THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Anonymous Government Is A Bad Joke

The biennial buffoonery of "anonymous government" was re-enacted by the General Assembly's joint appropriations subcommittee this week but nobody even giggled.

That's a shame for this is one of the most elaborate jokes in the history of the republic and it has added comic relief to the goings-on in Raleigh for years.

"Anonymous government" was invented in 1955 when the press and public complained mightily about being locked out of the subcommittee's deliberations on the budget.

"We'll have no truck with legislative secrecy," proclaimed the honorables proudly. "We'll invite newsmen in and let them report anything they see or hear. All we ask is that they not identify anybody present or, more especially, that they not connect the names of real people with anything said during discussions of the public's business."

Thus was born a highly ingenious and subtle rule of unreason by which servants of the people can keep their masters from knowing what most concerns their pocketbooks.

Rep. Carl Venters of Onslow frankly confessed this week that he didn't want some folks to know how he votes in subcommittee because legislators would be "put to terrific pressure" by citizens who might object to their votes. Ah, yes. That sort of interference would be a bother.

Of course, with the doors wide open, there is nothing to prevent a stray citizen from wandering in, jotting down a few direct quotations and then hustling out again to inform his friends and neighbors. He just mustn't be a newspaper reporter. If he's one of those, he's officially gagged.

This possibility could be prevented by having the legislators wear Klan hoods, Halloween masks or false whiskers. Or all deliberations could be carried on in a darkened room. Or the sergeant-at-arms could be stationed at the door and admit only deaf-mutes, Tibetan monks and citizens wearing blindfolds. Discussions might even be carried on in Hindustani, Creole French or Gullah, although a dead language would be somewhat safer.

The point is that if foolishness is to be raised to the status of official policy let's go all the way. And if the General Assembly is going to make a game out of keeping the public's business from the public let's at least make the game as entertaining as possible. The present system is merely impertinent, makes for irresponsible reporting and leads to farcical deceptions which the public should not tolerate.

The Better Teacher: A State Of Mind

A special legislature committee has tackled an admittedly difficult task, that of finding a method to uncover the "better teachers" of this state so that they may profit salary-wise.

Such a program, the House group added, would supplement the current factors in pay—educational background and experience.

The group stated its aims before the North Carolina Education Association, and assumed "no funds for increased teacher salaries in addition to those already recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission can be obtained unless some means is found of rewarding the better teachers . . ."

That is the heart of the assignment, but the committee has run into trouble with its opening gambit.

What is a better teacher?

We submit that no battery of tests, no brain panning for the golden glow, will come up with the basic answer.

For instance:

How angry is she going to become with the mischievous? With the slow learner? With the bright but bored?

Can she appear to sparkle every day, even when bills outrun her salary?

Does she have the practical approach, that knack of being able to wedge fast knowledge?

Can she improvise, leave the book and serve students by delving into their world for answers?

Does she criticize in a positive manner, rebuke without hurt and constantly throw down a challenge?

The approach to learning, the transmission of ideas, the projection of personality are all part of it.

These are ideals perhaps, and some can be obtained with experience. But the heart of the teacher is something which will not appear in any testing program. It can be found only in the student who is prepared for the next day or the next grade. It is in the child who is happy to be taught, constantly interested and eager for the next step.

This is the better teacher, all these things and many more.

She may go unrewarded, because it is difficult to convey of one's self to an IBM computer or by the written word.

It will remain in a job well done to satisfaction of performance and the knowledge that she has, in some mystic way, communicated with young minds.

A Cheer For The Ports Of Tarheelia

Admittedly, we're not quite sure of the reasons involved, but we're happy to note that this state was the only one of the six southeastern customs districts reporting a rise in exporting during 1958.

Certainly, some of the credit must go to improved facilities, a hustling program by the Ports Authority and emphasis by this state to promote its coast.

The Department of Commerce reported North Carolina's gain in value of exports handled went from $65.8 million in 1957 to $87 million last year. This also cut the difference in the lead South Carolina enjoys. The Palmetto state slid from $143.7 million to $115.7 million in the same time period.

Import-wise, the region made a good showing, where the Carolinas and Georgia listed gains. But in total trading the regional trend was downward, with Florida reporting a slight gain. The Tar Heel state again reversed this trend, with a 29 per cent advance over 1957. Total business in '58 touched $150.3 million. South Carolina dropped to $191.6 million.

