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TROUBLE AT DIX HILL

RECENT disclosures of bad conditions at the Dix Hill Hospital for the mentally ill in Raleigh are a tragic reminder that North Carolina, despite steadily increasing appropriations, has not yet fulfilled its obligations to its sick and afflicted citizens.

Recently Judge Henry Stevens of Warsaw freed a woman inebriate who had been placed in the same ward with violent mental patients, and severely criticized the Dix Hill management for its policy toward alcoholics.

Last week a Wake County Grand Jury brought in a report on Dix Hill which, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn said, should bring "a blush of shame to our citizens." The report said:

In the alcoholic and drug addict buildings conditions are deplorable. The inmates have insufficient food and buy from the commissary in order to get enough food. The inmates receive no treatment and are in constant fear of punishment.

Punishment consists of placing the inmates in Ward 12, the criminal insane ward, where their clothes are taken away and they are forced to sleep on a mattress on the floor. No toilet facilities are available, but the rooms are hosed out each day. Food is inadequate. No medical service is available to the inmates, except in emergencies.

The food being served at prisons is far superior to that served at the State hospital. Some of the buildings are dirty and need deodorizing. Others need painting and repairs. Only a personal inspection will reveal conditions of some of these wards.

The hospital is inadequately staffed in every respect. Additional facilities are needed at once. Where proper facilities are available, excellent work is being done. In one department, 97 per cent of the releases are being obtained as a result of treatment.

Elsewhere on this page is a story from *The Greensboro Daily News* which fills in additional chilling details of the picture at Dix Hill. It shows vividly how poorly prepared that institution is for treating alcoholics.

Beginning with the historic crusade by the late Tom Jimison nine years ago, North Carolina has made considerable progress toward improving conditions at its State mental institutions. But the news from Dix Hill is distressing proof that we are still far from our objective.

There have been complicating factors of course: the shortage of building materials during and immediately after the war; the dearth of trained psychiatrists; the difficulty of employing capable attendants in competition with the higher wages and less unpleasant work in private industry.

But we can no longer afford to wait; we have already waited too long.

We cannot Go Forward—no matter how many roads we build, how many school buildings we put up, how much we pay our State employees—so long as afflicted and depraved citizens of North Carolina are spirited away to dank dungeons and left to waste away amid terrible surroundings of medieval horror.

NEW FARM PROGRAM

THE U. S. Government efforts to stabilize the national farm income have already taken two forms: (1) the early New Deal theory of curtailed production to avoid surpluses which glut the market, and (2) the present parity price system, which strives for maximum production with minimum price levels guaranteed by Government purchases or loans.

And now we are introduced to a third which represents an entirely new approach to the problem of maintaining a steady, consistent standard of living for the nation's 10,000,000 farm owners and workers.

The new program, outlined by Secretary Charles F. Brannan, goes further than either of its predecessors in establishing a planned and controlled agriculture.

It separates farm products into two broad categories—(1) storable items such as corn, wheat, cotton, and tobacco, and (2) perishables, such as fruits and vegetables, meat, milk, butterfat, eggs, poultry.

The present parity method of holding firm prices on storable items would be preserved, but with additional Federal controls over acreage and production. The Government would merely go into the market and buy these commodities when prices drop below parity, or else advance loans to the producers, which amounts to the same thing. It would be an improvement over the present parity system, however, in that there would be some control of production so that tremendous surpluses of these items would be avoided.

A new support system would be developed for perishable foods. It involves a complicated formula for determining fair prices. Prices would be permitted to drop to the natural level in the open markets, apparently giving the consumers a break. But then the Federal Government would repay the individual farmer, by check, the difference between the price he sold his produce for, and the fair price as determined by the new formula. These payments, of course, would come from regular Government tax revenues, and the consumer's savings would, in that respect, be an illusion.

The big farm organizations have been extremely cautious in their appraisal of the new Brannan program, and understandably so since it leaves unanswered several big questions, two of which are:

(1) How can accurate records be kept on the production and sales of each individual farmer without a much larger Agriculture Department bureaucracy than we have at present?

(2) How much will the whole program cost the Government? (Secretary Brannan "guessed" it wouldn't cost more than the present method.)

