

BETTER TAXICAB SERVICE

The City Council, the Mayor and the City Manager are all faced with the urgent problem of improving the taxicab service in Charlotte. The next meeting of the City Council will doubtless reveal what positive steps they are taking to make the over-all service more efficient and to place it under closer supervision by the City Government.

There are a number of very evident shortcomings in Charlotte's taxicab service which should be corrected as soon as possible. The whole point of city supervision is to assure adequate and reliable taxicab service to the public.

In the first place, two of the existing companies, the Top and Victory, have been renting cabs to drivers in direct violation of the City Code (Chap. 3, Art. 4, Section 3), although apparently with the tacit consent of the City authorities. The reason why this practice was forbidden is simple. When a driver has to pay as much as \$74 per week for the use of a taxi, his main purpose is to take in the money for the public as far as possible. The whole point of city supervision is to assure adequate and reliable taxicab service to the public.

Secondly, no taxicab driver may lawfully cruise in search of passengers at any time, and whenever a taxicab is unoccupied the driver is required by law to proceed at once by the most direct route to the garage where the vehicle is housed or to its secondary registration. Under this economic pressure, drivers have refused to take riders on reasonably long hauls, even though such trips were within the city limits and thus subject to the fare schedule of the Code. The passenger's wishes, not the driver's, should determine where the cab goes.

THE POT AND THE KETTLE

WHAT'S wrong with this country," sneers the American Communist, "thought control? Why can't you write what you want to read what you want to or even think what you want to. Thought control is a lie."

The American Communist likes to go on about the bought American press, likening to point out how the American writer, musician or artist is shackled with chains of capitalist gold. "Ender Marckum," he adds, "is a different."

Russia's outstanding theater people, the directors of the Bolshoi Theater, have recently been caught un-rehanded "encouraging decadent, formalistic music." Russian moviemakers have been scolded by the Kremlin for producing movies with "inadequate ideological content."

And the musicians who have been kicked around in the land of Marxism for un-Russian music are the composers, Dmitri Shostakovich, Sergei Prokofiev, Aram Khatchaturian and Nikolai Mikolayev. Probably the squeeze on genetic study in Russia is the most obvious Communist "thought control." By this definition, not scientific, the genetic theories of Gregor Mendel, a pioneer respected the

REVISION OF RULES COMMITTEE

THE House Rules Committee, like the cop on a congested corner, is supposed to keep legislative traffic flowing smoothly. But in the past, because of differences with the Administration in power, it has often engaged in its various maneuvers to keep over new legislation to keep it off the floor of the House entirely, even after approval by another committee. In so doing, it has not only usurped the powers of the regular, co-equal committees, but effectively assumed the role prerogative of the Chief Executive.

This is not only natural that the first major Administrative still flounders with its unexpected November victory and pledged by platform and campaign oratory to renew and expand the New Deal should turn its attention to a long-neglected revision of the Rules Committee's charter. It might not be able to carry out its vows. At present, it requires the support of 218 House members to force a bill from the Rules Committee. Since measures so held are generally of a highly controversial nature, Congressmen relieve themselves of personal responsibility by letting the Rules Committee take the blame, and thus are often reluctant to sign the special discharge petitions.

RESULTS OF BETTER CAR CARE

PERSONS in care of automobiles learned during the war evidently have not been forgotten by motorists. Before the war the average life of a passenger car was 53 years. Now it is 8.9 years. One result is that present registration of motor vehicles is more than 41,000,000, over 7,000,000 higher than the pre-war peak. This expanded automobile ownership is reflected in gasoline tax receipts, in heavier traffic and in greater street congestion

effects of repeal should be given through study before any such move be taken.

Thirdly, meters were ordered to be installed under the code (Chap. 3, Art. 4, Section 24) but this provision was suspended while meters were unavailable during the war and post-war shortages. It is now an appropriate time for all three companies to install meters so that the taxicab industry can be properly standardized and regulated as far as fares are concerned.

