THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1959

Here's A Way To Stop That Spinning

REP. Frank Snepp's plan to keep Charlotte's municipal democracy from spinning its wheels makes excellent sense.

It is more than slightly ridiculous for the city to be compelled to hold a primary prior to a municipal election when the field of candidates is too small for anybody to be eliminated. But the law is quite firm on this and these political "dry runs" are required whether or not there is any logical necessity for them.

A fairly recent example was the 1957 City School Board race. Three seats were up. They were sought by five candidates —including the three incumbents. The city charter provides that not more than two persons shall be nominated to fill each vacancy. That means that all five were automatically nominated. So, the same five faced each other in the primary April 29 and the municipal election May 7. The primary vote was meaningless except as an informal barometer of public support.

Similar dry runs were held in school board races in 1943, 1945, 1947, 1949 and 1951. Furthermore, the same empty motions have been required by law in several recent City Council races.

Rep. Snepp simply proposes that the charter be amended to permit the city to skip the primary when the number of candidates does not provide at least two people for each office to be filled.

For instance, city election laws provide that the 14 persons receiving the highest number of votes for the seven seats of the City Council in the primary shall become nominees in the general election. If Rep. Snepp's proposal is approved, no primary would be necessary if no more than 14 candidates file for Council. The names of all 14 would simply appear on the general election ballot.

This procedure would save the taxpayers money and save registrars, counters, judges and clerks at every precinct in the city a lot of time and effort.

The proposal has already been endorsed in principle by Charlotte's City Council. Appropriate legislation should be drawn up without delay and introduced in the current session of the General Assembly.

Business Development: A Bugle Blows

NORTH Carolina is no longer America's slumbering economic giant. Reveille has been sounded.

Historians may well give considerable credit for the great awakening to the state's Business Development Corporation, launched by the Hodges administration to provide venture capital for homegrown industries.

The organization's remarkable progress, after two full years of operation, is discussed elsewhere in today's News by Business Editor J. A. Daly. Even though BDC is still in its infancy, it is already credited with creating or maintaining 9,119 jobs. In all, 67 loans totaling $5,851,465 have been approved. In addition to direct financial assistance, scores of businessmen have received expert counseling from BDC and this has included assistance in securing capital from other sources.

The corporation's stockholders now number 1,860 and include 139 financial institutions. R. A. Bigger of Charlotte is president.

By helping small business sink healthy roots into North Carolina's economic soil, BDC is serving the best interests of all Tar Heels. Jobs are being produced, markets are being created and profits are being generated that stay in the state and return over and over again through the cycle of productivity. In short, it is helping to build the safest, soundest foundation on which a prosperous economic life can be constructed.

Its possibilities? Unlimited. It will grow and North Carolina will grow with it. Reveille, after all, is just the beginning.

Quiet, Jose!

PRESIDENT Jose Maria Lemus of El Salvador has come to knock about the U. S. on a state visit. He doesn't want a loan, he said, slipping in the observation that his country has balanced its budget for several years.

With Congress threatening to balloon appropriations, President Lemus had best hush before he hits Washington.

If he keeps on with that line, he'll never learn how to spend money he hasn't got.

Movies Are Better: Except For Clowns

A COUPLE of years ago Hollywood advanced with the word that movies were better than ever.

While that captivating line seemed a mite grandiloquent to some, there have been a surprising number of decent films. Quality has been evident today behind many a blatant billboard.

The only arena which movie makers have forgotten is the old comedies which budged the chasm from silent to talking pictures.

Naturally, as one advances in years the present cannot have the glow of old. But while movies battle life with grim realism what has happened to the films of humor? Who makes a pure idiot's delight of comedy any more? Situational humor certainly, and there's still some slapstick, but the revered clowns have passed on.

Millions of people are still about who collapsed at the antics of Buster Keaton or the early-day Charlie Chaplin. There was always a Harold Lloyd in some impossible predicament.

