

THE PILOT

Southern Pines North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Wherever there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

'The bulwark of our liberty...'

What constitutes the bulwark of our own liberty and independence? It is not our frowning battlements or our bristling sea-coasts . . . Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prized liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands everywhere.

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Lincoln Knew

Last week President Eisenhower appointed a commission whose purpose appears to be to find out, and presumably in due time to proclaim, what are the aims of the United States and how they may be achieved.

This has been a great administration for commissions. We have had a commission to find out what is wrong with education, a commission to find out what is wrong with the defense effort. The committee for the exploration of outer space, the Council of Economic Advisors, these and other bodies are engaged in similar studies. We have had the Rockefeller Brothers' Report, the Hoover Report, the Conant Report, the half-secret Gaither Report. From these efforts have come a series of reports on their findings and of various ideas on how things may be put to rights. Now we have the biggest commission of all, in aim and stature of personnel: the commission to find out what are the goals of the United States—or even, one suspects, if it really has any goals—and how we may, in the President's words: "press onward towards these goals in an era of vast technological change and development" and so "fulfill our world role or, most basically, be true to ourselves and to the ideals on which the Nation is based."

This is a large order; it is also a strange order. The implication—a strong one—that the nation does not know where it is going inevitably carries the connotation that the Party and the President, now at the head of the government, do not know either. Mr. Eisenhower asks the commission to "develop a broad outline of coordinated national policies and programs for the next decade or longer."

This commission, staffed by some of the finest minds of the nation, will do a good job. Its report should supply the President with

many stirring ideas for that farewell speech to the nation which another year will bring. What more will it do?

The nation has already had all the previous "reports" made by commissions equally well-staffed, equally well-heeled from the coffers of this or that of the great private foundations. Besides this hardly a day goes by that a book is not published on various phases of the great issues, either foreign or domestic, that confront the nation. There is plenty of material available to the President and his staff for study as they chart the course towards those goals of which he wrote.

As for the goals themselves: is a commission needed to tell the people and the President what they are? There are many who can describe them: men alive today and men whose strong and confident voices echo in roiling periods from the past. Woodrow Wilson could tell him, so could the two Roosevelts and Harry Truman, with his close knowledge of American history. Washington, Jefferson, Adams, any of the Founding Fathers could tell him. Abraham Lincoln, the great leader of the President's own party, could tell him.

Friday is Lincoln's birthday. It would be a good idea to stop, for a moment, and think about Lincoln. Think about his great heart, his simplicity, his quiet strength of character; his tirelessness, working late at night, alone at his desk—he was so alone. He never lost faith, he never failed his people; his heart was with the fighting men in their pain and in their fearful effort; and his heart and his courage kept them going, kept the country going, saved the Union.

Lincoln speaks today, as he has spoken in every crisis of this nation's history. This nation needs, the President needs, to listen to him.

Safer Railroad Crossings Needed

Within the past decade, four elderly women pedestrians have been struck and killed by trains at Southern Pines railroad crossings.

Installation of the present automatic blinker and bell system followed other fatal accidents at the crossings in previous years.

Ironically, all the pedestrian deaths of the past decade—including one last week—took place at the crossings with bells and lights—one at Vermont Ave., one at New Hampshire Ave. and two at Massachusetts Ave.—not at the unprotected crossings.

Readers may recall that the Seaboard Air Line Railroad installed the expensive automatic light and bell system at most of the crossings with the understanding that the Town would close the New York Ave. and Illinois Ave. crossings. The crossings were never closed. In view of this background, it is fortunate that none of the pedestrian deaths have occurred at the unprotected crossings. Any pedestrian death at any of the crossings

seems inexplicable, in view of the racket made by the warning bells and the trains themselves—yet here is this tragic record of four lives snuffed out in 10 years. Is there any reason to think that, unless additional protective measures are installed, this average will not continue? Can the Town or its citizens face that outlook serenely?

Southern Pines is becoming increasingly popular as a home for retired people and the number of people retiring is also increasing. There is the prospect, too, of the Episcopal Home for the Aging which will house many elderly persons who will be able to be up and around town. It is obvious that the hazard at the railroad crossings will increase, rather than decrease, as time goes on.

People in Southern Pines are deeply distressed about the lethal potentialities of the crossings as they now stand. Whatever the outcome may be, the town council should take the matter up with the railroad and see if some solution can't be found.

How Best Approach Illiteracy?

If Moore County runs anywhere near the State average, there must be several thousand persons in the county who cannot read or write—persons who never went to school or who dropped out of school at such an early age that they have lost or forgotten the rudimentary training they once received.

The Literacy Program now going on, to teach reading by television, has produced negligible results in this county, despite much effort by the county home economics agent's department to enlist students and teachers. Only one person has consented to take the course, at latest report.

