

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## A Classic Example Of Twin Absurdities

THE imaginary line separating Charlotte from "rural" Mecklenburg had the local legal fraternity deep in a familiar tither today.

A speaker caught on the city's side of the boundary is liable to court costs of \$13. If he is nabbed on the other side he gets a bargain rate of \$7.30.

The reason is quite simple. The location of the arrest determines the court in which the defendant will be tried. Court costs in City Recorder's Court are \$7.30 more than they are in County Recorder's Court.

But that's not fair, say some Mecklenburg lawyers. Consequently, the legislative committee of the 29th General Assembly is giving "preliminary study" to proposals that the charges be equalized.

Unfortunately, there is no simple solution. If county costs are raised simply to agree with city costs the County Revenues Commission would have to raise a court's costs in City Recorder's Court. The theory is widely held in legal circles that costs should merely reflect the cost of operating the court and nothing more.

### WHAT emerges is a classic example of twin absurdities:

1—A sprawling metropolitan center with a single community of interest permitting itself to be divided illogically by an imaginary "city limits" line. This suggests the need for early consideration of a metropolitan government plan for Mecklenburg.

2—The chaotic nature of North Carolina's loosely defined court "system." This suggests the need for the adoption of the Bell Committee's recommendations for a unified judiciary.

A metropolitan government in Mecklenburg may have to wait a bit. But work can begin on a unified court system in the 1959 General Assembly.

There is nothing unique about the variation in court costs hereabouts. North Carolina is full of this kind of thing. In criminal cases the basic costs vary from \$7.30 in Mecklenburg's county court to \$20 in another, to \$28.5 in another, to \$10 in another, to \$10.50 in another, to \$11 in another, to \$12 in another, to \$13 in another, to \$13.50 in another, to \$14

in another, to \$14.20 in another, to \$16 in another, to \$16.15 in another, to \$16.30 in another, to \$17 in another, to \$17.50 in another, to \$18 in another, to \$18.20 in another, to \$18.45 in another, to \$19.45 in another, to \$20 in another, to \$20.95 in another, to \$22.50 in another, to \$24.10 in another and to \$25.80 in another.

In civil cases the costs range from \$4.50 upward, with a wide variation.

MANY lower courts are frankly being used as revenue-producing agencies. This means, according to the Bell Committee, that these courts, far from being an organ of government provided for the peace and stability of the community, are instruments of selective taxation. They select those who need the judicial services of our society as appropriate subjects for special taxation. This tends to violate an essential principle of judicial administration—that justice should be made available to every man at the lowest possible cost.

The extreme variation in the costs of North Carolina's local courts is one of the factors that convinced the Bell Committee that structural as well as administrative changes are needed in the system. Consequently, it has recommended that all local courts—courts below the Superior Courts—be replaced by uniform systems of district courts throughout the state. The district courts would operate under the administrative supervision of the Administrative Office of the Courts. At the head of the system would be the chief justice of the Supreme Court. Through appropriate administrative machinery the local courts would become responsible parts of a unified court, rather than autonomous units of a loosely defined "system."

THIS is a part of what Mecklenburg Sen. J. Spencer Bell and his colleagues have proposed in their comprehensive program of court reform. It is a bold but wholly practical plan to rid the judiciary of the kind of administrative chaos Mecklenburg and other counties have been experiencing. Its adoption is absolutely necessary to the progress and well being of North Carolina.

## Has Meany Sipped Too Much Kickapoo?

WE suspect AFL-CIO president George Meany had been sippin' too often on kickapoo joy juices when he brandished a labor-party threat before the New York union meeting.

"Labor is going to be just as political as it has to be to win its objectives," Meany said—even if that meant the unprecedented "next step" of forming a political party.

Now those are mighty strong words, even given the fact that the labor chiefs took a good-sized collection of scalps in the late congressional election. The urges to solidify into a party have failed American labor in the past, due to the way the American party system works, the federal nature of the government, and not least to the fact that labor has voted conservative as often as liberal and refuses to be typed, like European counterparts, as permanently "working class."

The disturbing element is the growing rancoriness of the clash between big labor and big business. No doubt Mr. Meany's disgust at big business' reluctance to give labor any credit at all for wanting to better its lot is justified.