From way back, the Keystone Kops and Fatty Arbuckle, and later times had the Marx Brothers and Laurel and Hardy.

Not all of these were funny to all people.

But, years ago, their type of humor was appreciated. It was a laugh for a laugh's sake, with very little dialogue needed.

We take ourselves too seriously today. A parody or satire draws a fishy eye — it might offend somebody.

Perhaps with life's pressures as they are people just can't laugh at themselves anymore. And a film of simple clowning lunacy would bring the serious notion that somebody ought to visit his psychiatrist.

'Economy' Note

SOME of the Eisenhower administration's righteous indignation about "spenders" has just been replaced by a guilty grin.

It was announced the other day that federal employment dropped to 2,347,345 in fiscal 1958—a decrease of 46,754 from 1957.

So far so good. But the federal payroll for fiscal 1958 was $11.4 billion, or $455 million more than in 1957.

This is economy?

From The Washington Post

OF HEARTS AND FLOWERS

RECENTLY the Senate of the United States condescended to consider one of the really profound and urgent questions that challenge the statesmanship of our sorely troubled age: Whether our national flower ought to be the garish carnation, the exquisite rose, the delicate corn tassle, or merely an humble blade of timothy or alfalfa.

The cause of the carnation was eloquently argued in rhetoric fully appropriate to such a subject by Sen. Allott in support of a resolution fervently endorsed by his Colorado colleague, Sen. Carroll, and also by the Messrs. Wiley of Wisconsin, Mansfield of Montana, Capehart of Indiana, and Laugche of Ohio. The carnation, as Mr. Allott reminded his audience, is already the symbol of that most American of all our American institutions—motherhood.

With almost equal eloquence Sen. Keating of New York argued the claims of the rose. Ah yes, agreed Sen. Hickenlooper of Iowa, the rose is indeed beautiful, and the carnation is capable of awakening tender and bittersweet memories. But the corn tassle besides being beautiful is the symbol of nutriment and strength and stability. Doubtless he would have gone on in this vein had he not been interrupted by Sen. Neuberger of Oregon, who pointed out that the rose unlike the tassle can be grown in profusion without the necessity of price supports.

At this point Sen. Morton arose to make the case for grass, having especially in mind no doubt the famous blue grass of his native Kentucky. Sen. Douglas of Illinois, who had entered the chamber during this discourse, now expressed his astonishment at hearing a representative from Kentucky — of all places — disparage by implication the merits of corn. A moment or so later, however, he heard them disparaged in good round earnest by Sen. Byrd of West Virginia, who related in somber tones how the very golden corn, reduced to liquid by the industrious compatriots of Mr. Morton, is destroying the "minds, bodies, families and reputations of the American people."

We confess that we were so deeply moved by the eloquence of all participants in this momentous debate that we decided to withdraw our own selection of a national symbol. This was to have been the cauliflower, more edible than the Scots thistle, more nutritious than the Welsh leek, and altogether appropriate — or so it seemed before the Senate debate—in view of the battering American statesmen and diplomats have been taking of late on at least three of the four continents.

People's Platform — 'Sensational Press' Distorted Cuban Situation

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I AM handing you herewith a copy of a letter which I received some two or three days ago from a Cuban friend of mine of some 15 years standing who lives in Havana.

It just struck me that you might be interested in publishing this in order that your readers could get the picture of conditions on that island. The writer of this letter is a business man of high standing in Havana.

—W. LATIMER BROWN

Havana, Cuba

Dear Latimer:

As you will probably know, up to Dec. 31, 1958 we lived in Cuba under a ruthless tyranny and were too grieved to rejoice with the Christmas Holidays. That is why we did not send Christmas cards to our friends.

However, the New Year brought us, with God's help, the triumph of the revolution against the tyranny and every Cuban is now happy and hopeful for a complete change in the social, political, and economic future of Cuba.

