

THOMAS L. ROBINSON General Manager

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1949

TRAGEDY IN GUILFORD

WHY, a number of people are asking themselves today, would three small boys stone a drunken man, lock him in a metal bin filled with excelsior and then

Your guess is as good as the next. But that is the story that came from Greens-

Your guess is as goon as the next. But that is the story that came from Greens-born yesterday. The story that came from Greens-born yesterday. The case will pass to by with a shrug because the principals were Negroes—the three boys and the victim.

Many people do this in all sorts of violence involving Negroes—in the innumerable Saturday intitle "cutting scrapes", the more serious cafe shootings, the axe atlacks by outrased spouses.

This in itself, brings on more such violence for the story of the story than Negro violence. There was implicit in the action of these three children a lack of respect for human life and dignity; there was an urge to do harm to a fellow man; there was a reflection of the

pretty widely accepted idea that people are killed every day in ware and what difference does one more make.

We certainly wouldn't suggest that these three children—two of them ten years old, one of them twelve—actually thought any of those things. On the contrary, there is every indication that they didn't think at all, that they just acted without regard for any consequences.

It is customary, in these things, to blame "society", and in a way it is often true. If these children are like most Negro children in the South, they have not had the opportunity to become acquainted with

children in the South, they have not had the opportunity to become acquainted with the rules of modern, civilized living, and to learn to practice them, consciously or unconsciously.

Even so, there is a terrible responsibility in this case on the parents who should have taught the children that even in a simple, uncomplicated society, a rock thrown in the face will do burt, a match thrown in the face will do burt, a match struck to excelsion will cause a fire, and a locked door will prevent the victim of such, a fire from escaping.

At this very moment the United States Government is involved in a lengthy, cau-tious trial of admitted Communist Party leaders to find out whether or not the Smith Act of 1940, passed by the Congress, is constitutional. That act also makes it a

crime to belong to a party which advocates overthrowing the Government by force.

Although two previous trials have been held under its provisions, the Supreme Court of the United States has not yet ruled on its constitutionality. Until it does so, there can be no sure legal basis for a similar statute adopted by a State.

As a nation we are in the midst of a tor-tious process of trying to decide whether our traditional constitutional liberties properly belong to those who would abuse them. Until the matter is settled on a na-tional level, borth Carolina, which has no Communist threat, can afford to wait.

WE CAN WAIT A WHILE

A MEASURE introduced in the M. C. House of Representatives to make it unlawful for any person to be a member of the Communit Party—or any party which would overthrow national, State, or local Overaments by force—appears inadvisable, however well-intentioned. In the first place, it wouldn't do any good.

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good.

It would merely require candidates for office and all public employees to take an oath stating they are not members of such a party. Such an oath is meaningless to a Communist If, by taking it, he could better work for The Cause, he would not hesitate. The recent expose of the Soviet spyr ing in Japan, with the two main characters posing as a Nast diplomatic aide and a Japanese newspaper man respectively, is proof of that.

In the second place, it is of dubious con-

GIFT WITH A STRING

In these days when it is the custom of so many public officials to bow down before the false side of Federal aid to education— finding our own Senators, Broughton and Hoey and Congressman Jones—it is reassuring to find four good Mecklenburg Legislators scorning such worship.

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Last week Representatives Craven, Ervin, Lastier and Morris of Meckienburg voted against a resolution saking the North Carolina delegation in Congress to support a prosram of Federal aid to education without Federal control. They lost—by a vote of \$3 to 44—but the big negative vote was comforting proof that we still have State officials who are not genuffecting toward Washington for help in doing a job which we can do better at home.

Even Governor Scott, who is about as rugged an individual as you will find these days, has compromised hie own stand on a 12,400 minimum salary for school teachers. He has agreed with teachers and educational leaders that "it would be best not to jeopardise future Federal aid by moving

too fast toward attainment of this goal."
And, therefore, he suggested "an interim salary schedule which could be increased if Federal aid becomes available at a later

Just what the Governor means by that is not quite clear. If he means that North Carolina, by digging deep to pay for a decent educational program, might be passed over in Federal aid in favor of these states which are not willing to do so, then it would indeed be a sorry sort of aid program which would give the biggest handouts to the most shiftless.

Let's not be naive about it. No matter how amothly written the present proposal more anothly written the present proposal representation of the present proposal for a more degree of Federal control and interference in some future year. That has been true wherever and whenever Federal funds are handed out, and it will be true in this case. We are not so strapped in Raleigh that

We are not so strapped in Raleigh that we can't afford to give our children a decent education and, in so doing, keep control at home where it belongs.