The TV project may not be a good test, as its classes are given from 6 to 6:30 a. m., presumably on the theory that this is about the only time when many working people would be able to attend. Actually, most manual workers are already up and getting breakfast at this hour and can hardly be expected to leave their homes then to attend a class around a TV set elsewhere in the community, or in their own homes if there happens to be another literate person in the home to help them. There has to be a trained teacher to work along with the students as the classes come over TV.

Persons who tried to recruit students for the literacy classes report great reluctance by illiterate persons to volunteer for the classes or even to admit they can't read or write. In other cases, the persons trying to form a class were advised not to approach an illiterate person with the proposal, for fear of offending or embarrassing him. Two such per-

sons in this county were described as successful businessmen.

The Literacy Program came up with some shocking figures on illiteracy in North Carolina—derived, as we recall, from census information. These figures were reinforced recently by a survey by the State Motor Vehicles Division, in connection with driver's license applications. The survey showed that a fifth of the persons applying for driver's licenses in this state can't read.

This has led some Tarheel commentators to question the policy of giving driver's licenses to illiterates who, though they can memorize the shape of highway signs as meaning "stop," "caution," or what have you, are faced on modern express highways with more complicated signs that do require, or should require if safety is considered, some reading ability.

Making reading ability a requirement for driver's license would be a powerful incentive to illiterate persons—and also to stop school drop-outs. Perhaps some system could be worked out whereby an illiterate person could be given a temporary driver's license that would not be renewable unless he learned the elements of reading within say, three years, at the end of which time a simple reading test would be part of the examination leading to a full-fledged driver's license.

Whatever may be the approach, North Carolina must become concerned about illiteracy and must somehow make education attractive and practically available to its illiterate adults. And, to prevent the problem from continuing ad infinitum, the state must enforce its school attendance laws.

"Good Grief, Man—You Want To Break His Back?"



'THE NEW FOREIGN POLICY'

Will Russia Rejoin The West?

The Pilot is reprinting, with permission, a series of articles on the "New Western Foreign Policy" by Joseph C. Harsch, special correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor. In the following article Mr. Harsch discusses the relationship of Russia to the West, against the background of the new policy.

Most maps to this day show Europe as being a part of the world that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains. But map-maker habits do not accord in our times with our own mental concept of Europe.

The contrast between past and present concepts of Europe and Russia's relationship to it is one measure of the enormous importance in history of the Russian Revolution of 1917. It severed Russia proper and the Ukraine from Europe to which they had mentally belonged for centuries and either attached them to Asia or set them adrift in a no man's land in between.

The frontier between East and West was moved westward from the Urals to the Carpathians. Mentally our generation has acquiesced in the loss from Europe and from the stream of Western civilization of classic Russia and the Ukraine. So contracted is our concept of Europe that we even are satisfied to talk only wistfully about some day regaining Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia for Europe. That is the limit of our hopes. Even that exceeds our serious expectations.

Possibility

The New Foreign Policy does not consciously seek to undo the results of the 1917 earthquake. Yet there is inherent in it the germ of a possibility that some day, probably not in our time, there might be an end to the isolation from Europe of the lands Moscow rules.

It is merely a passing fact that Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev received a warmer welcome in Washington than he did in Peking on his last visit there. It is merely a passing fact that traffic in people, ideas, and goods between Moscow's lands and the West is slowly and slightly reviving. It is merely a passing fact that Moscow this past week did not seize the opportunity of the French crisis to cause fresh trouble for old Europe. The chances are that Stalin would have explored the opportunity.

It is also a fact that in advance of and during the Suez crisis John Foster Dulles, then United States Secretary of State, did some thinking about ways and means of bringing the Soviet Union back into the concert of Europe and that his own changing ideas about relations with Moscow were fundamental in his

behavior toward Britain in that issue—the behavior which came as such a devastating shock to Anthony Eden.

The essential thing which comes out of the Eden memoirs is that he conceived and executed the Suez venture within the context of cold war thinking. Had Mr. Dulles been thinking in the same terms, he certainly would have backed Mr. Eden who, after all, was trying to keep Moscow out of the Middle East.

In a certain sense American policy destroyed Mr. Eden politically. Mr. Eden's basic miscalculation was his failure to appreciate that while Mr. Dulles still was talking in the language of the cold war, he already was groping for ways and means of ending Moscow's isolation from the West.

None of these gropings for re-association between West and Moscow begin to equal yet in weight the dominant fact of these times: the Chinese-Soviet alliance. Moscow's orientation is toward Asia, its essential alliance with an Asiatic country, its ideology and propaganda still hostile toward the West. Yet in the broader historic and cultural sense it is not entirely fanciful to think of the trouble between Moscow and the West since 1917 in terms of a civil war within the European community.