This, of course, is not to be construed as state-by-state competition. The district runs in a rough crescent to New Orleans, and it will be many months of lunar eclipses before any regional port could match business with the Bayou people.

This is, however, a cheer for North Carolina's ports for their rise while others floundered. This state may never catch New Orleans in total tonnage, but it doesn't hurt at all to affix a goal on a distant star.

Onward And Upward

"An American labor official today called for high-caliber labor leadership with 'the best features of West Point, a theological seminary and ward politics'."
—**Press release from the Fund for the Republic.**

That's all we need.

From The Wall Street Journal

A LESSON IN AIR FORCE TACTICS

The canard, uttered in some military quarters that Air Force officers are only fly-boys deficient in such higher things as strategy and tactics can finally be put to rest by their brilliant success in the battle of Colorado Springs.

Congress, you may recall, gave the Air Force $136.9 million to build an academy. The air generals considered this inadequate to give them the magnificent plant they wanted. Problem: How to rout Congress and capture a bigger appropriation.

It was brilliantly solved by taking the $136.9 million and building, first off, a set of dormitories that turned the Army and Navy green with envy. Then they installed such vital military equipment as a $3 million sports field house, a $500,000 club for noncommissioned officers, 22 garden pools, 18 basketball courts, a $5.1 million social center (including two ballrooms), an 18-hole golf course and a $53,642 lavatory for visitors, such as congressmen.

So by the time the money ran out, they had everything but an airfield on which to teach the budding air officers how to fly.

Now even an Army strategist can see how hopeless the Air Force's position would have been had they built things in reverse order. If the Officer in Tactical Command of Spending had built the airfield first and then wanted extra money to build garden pools, golf courses and $53,000 washrooms — well, even the most liberal of the spending senators would have clipped the Air Force's wings.

But now Congress is right where the Air Force can zero in. Here's this wonderful academy, showplace of the Rockies, full of future officers being trained by the country to fly. And there are facilities for teaching them everything—but flying.

How many congressmen, do you suppose, can stand up and say they will be so niggardly in defense of their country as to refuse to appropriate a few more millions needed to let a flying academy teach flying?

There's one cheerful note in all this. We are pretty confident now that the Russians haven't got a chance against the strategic planning of our Air Force operations staff.

Judging from the speed with which the Senate approved an extra $48 million to speed manned flight above the stratosphere, it looks like we're not going to have any vacuum in our space program.
—New Orleans States and Item.

---TWO VIEWS OF THE ROCKEFELLER PHENOMENON---

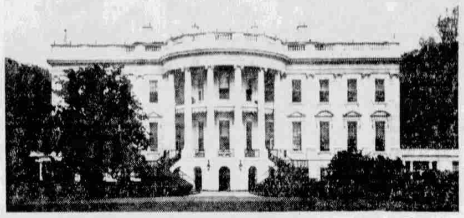
He Will Seek Nomination With Willkie-Style Fervor

By JOSEPH ALSOP

NEW YORK

Gov. Nelson Rockefeller is seraphically non-committal when he is asked questions about his plans for 1960. He is emphatic on one point, that he will not leave New York State for any political purpose until the end of 1959; but he will not look further ahead, to the year when many people expect him to fight Vice President Nixon for the Republican presidential nomination.

When a politician is giving such a splendid imitation of an amiable oyster, it is probably unfair as well as imprudent to try to read a meaning into his taciturnity. All the same, this reporter is prepared to offer a tentative forecast of the course Rockefeller will follow.



The White House: Is The Prize Worth The Toil?

HARD DECISIONS

Past performance helps the political handicapper even more than the fellows who work for the race tracks; and it's forecast is based on Rockefeller's past performance. In the glamour of the final Rockefeller victory over Averell Harriman, too many people have forgotten that the New York governorship race looked neither easy nor tempting when Rockefeller decided to enter it. The way Rockefeller made this hard decision of the past indicates the way he is likely to make the hard decision that lies ahead.

In brief, Rockefeller went into the governorship race like a bold gambler, but like the kind of bold gambler who is careful even in his boldness. He decided in advance that it was worth challenging Harriman if the odds weren't more than three to two. He then financed an extremely comprehensive state-wide poll. The poll, taken early in the summer of 1956, showed that if a Harriman-Rockefeller election could have been held the next morning, Harriman would get 60 per cent of the vote and Rockefeller would have got 40 per cent.