But equally justified may be the fears about how that labor, in its political caps, is losing sight of any conception of public responsibility. For instance, the selfishness of die-hard "right-to-work" proponents can breed equal selfishness on the labor side. It is up to men like Mr. Meany to be on guard against it—not to aggravate it with silly threats.

Mr. Meany spoke of labor's "objectives" if he is really serious about an American labor party, he might well confer with some of the disillusioned men of the British Labor Party—who have learned of late the shattering emptiness of economic gain with no public-mindedness.

## 'How To Sholve The Pea Shurplush'

WE have Greensboro's Burke Davis to thank for the week's most disconcerting news.

He reports that the nation is faced with the largest pea crop on record and passes along this S-O-S from the National Canned Pea Council.

"All it takes is for every household in the nation to eat five more cans of peas in the next few months and away

goes the surplus... Try one in your next vodka martini."

Figuring one pea to a vodka martini, we'd estimate that the American public would have to drink 412,500,000,000 cocktails in the next few months to take care of the surplus and make the National Canned Pea Council happy.

But who'd be sober enough to care?

From The Reporter

### THE REASONABLE FACSIMILE

"And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

THE sensible practice of settling differences between opponents by putting one champion from each side into the ring certainly did not begin with David and Goliath, but unfortunately it ended in the Middle Ages with the slaughter of armies no longer seen to satisfy us, and we are now equipped to wipe out whole regions of unarmed civilians with the ingenious improvements we have made on David's sling.

And yet perhaps technology offers the best hope of returning to the sort of primitive man-against-man warfare that at least had the advantage of leaving some survivors to enjoy their victory or bewail their defeat. The Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island has a gadget called the Navy Electronic Warfare Simulator—NEWS for short—that "can simulate both sides of a contest with rapidly changing developments covering an entire ocean." According to an Associated Press dispatch, "These grim games can bring into play every conceivable weapon and weapon carrier, both conventional and nuclear, with speeds ranging up to 20,000 miles an hour... Two hundred men in command capsules—divided into enemy and friendly forces—can work simultaneously on a battle problem." Given certain weapons and certain strategies, the gadgets can calculate the probable death list to within a negligible margin of error.

It makes you think, doesn't it? "Well, gentlemen," the Secretary General might say after an early morning veto in the Security Council, "it would appear that we have no choice but to refer the entire question to the dat processing devices." Why go to the bother and mess of "overkilling," as the experts call it, half the population of the globe if an electronic brain sitting off in a dark room will do the dat processing device. It would turn out anyway? The generals could have all the fun of barking out orders for a daring flank attack and all the embarrassment of seeming bit wiped out by a well-placed tactical A-bomb. But the covering an entire ocean? Really? Some blips on a radar screen and nobody—not even Goliath—would get hurt.

# The Ruthless Russians Are Closing In On All Sides

By JOSEPH ALSOP

THE foreign minister in PARIS Wednesday met in a meeting under the aegis of a new Soviet offensive on all fronts considerably worse than the offensives launched by Josef Stalin. The menace to Berlin, which is the all-absorbing topic here, is only another, particularly ugly chapter in a long, somber story.

Very few people in America have grasped the essential facts, partly because Nikita Khrushchev bubbles over with jolly bonhomie between thrusts at our vitals, and partly because Secretary Dulles has exiled our best qualified analysts of Soviet behavior. The sharpest American eyes are in Manila or elsewhere, so we have been half blind to the threats that are too big and too black to escape notice any longer.

### THE BEGINNING

The beginning of the new Soviet offensive may be roughly dated from the summer of 1957, after the defeat of Khrushchev's enemies of the so-called "anti-party group." The first incident was the Syrian coup d'etat, organized by the Kremlin with the help of its unsavory Syrian agent, former Defense Minister Khalid Hamdan.

This little-understood but crucial coup in Syria had two altogether novel aspects. First, it revealed the adoption of a new and more aggressive Kremlin line in the Arab lands. Second, it was the first step in a series of military menaces of a previously unprecedented character. Khrushchev charged that Turkey was thinking about reacting to the coup d'etat by invading Syria—and there was good foundation for this charge that appeared at the time. He readily remarked that he "wished for once he again had access to all the intelligence, because he was puzzled by Khrushchev's remark, which struck a really new and very alarming note."

### NEX T CLIMAX

The coup d'etat in Iraq provided the next climax. Once again, Khrushchev freely and violently talked of resorting to military measures. His menace continued until he was sure that the relatively meaningless Western troop-landings in Lebanon and Jordan were not the first phase of an attack on the new Iraqi government. That incident was the thinking about reacting to the Western policy in the Middle East in Iraq.

