

John G. Carpenter

No public official has ever been depicted as abjectly and as consistently by this newspaper as the late John G. Carpenter. In the 24 years he served as Solicitor of the 14th Judicial District we called repeatedly, and ineffectually, for his defeat at the polls, and we missed no opportunity to direct public attention to what we considered his indefensible laxity in the conduct of his duties.

Yet, although we carried on a sort of guerrilla warfare against John Carpenter, the Solicitor, The News always remained on excellent terms with John Carpenter, and when our editorial campaigns were at their bitterest, Mr. Carpenter greeted members of The News staff with unfailing courtesy, and many of them were his close, personal friends.

It was, in fact, John Carpenter's complete incapacity for anger and his bitterness that led us to condemn him. Charged with avenging crimes against society, he could never put his heart in the role, with the result that many a guilty North Carolinian escaped punishment. His honest kindness won him a legion of friends, but it also incapacitated him for a public post that requires a dispassionate zeal for justice.

We always regretted that John Carpenter chose a career as public prosecutor. He was, when his heart was in his work, an able, sometimes a brilliant courtroom lawyer, and he would have been an extremely effective defender.

We would be guilty of conspicuous hypocrisy if we expressed here our regret at the passing of John Carpenter, the Solicitor, basing our regret on the fact that these charges were repeatedly brought against him because he was not proved by death.

Previously suggested that the Democratic primary be called by both the District and the Legislature to elect only one member for the vacancy. Democracy itself is an expensive, inefficient and frequently inefficient process.

We are still hopeful that Judge Ervin's appointment will serve as a reminder that the election laws in North Carolina are in bad need of a complete overhaul. The flurry of legal opinions handed down in the wake of Joe Ervin's death established nothing except the right of Party politicians to take any action they see fit when a Congressional vacancy occurs.

A simple new law, carrying out the intent of the Constitution, which provides that no appointed Representative shall sit in Congress, is clearly in order.

However, practical politics and the Judge's admitted incompetence do not mean that the appointment is a serious, albeit legal, abridgement of the democratic process. The House of Representatives was established to provide the people with direct representation, but Judge Ervin, its newest member, is going to Washington as the choice of six Democratic politicians.

As a practical political matter, the Democratic Committee's decision to nominate Judge Ervin for the unexpired term was an obvious solution to a tough problem. His agreement not to stand for reelection, which led the Republicans to agree not to put up an opponent, leaves the field open for the Democrats.

Parties who plan to enter the race next summer. The unexpected Congressional vacancy has been neatly postponed so that all contenders can get off to an even start.

From The Washington Post: Let The White House Alone. Quite apart from its associations, historical and patriotic, the White House is one of perhaps three or four genuinely beautiful buildings in Washington. It is for that matter one of the finest examples of domestic architecture in all the world.

It seems to us that there is something symbolic about this expansion of the White House. The original idea seems to have been to give the President a residence that would thoroughly fit his eminence and dignity, and yet to avoid the appearance of a palace.

Next day Murray and Fairless were barely seated when the President asked: "I've examined this whole matter very carefully," he said, "and it's very clear to me. I have a proposition for you. I want you to take an increase of 18 1/2 cents an hour for the steel workers' retroactive to Jan. 1."

"Why, Mr. President," Fairless replied, "I'm afraid that the steel workers' retroactive to Jan. 1."

Play-By-Play On Big Steel Negotiations

WASHINGTON. Final showdown in the steel negotiations came after 48 hours of bizarre White House negotiations during which Phil Murray and Ben Fairless did nothing but read the newspapers, and during which President Truman was in the middle of a family tug-of-war between his wife and his liberal braintrust.

Some advisers wanted him to refrain from taking sides, urged that he let the steel industry battle it out. Reconstruction boss John Snyder was in this group.

Other advisers argued that a hands-off attitude meant throwing the Nation into a long and serious strike with an eventual victory for capital and a low wage for industry. They wanted Truman to intervene. Postmaster General Bob Hannegan was the leader of this group.

Truman followed Hannegan's advice, but only after the most peculiar negotiating ever seen inside the White House. Here was a play-by-play account of what happened.

When Phil Murray postponed the deal, the President's request, he had heard the President say: "Phil your offer is good. I want you to give me one week to make Fairless settle this thing. That's why I'm not going to sign the strike."

Three days later (Jan. 16) Murray and Fairless arrived at the White House for their second meeting. Truman immediately delivered a stinging rebuke to the threat he had ended promptly in the national interest. He asked no more questions.

READING THE PAPERS. Secretary of Labor Schwelb and labor adviser Steelman were in the White House. Schwelb was asking Fairless if he had any new proposal for breaking the deadlock.

"Well, what did you fellows decide?" Murray asked Fairless, referring to the conference held by the steel industry and the rest of the steel industry.