Future Congressional hearings on the new program will doubtless answer these, and other questions.

If the new program will better provide these three essentials of American farm life, as outlined by the National Planning Association, it will be worth adopting:

1. Enough food and fiber to maintain high living standards;
2. Farming methods to conserve the soil so that the nation will eat well in the future;
3. Farm income high enough and stable enough to keep the farm population—the nation's second largest group of consumers—in the market for industrial goods.

NEW GERMAN NATION

THE significance of the three-power agreement on a form of democratic government for Western Germany is apt to be lost on us in our preoccupation with more newsworthy events such as the signing of the Atlantic Pact, the opening of a new United Nations session, the Renewal of the ECA program for another year.

But it marks a tremendous advance toward the goal of rehabilitating Germany so that it may be a productive, self-sufficient member of the family of nations.

It has its tragic overtones rising from the widening rift between Eastern and Western Germany, a rift which will probably result in two separate nations where once there was one. Unhappily, there appears to be no way to avoid this division.

Efforts to re-establish self-government in the combined Western zones ruled by Britain, France and the United States moved slowly because of the failure of those nations to agree on the precise form of the new democracy. During this delay, the German people continued to wallow in humiliation and their intense nationalism began to show itself again in growing resentment against the occupying powers.

Now the differences of opinions which caused this delay have been resolved, and a federation of separate German states, each with its own legislature, and all under a national assembly, is being formed. Patterned broadly after the United States, it will enable the German people to begin ruling themselves, subject only to certain negative powers the Big Three will retain for a while, among which is an absolute ban against a rebirth of German war-making potential.

The agreements mean that the end of outright military occupation is finally in sight, that civilian administrators will be able to take over and help nurse Germany back on its feet so that one day it will cease to be a drain on the resources of this nation and the other democracies.

From The Shelby Daily Star

WANTED TO HELP, ANYWAY

WE can readily understand the attitude of the unidentified woman in the Western part of North Carolina who sent in a return to the State Revenue Department showing she didn't owe any tax but enclosed a check for $3 "just to help out."

She had probably been reading of the unbalanced condition of the budget as it is now pending in the North Carolina General Assembly. She had heard of the plight of the school teachers, the State employees, the various State institutions and services as their needs have been presented to the Legislature.

No doubt, having a tender heart, she did not want to see these persons, institutions and services suffer. Neither did she want to see the State go bankrupt. So she sends along her $3.

We are glad to say that the money is being returned to her. North Carolina's budget may not be quite in balance as it stands now. Teachers salaries may not be what they ought to be. Institutions may need more money than they are getting.

But the State is not bankrupt, as witness its large reserves. Moreover, it is not so poor that it has to take charity from persons who owe no tax.

Yet, we think, a vote of thanks should go to this woman, who may not understand the financial operations of her State Government but who is in favor of maintaining it as a going concern.

A New Jersey woman of 35 married a man of 22. In thirteen years they'll be the same age. — *Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.*

It's a fine thing to be a gentleman—but it's an awful handicap in a good argument. —*Odessa (Mo.) Odessan.*

Joseph Alsop

The New Isolationism

WASHINGTON

THIS somewhat befuddled capital has just been treated to an unusually puzzling spectacle. First the Administration's Senate leaders strained every nerve to pass an Interest European Recovery Program. Then the Atlantic Pact was proudly signed. And then the President's chief economic advisor, Dr. Edwin Nourse, suggested that the Atlantic Pact obligation to rearm Western Europe should be paid for by cutting our own defense and the European recovery programs. He added blandly that his speech had been approved by the President.

When the Administration gives invaluable aid and comfort to the Congressional isolationists, an explanation is in order. Superficially, of course, the explanation is very simple. The President has allowed what was done to him twice by Henry Wallace, to be done a third time.

Not long ago, Dr. Nourse returned from a tour of the country much impressed by the business groups' natural dislike for taxation. He apparently concluded that it was better to torpedo our foreign policy, than to raise taxes to pay for lend-lease to Europe. He outlined these views to the President. Since the President's budget message specifically proposed raising taxes in order to meet the Atlantic Pact obligation, one must conclude the President did not understand Dr. Nourse, as one must also suppose he failed to understand Wallace on the celebrated previous occasions.