### WESTERN DIPLOMACY

## 'The Air Is Stale'

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON

IT was evident from the beginning, that is to say since the first Soviet note on Thanksgiving Day, that the proposal about Berlin could not be accepted by the Western powers. The position of West Berlin as an island deep inside the Soviet zone of occupation is indeed, as Mr. Khrushchev insists, "abnormal."

But this abnormality derives from the fact that Berlin, the whole of it, was in the past and is bound again in the future to be the capital, not of East Germany or West Germany, but of a reunited Germany. The Western right and the Western obligations in Berlin rest firmly on this obligation to restore Berlin as the capital of Germany.

### ABNORMAL DIVISION

The present situation of West Berlin is abnormal because the present division of Germany is abnormal. There is no way in which the situation can be normalized except by the reunification of Germany. Until that is accomplished—the Western allies are bound, as they have just said once more in Paris, to maintain their presence in Berlin. If they are to maintain their presence, they must have free access to West Berlin by road, rail, water, and air.

The crucial question then is whether the future of Berlin can be discussed separately from the reunification of Germany. It is what Khrushchev seems to be proposing—or only as part of the negotiations for an all-German settlement—where our position. The problem of the statesmen is to find some way of building a bridge of negotiation between these two positions.

### PRESTIGE AT STAKE

If this can be done at all under present conditions, it will come from the unwillingness of either side to let a collision with military violence take place around Berlin. But both sides have now gone very far in staking their prestige. Assuming that they can agree on how the government hands over its powers to the East German government, the avoidance of a collision will depend on how Moscow instructs the East Germans to exercise their powers. Moscow knows that a blockading of Berlin free access to West Berlin, will be resisted by the West. The question is whether East German officials will in fact use those powers to interfere with the free access to West Berlin.

The time has not yet come for the Western powers to form a common policy for the reunification of Germany. There are too many high places who do not really want a reunified Germany, and there are few, in any, in whom they are willing to pay the price of reunification. The air in the room in which we live is stale, and the time has not yet come to bet on the future. If one had to bet, it would be I think, that on our side at least we shall not take the initiative and shall simply stand firm where we are, leaving the initiative to the Russians.

### Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IT looks as if Sherman Adams would also be on Bernard Goldfine's Christmas list this year.

While Adams is busy writing his memoirs in his quiet New Hampshire home, the New England industrialist who Adams claimed as one of his dearest friends is having all sorts of trouble with the courts, with Internal Revenue and with Congress. The power inside the White House that once protected him is gone.

### A Sneaking Suspicion

More than this, a sneaking suspicion has crossed the mind of the Atomic Energy Commission's chief manufacturer, according to his friends, that maybe Adams was looking out for himself during the congressional hearings.

### Conflicting Advice

Remembering that when he first hired Edward Bennett Williams, the noted trial lawyer, to defend him, he got a call from Adams telling him to hire Roger Robb, who is close to the White House, had defended several conflict-of-interest cases involving high-up administration officials, had



Kennan, Dulles, Nasser and Khrushchev: Between Thrusts At Our Vitals, Jolly Bonhomie

vading Syria—and there was good foundation for this charge that appeared at the time. He readily remarked that he "wished for once he again had access to all the intelligence, because he was puzzled by Khrushchev's remark, which struck a really new and very alarming note."

### NASSER CHALLENGED

In the few weeks since this reporter was in Iraq, the Communists seem to have strengthened their grip on that unhappy country to a point that is likely to be fatal. This is the new Kremlin line for the Arab lands—to have the Communists take over themselves wherever possible, if need be in open opposition to Gamal Abdel Nasser's Arab nationalists. In Iraq, the Nasserites have been jailed by the score. There is no military risk, of course, in this new Communist line in the Middle East.

die East in utter, irremediable ruins. There followed the grab for Qemoy, the first open aggression anywhere since Jordan. The firm line of Secretary Dulles caused the grab for Qemoy to be frustrated in the end, after a good many breathless weeks. But the fact that the offshore islands are now being shelled only every other day should not distract attention from the extraordinary signs of growing Soviet boldness in other areas.