HOW IT HAPPENED

Rockefeller remarked at the time that a single percentage point more for Harriman would have dissuaded him from making the race. The polls' result, in fact, indicated the heaviest adverse odds that he was willing to accept. On this basis, he took the final decision to enter the race, with results that made political history.

If you weigh the implications of this remarkable story, you will see why the friends of the vice president are being much too optimistic about Gov. Rockefeller's intentions. As suggested in a previous report, it is perfect nonsense to say that "Nelson Rockefeller won't seek the Republican nomination in 1960, because he will want to wait until 1964." On the contrary, one can be reasonably confident Gov. Rockefeler will seek the 1960 nomination with all the fervor and enthusiasm of Wendell Willkie in 1940—but only if careful tests suggest that he has a reasonable chance to get the nomination.

BUCKING THE ODDS

Everything will depend on those advance tests, for Rockefeller is no Stassen or Kefauver, ready to begin running for the presidency whenever a bell rings, like one of Pavlov's dogs. But a fight for delegates is very different from an appeal to the New York electorate. Hence Rockefeller will probably be ready to buck the odds even more boldly in 1960 than in 1958. It is a fair guess that he will attempt a Willkie-style candidacy if he thinks he has one chance in three of being nominated.

The question about Rockefeller's future, in short, is really a question about what the Republican odds will be in January and February of 1960. That question, in turn, divides into at least four sub-questions, as follows:

IKE AND THE POLLS

First, will President Eisenhower be willing to use all the resources of the White House in support of Vice President Nixon? The vice president has invited such support by gagging down his doubts about such major issues as the defense program. Yet the answer is probably in the negative.

Second, will the public opinion polls have created the impression that "Nixon is a loser"? No one can say, but this is what the vice president fears most.

Third, will Nixon already have iron-clad commitments for a majority of the potential Republican delegates? Again, the answer is probably in the negative, although Nixon is working hard and skillfully to this end.

Fourth, will Rockefeller's performances in the New York governorship look impressive and attractive? One can only say that Rockefeller is laboring day and night to turn in a good performance. And as one reviews the four questions, one must conclude that Rockefeller's final decision is most likely to be determined by the answer to question number two above.

He's The Hottest Political Property Since Roosevelt

By MARQUIS CHILDS

NEW YORK

Nelson Rockefeller is the hottest thing on the political stock exchange since Franklin Roosevelt.

Elected governor of New York by a majority of more than a half-million votes last November against the Democratic tide, he has ever since been concentrating on pushing a program for the state covering every field of public service. Trying to avoid even the semblance of running for the Republican presidential nomination next year, Rockefeller has until recently gone so far as to refuse to see political reporters from Washington for the customary "background" talk.

Now that first bar is down. A parade of correspondents is filing in and out of Rockefeller's office here and in Albany. This is the man who has built the better political mouse trap and the path to his door will be well worn from here until next July.

GREAT ADVANTAGE

What he wants to talk about is his program for New York State—the dire necessities that led him to risk his popularity by getting the Republican legislature to adopt $280 million in new taxes, his labor reform bill that got almost unanimous support in Senate and House, his proposal for compulsory major medical insurance, the commission to plan a revision of the state's entire tax structure, slum clearance, urban renewal, unemployment.

He talks frankly about what a very great advantage his wealth is both in politics and in government. If he wants to reach out and get an expert in one field or another he can supplement a government salary with various kinds of help out of his own pocket. One of the things he's proudest of is the number of men of special skill and ability he has brought into government.

Since last November he has turned down nearly 400 requests to speak outside the state. Many of these have been high level — before conventions and national groups. He says he will continue to turn down such requests through the current year.

CAUTIOUS TYPE

As to next year, Rockefeller displays the politician's caution. He does not want to discuss the possibility of his nomination for president and the fight he would have to make in the presidential primaries to take the prize from Vice President Nixon.

But anyone can see with half an eye that this newcomer to the game of politics is in the middle of events that he may not be able to control even if he should want to. When Democrats talk frankly they say that Rockefeller would be an unbeatable candidate in '60. They believe, too, or they profess to believe, that the nomination of Nixon is the one thing that could unity the Democratic Party, bringing all elements together behind whatever Democratic candidate.

