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Crackup

Marquis Childs

Mud-Slinging Starts

WASHINGTON
The first job of campaign mud is here on my desk. It is a book called 'Mud-Slinging'...

There is nothing very new that can be said about the Truman-Truman relationship with the Pennington machine which, in the Florida case, became a case of mud and corruption...

If a time ever is called for self-restraint, that time is now. The Republican Party, in its present reflection, will surely realize that they can afford self-restraint.

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We are living in a perilous intermission. It will endure for more than a month. Mr. Truman might have decided at some point after November, 1946, to demonstrate the substance of his constitutional system by resigning in favor of the Senate.

Self-restraint is to be sure, a rare virtue. The temptation at this point to dance on the corpse of the Democratic Party...

Do we say that we are against open books, like the harassed officials of the State Department? Do we say that we are against public life?

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Settle The Hospital Dispute

THE CURRENT controversy over charity payments to Memorial Hospital is a raised fundamental question of governmental responsibility which cannot be settled lightly, and which may eventually have to be settled by the General Assembly and the Supreme Court.

It is a well established legal principle that Government is obligated to furnish medical attention and care for those citizens who are unable financially to provide for their own. Such expenditures are properly considered "necessary expenses" of government.

There is, so far as we know, no corresponding legal principle which limits the amount of such payments, either on a total basis or a per-patient-per-day basis. The State North Carolina and the Duke Endowment limit their contribution to \$1 per day each, but the way is clear for City and County Governments to spend as much as little as they desire.

As a practical matter, of course, there is a limit. And the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have decided that their present contribution of \$6-per-day-per-patient is that limit.

MEMORIAL admits that its operating costs are somewhat higher than the average general private hospital. It claims that the higher costs reflect directly what it terms four "vital" services to the community: (1) resident physicians and interns who staff the round-the-clock emergency ward and the various out-patient clinics where indigent patients receive medical attention not requiring actual hospitalization; (2) scientific methods, lectures and clinics which further the medical knowledge and proficiency of the local medical profession; (3) autopsies, described by the hospital as the backbone of advance in medical knowledge; and (4) the medical and social service department, which gives counsel and assistance to indigent patients afflicted with sociological problems.

These services, the hospital says, add to the operating costs of Memorial a large percentage of Memorial's patients are charity patients, the \$327 a day loss on each one is running the hospital into the red. Obviously the hospital cannot continue to operate at a loss.

Higher payments are not authorized by the City and/or County Governments, Memorial Hospital says it will be forced to discontinue these services. The Board, it has offered to co-operate completely with any official auditing of its operating costs.)

A Charlotte Technical Institute

A TECHNICAL Institute is in immediate prospect for Charlotte and the project presents the community an opportunity to take a major stride forward in its development as an industrial center.

That is the intention of the Charlotte Engineers Club and the co-operation of the City and State educational authorities, the plan for the school already is well advanced beyond the preliminary stage.

In the race of the cities and states in this technological age, the prize goes to the community that can draw the most power. Charlotte's need for more trained technicians, specialists and artisans has grown steadily more acute with the expansion of the city.

It is notable that 30 Senate Democrats joined the Republicans in voting for this bill which the GOP fathers and on which it hopes to ride to power in November. Democrats are naturally reluctant to do anything that would contribute to Republican national success in an election year, and we have assurance of that.

Shortly before the vote, Senator George C. Dyer declared that "it is a very definite moral obligation" to support the measure. It may be added that both the

Actually, the use of a flat, average per-patient-per-day cost figure, though perhaps necessary from an accounting standpoint, seems somewhat unwise. What we have in this case are two separate and distinct types of extra services: Those benefiting the whole community, and those of primary benefit to the medical profession.

The suggestion has been advanced that private endowment be established to pay for a part of these services. Certainly, the members of the medical profession and interested lay leaders should be willing to contribute to a fund which would pay for the scientific and educational clinics and autopsies which are for the immediate benefit of the profession, even though the public community would not benefit.

Furthermore, the physicians ought to be willing to pay a part of the cost of keeping the interns and resident physicians, whose constant presence on the hospital floors and continued service to all patients forms and continues service to the profession as a large extent from this type of charity service.

Furthermore, the operation of the medical clinic and hospital seems to be a responsibility of the Charlotte Community Chest, which contributes to its upkeep. Its work falls more naturally into the sphere of the private social agency.

