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TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1959

It's Time Rip Van Raleigh Awakened

SOME legislators called it "greed" when Charlotte's threadbare community college system went hat in hand to Raleigh last week in search of another pittance for capital improvements.

The requests, if anything, were too modest.

Charlotte asked for a $925,000 share of the $1,500,000 in matching funds earmarked for Tar Heel community colleges during 1959-61 by the Advisory Budget Commission. (The State Board of Higher Education had recommended that Charlotte's cut be $1,325,000.)

In addition, Charlotte joined Wilmington and Asheville in requesting that $375,000 already raised in the three cities for the purchase of sites be matched by the state from current funds in accordance with a provision of the original Community College Act.

The Raleigh press reacted with a burst of admonishment. The RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER used the word cutes in referring to the testimony of college representatives before the Joint Appropriations Committee. It was suggested that these "enthusiasts . . . may have dealt their lusty infant a blow". Added the N&O:

"To some legislators, it looked like they were being 'held up' for dollars which they had not authorized.

"By refusing to listen to friendly advice about where to get the extra money, community college backers added to the legislative discontent over their requests."

As anyone acquainted with the growing crisis in higher education knows, there was no need for all this huffing. This isn't "greed." Anything but. Community college "enthusiasts" went to Raleigh to save the state some money. It's as simple as that.

North Carolina just is not going to be able to continue to meet the soaring demand for higher education with its present big dormitory - type colleges alone. It's too costly.

A strategically located community college is an economy measure—and nothing need be sacrificed in the quality of education offered.

The small amount of money Charlotte is seeking for the next biennium, together with local matching funds, would build enough facilities for another 1,400 students.

It would cost the state $3,500,000 just to build dormitories for this many students. Furthermore, according to the state budget, North Carolina will shell out an average of $562 per pupil per year for operating expenses at state-supported senior colleges and only $108 per pupil per year at community colleges. For the 1,400 students we mentioned earlier, this alone would represent a direct saving to the state of $640,000 a year.

California was the first state to appreciate fully the kind of economies that are possible with a system of community colleges. California today has 68 tuition-free and six privately-operated community colleges and their combined student bodies total 300,070. Texas, with its 46 community colleges, serves some 67,000 students. In addition, both states maintain superb universities for advanced study.

Yet in North Carolina, urgent requests for modest funds are described as "cuties" and legislators speak of being "held up."

The low-cost, live-at-home features of community colleges are too important to receive this kind of treatment.

It's time Rip Van Raleigh awakened.

Foreign Aid: One For The Seesaw

THE chips are down for foreign aid.

It has become the favored target of "economizers" on both sides of the aisles in Congress. The chances are that it will be hacked to pieces unless a cadre of responsible leadership can be organized at once.

Indicative of the discomfiture of Congress is the kicking around the Development Loan Fund received in a special House Appropriations subcommittee. This is one of the least objectionable of all phases of Mutual Security Program operations. It offers productive loans to undeveloped areas from a fully capitalized central fund capable of serving the needs of individual nations or even groups of nations. The businesslike use of these loans encourages the development of self-managing, self-sustaining economies.

On March 10, the special subcommittee reversed an earlier cut of $175 million from the $225 million in fiscal 1959 supplemental funds requested and approved $100 million for DLF. Then it was disclosed by Rep. Albert Thomas (D-Tex.) that the subcommittee first had voted $150 million for the fund but then took another vote and approved only $50 million.

This sort of seesawing on issues affecting the economic growth and stability of the free world is symptomatic of congressional uncertainty and confusion on the whole question of foreign economic aid. Only the firmest leadership can repair the confidence of today's doubters.

The plain fact is that America's national interest will be served by the growing stability and independence of underdeveloped nations. To refuse to help these nations help themselves would be folly of the worst sort.

Battlefields 'Lost' In 100 Years

VIRGINIANS took to the air the other day to map aerial plans for the state's Civil War centennial.

