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JULY 14, 1955

## A Terrible Dilemma

President Eisenhower and the U. S. State Department face some hard questions as they prepare for the conference "at the summit", the meeting of the heads of the Big Four, starting Monday at Geneva.

And how they answer the questions will determine their approach to the problem of peace or war. Why all the "sweet talk" from the Communists in recent months?

Most informed opinion in the State Department seems divided between two answers. One group holds that, because of bad crops, internal dissatisfaction, and other factors, the men in the Kremlin (and possibly the Chinese Red leaders) need a few years of peace to enable them to catch up with the West in the cold war; the second group, on the contrary, believes the Communists, since they possess the H-bomb and since they have such a strangle-hold on their people, feel strong enough to play along with the West, deliberately postponing war until a time that suits their best interests.

Obviously, our attitude and actions at Geneva will be different, depending on which explanation we accept.

As a matter of fact, it is just possible that neither of those explanations is correct. Can we cynically rule out the possibility that the Communists genuinely want a workable, long-term peace — what they call peaceful co-existence? Because if that is true, and we reject the olive branch, then we shall wreck what may be the world's only hope of peace.

We can't afford, of course, to forget the Communists' record, or to close our eyes and just hope they have reformed? But it would be equally foolish — and fatal — to forget that no real peace can come out of diplomatic fencing for advantage; that any real peace must be built on honesty, fairness, and confidence — and that confidence begets confidence.

Again, our approach and our position will be completely different, depending on what we think are the Communists' motives. If we assume they honestly want peace and proceed on that assumption, we may lose our shirts to them; but if we assume they seek advantage only, when their real aim is peace, we may lose the chance for peace.

And beneath and back of these and scores of other questions is a terrible dilemma:

Shall we insist upon justice for all peoples — and risk an atomic war? Or shall we seek a long-time peace on a basis of the status quo — and thus condemn millions to slavery?

Put another way: Is an atomic war to be avoided, at all costs? Or is our ultimate aim freedom for all, whatever that costs?

Put still another way: Is it possible to keep peace in a world that is half slave and half free?

## Sometimes It Is

One of Charles Dickens' characters commented:

"The law is a ass."

Sometimes it is.

It was, it seems to us, in a federal court in New York the other day. A U. S. district judge held that a village ordinance, prohibiting planes from flying over the village at altitudes lower than 1,000 feet, is unconstitutional. Presumably it still would be unconstitutional for the village to prohibit planes from coming over at altitudes of less than 50 feet!

A man has the right to use force, if necessary, to prevent another from entering his home. But the court has held he has no right — even through his local government — to prevent another from entering and destroying the quiet of his home.

What good are our constitutional property rights, under such circumstances?

## How?

From the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, the agency that collects and disburses unemployment compensation taxes, comes an amended set of "Rules and Regulations". The book is 68 pages of small type. Since we haven't found time to read it, we are in no position to suggest it could be shortened. We venture, though, to raise a question: How does this agency — and all the others of both state and federal government that have similar sets of rules and regulations — expect anybody to be able to read and learn all these regulations and still have enough time left to earn enough money to pay the taxes?

## Letters

### DECLARATION OF WAR

Editor, The Press:

The recent Supreme Court decision against segregation was a formal declaration of war. The battle is now raging. People are taking sides everywhere. They are fighting with words. The arguments for segregation are piling up, while the arguments for integration are doing the same. Both sides are using the Bible philosophy, theories, and facts on which to base their arguments. The integrationists are winning battles in some parts of the country, while the segregationists are winning in other parts. There is no indication that the fighting will end soon. It will continue for centuries. Blood may be shed and lives may be lost as a result of the fighting.

This war started many years before the Supreme Court passed down its formal declaration. But what started it? Did it have its beginning when the slaves were brought to this country? South American countries also brought slaves into its boundaries. But, those countries are not having this trouble. South American Negroes were freed without a terrible war. Racial prejudice in South America is practically non-existent. The bulk of the blood flowing in the veins of South Americans is mixed between and among whites, Indians, and Negroes.

Did the present war of segregation have its beginning when the North forcibly freed the slaves in the South? The South would probably, like South America, have freed its slaves before 1900 anyway. The people of the South didn't like being forced into freeing its slaves. When we saw we couldn't win the bloody fight against the North, we resorted to segregation on a wide scale as a means of fighting. The North tried to force the South into placing the Negro and the whites on a same and equal basis. The Northern armies forced our armies, to surrender, but they did not force the South into integration, which was their main objective.

