THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THERE IS STILL TIME

WITH two days to go, the Charlotte Memorial Hospital campaign fund still is short of its goal by approximately one-third.

In many respects, it has been quite a remarkable drive. The force of workers has been small (108), and the solicitation list was limited. The campaign has been conducted quietly, without the fanfare that accompanies most big community drives.

Even so, the latest report shows a total of $265,265 paid or pledged by 308 donors—a startling average of over $861 per donor—leaving $134,735 to be raised by Wednesday.

An interesting sidelight is the zeal with which members of the medical profession are backing the drive. Under the leadership of Dr. J. M. Alexander and E. M. O'Herron Jr., six teams headed by Charlotte doctors have brought in $85,165 of the total reported to date.

The generous participation of the medical profession is not necessary to convince the people of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County that Memorial Hospital is a tremendous asset to the community. But it underscores the fact by adding testimony from men who know how much the hospital has aided our development into a great medical center.

The pre-Christmas season is not the best time in the year for a campaign. These are busy days, full of diversions. But there is time enough to put the $400,000 campaign across, if the whole community pulls together.

A TREATMENT, NOT A CURE

THE stern punishment meted out to Clemson and Maryland by the Southern Conference presidents will be argued back and forth for a long time around the armchair quarterback circuit, or whatever football's equivalent for baseball's hot stove league may be called.

Most observers expected the college presidents to take some kind of action after Maryland and Clemson accepted bowl bids without getting conference permission. But few persons had expected so severe a reprimand as the one-year probation which will prevent the two colleges from playing other conference members and deprive them of their vote in conference matters.

We are not disposed to argue the degree of the punishment. Perhaps it was overly harsh, as the sports editors of the region seem to feel. Perhaps there was a better and equally effective way to administer a reprimand.

In any case, the encouraging thing about the conference action is the proof that college presidents are beginning to act like college presidents for a change.

For a long time, the presidents of the nation's educational institutions have let themselves be pushed around by alumni and athletic directors and coaches. They have permitted the lowering of academic standards to permit the enrollment of low I. Q. students who happened to be handy with a football. They have lost control over the financial affairs of their athletic programs. They have sat by idly while football was taken away from the students and handed over, in a highly specialized form, to the thrill-hungry spectators. They have twiddled their thumbs while a sport for amateurs became, to all intents and purposes, a sport for professionals.

In sum, responsible administrators of the nation's educational institutions have dodged their responsibility by taking the path of least resistance.

The issue is bigger and more complex than the relatively simple issue of post-season bowl games. It involves the basic structure of the educational system, and the end objectives of education itself.

The action of the Southern Conference presidents at Richmond last week will not resolve the issue. But it can be, and we hope it is, a forerunner of a cold, realistic reappraisal of intercollegiate athletics that will restore some balance to the scale of values and, to mix a metaphor, permit the dog to wag the tail for a change.

FARM TENANCY IN N. C.

AN ENCOURAGING trend in North Carolina's agricultural development is the trend toward farm ownership by the man who works the soil.

From the Civil War to 1930 farm tenancy increased, reaching a high point that year of 49.2 per cent—almost half the farmers of North Carolina did not own the land they farmed. The percentage of tenants dropped to 44.4 per cent in 1940, 42.6 per cent in 1945. The 1950 census, according to UNC's Institute for Research in Social Science shows that tenancy is now down to 38.2 per cent of the state's 288,508 farms.

The proportion of tenants to owner-operators varies greatly from county to county. In some counties—Edgecombe, Green and Wilson, over three-fourths of the farms are operated by tenants. Less than seven per cent of the farmers are tenants in Mitchell, Wilkes, Caldwell, Watauga and Avery counties. In Mecklenburg, tenants worked 29.8 per cent of the farms in 1950, a striking decrease from 40.4 per cent in 1945.

In other parts of the country land tenancy has not come to be associated with poor living standards and low agricultural productivity, as it has in the South. In Illinois and Iowa, for example, a higher percentage of the land is cultivated by tenants than in the South. But the economic status of these Midwestern tenants is considerably different from that of their Southern counterparts. The Midwestern tenant is a fairly affluent operator who gets a five or ten-year lease, makes a substantial annual profit and is the economic and social equal of the landowner. Instead of investing his money in the high-priced land, he puts it in machinery and fertilizer which will reward him well. The same is true to an extent in the West. Big operators often lease large tracts of land, which is relatively cheap, farm it heavily with little thought as to conservation practices, then move on to other cheap land. Fortunately, this dangerous trend toward soil depletion is being counteracted by increasing awareness of soil conservation practices and incentive payments to farmers who use them.

