press. Newsmen looking at the statement noted that some of the stronger words had been interlineated in longhand, and it was learned afterward that these were penciled in by Vice President Nixon.

Inside the conference, however, Nixon was not as optimistic as the official statement. Nor were other Republican leaders.

'I'll Be There'

The most optimistic member of the group was President Eisenhower himself. He instructed Alcorn to pick the most vital political areas and he added, "I'll be there."

He reminded the GOP conferees that this would be virtually his last opportunity as President to participate in a major election campaign and he intended to make the most of it.

"Aside from wanting to help the party, I have a deep personal interest in this campaign," GOP leaders quoted Ike as saying. "A rebuff at the polls this year would be a reflection on the things I have tried to do, my record, in my years in the White House. I think it has been a pretty good record.

"We are at peace. We have enjoyed the greatest prosperity in history since 1953, except for the recent business slump from which we are rapidly recovering. And despite what some Democratic pessimists have been saying, we have never been as strong defensively in an over-all way, including missile development, as we are today.

Reds Wouldn't Dare

"The Communist nations know this and dare not risk a war against us. I intend to do all I can to remind the American people about the record of my administration before election day."

National Chairman Alcorn radiated some of Ike's optimism. He insisted that the Republicans didn't have too much to worry about. He said the Formosan crisis was abating and that domestic employment again was on an uptrend after the recent recession. Alcorn's optimism, however, wasn't shared by the more realistic politicians at the meeting.

Nixon's Concession

Nixon warned that the Democrats had to be conceded an "edge" at this stage of the campaign. House GOP leader Joe Martin of Massachusetts and Rep. Richard Simpson of Pennsylvania agreed, but said the Democratic advantage could be overcome by aggressive GOP campaigning in the next few weeks.

Overconfidence?

In fact, all the GOP congressional spokesmen at the meeting were of the opinion that Chairman Alcorn was evincing an "overconfidence" comparable to Tom Dewey's in the 1948 presidential campaign. Alcorn was warned, rather pointedly at times, to come down out of the clouds. As Rep. Simpson reportedly expressed it:

"This is a time when we can afford to let the Democrats fall into the error of overconfidence. I'm not making any predictions, but I think we can win or at least hold our own in the coming elections. But it's going to take a lot of hard work."

Bad Memory

Hugh Scott, the delightful congressman from suburban Philadelphia, should have checked his records before going out on the limb so far regarding pardons secured from the Pennsylvania Pardons Board.

When he was embarrassed by disclosure that he had received $2,000 for a 15-minute appearance before the Pardons Board on behalf of ex-convict Nicholas Marcello, and then introduced a private bill for Marcello's admission into the U. S. Scott made an emphatic statement that this was the only time he had appeared before the board.

Earlier Case

But the dapper GOP congressman from Philadelphia, now running for the Senate, has a bad memory. For the Pardons Board records show that he also appeared in 1949, when his friend Jim Duff was still governor, and made a plea for Leon Hellner, sentenced to eight to sixteen years for stealing $320,000 worth of alcohol in 1946. The congressman had additional prestige then, because he was Republican national chairman. He got Hellner's sentence reduced from eight to four years.

Hugh really should be more careful about his memory.

Conflict Of Interest?

Note — Justice Department officials were asked whether a grand jury would be called to examine the apparent conflict of interest on the part of Congressman Scott in receiving a $2,000 fee from Marcello in the pardon case, then introducing a private bill for him. Justice Department officials refused to comment.