At any rate, Truman authorized Nourse to express his views in a speech to a War Dept. orientation conference, merely requiring that he clear the speech in advance with Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder and Budget Director Frank Pace. Snyder heartily approved the Nourse argument.

Pace, seeing the contradiction of the Presidential message, protested the speech, But Pace was somehow eluded. And the State Dept. was evidently not consulted at all, although it is reported that the President also asked Nourse to show his speech to Under Secretary of State James Webb.

Nourse's speech evoked an immediate response from Capitol Hill, as any infant of three could have foreseen it would. Nothing could have been more pleasing to the Senators and Representatives who are determined to cripple American foreign policy, if need, be, in order to avoid a tax rise.

Their own arguments had been echoed by the President's official economic augur. They rushed up onto the roof, cheering loudly. The President then lamely disavowed Nourse, which did nothing to counteract the disastrous damage already done in the delicate Congressional situation.

General ineptitude sticks out of the whole episode like a sore thumb, as it stuck out of the all-too-familiar Wallace episodes. But for this episode, as for those, there is a deeper explanation also. This explanation is foreshadowed in Secretary Snyder's Army Day speech in Boston, which dimly, very cautiously, but quite noticeably hinted at exactly the same points made by Dr. Nourse.

The truth is that there is a new isolationism abroad in the Administration. Prior to the election, Secretaries Marshall and Forrestal and Under Secretary Lovett ruled supreme in the foreign and defense fields. Some of those around the President often sabotaged the President's policies but the policies that were sabotaged were on the domestic front. Now these men have gained self-confidence and are venturing into the foreign and defense field, not without some encouragement from the President himself.

The first sign of this rather astonishing phenomenon was the sharp reduction in the tempo of our own rearmament, ordered by the President this Fall. The original impulse for this move came from Secretary Snyder, Dr. Nourse and the then Budget Director James Webb (who is likely to form different views at the State Dept.). There have been other signs also of this encroachment, such as Snyder's appointment as a permanent member of the National Security Council, and the odd retention in office of Snyder's ally, Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer, who very nearly gave eye to eye with Sen. Wherry.

There are probably two sources of this new isolationism. First, the independent position and strong characters of the old managers of foreign and defense policy were no doubt resented by the men around the President, if not by the President himself. The old foreign and defense policy makers were accused of "crisis mongering," and of being under the influence of "the brass." What they did was resented, as were the men themselves.

Second, most of the men around the President are fundamentally intensely conservative, deeply anxious not to rock the boat and quite ignorant of the world situation. Thus they were and are devoted to business-as-usual, bitterly opposed to higher taxes, and to general in favor of sacrificing the future to the present. With the Nourse speech, this cat has at least peeped out of the bag. It can prove to be a very dangerous animal.

Conditions At Dix Hill

Alcoholic Unit Called 'Terrible'

(Reprinted from The Greensboro Daily News)

NEED of a state hospital for alcoholics separate and apart from the institutions for the care and treatment of mental patients is emphasized by persons who have been inmates of the Dix Hill alcoholics unit at Raleigh.

Greensboro men, returning from a 60-day commitment to the alcoholic unit, describe conditions there as "terrible," one going so far as to say that "Hitler's concentration camps could not have been any worse." That, no doubt, is an overstatement but it does serve to stress the conditions under which persons who enter there are compelled to exist.

"Compelled" is the correct term. Not all persons who enter the alcoholic unit are sent there by the courts, although a person must have a commitment from the Clerk of Superior Court. The Greensboro men to whom The Daily News has talked were committed on their own volition or at the request of members of their families, and once they entered the portals of the hospital there was no turning back until they completed their 60-day stay, for which they or their families paid $120, or two dollars per day. If a person is committed by order of the court, it is understood the county from which he is sent pays $80 and the state absorbs the other $40.

These patients or inmates interviewed by The Daily News, entered the hospital on the supposition that they were to receive medical attention and treatment for alcoholism. They assert, however, that they had no medical attention and were able to get the simplest laxative or other medicine only after much pleading. They spent the greater part of a week in Ward 1, described as the receiving ward for all inmates at Dix Hill, a building both violently and mildly insane. There the sleeping facilities were almost non-existent; the food badly prepared and the stench from the main dining hall and corridor, crowded with insane, almost unbearable. At least 400 insane eat in this dining hall, and it was here that about ten "new" alcoholics took their meals for almost one week, when they were transferred to the Edgerton Building, designed exclusively for alcoholic and narcotic inmates, where conditions were somewhat better than in Ward 1, although not conducive to curing a man of the drink habit.