Fourth, only the Yellow Cab Co. is at present providing telephone service by means of a central switchboard. The Council has set Feb. 1 as the deadline for the Red Top and Victory companies to install their own switchboards and respond to the calls from residences and business organizations all over the city. The trouble now is that the Yellow Cab Co. is flooded at peak hours with calls which its own switchboard cannot answer, and the other companies have only single lines which are obviously inadequate.

It would be a practical and helpful move to us that at last modern science had produced six or eight good taxi stands at key points in the downtown area. Assuming that each stand would accommodate up to three cabs, only about 18 or 24 parking spaces would be required. This would be a great convenience to busy people searching vainly for a cab when they emerge from office buildings or from the stores. Most modern cities have several stands conspicuously placed at strategic points.

To strangers as well as to inhabitants the quality of taxicab service rendered in Charlotte is a part of the facilities of the City Council the Mayor and the City Manager. They must establish the proper standards and then see that the Police Department enforces them.

world over, are no longer accepted by scientists who care for their posts or reputations.

And this is only part of the rapidly developing "Iron curtain of the mind" in which that art or science which does not glorify Russia is discredited.

Sure, there's room for complaint here, too. Just recently John Chamberlain raised Cain with American writers in Fortune magazine. His point: they were giving the business a rough deal in fiction.

But John Chamberlain isn't the Government; Washington didn't send grim messages to Theodore Dreiser or John Dos Passos or to Norman Mailer, all of whom possess unalloyed things to say about the capitalist system.

True, our President has referred to modern art as "scrambled egg" art, but he makes no threats against those who paint in the modern manner.

There is something sinister about a government which attempts to create a "culture" by force. And if Soviet leaders think they can, they haven't learned their Marx very well. One of the bulwarks of the Marxist philosophy was that a group oppressed - mentally or physically - will eventually revolt.

Several schemes for making it easier to pry bills loose from the committee had been proposed in recent weeks, but House Democrats at a week-end caucus finally voted to 48 to 46 to propose to permit any chairman of a standing committee to call the House by direct vote to place on the calendar any bill approved by his committee and pending before the Rules Committee more than 74 days. The second and fourth Mondays would be set aside for such motions.

This change would improve the situation considerably. After a regular standing committee has held long and exhaustive hearings on legislation, it is not fair for the Rules Committee to thwart the will of the majority and deny the House an opportunity to vote.

Arrangement for Piano, Hammer And Sickle



World Government

By DR. HAMILTON HOLT (This is the first of two articles on World Government. Dr. Holt is president of Rollins College, and formerly president of the United American Peace Congress, founder of the League to Enforce Peace and the League of Nations Non-Partisan Association, a trustee of the Church Peace Union and a former director of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. He attended the San Francisco Conference, and is a personal member of the national advisory board of United World Federalists.-Editors, The News.)

A Burning Present Issue

It is a burning present issue. There is no dispute from the atomic bomb knowers to scientists or military men. Those bombs "are being manufactured by the United States daily in much more destructive than those that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. If we do not establish a world government before the advent of the atomic bomb discovered in other nations, half of civilization throughout the world will be in jeopardy and may well be destroyed.

People's Platform

The Choice Before Us CHARLOTTE EDITOR, THE NEWS: SHOULD Americans be vocal about World Government? I think we should only after we have taken the trouble to study and to become informed as to the choices we have. It seems as though we have seen the alternative to world government, most of us who are intelligent will favor a planned and voluntary federation of the nations, with limited powers, rather than a universal government achieved by conquest.

MUST FIGHT FOR IDEALS

Therefore, if the men who believe in liberty, freedom, justice and the Golden Rule wish to maintain their freedom, they must be ready to defend them with their very lives. Our forefathers pledged "their lives, fortunes and their sacred honor" to the Constitution they framed and what happened? The United States of America happened.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON A COMPROMISE solution to the dynamic-laden civil rights program has been worked out by Arkansas Congressman Brooks Hays. It may prevent the battle of Northern Democrats vs. Southern Democrats which bog Congress down.