With the development of better seed, machinery designed for small farms and the spread of better farming techniques, it is being discovered that small farms can be high-yield farms. The family-size farm, operated by the owner and his family, has many advantages. It makes for a more stable, proud farm population. Landless farmers, as was demonstrated in the Dust Bowl Era of the 30s and is being demonstrated in various countries throughout the world today, can be a compelling economic and social problem. We are pleased to note the encouraging trend toward farm ownership in North Carolina, and hope it continues.

ONE THOUSAND DEAD CAROLINIANS

MEMBERS of the North Carolina General Assembly, who have not as yet seen fit to tighten up laws regarding traffic law violators, are not in tune with the temper of Carolina motorists. Our legislators would do well to ponder the results of a recent poll conducted by the Carolina Motor Club.

Seventy-eight per cent of the participating motorists favor mandatory jail sentences, of not less than five days, for *first* convictions of drunken driving. Unlike the General Assembly, the motorists, 82 per cent of them, apparently favor periodic mechanical inspection of motor vehicles.

Eighty-eight per cent favor driver education in high schools. And 60 per cent are for mandatory punishments for motor vehicles.

The death toll on North Carolina highways this year now stands at almost 1,000. The motoring public is alarmed and increasingly indignant. How much slaughter must continue until the Legislature is moved to drastic action?

From The Asheville Citizen

MARSE ROBERT ATTACKED TOO SOON

ONE thing the South will have to hand to the North: But for its immigrant football players, the late Confederacy would be a weak, wan star in the shining firmament of intercollegiate athletics.

Take, for instance, the United Press All-Southern Conference football team of 1951:

At ends are Clemson's Glenn Smith of Washington, D. C., and VMI's Neal Petree of Hopewell, Va.

At tackles are N. C. State's Elmer Costa of Paterson, N. J., and William and Mary's John Kreamcheck of Vestaburg, Pa.

At guards are Maryland's Bob Ward of Elizabeth, N. J., and North Carolina's Joe Dudeck of Hazelton, Pa.

In the center of the line, like Pickett's division, stands South Carolina's Larry Smith of Cadogan, Pa.

Washington and Lee's Gil Bocetti of McKeesport, Pa., is at one back with Clemson's Billy Hair of Walterboro, S. C., at another. The other two backs are William and Mary's Ed Modzuszewski of Cliffside Park, N. J. and Maryland's Ed Modzelewski of West Natrona, Pa.

So we get five Pennsylvanians, three New Jerseyites, a Washingtonian, a Virginian and a South Carolinian as the "All-South" of 1951. Maryland, the Dixie powerhouse, has a squad of 97 which includes 42 players from Pennsylvania, ten from New York, five from New Jersey and three from Rhode Island.

We say of course, welcome gentlemen to the educational opportunity offered of a Saturday in the Old South. But shades of A. P. Hill, Jubal Early and Beauty Stuart! Had Marse Robert picked up Pennsylvania blockers like those at Gettysburg, the Late Unpleasantness would have been a different story! A different story, suh!

Just what we need: The Air Force now has a squadron of planes that will take off, fly a mission, come back, and land, all without anybody aboard. With parking problems what they are, why can't Detroit build us a car that we could just slap on the rumble and send home, when we didn't want it around?—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

'Ah, There's Nothing Like An Open Fire'

People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Smoke Stink

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

SEVERAL years ago during sleet and snow your paper started a stink by making pictures of low clouds and fog intermingled with smoke. This smog was an act of God, and it is silly to say any engineer can control works of God Almighty.

When the same God clears up the skies and the sun shines through, smoke rises into the air and floats away.

I notice some lady on Elizabeth Ave. says she lives in a place where the sun seldom shines and that her windows and furniture are stained with smoke and grime. I lived at 1217 Elizabeth Ave. for eight years, and we did not have that trouble.

It is crazy to think you can teach a janitor today how to fire a certain furnace, and expect to keep it that way. Tomorrow he is gone. Another takes his place. Who is going to teach him? No business man dressed to meet his customers is going down into the basement and ruin his clothes.