### POLITICAL AVALANCHES

In part, one suspects, the Kremlin's Middle Eastern gamble is based on the new Berlin gamble. For Nasser will never break with his Soviet friends if the Western powers finally surrender at Berlin. This kind of shattering and terrible Western defeat, if it is permitted, will surely start a whole series of political avalanches. The avalanches will occur not only in the Middle East, but also in the Far East, in Africa, and no doubt in South America, too, not to mention Europe itself.

But it is nonetheless amazingly daring to offer this kind of political challenge to the unopposed leader of Arab nationalism, the most powerful figure among all the Arabs, Egypt's Nasser. The daring is underlined by the fact that the Kremlin plainly expects Nasser to ignore the challenge, and to go on helpfully attacking the remaining Western positions in those parts of the Arab world where the Communists are not yet strong enough to act alone.

### DISTURBING SPECTACLE

That is the record. It is a pretty disturbing record, and the spectacle of the worried huddle of foreign ministers here does not tend to be calming, either. What is a little calming is the memory of the final outcome at Qemoy. Yet the record says, very loudly and clearly that the Soviets are now acting in the belief that the military balance of power has sharply shifted in their favor. And the record further says that a period of acute danger will be the smallest price to be paid for the budget-first American defense planning of the last six years.

## 'Courage, Dear Boy—C'est La Guerre, Y'Know'



## People's Platform

### Snow Is A Sight Beyond Compare

Charlotte

THE deep white snow has become a reality again in most of North Carolina.

The brilliant whiteness and the millions of white diamonds make it a sight beyond compare. But when we think of the poor who

are in need of food, fuel and clothes, it takes on a new aspect. Here snow is a blessing.

Snow cleans the atmosphere as it falls and makes our air much cleaner and purer. Truly, God understood what it took to make for the welfare of our people. Cold weather kills bugs that would feed on our trees and crops.

—JAMES W. JEWELL

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Goldfine's Christmas List Is Slimmer

IT looks as if Sherman Adams would also be on Bernard Goldfine's Christmas list this year.

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been in effect, the attorney for Adm. Lewis Strauss when the latter was head of the Atomic Energy Commission was Goldfine followed Adams' advice.

Then he found that Robb's advice was contrary to his Boston attorney's advice. Subsequently Robb published a copy of his confidential memo to his client, which some attorneys considered highly unusual.

All this has caused Goldfine to go back to his original choice—lawyer Edward Bennett Williams, who is close to all his happy about his old friend, Sherman Adams.

### Khrushchev's Missiles

Internal reason why President Eisenhower did not challenge the Khrushchev statement to Sen. Humphrey that Russia had a nuclear arsenal of 8,000 missiles was because CIA Director Allen Dulles had already reported this to the White House.

Dulles' radar tracking stations in Turkey had tracked two tests of these long-range missiles as they plunged into the Black Sea.

### Jets Out Of Date?

Khrushchev, incidentally, not only bragged about the missiles but also planned to send Humphrey that Russia

### American 'Spies'

The Soviet Chief Spies along the same lines to Eric Johnston, head of the motion picture producers, when they talked together on the Black Sea in October.

With both Johnston and Humphrey he was bitter against American planes flying over the Soviet-Armenian border. He claims they were spying.

"When a man pulls down the blinds of his house," said Khrushchev, "his neighbor does not come peeping through those blinds. Whenever we catch one of your planes doing this we will shoot them down."

### Washington Pipeline

Gov. Faubus has been holding secret strategy meetings with close friends in the prospect of organizing a third party in the South. His friends report that

### Friendship Bricks

Generous contributions continue to come in for the Clinton, Tenn., schoolhouse to rebuild it as a monument for law and order. The National Bureau for Lathing and Plastering and the Tennessee State Bureau for Lathing and Plastering will contribute all those materials and supervise the work for the bombed-out portion of the school... The General Shale Products Corporation of Johnson City, Tenn., Glen Bruce and George Selby, executives, is giving 15,000

he's intrigued with the idea of stalemating the Electoral College and throwing the entire 1960 presidential election into the House of Representatives... Atomic scientists have temporarily abandoned their plan to house a hydrogen bomb to excavate a harbor in northern Alaska, near Cape Thompson. They're afraid the blast might kill too many fish or even create a tidal wave. However, they are going ahead with plans for an underground blast inside a New Mexico salt dome. They hope to contain the atomic explosion within the mound and use the energy released from the mound to operate a power plant.