STATE OLEO RESTRICTIONS

THE present General Assembly could well afford to follow the example set by Tennessee this year and remove the remaining State restrictions on the use and sale of olcomargarine, especially since cottonseed peanuts, and soybeans, all produced in this state, are used in the margarine process in such large quantities. Tennessee wiped out its 10-cents a pound tax on colored margarine, repealed taxes on manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, permitted use of the product in restaurants provided. a sign stating the fact is displayed, and allowed its use in state institutions which formerly were prohibited from serving it.

ed from serving it.

All in all, some 30 states have repealed er modified their anti-margarine laws,

among them North Carolina which repealed the license fee on manufacturers and
reduced the license fee on wholesalers
from \$100 to \$50 in 1939. \$3am, in 1945.
North Carolina repealed all anti-margarine
laws prohibiting the manufacture and sale
of yellow margarine, the serving of colored
margarine in public eating places, and require wholesalers to pay a license fee of

margarine in public eating places, and require wholesalers to pay a license fee' of \$78 a year, no matter whether the electher handle is colored or white.

The only possible restrictions which can legically be argued for are the requirements that public eating establishents display a sign asying that the yellow spread they serve is olso, not butter, and that packaged once be plainly identified as such.

From The Shelby Daily Star

TRAGEDY BROUGHT HOME

A TRAGEDY which has just occurred at A irraduly minen has just occurred at the South Carolina State Penitentiary brings a North Carolina problem very close home to us A mentally incompetent Negro prisoner beat his head against the bars of his cell and then died of what was said to be a heart condition at the South Carolina

We won't even stop to inquire why the Bouth Carolina authorities had this men-tally unbalanced man confined in a cell in which he could injure himself in our haste to put a query to our own authori-

As has been pointed out by Cleveland's clerk of court, it is becoming recording elerk of court, it is becoming necessary to confine insane persons in the local jail for longer and longer periods of time as it be-comes increasingly difficult to get them admitted to State institutions.

As everybody knows, our jall here is not equipped to take care of mental patients, as so many jalls in North Carolina are not so equipped. The jallers do the best they

can with what they have but they couldn't be expected to keep a 24-hour vigil on these mentally unbalanced people. Yet something ought to be done for them.

If the proposition of getting mental pa-tients to State institutions is to continue a long and drawn out process with the bing necessary to confine them for long periods of time in the local jail, then some provi-sion abould be made for their comfort and

protection.

One padded cell or more may be the answer. But certainly we do not want repeated in our jall, in any jall in North Carolina, the gruesome inclent which marred the record of the South Carolina penitentiary. Tragedies are best averted in advance.



People's Platform

National Foundation Lauded

The News:

a continue to help those who will need them as a following our gratitude to e fourer.

We take this means of showing our gratitude to people of Meckenburg County, who, themselves, ve made this successful campaign possible.

Ye made this successful campaign possible.

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Main Highway Problem

CHARLOTTE Editors, The News:

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us. Do you see those black patches and broken lines in the roads. That's it, and remember that while in the roads. That's it, and remember that while in the roads. That is an arrived that centre put down to accommodate heavier loads and you have paid the most of that cost too and they are the road in the lawful limit in the road the tracks in excess of the lawful limit in the road to the road in the

-B. C. BOLEN.

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in any definite direction nor reaching any fixed

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Joseph Alsop

Pax Anglo-Americana

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Merry-Go-Round

GOP Makes Hay On State Dept. Stand

This can be the first serious foreign-affairs rift of the new Truman Administration.

What makes things embarrassing for the State Dent is that it own diegates to the United Nations took the state it can only a state of the State Dent in the Stat

GOP Grabs Ball

I UCAS, somewhat against his better judgment, did so, Lobediently, the Democratic Senators pulled in their horns—on the promise that new Secretary of State Acheson would come up to the Senate and explain his view on the resolution.

WHAT different states are doing with their Gratitude Train gifts: New York City converted the veterany carried to the converted the veterany carried to the converted the veterany carried to the converted to winners... Oilso will mount its 40-and-8 boxcar prizes to winners... Oilso will mount its 40-and-8 boxcar prizes to winners... Oilso will mount its 40-and-8 boxcar prizes to winners... Oilso will mount its 40-and-8 boxcar prizes to winners... Oilso will mount its 40-and-8 boxcar prizes to winners... Oilso will mount its 40-and-8 boxcar prizes to winners... Oilso will mount its 40-and-8 boxcar prizes to winners... As a converted to the conver

some more. Acheson did not show. Finally, State Dept. Acheson with Boline interboloned to say that Secretary the second proper of the property of the second pro