ASK SECRET INVESTIGATION

THE death about mid-January of a prominent eastern North Carolina physician, an inmate of the alcoholic unit, spurred a group of inmates in an effort to have a "secret investigation" of conditions made in order that remedial steps might be taken. A letter, bearing the signatures of two Greensboro men and several others, was addressed to State Senator George T. Penny who, in his reply, said "proper authorities have been giving thought to the matter "with the view that something can be done." He expressed his "intention to press as best as I can for action in this matter."

A Greensboro man told The Daily News he was one of the last to talk to the Eastern Carolina physician, who at the time was a patient in Ward 1, annex to Ward 1. This annex, he said, is supposedly assigned to mental patients, but the physician was not a mental case. The Greensboro man said he met him on a Friday evening before the doctor died the following Sunday morning. On Saturday the doctor complained of a hurting in the chest and arm and begged for the service of a physician, fearing he was suffering from a heart condition, but no physician ever came. A nurse visited him, but talked rather indifferently, the Greensboro man said. About 2:30 A. M. (Sunday) the doctor told the Greensboro man that he "was sicker than he had ever been in his life." Later, about 5 A. M., the doctor was found dead in bed.

"So far as I know, the doctor had no medical attention," said the local man, who expressed belief that "if he had received proper treatment by a physician he would have had a chance to live."

In the letter addressed to Senator Penny, a copy of which was shown The Daily News, the writers set forth that "the treatment an alcoholic receives here the first few days is awful. One attendant said the alcoholics were subjected to the inhuman treatment to see if they could be cracked mentally. To call the abuse an alcoholic gets here "treatment" is absurd."

NORTH WILKESBORO CASE

AFTER reciting the case of the ill-fated Eastern Carolina physician, the letter goes ahead to tell about a North Wilkesboro inmate who developed a sore throat. He pleaded for attention, but several days passed and his throat became so swollen it was "even with his cheek." All the attention the man had received was a "token" inspection by a nurse each night. Finally the man was removed to another ward for treatment, to which he responded and recovered. "Why should a man be allowed to suffer that long needlessly?" the letter asks.

Upon admission in Ward 1, the letter says, an inmate is stripped, ordered around in a manner that is "barely human," taken to a shower and after bathing is shown a pile of clothes, 75 per cent of which is unwearable, and told to pick out something. "If they fit, all right, if they don't it's your hard luck," one Greensboro man was told. The inmate is given no socks and no underwear—only a pair of trousers and a shirt. Cigarettes and matches are taken from the inmate, and, the letter says, "most of the time a smoke is at a dear premium."

The letter complains of the sort of food served, especially during that first week in Ward 1, describing it as poorly prepared and totally unpalatable. Sleeping is almost impossible in that ward because of the groans, yells, babbling and curses coming from patients locked in strong rooms across the corridor.

After a sleepless night, the alcoholic patients were told to go to breakfast in the main dining hall at the end of the corridor. The floor of the corridor was filthy, the letter says, and the odor that came from the dining hall was sickening. "All I could do was keep my head down and gag," asserted one Greensboro man. Returning to Ward 1, the men were told to make up their beds, stay off of them and get out into the hall and remain there until a doctor made his rounds.

Quoting a Greensboro inmate, the letter continued: "On my first night I saw a Roanoke Rapids man going into D. T.'s (delirium tremens). He was given a minute dose of paraldehyde, stripped of all clothing and put into a strong room, with no toilet facilities, no water, and only a torn-up mattress on the floor. The man raved continuously until 10 A. M. the next day. I was directly across the hall from this strong room and the man never received any attention that I know of.

"I have known men to beg for a cigarette and not get it, while their own were locked in the attendant's room. Or worse, I have seen them get a package of cigarettes, with no light or matches."

