THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Docs Should Leave Textbooks Alone

Of all the sacred cows in the academic pasture, textbooks are probably least worth their halos.

But really. They couldn't be as bad as we are being told they are by many non-academic groups—most recently the North Carolina Medical Society at its Asheville meeting.

The society, in a committee report adopted by its House of Delegates, calls members to arms at local and state levels against "a propaganda line undermining respect for the Constitution . . . that socialism affords the only solution to our economic problems . . . creating) the impression that reform is possible only by establishing a new social order . . ." This "radical and objectionable" line of propaganda is reputedly being drilled into the unwitting minds of North Carolina's youth by public school sociology and history books.

And all of a sudden, the doctors have come raging from their complacency to stamp out the menace.

We could be more enthusiastic for the society's crusade if it had urged the outright abolition of high school texts and the substitution of documents and standard, scholarly works of commentary. At the higher planes of education, the textbook has a limited place at best. It is too often the cumbersome crutch of the spoon-fed mind, often ill-written, often thrust upon the student to fill the gaping hole left where better books and methods have been abandoned.

Hastily conceived? Inaccurate and disputable? Probably, in many cases. But subversive? That we question.

Much of the stylish attack in the U. S. today on American history textbooks (for example) mimics the work of an Indiana pedant by the name of Prof. E. Merrill Root. Dr. Root has set himself up as a pontiff on the "proper" interpretation of American history. If a given book diverges from his own ideas about history, he blacklists it as subversive and totalitarian or worse. For him and for the self-appointed vigilantes who are his followers there is no complexity in the unraveling of history or sociology. No historical event has more than one legitimate interpretation—which leads one to wonder why the original participants ever split into factions in the first place.

Dr. Root's messianic task is one which it would dignify the doctors to stay out of. No doubt they would flare up angrily if the National Education Association, also their target at Asheville, suddenly resolved to purge certain standard medical texts. Books are of public concern. But their merit or demerit must finally be left to the experts to judge, just as the delicate task of interpreting history calls for the sure touch of trained historians.

If school texts are subversive, who are the subversives who are foisting them on us and our children? Are they members of the State Textbook Commission? Are they schoolteachers? Absurd, of course. But if the constitutional system is being undermined by subtle and alien teachings someone is responsible. By implication, the indiscriminate attacks on textbooks hold the hard-laboring teachers and schools of the state up to derision and imputations of disloyalty.

This 'Happy Warrior' Can Still Serve

No banquet is complete without a ghost. One who will serve quite nicely for the new City Council's round of merrymaking is Herbert H. Baxter.

He was one of several victims of the public's yearning for a new order of things at City Hall. Consequently, a long record of continuous service in municipal affairs is being abruptly interrupted.

In politics, no orderly upheaval qualifies as tragedy. Mr. Baxter, in fact, will exit laughing. But it will not be the same at City Hall without him.

For years, Herb Baxter was Charlotte's prime mover of progress. His was an adventurous spirit and he possessed an audacity and a boldness of vision that could only be described as Gargantuan. Both as a mayor and as a city councilman, he did his darnedest to make Charlotte grow.

This is not to say that he was always right or that his instincts were always reliable. He is, essentially, an "idea man" who is liable to give the details of implementation only a lick and a promise. Furthermore, he shared with other members of the old City Council certain traits that eventually caused the public to lose confidence in City Hall's leadership.

Yet Herbert Baxter's cheerful faith in the perfectibility of a city will haunt the new administration for a long time. Furthermore, this happy warrior of municipal politics still has much to give the community and its people. The Council taking office Monday would be wise to name him to one of the more important municipal boards or commissions when an appropriate position is open.

Selling America Abroad

"The American entertainment world —particularly motion pictures and music —is doing a better job indirectly in selling democracy and America to European nations than the U. S. State Dept. is accomplishing directly. This is the opinion formed by indie producer Herman Cohen, just returned from eight months abroad . . . Cohen produced two films in England, 'Horrors of the Black Museum,' and 'The Headless Ghost,' both for American international release."—**Variety.**

Charlotte's Bold Experiment Paid Off

Charlotte's remarkable Junior Achievement program completed its first year of operation this week in a blaze of deserved glory.

More than 250 teen-agers from a half dozen city and county high schools gained actual business experience in 16 miniature corporations they organized and operated themselves. The youngsters were counseled by 52 volunteers recruited from the city's business community.

