### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1948

## MIDNIGHT MAGISTRATE

IT HAS been clear for a long time that the creaky magistrate system is both

It has been creat to a folicy time that the creaty magistrate system is both out-of-date and productive of gross misconduct in office, but the ugly state of affairs turned up this week by the Orand Jury is about the most damaging indictment of the system we have yet seen in North Carolina.

When the Sheriff of Mecklenburg Country, acting on the request of Solicitor Basil Whitener, stepped in and seized the records of Magistrate J. S. Turner last week the country of the country of the country of the country which was humming along mererly teating alleged of fenders with court couts for offenses over which Magistrate Turner had no jurisdiction whatsoever.

The Grand Jury also litted an evelower.

Which haspassace.

The Grand Jury also lifted an eyebrow at the law enforcement of four constables, who were nabbing the unsuspecting citi-rens, hauling them out of private homes, and rushing them before Magistrate Turrier in the late hours of the evening.

mer in the late hours of the evening.

But THE jury reserved its most stinging language for the Justice of the Peace who was presiding over these midnight hearings. "Reprehensible," the jury termed his methods, adding they had all the earmarks of "fee grabbing."

What happened was that on October 23, 1948, seven months after he conducted his first hearing, Magistrate Turner and the four constables stumbled upon what looked like a very productive little enterprise. The constables would roam the darkened streets of the Negro areas and peep through the windows of private homes in an effort to spot card games. Then, they would rush in and mab the participants, and haul them unceremoniously before Magistrate Turner. There, without benefit of bond or without benig advised they were entitled to counsel, the defendants paid entitled to counsel, the defendants paid the costs, got a receipt, and left, sadder

the costs, by a recept, and set, assues but wisers of them decided to complain to solution. Whitener, and the investigation which he and attorney Gatting launched uncovered the amazing story. Having found the gold mine, Magistrate Turner and the constables worked it atremously, the Grand Jury report showed. In the five weeks between October 23 and November 28, exactly 70 persons, all of them Negroes, were tried on charges of gambling, and all pald the court costs. And in not one of these cases did Jaypee Turner have legal jurisdictions.

And in not one of these cases did Jaypee Turner have legal jurisdiction.

Questionable, too, was the size of the costs. According to the law, the normal court cost for such a thing would be \$7—\$2.50 for the magistrate, \$2.50 for one ar-

resting officer. and \$2 for the police re-tirement fund. But most of the receipts shown to 8olicitor Whitener were for \$12, which would indicate that more than one constable received a \$250 fee for his eve-ning's work. (Of the 70 gambling warrants, Con-stable E. J. McKnight appeared on 58 of them, Constable T. A. Wynne on 87 of them, Constable J. H. Dean on 54, and Constable J. O. Green on 47, That's an av-

Constable J. G. Green on 47. That's an average of almost 3.4 constables per

warrant.

But the investigation turned up other information. In addition to trying gammon and the state of th

THIS, of course, is just one isolated case.

But through the years, there have been many similar instances. For instance, the 1947 General Assembly deliberately removed speeding from the jurisdiction of magistrates to stop the profitable "speed traps" which were flourishing all over the state, with a constable and a magistrate slividing the fees involved.

But it is such'as flagrant case it would appear imperative for the Solicitor and the Grand Jury to continue the investigation into the whole magistrate-constable system in this county in an effort to bring order out of chaos and eliminate any misconduct or malpractice.

tem in this county in an error to brusorder out of chaos and eliminate any misconduct or malpractice.

The system is a hang-over from the old
days when the nearest judge might be a
days' awagon ride away-? It was necessary
then to have constables and magistrates
in each community so that the law might
be enforced until such time as a circuit
judge made his rounds. Today there remains no excuse for them. They are not
trained for their work, they are not
aften and they duplicate the
work of our regularly established courts
and law enforcement agencies. The General Assembly has been peculiarly reluctant to put before the volters an amendment which would abolish the system. But
a few fiore disclosures like this one will
build by enough public sentiment so that
the Legislature will have to act.

