

THE PILOT

PUBLISHED EACH FRIDAY BY THE PILOT, INCORPORATED SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA

1941 JAMES BOYD 1944 PUBLISHER

KATHARINE BOYD - EDITOR VALERIE NICHOLSON - ASST. EDITOR DAN S. RAY - GENERAL MANAGER CHARLES MACAULEY - CITY EDITOR C. G. COUNCIL - ADVERTISING

SUBSCRIPTION RATES ONE YEAR \$3.00 SIX MONTHS \$1.50 THREE MONTHS .75

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER.

STRENGTH FOR PEACE

In as ringing tones as our chief executive is probably capable of, President Truman asked the Congress Wednesday to prepare this country for possible war.

He asked for immediate enactment of ERP, for passage of the Universal Military Training bill and for the enactment of legislation calling for selective service.

There was applause twice during the speech; once when he said "I am confident that the United States will extend to the free nations of Europe, the support they desire and need."

What of the speech? It said all the things to be expected and it left out all the things to be expected. It made a bow in the direction of UN, but it made no mention of the fact that we had just refused to back UN with the force we are now willing to use to back Europe.

It said that Russia by her use of the veto. 21 times in two years, had caused the failure of UN. It did not say that the veto had been proposed by the United States, that we had refused to give it up and that we would continue to refuse to give it up.

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Those were the expected things. But there was one thing which the administration's recent moves may not have led us to expect. That was the forthright, definite quality of the speech.

That, in itself is something. Many, listening to the president, may have wished that he had taken a different stand. They may have longed to hear him say that now was the time to review the whole world situation, to introduce into the Charter of the United Nations measures leading toward the strengthening of this body.

These would have been the proposals of a leader of vision and greatness. They were not heard. But instead there was heard, at least, a definite statement of policy. That, it seems to us is a gain.

Russia's seizure of Czechoslovakia has roused this nation to the reality of the situation and to its own responsibility in the cause of peace and freedom. If we can now carry out the President's program of preparing for war, while working harder than we have even started to do, yet, for peace, perhaps peace can be salvaged.

But if the preparedness program for war absorbs all our efforts, and if we should move, now, into the control of the military-minded among our people, and the Russia-haters, then the UN will be lost and that "strength for peace" which the president spoke of will be nothing but strength for the war which will be bound to come.

FIDDLERS

When we first lived down here there were lots of fiddlers' conventions. They were very serious affairs, generally held in a school house. The countryside turned out for them, and everybody took sides passionately.

The affair held at the Legion hut Friday night was different. There were only two fiddlers who put on special numbers, and most of the evening was devoted to square dancing, but the same spirit was there.

There were anywhere from 100 to 150 people there, a dozen or so of them were the musicians. Looking around one spotted people from every one of the many little sets that make up the town's social life.

We are of the opinion that whoever thought up this evening's entertainment had a bright idea. (And why not come out and say that we are almost sure it was Shields Cameron?)

IS TRUMAN OUT? President Truman has stirred up a hornet's nest with his proposed legislation on civil rights. He must have expected it in the South, but it is certain that he was far from anticipating the resentment aroused all over the nation by this political move.

Having merely hinted at our stand, we should like, now, to come out and commend Governor Cherry for not joining in with the other Southern governors in their denunciation of the civil rights proposal and their wild talk about secession.

But to commend Governor Cherry for his stand is not to applaud President Truman for introducing at this time his highly inflammatory proposal. Though we believe firmly in the principles they embody and believe that eventually they will come to pass as the education and general culture of both races advance, we cannot approve the president's move.

The generally adverse response to the president's proposal among Northerners as well as Southerners and among the colored people themselves shows that there is a clear understanding of this. It shows too that the people have not been fooled as to the motivation behind this act.

Many have doubted Truman's ability and his political sagacity, but his sincerity has hitherto not been seriously questioned. To find him now thus angling for political advantage, willing to stir up the fiercest passions in order to win votes comes as a rude shock.

The people have grown more and more dubious about some of Truman's domestic moves; they

have little love for the so-called Truman doctrine and little faith in it; it looks now as if Truman's inept handling of the civil rights issue would be the final card against him.

It seems more than likely that the leaders of the Democratic party will begin to look around for another standard-bearer. For the chances of winning with Truman look slimmer and slimmer.