This is a bold experiment in education. It lets today's youth—tomorrow's leaders—gain down-to-earth experience in the same bedrock problems real business organizations face in a capitalistic society. It gives them an early taste of actual business situations and an early appreciation of the meaning of "risk capital." As their tiny companies prosper or flounder, they gain a keen insight into the responsibilities and rewards of enterprise and initiative.

Junior Achievement's first year in Charlotte was a notable success. There was enthusiastic response from young people, businessmen and educators alike. Clearly, the experiment has proved itself. The program ought to be continued with increased support from Charlotte's business leaders.

Defense By Name

Those who are casual readers of our women's section will be delighted to learn that this is "National Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Cloth and Furniture by Savage Moths Month."

We suggest the best defense is to bash these anti-cloth cannibals with the group's rolled-up title.

From The New York Times

THE MIRACLE OF THE BUD

The earth teems now with the unseen miracle of new roots groping downward and young shoots reaching for the light and sun; but all around us, in plain sight, is the equal miracle of the buds. Out of the buds, so countless and so commonplace, come this world's green leaves, its wealth of bloom, its surging growth of twig and branch and stem. The miraculous surrounds us now.

Who would think, seeing the brown twig-tip buds of the lilac in December, that in those winter-dormant buds was packed such a freight of leaf and stem and blossom as now reveals itself? Man's most astonishing machine could not pack so much into so small a space, let alone free it at a proper time and in a precise order. Who, glancing at the nobby twigs of a pear tree in March, would believe that silver leaf and milk-white blossom were stowed there for May? Who, passing a brook lined with swamp maples in ice-locked January, would believe that the minute buds on those branches would turn a valley crimson with blossom and then green with shade?

Look at the dogwood, which defied the winter with twig-end buds like praying mantis heads and now is full of white-butterfly bloom and green squirrel-ear leaves. See how the willows, which rattled cold twigs, seemingly bare as bones, in the February wind, come to kitten-soft catkin and then to a whispery mist of slender leaf. Watch the beech tree feather out in green gauze. See how the birches achieve catkin and shimmery green of heart-leaf. See the astonishing way a hickory unpacks its pink-sheathed buds, putting the magician to shame for his parsimony. Look, and know the miracle of the bud, the wonder-packet of green life.

Women's fashions are those things that go in one year and out the other. —**Winston-Salem Journal.**

Alvin Tree, Canadian postman, hustled the dog that snapped at him off to the pound. That was one dog that barked up against the wrong Tree.—**Miami Herald.**

We heard the other day of a small-town editor who was so hard pressed for material with which to fill his columns that he ran the Ten Commandments without editorial comment. Soon after he received a letter from a reader who said, "Cancel my subscription—you're getting too personal!" —**High Point Enterprise.**

BERNARD BARUCH
Million-Dollar Gout

Aching Hoof Is The Price Of Genius

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALAMOS, Spain

I always knew that Mr. Bernie Baruch and I had something in common besides our mutual love for his quail in South Carolina. Now it comes to light. Genius.

Genius, it appears, often comes from gout, an ailment which generally afflicts the great toe in an excruciating fashion. It took Mr. Bernie more than 60 years and that many millions of dollars to achieve gout. I had it at the age of 33, on practically no dough at all.

BRAINS ON HOOF

Some new studies report that a chemical circulated in the blood of us intellectual giants as a result of gout not only is indigenous to our talent, but when the hoof is really hurting from an excess of uric acid we are stimulated to even higher and higher intellectual achievements.

More than a quarter of a century ago Dr. Haverlock Ellis suggested that a testy, inquisitive brain was very often accompanied by a shrieking pain in the foot. Dr. Ellis, who was the world authority on sex and psychology at the time, was heavily impressed with the number of geniuses afflicted with this hereditary disease. Not sex. Gout.

HUMAN ONLY

It seems that this uric acid only occurs in the human race, and does not stem from excessive drinking or super-rich living, as is so commonly thought.

The correlation between uric acid and intelligence has recently been proven by a series of tests run off on the blood of 817 Army volunteers at Fort Dix. The content was checked against the Army Classification Battery, which tracks a man's intelligence and eventually hands you his I. Q. It seems that the higher the acid quotient, the better the brain.

It even has been suggested that the presence of uric acid in human blood accounts for the development of man's brain over that of animals.

PERSONAL

I wish here to insert personal messages to Mr. Baruch, financier; to Mr. Frank Conniff, newspaperman; to Mr. William Holden, actor; and Mr. Ray Ryan, oilman and real estate operator.

Mr. Baruch has proven himself a genius, but Mr. Conniff was grossly insulted by his superiors one time when he reported gout and was told: "Son on your dough you ain't got gout. You just got a sore toe."