Perhaps you might have read some criticism which has been spread all over the world by the international news agencies in connection with the execution of a number of murderers and sadists who, to support the tyranny, killed and tortured several thousands of Cubans, a large portion of whom did not even have to do anything with the revolution movement.

It has been, to be logient in our judgment, a great mistake of the international press, probably due to lack of understanding and basic knowledge of the Cuban situation. But, mainly, because of the constant pressure that the news agencies experience in producing "sensational news" at such a fast tempo that they do not have time to verify nor ponder the news which they publish.

I have wondered for many years if "the freedom of the press" should be granted to entities organized for profit. It makes "the press" a business, and "the freedom" a stock in trade. A very dangerous situation. It seems to me that the world has too much at stake to continue taking this grave risk.

Please pardon me for touching upon this subject but every Cuban has taken it upon himself to inform his friends abroad about the truth of the Cuban situation, lest we be judged as a blood thirsty and barbarian people. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, the tyranny was able to gather strength and to completely ignore the most elementary respect for human life and dignity because, by and large, the Cuban people are too kind-hearted, peace-loving and even timid in defending its rights by force.

—LUIS MANRARA

FIDEL CASTRO
(Pre-Revolution)

Billy Graham's sermons? Where does he go to church?

Just to keep the record clear, no church that I know of that is in the Southern Baptist Convention is a member of the National Council of Churches, which he says aids the "liberal left wing." As to ministers who aid the left wing, I ask again, where does he go to church?

—C. MICHAEL WARR

Brush Fire Burning In Nyasaland

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NAIROBI, Kenya

A BASIC mistake in the quelling of Mau Mau was Britain's decision to fake what was, six years ago, a purely local problem out of the hands of the Kenya settlers and the solid paramount chiefs like the murdered Hinga and to turn it into a war which was years in the finishing and which inspired the rest of the colored world to riot.

The Mau Mau uprising, which started out as a brush fire, became a roaring conflagration that put violent ideas into irresponsibles all over the world. The continuation of heavy trouble in Cyprus, the loss of Aden and the sudden flare-ups all over the African continent can be in a large measure attributable to the heavy-handed handling of Mau Mau, which really was a police action at the beginning and not the full-scale war which it became.

East-Central Africa
Battle in Middle

What Dr. Hastings Banda attempted in Nyasaland, the recently discovered plot in which the natives were to rise as one and strike down all the white settlers, was nothing more than a rewrite of Kenyatta's infamous night of the long knives.

WELENSKY SMART

A heavy spark of intelligence has just been shown by the Central African Federation's prime minister, Sir Roy Welensky, who has refused military assistance from Great Britain, considering the Nyasaland uprisings a local problem of Nyasaland and the Rhodesias, to be handled locally. Dr. Banda and all.

Said Sir Roy: "If we are not capable of dealing with what has happened in Nyasaland, the federation goverment will have failed in its responsibility."

SELFISH MOVE

An honest urge for responsible independence is one thing. The kind of thing that was planned for Kenya and now for Nyasaland, is selfishly motivated thuggery, and should be dealt with as a police action — a militia action— and should not be dignified as a war. Sir Roy is using the federation military force, composed of police and white and African troops representative of all three territories. In short, this is more along dignified lines in dealing with a flock of rock rollers, window busters and sly knife wielders.

PROPS FOR HAM

Banda's arrival in Nyasaland smacked not so much of the martyr — or the ham, when 2,000 Africans draped him with a leopard skin and handed him a broom — the leopard skin for authority and the broom to sweep out the federation — it was probably the first leopard skin or broom he had seen in 40 years.

So far Nyasaland is brush fire. At least to date it has been handled as one, and at least the trees are still standing.

Dr. Graham Preached Against Communism

Rock Hill, S. C.

Editors, The News:

MR. Parks A. Vanlle writing in the People's Platform of March 4, states, "I have yet to hear a sermon preached from any pulpit condemning godless communism."

I am wondering where Mr. Vanlle was during the Charlotte Crusade. Did he not hear any of Billy Graham's sermons? Where does he go to church?