From the moment they were aloft in Army helicopters they had trouble.

Boldly put, they got lost.

This was to have been a scanning of the 1862 Seven Days battlefields east of Richmond. The group included authorities of the fighting National Park Service people and a news media squad.

One primary trouble it occurred to the pioneering group, was that in almost a hundred years the trees had grown back in force. Battle lines on the map just didn't show up from the air.

Several of the experts admitted they didn't recognize a thing. Only one who had recently covered some of the ground also knew generally where he was. Even he admitted he couldn't spot the Chickahominy River from the copter. That branch was the most prominent landmark they had too.

The quote of the day came when one passenger shouted over the engine's roar. The pilot says he's lost but we're making good time.

The flight was not a waste of time, however. The Virginians plan to utilize helicopters for the centennial. They decided they did need broad ground markings and some tree-trimming. Soundproofed whirlybirds would help a tour guide, too, the deafened group concluded.

While the airborne RICHMOND NEWS LEADER reporter wrote in a light vein, the centennial itself will be a serious, sober event.

We believe Virginia will have things straight soon, and students of the period await the curtain in keen anticipation.

The Times Knew

VENUS moved over the moon's shoulder the other night with Mercury playing shepherdess, and U. S. citizens flooded press media and police switchboards with phone calls.

Quite a few folks thought a Russian rocket was blasting in at a little motel, but astronomers pooh-ed the whole event as no concern.

In fact, New York Times readers knew about the heavenly display in advance, somehow, with the usual clouded reports outside.

If we could just get the Times the night the 1st period we wouldn't have been shivering in the backyard staring at the pinkish cipher.

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch

'BEGINNING WITH THE PILGRIMS . . .'

THE fact that Pocahontas was depicted as a bosom pal of the Pilgrim Fathers on a recent nationwide TV program was noted in this place. Unfortunately, the daughter of the mighty Powhatan had died three years before the Pilgrims landed on these shores.

We are now informed by nothing less than the NEW YORK TIMES that the Puerto Ricans . . . are like a great many other immigrants who came to this country, *beginning with the Pilgrim Fathers in 1620* (italics supplied).

Here we go again. Everything in this country began with the landing at Plymouth Rock. We had always been given to understand that a couple of other fellows landed at Jamestown slightly in advance of 1620. Apparently the august TIMES never heard of Jamestown.

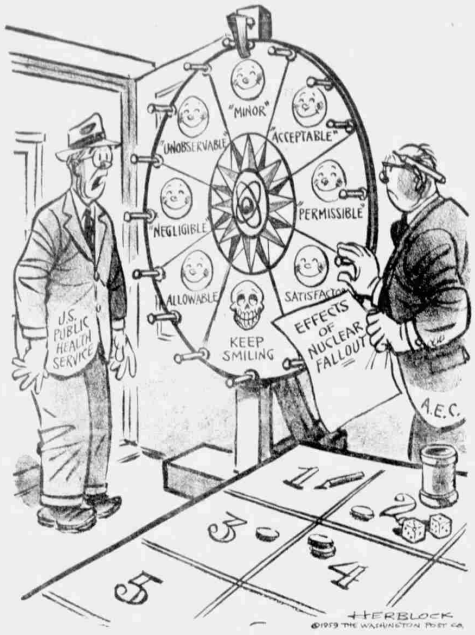
Maybe Capt. John Smith, in that newspaper's opinion, was one of the Smith brothers of cough drop fame. Modern tobacco culture, founded by John Rolfe, husband of Pocahontas, presumably originated in the Connecticut valley.

We've long since abandoned hope of getting the historical facts of life across to the average American, but it's a bit disillusioning to find the NEW YORK TIMES dropping the ball with the rest of them.

When a woman is crowding fifty, she doesn't mind getting lost in the crowd.
— GREENSBORO (GA.) HERALD-JOURNAL

The girl filling out a job application came to the little square labelled "Age." She wrote, "Atomic." — CARLSBAD CURRENT-ARGUS

'There Must Be Some Way That's More Scientific'



Billions Wasted On Exploration Of Space?