NO SHRINKING VIOLET

General MacArthur has never been accused of shrinking from anything, least of all, perhaps, prominence and acclaim. Therefore his announcement last week that he would not "shrink" from accepting the Republican presidential nomination comes as no surprise.

So we now have a military man before us as a possible president. What can be said for and against him?

For him, as a military man, a good deal has been said. And a good deal has been said against him, too. As in the case of many who serve in places of authority during the past war, we shall have to wait till time casts its perspective before his true value as a soldier is known.

As an administrator he won unstinting praise for his organizing of the Philippines and much has been said contrasting MacArthur's role in Japan with Clay's in Germany, to the credit of the former. But it must be remembered that MacArthur's task was immeasurably simpler, and also that, there is some difference of opinion about the Japanese occupation.

It is fatuous to talk about democratizing Japan: neither the term nor the spirit it describes could possibly be understood there, but the feeling is strong that little attempt has been made in that direction by the present regime. Rather, it is reported, MacArthur's tendency is to play ball with the reactionaries, the big business interests who were so responsible for Japan's entering the last war.

A recent happening in Japan casts a good deal of doubt on the success, as we would like to think of success, of the General's rule. Only a short time ago, nine American correspondents filed charges against MacArthur's military censors on the grounds that they have been using their authority to suppress criticisms of occupation policy.

The case suggests, in the first place, that there is something to criticize about the American occupation of Japan, and second that criticism that has been made has been suppressed. We have not been given the true picture.

A third point illustrated by this case is the one often mentioned by MacArthur's critics, that he is potential dictator material, with a militarist's innate contempt for the democratic processes. This is so much the most serious charge against him that we may well ignore his conceit and his bombast and his marked unpopularity with his troops, even his absence from this country for eleven years, to concentrate on it.

One of the greatest dangers that face this country, or any democratic country, during the present critical times is the danger of losing its democracy. Whether it is lost through communism or through the rise to power of a dictator, the result to the free spirit of man is much the same. General Eisenhower wisely and bravely pointed out the reasons why military men were not the ones to head our government. If his brother-in-arms, General MacArthur, has not taken his words to heart, it is to be hoped that the American people have.

SPRING SUNSHINE

This is the time of the year down here, when sunshine appears in odd places. It isn't only up in the sky, in the conventional place for the sun to be, or only reflected on a bit of water or somebody's window, or the top of a car. But it gets right down on the ground and shines up.

All around the Sandhills, right now, there are these pieces of sunlight scattered about, shining away like all get-out. Mostly they are in peoples yards, or maybe along some of the prettier town blocks, tucked away under the pines and dogwoods.

You drive along and suddenly there is a piece of sun sitting right there by the roadside. You can almost feel its warmth as you slow down and creep past.

A few people are lucky enough to have hedges of sunlight, two ribbons of it running up to their front doors, or maybe along the front of their houses. It must give them a warm gay feeling when they come home. Even at night the spots of sun shine out.

A nice thing about it is that you can snip some of it off and

carry it into the house. It gives you a fine important feeling to stagger in with your arms full of sun. When you get it fixed up in a vase standing on the living room table it lights up the whole place. Put it over in the dark corner and you can almost read by it.

Later on we'll be having moonlight everywhere; white dogwood moonlight, glimmering ghostly through the woods, gleaming to fairly dazzle your eyes and make you blink when you come on it suddenly.

But that's for later. Now it's sunspots. And isn't it nice to have the sunshine come first?

Gather ye sunshine while ye may, lads and lasses! And if you'd prefer to be sophisticated and call it forsythia that's all right by us.

The Public Speaking

VIEWES ON PALESTINE

Aberdeen, N. C. March 8, 1948. Editor, The Pilot, Southern Pines, N. C.

In your last issue you stated that you did not agree with me "that the British are the ones to handle this" Palestine "affair." You further stated that "during that time" when the British were handling it "the situation has grown steadily worse and they they have done nothing to head it off. We see no reason at all to have confidence in British ability to handle the present problem."

Now there are certain facts on which we can doubtless agree; during the past few years American Jews have poured money by the millions into Palestine. Our Jewish Secretary of the Treasury helped greatly by rulings of the Treasury Department so that contributions for many Jewish Societies were exempt from taxation to the same extent that contributions to the Red Cross are exempt from taxation.