She was fifth in 1934, sixth in 1940 and first in 1948.

North Carolina runs a good second. Her nearest rival is Maryland 43148,315,000 which moved from sixth place in 1934 to third in 1948. Next comes Missouri followed, in order, by Kentucky, Virginia, Georgia, Fiordia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, West Virginia, South Carolina, Arkansas and Mississippi. Some wise statistical points out that statistics can prove anything, and these probably aren't any exception. They say nothing about the spiritual contentment and happiness all this money brought the South during 1946 or whether there was more of it in Mississippi (the poorest state) than in Texas the richest.

But the figures do show that North Carolina remains among the pace-setters of lina remains among the pace-setters of

### STILL A PACE SETTER

STILL A PACE SETTER

Last Week the United States Bureau of en Internal Revenue placed those long envelopes in the mail telling all about insome taxes, and citizen everywhere knew that Christmas, year's end and big bill-paying time are hard upon us.

The states of the states are the states of the southern part of the nation. A larger bill means two things — (1) citizens of the South are making more money than ever before and (2) the cost of governing a sprawling nations of the states of t

From The Greensboro Daily News

## THANKING OUR STARS

COURTEEN members of the Greenshore
Astronomy Club gathered in regular
meeting the other night and studied the
stars from the Woman's College observatory. December is a good time for such
study; although a little frosty for comfort, it is nevertheless the month of the
most famous star of all which rested once
upon its rounds so that its rays could
point out a manger in Judea.

point out a manger in Judea.

But December is a great month for stars anyway. The most spectacular constellations which lay late in Summer are now up early in full view, doubly burnished with the cold. Orion the celestial hunter with his diamond sword, preceded by the Pleiades and followed by Sirius the big dog, holds the center of the stage. Oren-eyed Vega in Lyra and red-eyed Aldebaran in Taurus are cast in supporting roles. The Great Dipper swings around the Pole star, while the Milky Way like like a be-medialed ribböh across the breast of hight. We hope the members of the Greenies.

We hope the members of the Greens-

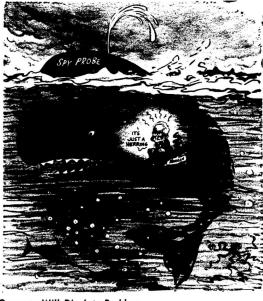
But the figure of shore that North Carcollar treating among the pace-setters of
the South in income—and this is a good
thing. Florida with her tourists, Georgia
with her Talmadges and Tennessee with
her fissued atoms at Oak Ridge improved
their positions—but they still ran a good
distance behind the Oil North State which
continued to show its usual over-all improvement through the years.
Fost-war developments, however, offer
no assurance that we can hold the toprung spot we now occupy. A great stirring
is abroad in the South, and North Carolina
—especially in this forthcoming legislative
season — must put forth every effort to
stay with the leaders.

OUR STARS

boro Astronomy Club will not miss the stars for thinking about such professional autonomical brain teasers as transits, azimuths, astrolabes, parallases, precession of the equinoxes, and aberration of light.

One of the most practical things a'man can do in his life of pin pricks and major wounds is to pick out a few stars, learn to know them by name and visit with them in time of need. Not that we would pat a star on the head and expect it to come when we call it. But it is a good thing to have such constant friends and to know that no matter what happens Altair, Rigel. Betelgeuse, Deneb, Vega, Polaris and the rest will be right there where they are supposed to be, brilliant and serene. Meredith spoke of them as "the army of unalterable law." Voltaire remarked of them that what stumps theist is to explain a clock without presupposing a clockmaker. Danie emerging from Heli knew maker. Danie emerging from Heli knew fatar.