SNOBBISH AILMENT

Mr. Holden and Mr. Ryan will be pleased to learn that when we all three were struck down by this snobbish ailment some months back in Africa, that it was gout and not the stars that accounted for Mr. Holden's formidable success as the highest paid actor in the world, and Mr. Ryan's tour de force as an operator in many industries. Me, I just had a sore toe, but I am sure it was gout that caused Mr. Holden and Mr. Ryan to buy my favorite hotel, the Mawingo in Nanyuki, after a long, intellectual session with me and Mr. Ricardo Sicre of Madrid, over tea and crumpets on a chilly African night. I demand free house room for Ricardo and me, on the grounds that it was on Ricardo's safari that I had the gout which made Bill and Ray buy the hotel. Selah.

—Iffiness Abounds—

Bismarck's Reich Is Sliced

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON

In commenting on the approaches to Geneva and to the summit there is a temptation to which all of us are subject. It is to apply too soon and too often the test of success or failure. The negotiations which have now begun will last for a long time. They could last for a generation. In the course of that long time there will be many changes which cannot now be foreseen clearly. For what is being begun now by the statesmen of the older generation will probably not be concluded until there is a new generation.

FANTASY OF 'SUCCESS'

There is no present prospect that the negotiations will "succeed," if by that is meant that they will produce a final settlement of the German problem. On the other hand, there is no prospect, it seems to me, that they will "fail," if by that is meant that there will be no more negotiations and that this will be followed by some sort of mobilization for war. We must rid ourselves of the rubber stamp notions of success and failure. The German problem is at present insoluble. No theoretical solution of it would be worth a great war to either side, and both sides know that the question could not be settled by a war. The world has to live with the German question, producing as best it can and from time to time a modus vivendi without any serious expectation of a settlement.

CENTRAL FACT

The German question lies in the fact that the German Reich as founded by Bismarck in 1871, has been partitioned as a result of the defeat of Hitler. Berlin, which was the capital of the old German Reich, has itself been partitioned. The partition of Germany is the consequence of the second World War, and it could become the cause of the third World War.

We ask ourselves, could the partition of Germany have been avoided? No one knows the answer. For this is just about the ifflest question in world affairs. What we can say is that the partition of Germany arises from the fact that the Red Army coming from the East, the Allied army coming from the West, met in the middle of Germany. They would not have met if Hitler had not attacked Russia and brought her into the war. They would not have met if the Allies, including the United States, had been strong enough to occupy the whole of Germany before the Russians got there. The fact is, however, that they did get there and that the West got there and that that was how Hitler's Reich was conquered.

ADOLF HITLER
His Reich Fell

UNREAL QUESTIONS

Was partition the necessary and the inevitable result? Here again all is ifflness. Was it from the beginning the Soviet intention to dismember Germany? Or would the Soviet Union once upon a time have settled for a neutralized and lightly armed united Germany, hoping, of course, that the German Communists would infiltrate the German Socialists, and eventually rule the whole of Germany? On the other hand, were the Western Allies wise in thinking that this risk was so great that, instead of working for an evacuation by the Red Army, they insisted upon the rearmament of Western Germany in alliance with their own forces? Questions such as these are no longer real questions. Europe has out-lived them and what we are now facing is the historic fact that there are two Germanys and two Berlins. The German crisis of today is the crisis of the adjustment of the great powers to the partition of Germany.

"ACCEPTANCE' THE KEY

The adjustment will be a very complicated experience. For the partition of Germany is as great an historic event as was the unification of Germany under Bismarck. The adjustment to this historic fact involves on both sides of the Iron Curtain some kind of recognition of most unpalatable facts. On the Western side it involves a recognition that there are two German states. On the Russian side it involves a recognition that there are two Berlins, and that West Berlin must remain a part of the Western community.

The acceptance of these unpalatable facts, and their recognition in legal instruments which are enforcible, will be the core of the coming negotiations. The object of the negotiations will be a modus vivendi which, while it recognizes that there is in fact a partition of Germany, keeps alive the right and the hope of an eventual reunion.

'Very Good, Sir—You Have Just Time To Change For The Wage Negotiating Conference'

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
Advice and Brandy

Churchill Is Purposeful It Is Plain

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

Winston Churchill, at 84, is here for what may prove to be the last great act of statesmanship of his life.

Against his doctor's advice, he has made the trip so that he might talk with President Eisenhower on the eve of another momentous conference between the Western allies and the Soviet Union.