Some of the most violent and bitter struggles in history have been civil, and at times they have ended in reconciliation.

'Alive and On the March...'

Rep. Chester Bowles of Connecticut—former Governor of that State and former ambassador to India—spoke in Chapel Hill this morning at the World Affairs Conference being held there, with several Sandhills residents attending. Below are excerpts from his recent book, "The Coming Political Breakthrough."

Perhaps the most significant fact of our times is that the revolution which shaped our own history is alive and on the march again in Asia, Africa, in the Middle East and in Latin America. It may wander into wayward paths or keep to a steadier course. It may be led by saints or sinners.

But whether it is wayward or steady, whether dedicated men or imposters march at its head, it is carrying everything before it. And all those who would influence its course must speak its language.

At every public conference in these awakening continents it is the traditional idea of freedom first written into our own Declaration of Independence which emerges as a stated, agreed-upon national objective.

And the new Western foreign policy provides an opportunity to discover whether in truth Moscow someday might reassociate with the Western community. Probably the best argument that could be made for the policy is precisely this.

We never shall know whether there survives in Moscow an atavistic urge to reunite Europe as our forefathers conceived Europe unless we enter upon the experiment of offering the opportunity. There is inherent in the new policy, subconsciously if not consciously, the idea that perhaps Moscow's estrangement and isolation from Europe since 1917 is temporary and unnatural, not permanent and natural.

High Price

If, and it is a very large and very long if, the West has abandoned the cause of Eastern European liberation as the price for reopening the door to a larger continent of Europe, then the price in time may not seem to have been too high. At the moment the price seems very high and the prospects of a return very slender.

We must come back to the fact that it was not for such reasons that Washington embarked on the new policy. It did so to save money on the military budget. Will Moscow, perhaps also for wrong reasons, respond constructively to the olive branch which, we might almost say, has been extended unintentionally?

(To be continued)

Grains of Sand

Dan Loves It
"Dan Shaw," the mysterious verse-writer who is not listed in the telephone or city directory and who has mailed items to GRAINS from both Pinehurst and Southern Pines weaves garlands of praise for our community in (his? her?) latest contribution:

Some towns one visits
Then forgets,
But Southern Pines
Is different,
Retrospectively it's
Etched
In the mind
Persistent.

When one comes back to
Analyze
Its spell that holds
Forever;
One finds the answer is the
Pines
Plus civic-wide
Endeavor.

Its pleasant folks,
Its clean, neat roads,
Its fox and hounds,
Golf, gardens,
Its quietude and bright
Sunshine—
No town's as nice as
Southern Pines.

Hound-dog At The Opera

"Carmen" went off with a bang the other night. That is: judging by the comments heard at Weaver Auditorium at the Sandhills Music Association concert. The voices were fine; exceptionally fine. The acting just got by but they played the fine old melodrama right up to pitch and up to time and everybody got carried along, audience as well as actors.

Chief carrier was the "orchestra," the director-pianist, playing like mad; even taking one hand off the keyboard perilously to beat time wildly, then crashing down again. And on the right note, too.

"He deserves a special cheer," said many.

All this goes to show that opera can be fine and can be fun, even if it isn't at the Met.

Speaking of opera, GRAINS received a clipping the day after the concert, with the comment: "There's more than one way of enjoying the opera." The clip was an excerpt from an article by the late famous music critic Deems Taylor, telling about what happened one night at Wagner's "Tannhauser". As follows:

"I remember a glamorous performance of the hunt scene in Tannhauser at the Metropolitan years ago when one of the hounds slipped his leash and wandered around the stage.

"He sniffed one of the trees in Joseph Urban's superb forest set, Joseph Urban's superb forest set, rest of the pack with an expression that plainly said, 'Hey, fellows, look, a real tree!' and performed the customary ritual, to the vast entertainment of the audience but to the ruin of the mood of that scene of the opera."

I Love a Lassie

Sandy and Jock met on the High Street.

"Well, Sandy," said Jock. "And what for are you riding on a lassie's bicycle? What's come over you, man?"

"Ah, Jock," Sandy replied, "It was like this. I and my Jeanie we were out on the moor. She was telling me as how she had a new bicycle, and I—well now, Sandy, I was telling her about how pretty she was, as fair as the heather and as bonny as the lily in the dell. 'Oh, Jock,' she says to me, 'When ye talk like that,' she says, 'I love you so I'd do anything you asked,' she said. 'I'd give you anything, I would, when you talk like that!'"

"Will you, roo," says I. 'How about your bicycle?' says I. And so, Sandy, here it is. And mighty handy, too, when ye're wearin' the kilt."

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