## Jonah And The Red Whale



## Congress Will Dig Into Problem

# **European Aid Program Stirs Debate**

(Frem Congressional Quartery)

Rieged report on its operations. ECA will ask probably mephanic requests, for \$12 billion to cover a deficiel for the last three months of this fixed) year and for a second-year fund to cover operations for the second-year regular will be an on been announced, but "best available estimates" have made and the second-year regular will be has not been announced, but "best available estimates" have made and the second-year regular will be has not been announced, but "best available estimates" have million less than appropriated possibility of the second year of the ready until Bring. The shall Plan will be prepared in a free days, but that final requests will not be ready until Bring. The state of plans, programs and recommendations' for the second year of sperations, and that appropriation requests will be assumited later.

The second year of sperations, and that appropriation of the second year of sperations, and that appropriation of the second year of sperations, and that appropriation of the second year of sperations, and that appropriation was involved an operation of the second with the second year of the second was not considered to the second year of the second year of the second year of sperations, and that appropriation of the second year of the second year of the year of years of the year of years of ye

### People's Platform Right Of Choice Limited The Government would then have the chance to study both prostitution and veneral diseases. ROBERT W. BALDWIN.

Editors. The News

YES Mr. Cooler I do think you are mininerpreting
the news. 'People's Platform, Dec. 2):

It is a mininterpretation to accuse either all prohobitionists of innanity or organized laker of benpretrone has his right of choice limited in many
aways. We all have to obey some laws which limit our
right of choice. The logical conclusion to draw is
one of any poision limited.

Well, Mr. Cooler you would sant the Pederal narcute laws repealed Do they not deny a man's rights
to use the other harvoities?

Well, the cooler was the cooler of the

cotics have repealed to they not deny a man's rights to use the other narrotics? Steels include prostitution. Wouldn't it be better to have such establishments open and above board? Wouldn't it be thembetter to have brothels under government inspection? All the steels of the steel of of the

The tax money count be season as sections.

While we are collecting our ABC revenue let us include a room for "one-armed banding," routette, cards, duce, and other gambling devices. The revenue obtained may even enable us to repeal the sales.

nue ootsined may even enable us to repeal the sales. Where and how many times have you heard people say. People will drink anyway. It is better for the State to get the money than to let the boot-legger have it? Doesn: this also apply to any vice liked above? Any argument that I have heard favilized above? Any argument that I have heard favilized above and the sale and advertising of a narcolic and then look a man up because his system reacts more strongly to that narcolic.

As I see it Ooverment control of prostitution is and the sale and advertising of a narcolic and then look a man up because his system reacts more strongly to that narcolic.

As I see it Ooverment control of prostitution is and the sale of the sal

## Suspicions Of Reform

Suspicions Of Reform
(Charleston ISC.) New & Courler)
(TWIESE are times in which the abolition of States
I rights and of the states themselves is contemplated and it is possible that it may be contemplated and it is possible that it may fill the contemplated and it is possible that it may fill the contemplated by the contemplated and it is contemplated by the cont

## Place Names

Ploce Nomes

(Caribbad IN. M.) Current Argus)

EDDY COUNTY has its share of interesting and
colorful place names. Some may be little known.

For example there are the Phantom Banks and
face-Away Raige. Deadman Diav. Dagger Draw. Owl
after-Away Raige. Deadman Draw. Dagger Draw. Owl
after-Away Raige. Deadman Draw. Dagger Draw. Owl
after-Away Raige. Deadman Draw. Dagger Draw. Owl
after-Away Raige.

The county had a Poker Lake. and a Square Lake
Raiger Bildt, Bandana Point. Wagontire and the
Cocilio Hills also deserne mention. Up in the northeast comre of the county is High Loutesome.

## Marquis Childs

## Spy Investigation-I

WAHINGTON

BOTH at home and abroad, the
running battle over who speed
on what and what spies shall be
pumbed, and how, is doing with the pussage memsupposedly rich and powerful country look ludderous beyond work
Here at home it makes a matter
that should be considered with or the documents as the
early Mack Bennett comedy. We
have had everything but an exchange of custard pies, and that
this would, in fact, be the ment
to subporta Charlic Chaplin.
It began with the over-eager
publicity of the House Un-Ameriearly make a though an oldtime spieler had stood custage to
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One stunt was to show a committee guard sleeping in front of an are containing the stolen documents are also as the containing the stolen documents are about a wital to American section.