—C. MICHAEL WARR

U. S. Is Completing Cycle Of Defense

Wilmington

Editors, The News:

WORLD ON Defense Before Advancing Hordes of Communism!

This factual and timely statement could be emblazoned with accuracy of expression as headlines on the front page of every daily newspaper outside the iron curtain — and behind it, for that matter.

The world, and the United States in particular, has passed through two distinct cycles of relations with Russia in the past 25 years and is now in word and in act about to complete the third cycle: (1) Collaboration, (2) appeasement, and (3) defense.

The cycle of collaboration became effective with the opening of overtures by the New Deal in 1933 with Russia for the recognition of the Kremlin as worthy of membership in the family of civilized nations, and continued to the Yalta conference. The cycle of appeasement opened at Yalta, and continued in operation to the Berlin airlift. The cycle of defense was ushered in with the Berlin airlift, and has continued to this day, just what attitude the anti-Communist nations will adopt toward communism before the third cycle is complete is wholly in the realm of universal speculation.

The United Nations has been flexible to the boasts, threats and demands of Russia since its organization. By and large, all tactics adopted to date by the U. N. to counteract the spread of communism have been predicated on the political, economy and military maneuvers of the Kremlin. No organized effort whatever has been initiated by the U. N. to take the offensive. The only policy disclosed to the world to date is that of "watchfully waiting" for the next political, economic or military move by Russia. In the light of the situation, Russia dictates the foreign policies of the nations of the world and of their quotas of national expenditures on the military.

Russia is the only nation on earth that has an established foreign policy.

— C. DANA MALPASS

Rep. Kemp Cheers Visit To Charlotte

Raleigh

Editors, The News:

THE following is a letter sent to Buell Duncan, president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

—ED KEMP, Chairman
Committee on Local Government
N. C. House of Representatives

Dear Buell:

Please accept my deep appreciation for the splendid reception given the General Assembly during its recent visit to Charlotte.

The members of the General Assembly came away with a better understanding of the problems facing urban communities in the midst of extensive growth. Too, we were given a first-hand view of the great impact Charlotte and the Piedmont Crescent has upon the overall economy of our State. Certainly yours is the Queen City in a literal sense.

Thanks again to you, your directors and officers and to the staff of folks who made the trip to Charlotte one of the truly outstanding events of my legislative career.

—ED KEMP

A Thank-You For Business Training

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

MISS HOPE and I want to express our appreciation for the wonderful article which appeared in The News Monday, March 9, as a result of Steve's obtaining a 100 per cent Charlotte News route.

We certainly appreciate the fine training that The News is giving Steve in business methods and in a knowledge of how to work with people. The training that he is receiving now will benefit him throughout life.

Thank you very much for giving Steve this excellent opportunity.

— C. C. HOPE JR.

Biggest Bottleneck Is Ours, Anyway

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

IT WAS very unwise of the State Highway Department to say that Downtown Blvd. in Raleigh is the most heavily traveled thoroughfare in the state.

As everyone in North Carolina knows by now, Charlotte is the first in everything: has the most, biggest, best and most expensive of everything; and has statistics to prove it is ahead of everybody in everything.

The Queen City's drumbeaters have proved that the Highway Department's statistics are twisted, and that Charlotte's Graham St. is really the state's biggest bottleneck.

It is a good thing everybody knows Charlotte is ahead of the rest of the world in everything, or some people might even begin to believe a few of the wild claims of the jealous outside world.

— HARLAN REDD

Thanks Expressed For News Stories

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I AM grateful to you and The Charlotte News for the publicity given the Sanctuary Crusade for Kilgo Methodist Church. John Borchert, who handled the news stories, has been exceptionally helpful in every way. I appreciate his courtesy as well as his writing.

—IVAN A. STEPHENS

Only Individuals Meet Judgment

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I WAS much impressed after reading a story by a minister in the paper recently about how Christians could go out and win souls for Christ just like Billy Graham is doing.