Mutual Mayhem?

Humphrey's Battle

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

PREMATURELY, almost explosively, the pattern of the Democratic presidential race is now being revealed. The latest chapter in the story is the decision of Sen. Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota to do or die in the key preconvention primaries.

The decision was really dictated by Sen. Humphrey's classification in the teeming brood of Democratic hopefuls. Like Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Humphrey is an active candidate. He cannot join the more comfortable class of inactive candidates, which is headed by Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri, with anyone else you may choose to accuse of presidential ambitions trailing along behind.

The difference between the active and inactive candidates is rather simple. Kennedy and Humphrey, the activists, are ready to run hard for the nomination because they know they have to. Rightly or wrongly, Symington and the other inactivists hope to be nominated by default, because the two activists have committed mutual mayhem, or have produced a deadlock, or have failed to make the grade in some other way.

IT'S DOWNRIGHT COMIC

In the present phase, therefore, it is deeply interesting to watch President Truman and others quietly peddling Symington as the ideal compromise choice of the Democracy, when the time comes to compromise. It is downright comic to listen to more improbable but no less hopeful aspirants lengthily ruling out every other nominee but themselves, by the familiar reductio ad absurdum method. But the real drama of the present phase centers on the Kennedy-Humphrey contest.

Neither Kennedy nor Humphrey has been at all anxious to give the customers their money's worth, by starting slugging with out undue delay. Kennedy, the proud of the opinion polls that he is currently the Democrats' biggest potential vote-getter. He has all of New England. He has the hope of New York, of most of Illinois and of several other large groups of delegates. Normally, Kennedy might be tempted (and he may yet be tempted) by the front-runner's usual plan of avoiding needless bloodshed.

TWO HANDICAPS

But Kennedy is a Catholic. More bothersome still, he is thought of as a juvenile. He is actually 41, but it seems to be dangerous in politics to enter middle age with more hair and less waistline than is customary after 40. Hence Kennedy has to overcome these handicaps by the sort of commanding lead he can only gain in the primaries. In most primary victories, he will not have a really good chance of being nominated.

Humphrey's reluctance to start slugging has been greater than Kennedy's. Only a little more than a forthnight ago, his remarkably astute partner and political strategist, Gov. Orville Freeman of Minnesota, was gamely trying to avert a Wisconsin primary. Freeman wanted the Wisconsin Democrats to back a favorite son slate of delegates. The reason was, quite simply, that the Humphrey forces have been deeply impressed (and not a little depressed too) by the evidence of Kennedy's powerful appeal to the voters.

Maybe Humphrey would still be reluctant to plunge into the fray, if Freeman's effort to put Wisconsin on ice had been successful. But the Freeman effort failed. Furthermore, primary victories are very much more needed by Humphrey than by

SEN. HUBERT HUMPHREY
Do-Or-Die Strategy

Kennedy. There is little evidence as yet of Humphrey's mass appeal. He does not have any big bloc of delegates outside his own bailiwick. His nomination would strongly tend to drive many southerners to a third party ticket. In short, he is the kind of candidate who can only waite to triumph through a sea of gore.

GRUELING PLAN

These sanguinary facts have now been faced by Humphrey himself, by Gov. Freeman, and by Humphrey's able new campaign adviser, Washington lawyer James Rowe Jr. Rowe proclaims that "We want to fight all the primaries we can get into." The word "want" is perhaps an exaggeration. But the Humphrey strategy is now based on the acknowledgement that Humphrey has simply got to fight at least the two key primaries, Oregon and Wisconsin. Humphrey's decision in turn virtually imposes the same decision on Kennedy.