Another thing. Half the so-called inspectors don't know how to fire a furnace or a boiler. All they know is what they have read in some book about how to fire a furnace. No inspector should be employed before he has had at least ten years of experience in firing all types of furnaces and boilers.

That smoke engineer's office should be closed down and forgotten about. The Council has plenty to do without a mess like that coming up every few months. It stinks to the high heavens.

— WILLIAM C. McINTIRE

Religious Smear Attacks

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

HOW MUCH time and effort would be saved if people would please understand that we Catholics never asked for and don't care the toss of a button whether Truman appoints an ambassador to the Vatican or not.

Why blame us for his political tricks?

I also would like to know what there is decent about these people who, each time they see my name in print, treat me to a batch of anti-Catholic printed pamphlets? They always arrive anonymously and without fail these articles are written by some renegade or excommunicated priest. Never in my life have I written in offense of any person's belief; it is always in defense of my faith and the untruths written by traitors who found it too hard to live up to, or people who are misinformed about it.

They may all rest assured that I was not led blindly, or held against my will in the Mother Church. I spent many years carefully studying all religions, and concluded that something that has withstood the traitors within her fold and the vilifications and persecutions from without for nearly 2,000 years and still remains the largest and most unified Christian body in the world must have been divinely protected.

I found its teachings as tenable as those taught by the Apostles. There have been no alterations or deletions in her Scriptures. At the same time I know there are many devout people outside her fold. In the last analysis, God will judge what is in a man's heart. I wonder what He thinks of people who make smear attacks by mail?

— MRS. THOMAS CROWE

Unthrilling Editorials

LINCOLNTON

Editors, THE NEWS:

I STILL buy The Charlotte News, but I don't get the thrill from the editorial page that I did back in the days of FDR and the Second World War. There were some colorful editorials in those days.

I gave The News credit for a great part in putting the skids under Bob Reynolds, and stopping his political career. It seems you handle everything now with kid gloves. If I write a little squib to the People's Platform about some pet peeve, it is deleted and toned down 'til I hardly recognize it.

I saw in your news columns that the South Carolina high court had upheld the opinion that any public official was subject to criticism. This could or ought to include anyone taking up money from the public, other than in the regular routine of commercial business.

— G. N. RAMSEY

Anglo-American 'Joint Stock Company' Needed In Mid-East

By STEWART ALSOP

LONDON

LOOKING BACK at a journey of observation through the Middle East, one impression stands out. American policy throughout this area is in a state of suspended animation, of paralysis. And the basic reason seems simple enough. The United States lacks any real lever of power in the Middle East.

The Greek-Turkish aid bill, that great turning point in American foreign policy, gave the United States a lever of power in Greece and Turkey. Both Greece and Turkey have wisely benefited, without any impairment of their sovereignty or sense of nationhood. The net result has been that the Soviet drive on Greece and Turkey has been halted in its tracks, while the United States now has staunch allies in both countries.

When Greek - Turkish aid was first proposed in 1947, Loy Henderson, now Ambassador to Iran and then chief of the State Department's Middle East Section, very strongly advised that Iran should be included. But Iran was not included — a decision which seems fatally wrong in retrospect — largely because Iran was considered primarily a British responsibility. What has been happening in Iran, and also in Egypt, another area of exclusive British responsibility, suggests an obvious conclusion.

The traditional British system of exercising power in such countries as these is breaking down, while the United States has lacked any means of really influencing the course of events in these countries.

The creation of the state of Israel has led to the danger of a second round in the Arab - Israel war starting up at any time. This might well be fatal to American and Western interests throughout the Middle East. Therefore the United States had adopted a policy of attempting to maintain a precise, precarious balance between Israel and the Arab states.

This policy seems logical enough at first glance. Yet the net result of this attempt to strike a balance between a tiny state of a million and a half people and a vast, vital land area containing 40 million people has been to create a vacuum of power in the Arab states. As long as the Arab states cannot be strengthened beyond the strength of Israel, the United States can have no lever of power in the Arab world.

If the process of disintegration in the Middle East is to be halted before the Middle East goes the way of China, the United States must gain levers of power in this absolutely vital area. This in turn means that there must be, first, a basic change in the Anglo-American relationship in the Middle East, and second, a basic change in the American approach to the Arab-Israeli problem.