LIKE A DUCK

Despite the polls, despite the overwhelming preference of the Republican pros for Nixon, that is the political configuration.

Having at the age of 50 jumped into the river, braving an element alien to his whole background, Rockefeller is today like a powerful swimmer in midstream. He cannot turn back, he must go on. And in that fine, old expression he has taken to it like a duck to water.

'Aren't You Big Enough To Have A Key Of Your Own?'

People's Platform

Smith Won't Do

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

Your lead editorial on Monday, April 20, started with four magnificent paragraphs. They were enough to send a devoted Charlottean's spirits racing. Unfortunately, those spirits came to a jarring, grinding halt and went into painful reverse with your endorsement of Mayor Smith.

I do not take issue with your support of the four gentlemen running for City Council under the banner of "Citizens for Better Government." Good luck to them! However, what leads you to believe that their election will transform Mr. Smith into the dynamic, forceful leader you describe as our need?

The past two years have been a complete vacuum in mayoral leadership. The conduct of our city's business has been inept and uninspired. The only breath of fresh air in an otherwise stodgy record has been provided by Martha Evans.

You're right — we do need progressive, imaginative leadership in the fateful years ahead. So let's look at the record because the past is a clue to the future. On that record Mrs. Evans is the only sensible choice for a city which needs the best brains and the greatest ingenuity to fulfill its destiny.

—DAVID HOFFMAN

MRS. MARTHA EVANS
A Breath Of Fresh Air

One Race Needed Some New Blood

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

Why is it that a city the size of Charlotte can't dig up more and better candidates for mayor? The voters actually do not have the opportunity to select any new blood for this important office this year because both the candidates have been at the City Hall for years.

Mr. Smith has been mayor and Mrs. Evans has been a member of the City Council. What we needed was somebody new who could take over and run things differently for a change. Instead we have the same old faces.

I am glad that all those other people are running for the City Council. At least, we can have a change in that race.

—JULIAN FOSTER

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Whisky Salesman Influenced ABA

WASHINGTON

Most people don't know it but one of the biggest whisky salesmen in the U. S. was behind the American Bar Association's censure of the U. S. Supreme Court. The censure was adopted Feb. 24, and caused a record number of lawyers to resign from the bar association. It also prompted the Civil Liberties Union to issue a blistering blast against the ABA.

Paralysis?

The whisky salesman is Louis B. Nichols, former press relations expert for J. Edgar Hoover and now executive vice president of Schenley Distillers. Nichols served on the bar association's special committee on Communist tactics, strategy and objectives, which claimed that Supreme Court decisions had caused "paralysis" in the prosecution of Communists and subversives.

Little Experience

It is now learned that several members of the ABA's special committee disagreed with Nichols but his resolution finally prevailed.

An interesting fact about Nichols is that he has had little experience as a lawyer. He got a law degree in 1934, the same year he entered the FBI. In 1951, the same year he left the FBI as public relations expert for J. Edgar Hoover, he became right-hand man to Lewis S. Rosenstiel, chairman of Schenley Distillers.

As such he has operated one of the biggest whisky empires in the world, including Associated Kentucky Distillers, Affiliated Distillers Brands of New York, Blatz Brewing Co. of Wisconsin, Canadian Schenley Limited, Canadian Melrose Distillers of Canada, John McNaughton of Quebec, Quebec Distillers, Ltd., Dubonnet Wine Corporation of New York, Joseph S. Finch & Co., Norex Laboratories of Delaware, Old Charter Distillery Co., Schenley Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Seager, Evans & Co., Ltd., of London, together with Carioco Rum of Puerto Rico.

Huge Success

Nichols and Schenley have had a phenomenal success in fields other than the law. It sold half a billion dollars worth of liquor in 1957 and accumulated by last year a total surplus of $225 million. But just what Nichols knows about law is difficult to ascertain.

Some attorneys critical of the American Bar Association suggest that if Nichols had not been so vigorous in pushing Schenley's whisky sales the Supreme Court would have less crime to rule on.

There's A Reason

Note—Schenley has a reason to be vengeful toward the Supreme Court. By a unanimous decision it recently decreed that four Schenley subsidiaries would have to face criminal antitrust proceedings for conspiracy to fix liquor prices. The Schenley subsidiaries contended that they had dissolved, but the Supreme Court held this, in effect, was a dodge and they were subject to criminal prosecution anyway.