Because Humphrey is admittedly behind, he has laid out a grueling plan of campaign. As soon as the present congressional session ends, he will start running, in all the states where he has hopes for delegates, and above all in Wisconsin and Oregon. He will run in all as though he were a Senate candidate in each. As the records show, Humphrey is a formidable politican and a particularly formidable campaigner. Now that he has adopted this do-or-die strategy, the Humphrey candidacy must be regarded as transformed.

Formerly, his candidacy was a local phenomenon, with fringe support from ex-Adlai Stevensonites in states outside Humphrey's home area. But now the Humphrey candidacy can easily determine the course of the Democratic Convention, and this can still be the case, whether Humphrey wins or Kennedy wins.

Housing Issue Sizzles

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON

HOUSING legislation is fast becoming the focal point in the battle of the budget.

The Senate passed a Democratic housing bill Feb. 5 and the House version of the same bill is awaiting a green light from the Rules Committee so it can get to the floor for voting. The House is expected to vote on the bill after it returns from the Easter recess April 7.

In the meantime, Eisenhower Administration and Democratic spokesmen are throwing housing statistics at each other like hot potatoes.

For example, the Eisenhower administration is citing totals for the Democratic housing bill counts public housing costs over a 40-year period but does not mention the cost of its own 20-year program for giving grants for college housing. The Democrats, on the other hand, claim public housing costs should not be charged to them at all since the program was authorized 10 years ago and the old quota of housing units never has been filled. But in broadcasting totals they charge the administration for its proposed college housing grants.

The biggest single difference between the administration and Democratic bills in terms of total cost is public housing. Under that program, the federal government helps local public housing authorities pay off their mortgages on low-rent apartments. Uncle Sam pays that part of the indebtedness that rents do not cover.

Started back in the days of the New Deal, the public housing program has failed to live up to its advance billings despite repeated attempts administered by Congress. In 1949, for example, Congress said the government could subsidize 810,000 units. By the end of 1958, only 210,000 of that 810,000 quota have been built.

This year the Democrats propose to extend the authority of the government to subsidize these units. The Republicans claim this subsidization would come to almost $4 billion over the next 40 years. Yet there is no way to tell how many units actually will be built.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Strauss Frets About Congressional Quiz

Editors' Note: While Drew Pearson is out of Washington on a special assignment, his column is being written by his associate, Jack Anderson.

WASHINGTON

BEHIND his blustering, Lewis L. Strauss, Secretary of Commerce-to-be, is suffering an emotional storm. His friends report he sometimes lets down in their presence, alternately blaming and storming at

First Hurdle

What is coming at his nominees is the critical ordeal nominees are expected to face this week. Soon he appears before the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. This is the first hurdle he must clear before the Senate can confirm his appointment to the Cabinet.

The senators have been quietly investigating how much his former Wall Street investment firm, Kuhn, Loeb and Co., benefited during his rule over the Atomic Energy Commission.

The full story is buried in the Justice Department's file No. VRH-GDR-60-415-0. It's unlikely that Atty. Gen. Rogers will embarrass his fellow Cabinet officer by turning the file over to the committee. However, here are significant facts which this column has learned are contained in the file.

Conflicts On Interest?

1—As Atomic Energy chairman, Strauss vigorously opposed granting subsidies to build reactors. He made only one exception: A $95 million grant to Westinghouse to build a $100 million reactor. It is an interesting coincidence that John M. Schwiff, a senior partner in Kuhn, Loeb, happens to be a director of Westinghouse.

2—Another Kuhn, Loeb senior partner, Percy M. Stewart, is also a director of Uranium Reduction Company which received a major AEC contract for uranium.

3—After Kuhn, Loeb helped finance a North American Aviation subsidiary, this company also obtained a big AEC contract.

Close Ties

It is also no secret in the business world that Kuhn, Loeb and Co. has a close working relationship with the First Boston Corporation. This is the banking house brought in to finance the abortive Dixon-Yates deal.