The Civil War intensified an old evil: race prejudice. Race prejudice caused segregation. Because of racial prejudices, we Southerners condemn the North for its integration practices. However, in the absence of racial prejudice, those Northerners condemn the South for its segregation practices.

Don't misunderstand, the North and the Negroes are prejudiced too. Most of the North and the Negroes are prejudiced against segregation. While the South is largely prejudiced for segregation. People become prejudiced when something causes them to become prejudiced. Some Republicans are prejudiced for their party, some Democrats are prejudiced for their party, and both sides can stack arguments on top of arguments to prove that their side is right. The same is true of segregationists and integrationists. Both are prejudiced.

You may say that prejudice against the integration of Negroes and whites in the South is a good practice. Or, you may say that it is not good. If you take either side, then you are prejudiced. The Supreme Court of 1884 was prejudiced for segregation while the Supreme Court of today is prejudiced against it.

Any person who is prejudiced racially, politically, or any other way, will sooner or later suffer disappointments if

H. CLAY FERREE

## WHAT IS THE SOUTH? IT'S MANY THINGS

In Winston-Salem Sunday Journal-Sentinel

The South is a garden full of roses wet with the morning dew of May. It is the old Huguenot cemetery in St. Augustine; the iron grilled work on the porticoes of old houses in the Latin quarter of once languorous New Orleans; the magnificence of old Charleston's magnolia gardens and the look of puzzlement and pleased surprise on the face of restored Williamsburg.

It is the oyster boats on the Chesapeake and the vast deep shadow of the Washington monument across the Mall; dress parade on Worden Field; and the "mighty Mo" steaming into Hampton Roads.

It is blue smoke curling from a dozen tobacco barns in a quiet Old Belt valley late in September and, in any warehouse town, the mellifluous if monotonous chant of the tobacco auctioneer.

It is the orange groves at Palatka and the moss-festooned cypresses of Okefenokee.

The South is a golden dream coiled around Mt. Mitchell, Grandfather and Table Rock. It is a legend of Virginia chivalry, Carolina boldness, and the gallantry of the Deep South.

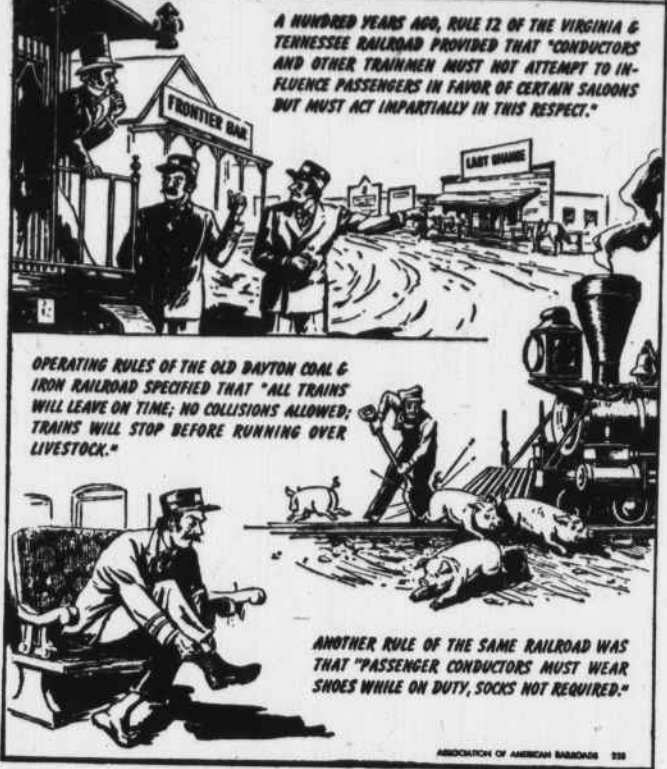
It is a Negro jazz band playing with home-made instruments in a shoeshine stand in Durham, Atlanta or Chattanooga, a Gene madge snapping his gulluse, and exhorting woolhats in a red-hot Georgia sun, a Huey Long spell-binding the Cajuns in the Louisiana canebrakes.

The South is Virginia Dare, Daniel Boone, Jefferson, John Calhoun, Jeff Davis and Robert Edward Lee. It is Dixie, the Swannee River, My Old Kentucky Home and Old Black Joe, Swing Low Sweet Chariot and Deep River.