The Anglo-American relationship in the Middle East has heretofore consisted of broad agreement on vague generalities at the top, combined with beady-eyed suspicion and mutual rivalry at the working level. The British, acting alone, can no longer exercise power effectively in this area, as recent history in Iran and Egypt has shown. But the United States cannot conceivably afford to dispense with British power, which takes the form of some 50,000 troops in the canal zone, and many other forms as well.

What is needed is a real pooling of American and British power in the Middle East — a sort of Anglo-American political, military and economic joint stock company for the whole area. Such a close working partnership would represent a really formidable aggregate of power, sufficient power to offer the only possible real insurance against the outbreak of another Arab-Israeli war.

In close working partnership with the British, American power must then be brought to bear with real energy and determination, to achieve mutually agreed objectives. The central objective must be to create in the Middle East reasonably enlightened authoritarian regimes, capable of dealing with the West on a rational basis, and capable above all of forcing change in an area where change is absolutely inevitable.

Bernard Baruch Is Not, Repeat Not In Bootlegging Business

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

ALL THE serious trouble I ever get into in this business where you wind up with one foot in your face and somebody else's on your rear seems to come when I get humorous without sticking a red stamp saying "Funny" on the product.

You see a man today hip-deep in personal apology for one of those transgressions, and then like I said, guess, where you hurt feelings unwittingly and people you love get mad at you. I'm referring to a piece the other day about my old friend, Mr. Bernard Baruch, in which I undertook to kid him a little and wound up crouched way back in his personal doghouse.

I thought it exceedingly funny that somebody had snuck onto his properties down South and started a liquor still. I thought it was funny because, as everybody knows, B. M. Baruch is far and away the most respected citizen in the land, and such a stickler for strict attention to the letter of the law, that he goes out of his way even to obey some of the stupid ones. Apart from that, I have more personal respect and affection for the old gentleman, as friend and citizen, than for anyone I know.

So I write myself a piece about B.M.B., elder bootlegger, and laugh myself silly at my own delicious wit. I find I ain't funny, McGee. Not only have I affronted a man whose friendship I value, but a lot of people write in and say what is all this about booze and Baruch? I guess there are times when your own sense of humor gets so keen that you can fall down and stab yourself on it.

NO CARD CHEAT EITHER

Believe me, citizens, our No. 1 statesman is NOT repeat NOT in the bootlegging business, nor does he countenance it. Like I said, I once knew a person so subtle he slipped in his own subtlety and busted his neck. That would seem to be me.

The business of dealing in humor that is not clearly marked seems to become more and more difficult. Either sarcasm or heavy-footed exaggeration seems more often than not to ge misconstrued as serious comment. Folk, and there are instances in which no man finds himself to be humorous, to himself.

I have never attempted to hurt anybody's feelings, except on purpose, and then the idea is to take the typewriter and beat the victim's brains out. But on several occasions I seem to have created calumny or a gratuitous teardrop without intent. This I do not like in me.

I feel more or less today like a small boy who has just shot Santa Claus on Christmas, under the mistaken idea that he was a burglar.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Justice Dept. Weakened Under Clark

WASHINGTON

A LOT OF people these days are asking how corruption got started in the U. S. Government. The answer probably goes back to three main roots.

Root No. 1—Got started during the war years when Roosevelt concentrated so intensely on winning the war that he paid little attention to domestic policy.

Root No. 2—Got a deep hold in 1944, when Roosevelt was so anxious to be re-elected that he threw control of the Democratic Party over to the big-city bosses. That was the year that Bob Hannegan of St. Louis, Frank Hague of Jersey City, Ed Kelly of Chicago, plus Ed Flynn of the Bronx put across Harry Truman for Vice-President, even going to the extent of deceitfully changing FDR's letter regarding Truman and William O. Douglas in order to do so.

Root No. 3—Got growing in May of 1945 when President Truman, then in office one month, kicked out Francis Biddle, the Attorney-General, who insisted on rewarding the U. S. attorney in Kansas City who had convicted Boss Pendergast.

The full inside story of how Truman fired Biddle, a straight-laced U. S. circuit judge from Philadelphia, has never been told. It goes to the bottom of the little-realized fact that today the Justice and the Treasury Departments have become the great patronage plums of the party in power.