One Jewish writer Ben Hecht openly advertised in the New York papers asking for contributions in order to help Jews to enter Palestine illegally. In this country the matter of Palestine is a political football, indulged in by politicians for what they consider is their benefit—a game played at the expense of the American people who may find themselves engaged in war with the Arab nations.

Suppose conditions were reversed and we instead of the British had held the mandate. Suppose American boys were being killed through the use of money poured into Palestine by English Jews, how would this country react to such a situation? In my considered judgment the British have been very patient and long suffering.

I have followed with interest the recent altercation on the Palestine situation appearing on your editorial page. Your original comment expressing confidence in the integrity of the members of the Palestine commission and in the wisdom of the General Assembly which approved the Commission's recommendation for Partition, represents a very just appraisal of a problem which many consider has put the UN on the spot. The decision was one of moral courage and it is well to observe that the people with little faith in the workability of the UN, and they are many, are always anxious to invent ulterior motives for the actions of member nations whose attitudes on previous issues were not in accord with our own.

Russia is being accused of fostering Jewish-Arab intransigence by her vote in support of Partition and it is alleged that the tumult into which the entire Middle East will be thrown as a result of the Partition Plan will justify arbitrary intervention by Russia to "restore order" and her eventual assimilation of the Middle East.

It would be no less unprovoked of Russia, let us say, to prejudice the United States' act of support by fabricating the notion that we are desperately eager to establish a Jewish Home to which all Jewish Americans might be expatriated. . . . for with what judgment ye judge, ye shall also be judged."

Your correspondent of March

1st, Mr. Byrd, is not above this readiness to question the good faith of every nation which voted Partition. But accord among formerly irreconcilable elements in the Security Council is a considerable moral achievement, a cause for renewed faith in the best hope of mankind, which small talk, in these delicate times, will help greatly to undermine.

In disputing the legality of the General Assembly's decision. Mr. Byrd chooses to draw a comparison between Palestine and New York city. The parallel is specious. In effect what he says is that a divorce court has no greater right to determine which of the divorced pair has prior claim to their only child than it would have to intrude upon the affairs of a stable and happy family. Where there is no issue there can be no ground for comparison.

Mr. Byrd all but implies that President Truman was guilty of coercing, bribing or otherwise inducing the independent members of the Palestine Commission to consider the problem on other than its own merits. He says: "President Truman forced the action through the United Nations."

A final word on the legal right of the UN to prescribe Partition: The Chapter empowers the General Assembly to consider any question relating to peace and security and it may furthermore "recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations." The November 1947 resolution on Palestine was, then, clearly in accord with the rules.

Since it was obvious, even before the Commission drafted its recommendation, that the situation would require the attention of the Security Council, the body primarily concerned with peace and security, the matter was formally referred to the latter under the provision that "any such question on which action is necessary" shall be referred to it by the General Assembly.

Hence the matter rests with the Council and it is for the permanent members to decide if and how the plan resolved upon by the General Assembly is to be implemented.

Sincerely yours, John H. Gilchrist. KIND WORDS March 15th, 1948.

Mr. E. O. Hippus, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina. Dear Mr. Hippus:

Whoever you are, you certainly did a wonderful job in reviewing the recent Chamber of Commerce Horse Show.

My Congratulations for a grand story. Yours truly, Colin A. Gravenor, Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, Canada.

Editor The Pilot Southern Pines. Dear Mrs. Boyd, I appreciate the item which you published about me in your paper of March 4.

There was a slight error in my name which you may correct or leave uncorrected, as you please. Penn Seawell of our paper misunderstood my name and gave it to you wrong. Later he talked with someone there, Mr. Ray, I believe, and asked that it be corrected. In view of this, I suppose, no one is really responsible for the error.

However, it doesn't matter really. I am not so well known yet in Moore county. My grandfather, James T. Adams, left Manly, after the disastrous timber and turpentine fire which swept Moore county and several other counties one windy March day in the 80's, I believe, from West End to the Cape Fear river at Fayetteville.

I have noted for some time your sharply edited, clean-cut, well-printed newspaper. It is a great credit to North Carolina, and I enjoy reading it. I read with considerable interest your letter from Struthers Burt whom I have known for 25 years. Please tell him that this weather in North Carolina is nothing. In April, 1915, I saw it snow a foot deep in Wake county. That April snow was all over Eastern North Carolina.

Sincerely yours, Leary W. Adams Moore County News

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