It is a mountain woman chanting the ballad of Barbara Allen, a folk pageant at Manteo or Cherokee, and John Henry with that hammer in his hand.

It is Ol' Man River rolling across the levees in the bayou country, the sweat of leathery faces in the steel mills of Birmingham, and the clatter through the swamplands of the "Cannon Ball Express." Too, it is the sea of fog which fills the mountain valleys on a summer dawn, and the patter of rain on the roof of the cabin in the cotton.

## Rail oddities



## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Are we going to be able to take care of everyone? What I have reference to are the tourists that will be here in Macon County once our various high-way projects are completed. To all appearance, we are having a better than average tourist season yet our main travel routes from both the North and the South are blocked by detours. As has been said before (and evidently needs to be said several more times more) what we need are some "Stoppers." I will give the following illustration to explain just what I mean. Various roadside establishments near here nearly always have an Indian chief or a black bear out front.



Sloan

They don't plan to sell either the Indian or the bear, but people stop to look — and then they trade. Macon County has many "Stoppers", but we don't put them out front where the public will see them and want to stop and look. Just a few of things here, which I think are sure fire tourist attractions are: the Ruby Mine on Cowee, Bridal Veil and Dry Falls, Wayah Bald, White Oak Bottoms, Corundum Hill, and many others. Any one of the above, I believe if properly publicized would attract thousands of tourists or cause many of those passing through to stop. Let's get the "Stoppers" out front by all the forms of good publicity that we can use. One of the best is for each of us to be aware of what we have and to tell everyone we see.

Macon County has long been a leader in public education. We have had many first and near firsts. We were one of the first counties to have a compulsory school law. For many years, it was said that we had the highest percentage of college graduates to our population in the state. Let's make sure that we are among the first to make sure that the Negro population is not discriminated against in educational opportunity.

## Others' Opinions

### Saw Poetry In Trees

(Atlanta Journal)

Joyce Kilmer wrote some inspiring lines in his beautiful poem "Trees" which has been recited by many a school child in the fall or spring of the year:

I think that I shall never see

A poem lovely as a tree.

Up in Ellijay Thursday Lumberman Andrew Gennett (son of the late Andrew Gennett, once of Franklin — Editor) must have been thinking about Joyce Kilmer's lines when he decreed that Gilmer County's famous "Big Poplar" would be preserved. The big tree, which measures 19.6 feet in circumference, was to have been chopped down and made into ukuleles and banjos.

But Gennett stepped back and looked at the giant of the forest and decided, quite fittingly, that instead it should be preserved as a memorial to his 77-year-old uncle who has spent 50 years cutting timber.

"Maybe I'm wrong but I believe a tree like that, alive, is worth more than all the ukuleles and banjos in the world," commented Mr. Gennett.

A lot of people will agree with this lumberman who apparently can see poetry in trees. His soft feeling for the big poplar would have delighted Joyce Kilmer.

Poems are made by fools like me,

But only God can make a tree.

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mr. Sam L. Kelly is having the posts put up for the telephone line from Franklin to Silver Birch Lodge. He had them up as far as W. B. Lenoir's yesterday morning.

Mrs. M. C. Allen and two children, of Forsyth, Ga., arrived Thursday to spend several weeks with relatives here.

Dr. W. A. Rogers has purchased for himself a new buggy and a fine pair of horses.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Brown and their two daughters, Lavinia and Dorothy, have arrived to spend the summer here. They have rented Miss Rebecca Harris' home at the foot of Sunset Mountain for the season. — Highlands item.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Sisk, of Charlotte, are visiting Mr. Sisk's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Sisk, here this week.

Mr. Russell Cabe, who has been stationed at Lake City, Fla., with the U. S. Forest Service, has been transferred to Granby, Vt. Mr. Cabe visited relatives and friends in Franklin on his way to Vermont.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Bryson and daughter, of Warner Robins, Ga., have been visiting relatives and friends in West's Mill community for the past several days.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Scott have returned to their home in New York, after spending two weeks visiting Mrs. Scott's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Thomas, at their home on Iotia Street, and other relatives and friends in Franklin.

A group of observers from the Highlands Museum viewed the eclipse of the sun Monday morning from Sunrise Rocks. — Highlands item.