Truman's Six-Month Program

THE Democratic goal, as the 81st Congress opens today, is to smash through passage of the Truman program in exactly six months. They want to do this while the new Congress has not even the grass roots in its stride. Here is a list of the bill-of-laws: 1. Vote a raise in the President's salary to \$100,000. 2. Raise the minimum wage to \$1.00 an hour. 3. Raise the minimum wage to \$1.00 an hour. 4. Put across public housing and slum clearance. 5. Amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. 6. Restoration of reciprocal trade treaties; 8. Abolish the

Stewart Alsop What Did Truman Mean?

WASHINGTON THE matter were not so very serious, the reaction of official Washington to President Truman's remarks in Kansas City would have startled a statement that "certain Soviet leaders are exceedingly anxious to have an understanding with the United States" was published on Tuesday. It was immediately followed by a high official was disturbed by the suspicion that something of the utmost importance had occurred - perhaps an ultrasecret letter direct from the Kremlin to the White House - and that they had been left in ignorance of what had happened.

Consequently, a kind of mutual猜疑 operation is in motion among the State Dept., the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Defense Department's intelligence divisions. The object has been to get the answer to the question everyone has been asking: "What in heaven's name has the President said? A sensational assertion?"

A Good Year--For Him

James Marlow THAT real man of the year, the little guy, running for the bus here in Charlotte, has been fined five but a little shortwinded. He made it, but his heart was pounding when he stepped out to his old home. Running for what? A bus? He could have waited for a better job. The important thing is living a little longer, not catching a bus.

That stuff he read in the papers weeks ago--the heart kills in one three--shook him a little. He looked at the papers and he thought, "Of all them, he wondered, who would live the longest?"

Here it was, another year gone. And he was only 45. He had a little thinner. Eyes a little dimmer. New glasses would fix that. But, brother, that's not the point. He was getting older. He couldn't kid himself any more that he knew it. This year might be proof.

It was a good year. He had his kids one year further through school. When they were all grown up, he could take a little easier. Well, not until they were safe and married. "Bunk," he said. "Taking it easy never happens. He'd always be finding some reason for staying on another year. He'd be looking back to look ahead and try to look back over the years. He'd be wishing the boys would get out of his hair--or he'd be wishing they'd start dishing out whooping takes every time he was quiet.

NOT SO BAD But most people were in the same spot. They were looking for a job, a home, good food. He thought of the hungry people in China. He thought of the people in Europe. He thought, "I don't want to die. I don't want to die. And my father, he don't have

Compromise Seen In Civil Rights Fight

tax on oleomargarine; 9. Vote more storage space for Government-purchased grain; 10. Ratify the international agreement with Great Britain to Hawaii Alaska; 12. Open U. S. doors to 200,000 more displaced persons. "Biggest fight, however, will be over the budget. President Truman's budget and the House's budget, the military, however, was more. Meanwhile, Congressmen are working on a bill to create a new civilian agencies already cut to the bone by the 80th Congress.

Rayburn Tells The Boys Off

IT was patient, friendly Speaker Sam Rayburn who cracked the whip at stiff-headed House leaders in favor of a "select committee on the Rules Committee and some 'distasteful' in the Ways & Means Committee. "I've tried to be patient and patient with the Rules Committee on the part," declared Rayburn, "but I'm going to be much firmer from now on in insisting that it bring out important legislation. It's got to keep its step with the times."

Convincing 'Muley' Bob Doughton

SPEAKER RAYBURN also did some plain talking during a conference on the organization of the Ways & Means Committee with Chairman "Muley" Bob Doughton of North Carolina. The North Carolinian was politely, but firmly, told that his committee would have to undergo a facelift.

Tourist Trips By Air

THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS Board is juggling another hot potato--an application by a group of wealthy North Carolinians and some of the Delaware d'Ponts to conduct air tours of the United States.