Their conversations are, in effect, a little summit meeting of a very special kind. For undeniably Churchill will have the President's ear to a degree that only a rare few can claim if. That is why he came.

RECORD OF PRESCIENCE

It is true that while Eisenhower is President of the United States, Churchill holds no position in the British government beyond his cherished seat in the 630-member House of Commons. What the Briton throws into the balance is not just past glory or long experience, but an unequalled record of prescience which will be acknowledged by the West so long as freedom endures.

A man who never hesitated to use power, Churchill must see how much depends upon Eisenhower personally at this juncture. John Foster Dulles will probably never leave Walter Reed Hospital. In Paris, Secretary of State Christian Herter achieved a facade of allied unity, which was a considerable accomplishment but remains a facade.

CHURCHILL'S METHOD

It must be remembered that Churchill knows Eisenhower, not alone what he does but what kind of man he is. It is clearly apparent also that the one-time political maverick is today a dedicated Conservative, a supporter of present British government policies and of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan personally.

It will not be the first time that Churchill has sought to point the way to the American people and their President in any way open to him. When he felt that President Truman needed to be aroused to the danger of spreading Communist domination of Eastern Europe, he accepted an invitation to speak at a small denominational college in Truman's own Missouri. There, at Westminster College in Fulton, Churchill made his famous Iron Curtain speech.

BRANDY NO DOUBT

Today he lacks the staying power for any such enterprises and, in any case, conditions are different. The present President, his World War II associate and friend, extended to him a personal invitation for a visit, and cigar in hand and no doubt brandy in luggage, Churchill has flaunted his doctors and he is here.

His central purpose appears again in his schedule. He has refused all invitations to speak. The only events announced for his calendar are two stag dinners at the White House and another at the British Embassy. After three days here he will visit in New York with his much older and closer personal friend, Bernard M. Baruch.

The Congress, which would happily receive him, has not yet had assurances that it will. It may prove, indeed, difficult to learn what Churchill really said and what effect it produced upon the President.

People's Platform

A Special Thought For Mothers Day

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

Sunday is Mothers Day. For many, mother is just a sweet memory. Those mothers who are here should receive all of the honor they so richly deserve.

A mother is the best friend you can have. She will stand by you always. Be good to her for one day she will be gone and it is then that you will miss her.

May God bless every Christian mother on Mothers Day.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

One Tiny Slip & The World Goes Bang

WASHINGTON

Hitherto, the American military has discounted the danger of accidental explosions. When the Danes refused to permit our atomic sub to enter the harbor of Copenhagen, the danger was discounted.

Now a complete reversal has been made. An atomic sub, it's admitted, can blow up and spread radioactive poison. So can an atomic bomb, rocket, or missile.

Easy To Misfire

Greatest danger comes from smaller warheads, such as those carried on short-range missiles, the Corporal and the Honest John. Unfortunately, these are not only easiest to misfire, but are handled by the least skilled.

Air Force strategists now admit this danger, furthermore believe the time has come to warn the American people. Reason for the reversal is fear that an accidental explosion might panic the nation into war. Should a bomb explode accidentally, the public could be panicked into believing it came from Russia, and nuclear war could engulf the world in a matter of minutes.

Awesome Problems

Or some berserk soldier or scientist could detonate a bomb which could bring on war. Or some Soviet scientist with a grudge against the Kremlin could launch a missile against the Kremlin which might be blamed on the United States.

These are the dramatic, awesome problems faced by Pentagon strategists in considering man's will to survive.

Two scientists, also concerned about man's right to survive, are testifying to the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee against the confirmation of Adm. Lewis Strauss to be secretary of commerce.

Fearful Of Handiwork

They helped to make these terrible weapons of mass death, and are fearful that their handiwork will eventually destroy mankind.

Sen. John Pastore, Rhode Island Democrat, sits in the chairman's seat and badgers them. He will hardly let them finish a sentence before he fires a question—or usually a rebuttal statement in Adm. Strauss' defense. The man he's defending, former head of one of the great investment houses of Wall Street, smiles. He is cocky and confident, as the son of an Italian immigrant, now a senator, brusquely comes to his defense.

What Man Created

One of the scientists, Dr. David Inglis of the government's Argonne Laboratory, fumbles for words. He tries to explain his fears of hydrogen warfare. We should have waited to make sure Russia was really going to build the H-bomb before going ahead with this terrible weapon. Obviously Dr. Inglis is a man at home with scientific formulas, but completely at sea with words—especially when interrupted by senators.