The man interviewed by The Daily News declared it would be a travesty to call the alcoholic unit of Dix Hill a hospital for effecting a cure. After having lived through 60 days of the conditions that exist there, they averred the first thing an inmate wanted after he got out was a drink of whisky to enable him to forget the horrors of his experience.

James Marlow

Where Do We Go?

WASHINGTON

FOUR years ago tomorrow, April 12, Harry S. Truman became President when President Roosevelt died.

What has he done in those four years, and what has happened to him, us and the world?

No man ever became President had to shoulder so many responsibilities so suddenly.

His four years have been years of climaxes, increasing tensions, prosperity, and preparation against war.

When he moved into the White House, war with Germany was ending. Japan was soon to be crushed with the atom bomb, an event that changed world history.

The United Nations was created in the hope it might keep peace. Four years have shown its failure.

And in his first few months in office, the United States had to be set spinning back into peacetime ways. It was done with jolts and jerks.

Wartime controls were ripped off, some too fast. Strikes sprouted, holding up peacetime goods.

The mood in Congress, as the months passed, was to ditch price controls, let prices run free. Mr. Truman warned against it.

His own Democrats were in control of Congress but, spearheaded by the Republicans, they cut the legs from under OPA. It soon died.

Prices shot through the roof, bringing the country a great inflation. They're still skyhigh, may be coming down a bit now.

Mr. Truman had tried a honeymoon with Congress in his early days as President. But that ended in a bust and never has been patched up.

Voters, fed up with the Democrats, gave the Republicans control in 1946. It was Mr. Truman's worst defeat.

He reversed that in 1948 with his own election, biggest surprise in modern political history. And the Democrats won control of Congress again.

But Congress doesn't seem to be anxious to pay attention to his wishes, at least for things at home.

Long ago he had made it plain he wants to carry on Mr. Roosevelt's New Deal, which he has used the name, the Fair Deal.

He's made almost no progress with that in four years. There's no assurance he'll make much more in the next four.

Yet, in spite of his difficulties with Congress, Americans are making more money than ever before. The land is rich, teeming with money, goods, and food.

But meanwhile dark skies have darkened beyond the shores. His hopes of getting along with Russia have gone down the drain.

As he watched the Russians swallow Eastern Europe, his mood hardened. He set up the Truman Doctrine: A policy of blocking Russia wherever it tries to make a thrust.

Further that policy we've helped Greece and Turkey, created the Marshall Plan for helping Western Europe to stop Russia with steel if need be.

We've put so much money into military preparedness and stopping Russia, all of which mean jobs and production here. It's a question of whether we could afford sudden good relations with Russia.

As Mr. Truman goes into his fifth year in the White House, only four years away from World War II, the air is full of talk of new war. Where we go, no one knows, not even Mr. Truman.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

FDR Cabinet Gone After Four Years

WASHINGTON

IT SEEMS a long time since that day in April when Franklin Roosevelt passed away. It's only four years, but it seems like ages—ages in which we've sort of lost something . . . the hopes for peace which he cherished for mankind . . . It was a lovely Spring day in April four years ago. The cherry blossoms seemed a little prouder of their beauty. The weeping willow trees along the Potomac drooped a little lower, and the shad came nosing up the muddy waters that FDR loved and so long lived beside a little earlier. It was just the kind of Spring he would have loved.

Then suddenly through the loveliness came that flag-draped caisson bringing the dead warrior home . . . People stood and watched—sadly and wept openly—some. They had never met him, many had never seen him, but he belonged to them. . . . So the dead warrior passed down Constitution Avenue, which when he came into office twelve years before had been lined with vacant lots and ramshackled remnants of the bonus army . . . He had passed down that avenue on a March day twelve years before—when the world seemed falling apart. A ragged homeless army of 20,000 war veterans had even stormed the Capitol and the three drawbridges across the Potomac for the first time in history were raised to keep them out.

Now it was April, twelve years later. The world was on the verge of ending the greatest war in history. America had weathered the storms, but the captain of the ship would not see his vessel dock . . . He had made mistakes, plenty of them. He had his faults—all great men do. He was untrue to his friends—when his friends became liabilities to the public trust. . . . But the people overlooked his faults, because they knew he was working for them . . . and they knew it would be hard for them to get another such friend.