"I'm no spokesman for the GIs. Nobody speaks for the GIs. Every soldier is an individual and he's perfectly capable of speaking for himself. But I don't have to be an official spokesman to say that what a veteran expects is what a human being expects."

Forty-six thousand veterans in New York City alone are living on a handout. And it's not because they're lazy. It's because they're being offered jobs at \$25 to \$35 a week.

TWO OTHER GUYS. While we were in the Army we used to read both "Industry and Labor" and that wasn't us—it was two other guys. But now we're a lot of uniform and we're not a third party in this industry-labor deal.

There are 3,500 veterans. They didn't come home to go on strike. But they came home expecting a job that would pay enough to support a wife and kids. A Government fact-finding board says that to get that kind of pay, auto workers must have 19 1/2 cents more an hour. And by refusing to follow the fact-finding board's decision, General Motors is taking a sock at these 3,500 veterans.

At a job at decent wages is rock bottom of what we expect. But a guy who doesn't have a place to sleep at night. I guess that's No. 2 on the list of what the GI expects. A house. Not an abandoned chicken coop or a pup tent, but a real hot and cold running-water house to keep the kids warm. There are

TRUMAN SNAIPS. Shortly after 9:00 P. M., both men were brought into Truman's study. This time the President was snarling.

"I've asked you to settle this and you've not done it," he said. "Now I'm going to give you a dose of medicine neither of you wants. It's like a port back here tomorrow at 2 P. M., and you'll find out what it is."

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"I resent the charges of being an obstructionist in passing needed legislation!—why, most of the time I wasn't ever here!"



From ABC's Town Hall Broadcast: Expectations of One Returning GI

By Millard Lampell

(NOTE: Millard Lampell, a former Air Force sergeant, is the author of the forthcoming book, "The Long Way Home." Along with Bill Mauldin and he appeared in New York on the American Broadcasting Co's Town Hall broadcast recently. This is his address.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

This is one of the cities GIs loved to brag about, New York, the richest city in the world, America, the richest country in the world. From Chungking to Naples, GI's sounded off about this place at the drop of a hat. The richest city in the world—where 55,000 veterans of this war are now living on 20-buck-a-week unemployment allowances.

I'm no spokesman for the GIs. Nobody speaks for the GIs. Every soldier is an individual and he's perfectly capable of speaking for himself. But I don't have to be an official spokesman to say that what a veteran expects is what a human being expects.

Jobs and housing. And another thing. Call it the dignity of men, call it democracy. I was brought up to believe that this was a country where all men were created free and equal. I was brought up to believe that this was a country where all men were created free and equal.

Who was responsible for that reasonable facsimile of a Buchanan atrocity in Friday morning's paper? I refer to the picture with most enjoy reading it. They'll miss their Swiss?

Is there anything wrong about this? Is there anything wrong about this? Is there anything wrong about this? Is there anything wrong about this?

CLARK FIELD, LUZON P. I. I commend the liberal spirit your newspaper has been showing in its printing of the letter I'm sending you about a friend of mine here on Clark Field who would like to point out that it was written after Mr. Patterson's retraction of his statements in Hawaii.

I and thousands of other GIs would greatly appreciate your printing of this letter. It's strange enough we still believe we are citizens of the United States and that we are not to be used as pawns in the game of international politics without first giving our consent.

(NOTE: The enclosed document was a mimeographed sheet embodying an interpenetration and ill-considered attack on Secretary of War Patterson. We desisted in the washbasin and returned the sheet to the sender by mail to his special delivery from Alaska, and containing the same sort of abuse as was being printed from men in service. It was not to be used as a basis for reprinting in wholesale lots and mailed to Congress and the newspapers.—Eds., THE NEWS.)

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Big New Job

WASHINGTON. THE political post will soon come to a boil as a result of a series of appointments to the most controversial of these appointments, beyond any doubt, will be that of Undersecretary of the Navy.

The appointments made with the understanding that when Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Frank J. Murphy, would have been the subject of wide debate. In the event, the appointments were made as Undersecretary to get the benefit of Forrestal's experience as the chief of staff of the Navy.

His nomination to be Undersecretary will almost certainly revive the old controversy. Pauley, however, would not make the tempo which would blow up if Pauley were named to the No. 1 position at the head of the Navy.

The reason why Pauley's oil interests (in California and elsewhere) will come into the picture is the fact that he is expected to be, of course, his connection with the quarrel over whether the Federal Government or the private companies have the right to explore for and produce oil, the oil off the U. S. shoreline between low tide and the three-mile limit.

This issue has become deeply involved in politics, especially California politics. Secretary of the Interior Ickes has championed the rights of the Federal Government, although the record shows that, some years ago, he repeatedly denied application for Federal leases on the grounds that the States had title to the soil out to the three-mile limit.

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