

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1947

Politics Very Much As Usual

THE outraged Congressional or leg at President Truman's lack of co-operations on satting tunnier as time passes and the 1948 dections draw hearer. The stingting message he such to Congress when he signed the rent sonarch bill has prompted a half doesn. Mepublicans to arbe and protest that Mr. Truman has no right to one ya mything at all unless he sedeen. Others are atoming that his reference to the real relate lobby represents a new low in partian politics.

Twenth expenses to the partisan politics.

If must be sounceded, of course, that Mr.

Truman's message was a 100-proof political document, designed to fix the Republican Party in the public mind as a friend, of the landford and an enemy of the tenant. The language is, to put it middly, intemperate, and nowhere does Mr. Truman take note of the fact that the landfords did have a case for relief the landfords of the nation, while allowing all the rest to run free and untrammel-ed. Hard as it may be on the tenants. all the rest to run iree and untrammes-ed. Hard as it may be on the tenants, it is illogical to freeze rentals at pre-war levels while prices on all other goods and services reach all-time highs.

on the other hand, it must also be conceded that the bill the Congress sent to Mr. Truman is a very bad measure. The kindest thing that can be said of its "woundary" provisions is that they are foolish. Obviously a tenant faced with a choice of agreeing to an immediate

15 per cent increase or having his rent raised as high as his landlord cares to raise it a few months from now is in no position to bargain. Moreover, the measure makes inadequate provision for

measure makes inadequate provision for enforcement.

How much the real estate lobby had to do with it we don't profess to know, but the measure does seem to be painfully typical of the 80th Congress — a compromise designed to retain the appearance of reat controls while at the same time allowing the landlord to take full advantage of the housing shortage. There is little dot a bill continuing the old control machinery but allowing a balance percentage increase in rentals to compensate the landlords for spiralling costs. The Congress, however, refused to consider that plan, but instead presented Mr. Truman with its own version'n as take-it-0-r-leave-it bads. By careful timing the Congress gave the President ascholice between a weak bill and no rent control at all. rent control at all.

The President is no guiltier of using rent control of a political football that the Congress, which booted it to him in the first place. Cooperation is a two-Bided business, of course, and the Republican Congress has given Barry Truman very little of it. If Senator Taft and his colleagues continue to operate on the lower levels of partisan politics they will continue to find Harry Truman, graduate of the Pendergast school of political action, a very very hard man to handom. very hard man to handle.

'The Proper Education Of Youth . . . '

THERE is an obvious historical parallel Ito General Elsenhower's acceptance of the presidency of Columbia University, and few editorial writers have overlooked it. It remained, however, for The Adianta Journal to resurrect the thoughtful, modest, sanirely characteristic letter Robert E. Lee wrote to the board of trustees of Washington College at Lecington, Virginia, in highly no College at Lecington, Virginia, in the standard of the core its administration.

In August 1865, only four months after the surrender at Appomattox, General Lee wrote:

I have thought it probable that my occupa-tion of the position of president might draw upon the college a feeling of hostility. Should you, however, take a different view, and think that my services in the position tendered me by the board will be advanta-grous to the college and country, I will yield to your judgment and accept it.

to your judgment and accept it...

General Lee at that time was, like all the other Confederate leaders, in dire financial strait. The war nad suped out his fortune and destroyed the economy of his native state. Yet he automatically rejected many lucrative invitations to lend his name and prestige to railroads and insurance companies. Firmly he insisted that his towering military reputation could not be exploited.

tion could not be exploited.

The offer to head an institution of higher learning — and not a military academy, let it be noted — was perhaps the only one General Lee would have considered under any circumstances. General identical pattern of reasoning Certainly he too could have a choice of business positions carrying with them enormous salaries. But he has been guided by desire to help insure "the proper education of youth." His appointment, we believe, will be as "advantageous to the college and country" as was Robert E Lee's connection with the institution that now proudly bears his name.

The Great Holiday Hazard

A stop-look-and-listen editorial on the eve of the Fourth of July has become mandatory. The holiday this year, merging as it does into a long week-end, will, if past history is any indication, produce a record toll of dead and wounded.

The big harard is still on the highway, although fireworks, and the rivers, lakes and beaches will claim their share. It is a fantastic thing that Americans are unable to relax without killing themselves, but the statistics spell out a certain story of death and destruction in the wake of every holiday.

Words and figures seem to be no deter-rent, but we suggest that these things might be considered by all those planning to climb behind the wheel tomorrow:

to climp behind the wheel tomorrow: Last year 33,000 persons were killed in automobile accidents, and another 1,300,000 were injured. The heaviest single day's toll was on July 4, when the casualities were equal to those of a major engagement in World War II.

The risk incurred in a five-hundred-mile

automobile trip these days is statistically about the same as that involved in a convoy crossing of the Atlantic in the worst days of the submarine menace.

Despite the spectacular evidence of recent airplane crashes, highway travel is still the most dangerous method of getting from one point to another.