There was a time when the Post Office Dept. supplied the patronage to the party. But today, with postmasters largely under civil service, the party bosses look to the Treasury, which controls taxes, and the Justice Department, which has the power to prosecute. For the power to tax and the power to put people in jail or save them means far more to the city bosses than any other single thing in Washington.

Big Bosses Step In

ONE month after Truman took office, therefore, Bob Hannegan and the city bosses who finessed him into the White House decided they wanted a Justice Department which would do their bidding.

Few people knew it, but the new President was under great obligation to Francis Biddle. He had handed Senator Truman much of the inside research on the Nazi cartels' links with Standard Oil of New Jersey, the Aluminum Corporation, Bausch and Lomb, plus other amazing revelations which put the Truman Committee in the headlines and started the little-known Senator from Missouri on his way to the White House.

On the other hand, Biddle had flatly refused to appoint Truman's old Army sergeant, Fred Canfil, as U. S. marshal in Kansas City. He also blocked the appointment of Truman's pal, ex-Congressman Dick Duncan of St. Louis, to be a federal judge in Missouri, refused to parole Tom Pendergast and insisted on reappointing as U. S. attorney, Maurice Milligan, the man who had sent Pendergast to jail.

Perhaps this was why the new President was ashamed to fire Biddle and asked his secretary, the late Steve Early, to do it instead. Biddle, however, not appreciating this second-hand method of doing business, demanded and got to see the President personally.

"I quite understand that a new President wants his own friends in his Cabinet," Biddle told Truman, "but it seems to me you should tell me so yourself, Mr. President, not detail it to a secretary."

Embarrassed, Truman agreed.

"May I ask," continued Biddle, "who my successor is going to be?"

"Tom Clark," replied Truman.

Clark The Politician

BIDDLE couldn't conceal his amazement. A few days before, he had decided to fire Clark as chief of the Criminal Division because of his easygoing attitude toward criminal prosecution.

Remonstrating with Truman, he described Clark as a "fixer," urged him not to take his word regarding Clark's lack of qualifications, but to consult Jim McGranery, then No. 2 man in the Justice Department.

McGranery went to see Truman, but is reported to have pulled his punches on Clark. Shortly thereafter McGranery became a Federal judge in Philadelphia.

Thus Tom Clark became Attorney-General. He turned out not to be a "fixer"—as a matter of fact he brought more antitrust cases than Biddle—but he was easygoing, politically minded, and co-operated with the party bosses.

In many respects his record was brilliant compared with the drift and decay which has followed.

However, there is no question but that, under Clark, Justice Department disintegration gradually set in. One by one, forthright men departed. There was nothing dishonest about the Justice Department. It merely inaugurated an era of friendship. The watchword of the day was: "Take care of your friends."

The amiable Justice Department under Clark, however, was almost a crusading beacon compared with the Treasury, the agency which collects the taxes. It must be remembered that only a small fraction of tax cases come to the Justice Department for criminal or civil action, the great majority being handled by the Treasury. So it became the No. 1 wire-pulling target for the party bosses.

Unpopular Henry Morgenthau

UNDER unpopular, honest Henry Morgenthau, the Internal Revenue Bureau had been one of the most forthright agencies of government. Its Commissioner was an old-fashioned gentleman from Kansas, Guy Helvering, who would no more have fixed a tax case than he would have jumped into the Missouri River.

Even if Helvering had wanted to fix a case, "Henry The Morgue," as FDR called his Secretary of the Treasury, kept such an eagle eye on tax collections that it would have been difficult.

Guy Helvering, however, wanted to become a judge. And when he returned to Kansas in 1943, as a judge, Bob Hannegan, Pendergast's Collector of Internal Revenue for Eastern Missouri, took his place. The downgrade regarding tax collections started then and there.

One of Hannegan's greatest faults was in the men he picked for the key jobs of internal revenue collectors—the Finnegans and the Delaneys. Most of them were the choice of the big-city bosses, and as such naturally were beholden to the men who appointed them.

So when the eagle-eyed Mr. Morgenthau rowed with Truman, bowed out of the Treasury, and later was replaced by complacent, sleepy John Snyder, the tax evaders really began having a field day.

Most of the time John Snyder has had no more idea of what went on in his Treasury Department than Howard McGrath had in his Justice Department. In both places, the general policy was take it easy and take care of your friends.