But there is a definite public responsibility for the costs of staffing and operating the emergency room and the out-patient clinics. Such emergency resources are of inestimable worth to the community as a whole. It matters not whether the patient is wealthy or poor; if he has been injured in an accident, or if he has been stricken with some sudden, acute malady, the immediate treatment and attention by a medical emergency staff may mean the difference between life and death.

THE HOSPITAL, we believe, is correct in saying that its emergency service—irrespective of its certain social agency—is concerned—is too great a burden for it to bear alone. We make the further point: That it is a service to the whole community which should be supported by the State.

This may be a novel suggestion. It certainly no different from using tax money to maintain a fire department which is of most value to the taxpayer when his house is burning down. And we recommend to the County Commissioners that they consider to the financing of Memorial's emergency and out-patient services as excellent insurance for the young men in neighboring towns who do not have facilities for this training. It will help to keep our ambitious and competent young men at home, and draw others to us. It will ease the load on other schools and provide training for many young men who do not now have a chance to develop their natural skills.

A fine start has been made by the educational group who are working with John Funder, president of the Engineers Club, and the committee headed by Herman Wolf. The leadership that has been formed and the energy that is being put into it, are a promise for the future of this project. Indeed, the possibilities are so large that Charlotte can have a technical institute that is notable throughout the South if the proper community support is forthcoming.

Public and private interests are both vitally concerned in this educational program, and the benefits promised for both Charlotte and North Carolina as a whole are large. Charlotte's growth as a business and industrial hub is a prime factor in the movement which is attracting new enterprise to the Piedmont, strengthening the economic life of the region and improving conditions generally.

In addition to raising the quality and quantity of the labor force in this community, a Charlotte technical institute would serve the young men in neighboring towns who do not have facilities for this training. It will help to keep our ambitious and competent young men at home, and draw others to us. It will ease the load on other schools and provide training for many young men who do not now have a chance to develop their natural skills.

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While the brass bands demand the drafting of men for the Army, they continue to let the big distillers pour out the last war surplus of whiskey. The industrial alcohol reserve remains dangerously low. Industrial alcohol was one of the most strategic materials of the last war, being used in producing aviation fuels, explosives, TNT and munitions. In fact, industrial alcohol was used in the production of about 200,000,000 gallons were stockpiled in the year 1943 alone.

Today, however, only 21,000,000 gallons of industrial alcohol are stockpiled. The big distillers are ignoring Truman's plea for voluntary rationing by adding to the already growing supplies of whiskey in warehouses, the Army and Navy Military Board is doing absolutely nothing about stockpiling industrial alcohol for defense.

Truman Gets Job Offer
PRESIDENT TRUMAN has already been offered another job—if the voters settle him in November. The job has offered him by William McKinley Flood of Alaska, who is national commander of the Regular Veterans Association and has organized about 5,000 members in the United States and its territories.

People's Platform

Broken Palestine Promise

CHARLOTTE
The 1948 Presidential campaign will be rather interesting. The Democratic Party has been the minority since the Abraham Lincoln war.

When our Government made a promise to the Jewish people many years ago, we had a right to believe that it meant everything in that promise and intended to keep it.

Yet much effort was not put in by our Government to go ahead with the recommendations of the various committees and although the United Nations Assembly, which appointed an investigating committee of its own and after a thorough investigation reported to government in Palestine for Jews and Arabs.

Roll in majesty seaward,
Shining river of gold,
And his glories are set untold;
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Vandenberg "The Only Man"

LINCOLN
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Samuel Grafton

The American Fear

NEW YORK
The contortions of our foreign policy are so grotesque that they have become a national joke.

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Hard-Head Coal Negotiators

HERE'S the inside story of what happened when hard-working Federal Negotiator Cyrus Ching met with John L. Lewis and Ezra Van Horn, spokesman for the coal operators.

When Ching started Lewis if he would be willing to "work out their differences, the mine labor chief flatly declared: "No."

Further meetings would be a "waste of time" and "serve no purpose," Lewis said.

However, Conciliator Ching found the coal operators' spokesmen equally determined to give no ground. Meeting after meeting, the operators and Lewis would be useless.

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Tax Cut 'Moral Obligation'

THE \$4.8 billion income tax reduction bill heads to the White House, and as expected, the cry is raised in Administration circles that this is a vote-catching measure.