Low visibility and slick pavement are great hazards, but not anything like as great as the feeling of false security engreat hazards, but not anything like as great as the feeling of false security engreat hazards, but not anything like as great as the feeling of false security engreat hazards, but not anything like as great as the feeling of false security engreat hazards, but not anything like as great as the feeling of false security engreat hazards, but not anything like as great as the feeling of false security engreat hazards, but not supported when visibility was unimpaired by rain or for, and 70 per cent of them occurred on dry pavement.

There is, of course, only one way to reduce the enormous holiday death toil. The burden of responsibility false qualify upon all motorists; if every driver exercises reasonable care, observed traffic regulations, and lays off the bottle the highways will be perfectly safe. That is the only way those perfectly safe. The safe perfectly safe to the perfect perfectly safe.

Another Voice

Covenants Over The Grapevine

"OPEN covenants, openly arrived at."
was one expression of the Wilsonian philosophy which found ready acceptance among the peoples of the word. In reality, it was — and is — an expression of the public desire to participate in the affairs of state. Unhapplily, much too little has come of it.

come of it.

Secret diplomacy should not be tolerated any more at home, however, than it is suffered abroad. Writing in Editor and Publisher, James J. Butter calls attention to a series of off-the-record conferences, with "newspapermen barred," which the State Department is conducting among civic and particular groups having a national membership of some 75 million persons. In one instance, apparently,

be delegate were told that they had been allied because the country is not receiving utilizent information on the objectives and policies of this country in the receiving of policies of this country is not the receiving for nations. They were told for nations and on and to spread the information, and on he other hand, to prevent it from getting to be public through the press.

record conference with its aura of mystery and its confessional atmosphere which intrigues the participant. To be escorted behind the scenes, particularly in foreign policy, is a treat which cannot fail to enflate the ego. The Clittern recalls few such expeditions of this nature, however, in which anything vital was imparted to breathless listeners. And after a "sceret"—
If any—passes through a number of hands its import if not its context is usually distorted beyond recognition.

If it is the purpose of the State Department to by-pass the press, then we suggest that this hush-hush business is not only ridiculous but entirely futile. Any alert reporter can come by a story worth the telling. And if—as we can scarcely believe—policy-makers really have anything to hide, then they are creating a take sense of security in their own wisdom and a dangerous sentiment of suspicion against a fundamental institution of democracy. The whole purpose of these selective conferences should be explained and clarified.—Ashrotic Citizen.



People's Platform

Background For UMT

Editors. Tree News:

IT is evident that the militarists and others who advocate compulsory universal military training—if they are sane and honest—are influenced by information which has not been given to the general public.

IT is evident that the militants and others who advecate compilers universal military training-formation which has not been given to the general public universal military training-formation which has not been given to the general public universal military training the military training the military training the military training to the military training to the military training to the military training training to military training training

their selection in order that they may democratically choose their makes rather than have hubbands thrust upon them.

Before the makes rather than have hubbands thrust upon them.

Be a selection of the selection of the proposents of Compulsory Universal Military Training In his representation of the selection o

LIBER to children of substituting "universal" for recompulator," and soft-pedding on "military"—even the training is to make solidies trained to get along with their SUPERIORS.

Common sense Americans do not understand with should be necessary to conscript and train achool boys to be solidiers when in case of war our survivalent to the solidiers when in case of war our survivalent to the solidiers when in case of war our survivalent to the solidiers when in case of war our survivalent to the solidiers when in case of war our survivalent and the solidiers when the same that the solidiers when the solidiers will be solidiers when the solidiers will be solidiers when the solidiers when the solidiers will be solidiers when the solidiers will be solidiers with a solidier to the solidiers when the solidiers will be solidiers when the solidiers wh

When we begin conscripting major generals and giving them the pay of privates. I will be for peace-time compulsory mitigary training of children; but it will then be no longer desired as democracy and the millentum will have arrived

-LEWIS AYER SMITH.

Short Week-End

Editors The News

IT is somewhat preplexing to the average retail
sales person as to why the stores are opening
on Saturda. July 5th, when this additional day
would give these people the opportunity of a "long"
week-end.

With July the first holiday since Christmas, and the stores remaining open all day Thurnday, July 3rd (some were taking inventory Thurnday, June 26th). It appears to be somewhat unfair to that hard working group known as sales people—especially as most of them are on a commission basts

basis

The grocers are closing on Wednesday, as usual, and practically all manufacturing plants will be closed from Thursday night until the following Monday morning. Why not all stores?

And—this writer is not employed in any retail business—thank goodness.

—SIGNATURE WITHHELD.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typesertiet in possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscently will be deleted-others anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon require we will uithhold the writer's name.—Editors, Tux News.

Joseph & Stewart Alsop

Democratic Schism

Democrat

THERE is a good chance that
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recent American President will have
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also announced that he hopes and believes that James Roosevit will be with an another than the second of the secon

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Marquis Childs

Requiem For UNRRA

Requiem 1

THE first practical, functioning agency of the United Nations has come to the end of its extincted and the state of the stat

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Drew Pearson's : Ex-Black Legion Man Nominated To FCC Merry-Go-Round