Henry Wallace's Calm

SO AS the caisson passed, the people watched and wept and prayed . . . and the Cabinet wept . . . Henry L. Stimson, nearly eighty, a member of two Republican Cabinets, a candidate for Governor of New York when FDR, was a young and carefree Senator in Albany, wept . . . Stimson, who had opposed Roosevelt, but who loved Roosevelt and served in his Cabinet, wept and was unashamed . . . Ickes' face was worn and drawn . . . Only Henry Wallace, then Secretary of Commerce, was calm. Watching Harry Truman take the oath of office as President of the United States—Harry Truman, the man who defeated him at Chicago and in whose shoes he otherwise might have been, Wallace quietly observed: "Roosevelt was a great man. But now what the country needs now is a man of the people. That man" —and he nodded at Truman—"that man may have the Lincolnesque greatness the country needs" . . . There was no bitterness. With the switch of a few votes, Henry Wallace would have stood in the place where Harry Truman stood. But he was not bitter.

New Era Of The Common Man

SO AFTER twelve long years the champion of the common man went to his final resting place and his successor, the common man, boarded the funeral train . . . He was terribly alone at the top, surrounded, silently cheering, secretly hoping that Henry Wallace was right—that a new Lincoln had come to America . . . One by one, the new President called the members of the Roosevelt Cabinet into his office as the funeral train steamed toward Poughkeepsie. One by one, he implored them to stay on . . . Also slipping into the Presidential car went an ex-bootlegger from Kansas City, John Maragon. Cockily he whispered to Col. Harry Vaughan, the new President's new military aide . . . The world did not then know that these two were to appoint judges, demote generals, influence affairs in Greece. The world did not know that even on that funeral train a new era had been ushered in.

The Roosevelt Cabinet members are gone now. Not one who traveled on that train remains—Jimmy Byrnes, the Secretary of State, who traveled only on the train but so Potsdam to decide the peace of the world, has also departed. He saw the new President first hand as he sat down with the world's greatest leaders at the conference which was to map out the peace of the world . . . Churchill, Truman, Stalin—the Big Three . . . Transportation was difficult, many important diplomats were left behind. Not so Harry Vaughan and his ex-bootlegger friend, John Maragon. They were also present at that historic meeting of the world's most powerful leaders—and boasted of selling black-market wrist watches.

Stalin Gets Scolded

THAT meeting was important not only for what the public didn't know . . . The humble little President came home . . . It was his first meeting with Stalin, with whom he hoped to write a lasting peace, and with whom at that time the USA enjoyed reasonably happy relations. No important decisions had then developed . . . But the humble President proceeded to give Stalin a tongue-lashing. Addressing a man he had never met and from whose army he wanted help in defeating the Japanese, the new President talked like a Dutch uncle about the schedule he expected to be followed at Potsdam . . . Churchill raised his eyebrows, looked at Jimmy Byrnes. Neither could remember the President of the United States . . . Stalin has deserved many another bawling out on other matters since, but not during the first few minutes of a conference at which he had not even had time to disagree.

After the first day's session, the little President drove off. With him in the limousine were Jimmy Byrnes and Harry Vaughan. The President turned to Vaughan and called the Military Aide. "You certainly did your f on him! It was great! Do it again!" . . . The new President beamed. His new Secretary of State had scored a point. Issue a note of caution about antagonizing the chief of a country before negotiations even started. Now it was obvious that the new President was pleased with his performance. Adulation, not criticism, was the order for the day—and for many other days during the four years thereafter.

The Potsdam Conference ended pretty much in failure. High-sounding announcements were issued to cover up the failure, but the public as always found out in the end . . . Joe Stalin has deserved plenty of bawlings out since then, but diplomats have wondered whether, if Truman hadn't bawled him out at the very start, he'd have been more cooperative. Maybe not . . . Maybe if Truman hadn't bawled out Foreign Minister Molotov the minute after he arrived for the UN conference, we'd also have got along better with the Russians at San Francisco. Maybe not . . . Maybe if Roosevelt had lived we wouldn't have been in the mess we are with the Russians. Maybe not.

Anyway it seems a long, long time since that quiet day in April when the body of a great warrior was borne down Constitution Avenue.