Edgar Dixon and Eugene Yates headed an electrical combine which was supposed to build a power plant at Memphis and sell the power to the AEC. Strauss's agency, in turn, planned to distribute the power to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

This was a plot to hobble the TVA which prefers to produce its own power. In Tennessee and Alabama, TVA is as sacred as baptism and, in the opinion of many, more essential to salvation. So Strauss' scheme scanned an uproar that hasn't died down yet.

'Executive Privilege'

The senators may demand that he answer questions about the Dixon-Yates deal which he formerly claimed were none of the Senate's business. He flatly refused to tell the Judiciary Committee about his backstage role in the negotiations, claiming "executive privilege."

It is a safe bet, however, that Lewis Lichtenstein Strauss will be thoroughly cross-examined anyway.

People's Platform

Rocketry Is Costly Nonsense

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I FOR one am sick and tired of hearing about these rockets to the moon, space travel and satellites in orbit. I'm sure that if the Lord had wanted man out in space He would have placed him there. If He had wanted us to travel to the moon then He would have put a bridge to travel on.

On all sides we hear this prattle, and we are spending billions of dollars for such while thousands of children here in our midst are dying from the lack of proper food, clothing and other necessities. I know from bitter experience how a mother feels when she must deny her child a piece of meat because it is too expensive to buy. And the dollars that are being squandered overseas for so-called foreign aid, could well be used right here in our own land to alleviate hunger and despair.

Everytime we turn on the radio, watch television or read a newspaper, we are reminded to give to one fund or another. Heart, muscular dystrophy, cancer, cerebral palsy and crippled children, to name a few. I think these are all wonderful causes, but what gets my dander up is why the government, instead of wasting money on the space travel, rocket to the moon, etc., doesn't direct this money into these funds.

Get in behind them and give our doctors and scientists enough money to go ahead with their work, instead of the advance of all these other unnecessary expenditures.

There, I said it and I'm glad!

—MRS. ELLEN RONIM

Sterilization Bill A Dangerous Step

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

THERE is no crime justifying mutilation in the case of the proposed bill before the Senate House and Senate for sterilization as a method of curbing illegitimate births after the birth of the second child and failure of psychiatric help.

I am supposed that an MD proposes mutilation of the human body to save the state's money.

What will the next proposed bill be? Euthanasia for the indigent chronically ill after their second trip to the hospital? This may sound far-fetched but if an individual was confused enough to cut off one of his healthy limbs it wouldn't surprise us if he took his life next.

— ELIZABETH SOULE

N. C. Withholding Tax Hardly Worth Effort

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

WHILE OUR solons in Raleigh are searching diligently for something new to tax, to raise necessary funds to operate our state, and our governor happily explains that the "windfall" from a proposed withholding tax will end our tax worries forever more, it is interesting to pry into the facts a bit.

We are assured the withholding method would collect taxes from many persons not now paying. Salaries of transient workers, for instance, would be taxed through withholding. This is true, but aren't the annual earnings of such nomadic laborers so small they would be exempt from taxation? Sure, many of them are illiterate, who would not know just how to go about getting a refund. That would be pretty dirty pool though, to prey on their ignorance wouldn't it?

One senator suggests taxes would already have been withheld from the salary of a worker who died before filing. If such earnings were sufficient to be taxed, would the records not show the fact and the workers' estate be responsible for his taxes just as they are for any other just debt?

Wouldn't the withholding method put an extra burden of bookkeeping and additional expense on all employers?

Wouldn't the withholding "windfall" actually be forcing our citizens to pay two years' taxes in one year. And with North Carolina ranked 4th from the bottom in our nation in per capita income, wouldn't this place a most punishing burden on us for a year? Only three states — South Carolina, Arkansas and Mississippi — boast a lower per person average income than our great Tar Heel state's $1,317. No worker can afford more for taxation, food and shelter than his earnings total, so a double taxation would harm business generally for the year thus reducing taxes from sources other than income taxes.

Why not encourage better wages, so our workers can spend more for taxes and more for merchandise to support our business firms who in turn would pay more taxes themselves.

—A. C. BUCKLE