This is bunk. The documents are about as wital to American section about as wital to American section. This is bunk. The documents are about as wital to American section are about as wital to American section are about as wital to American section are in the section of the section o

James Marlow

# Spy Investigation---II

READ this and decide for your-self what you think of the spy

Berie testifying in 1948 about that conversation, says Chambers aidin't talk of an underground group at all.

Berie says Chambers merely told him Hiss and others were part of a group studying Russia and of the communist boped to get them "sympathetic" to the Communist.

him in 1939 no spying was inblood 434—645—645 no spying was been obprovided 434—645 no spying was been of the FBI salked to him a number of the FBI salked to him a number of the FBI salked to him a number of the FBI checked on Hiss. But what it was the FBI checked on Hiss. But what it was the FBI checked on Hiss. But what it was the FBI checked on Hiss. But what it was the FBI salked to him the FBI checked on Hiss. But what it was the FBI salked to him the FBI salked to him the FBI salked to him the Hiss salked to him

Chambers told the committee Hiss and others had been part of a Communist underground back in 1938 but he said spying was not the primary purpose.

nist.

Pinally — faced with the loss of \$75,000 unless he could prove his charge—Chambers produced papers which he said were evidence that Hiss was a Communist. He said Hiss had taken these papers from the State Dept. for the Soviet spyring.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

## Forrestal Wants To Be Sure Of Politics du Ponts Help Run Government

WASHINGTON

INVER since election Day, Secretary of Defense Porrestal has
been frantically painting himself a true and loyal Democrat. But here is an off-the-record talk indicating the kind
off men Forrestal puts in high position for the control of the position of the position of the control of the position of the position

## Big Business Comes First

BOURNE replied that he didn't think his political affilia-tions would prevent him from doing a good public rela-tions job for the Munitions Board, and Carpenter went on to other things.

tions job for the Munitions Board, and Carpenser went on to other with the control of the Carpenser when the Carpenser went to be used to be us

du Ponts Help Run Government

IT but so hard to understand why Carpenter thinks that my when on examine his background. He is a member of the solid property of the solid proper

carringes. Carpenter had just joined the firm when this sale was made. So Forrestal and Carpenter, once operators in indirectly fomenting war in Latin America, are now together in running American defense.

## U. S. Encourages Latin Dictators

O. S. Encourages Lutin America is watching the State PRACTICALLY all Latin America is watching the State dictatorship in in Venezuria. Not only did the Venezuria generals throw out the first oresident Venezuria ever elected, but they three out the man return and watch the state of the State State of the State of the

Naturally, if the State Dept. now recognizes the Vene-zuelan dictators, it will lead to even more revolts.

zuelan dictators, it will lead to even more revolts.

Meanwhile Secretary of Defense Porrestal still favor
his plan of sending more arms to Latin America under a new
lend-lease agreement, despite 'he fact that new arms te
Latin American general su elike a toy train to a small boy
at Christmastim. They can't wait to use them—usually
against their own President.

seams, toer own President

Gen Somosa the Nicaraguan who has now inspired the
fracas in Costa Rica, was rained by the U.S. Marines, laser
stretch the presidency of Nicaragua. President Trujillo, worst
dictator in all Latin American, was also trained by the U.S.

The program of the Costa Rica, was considered to the Costa
program, we train men to shoot and give them the wapons to
shoot with. But we don't give them any ideas or ideals as to
what they should shoot for

## Merry-Go-Round

Merry-Go-Round

Mangarr TRUMAN's new checkbook, just delivered

Me the printers, gives her name but no address, ordered it before the election when she want's as sure as
father where they would be living for the next four ye
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