If we are to be saved we should want others to come to Christ. And church members should ask themselves if they are ready to meet God. No one but yourself meets God at the judgment, it is up to you what happens then.

— MRS. MAYME BARGER

Suttle Summed Up Dixie's Predicament

Zirconia

Editors, The News:

I THINK Teller Suttle deserves a little Nobel Prize for his brief and apt letter (People's Platform, Feb. 26) concerning tradition vs. law. When he says, "Here in the South the people hold tradition sacred and woe to law or even justice if it lays its profane hands on it," he sums up the South's predicament better than many a long-winded sermon.

—MRS. BOB LINDSEY

A Few Questions For Russia's Boss

Santa Monica, Calif.

Editors, The News:

I WOULD suggest we move toward easing cold war tensions by asking Khrushchev when he intends to release the millions of slaves in Siberia, permit East Germany to unite with West Germany, withdraw his troops from Romania, Albania, Hungary, Poland, and the Baltic States, and grant civil liberties and a free press to his own people.

—MARY E. GOLDEN

For Jonas Backers, A Point Of Pride

Lincolnton

Editors, The News:

I HOPE all the people in the Tenth District, and especially those who supported Rep. Charles R. Jonas read the article in Monday's News regarding the representatives from North Carolina who have sons, daughters and other relatives on their payrolls.

Jonas backers can point with pride to the fact that even in North Carolina it is possible to elect not only an able congressman, but an honest one.

— DAVID B. EUREY

'Really, You're A Mess'

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Facts Of Berlin A Worry For Congress

WASHINGTON

MILITARY briefing sessions at the White House sometimes can be boring. Military experts stand in front of charts with pointers in hand and rattle off long sets of figures. Senators who are invited by the President to attend, listen politely but not always attentively.

Attention Keen

Last week, as Allen Dulles, brother of the ill Secretary of State, and head of Central Intelligence, gave the figures on Russian military strength around Berlin, there was no wool-gathering. Congressional leaders were alert and worried.

Against 175 total divisions in the Red Army, the United States has a total of 17 divisions. Against about 330,000 crack Soviet troops in East Germany adjacent to Berlin, the United States has 220,000 men in West Germany, of which 75,000 are in fighting units. The others are behind desks, engaged in transport, supplies, training.

Strength Known

Allen Dulles did not go into details regarding the strength of American forces in Berlin. He did not have to. Several of the congressional leaders who had come to the White House are experts on these figures.

Among them sat Carl Vinson who owns a 1,000-acre farm outside Milledgeville, Ga., where the state insane asylum is located. When Rep. Vinson is at home, he is out working in his peanut and cotton fields. But in Washington he concentrates on the House Armed Services Committee of which he is chairman.

"Do you think, in view of this danger," asked the venerable congressman from Georgia, "that you are wise in proceeding with the presently planned cuts in our military forces?"

The President replied that he had taken this into careful consideration, and that the presently proposed military budget should stand.

Fulbright Ready

Sen. Fulbright of Arkansas, who when in the House of Representatives almost 20 years ago first introduced the resolution which led to the United Nations, picked up the ball.

"Do you think it is wise from a psychological point of view," he asked the President, "to cut our armed forces just as we have told the Russians we will not budge one inch in Berlin?"

Again the President said he had considered this carefully, that he did not want to alarm the American people, that he was not going to rush into partial mobilization or the evacuation of Americans from Berlin. Especially, he was not going to fall into the Russian trap and spend the United States into bankruptcy. That, he said, is just what the Kremlin wants us to do.

Acheson Warning

Several of the congressional leaders had just read a Saturday Evening Post article by the former Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, in which he warned of the seriousness of the Berlin crisis, and expressed the belief that the Russians would think twice about precipitating a military showdown—if the United States was well prepared.

Having this in mind, they argued at some length with the President, urging more advance preparedness. But the President stood his ground.