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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1949

LIFTING THE BLOCKADE

THE State Department's announcement under that any break in war preparations which leads the sunshine of peace... The Berlin blockade was like a cool, fresh breeze coming up out of the west on a hot, stuffy Summer night.

SUCH are the tensions we have been living under that any break in war preparations which leads the sunshine of peace... The Berlin blockade was like a cool, fresh breeze coming up out of the west on a hot, stuffy Summer night.

Now, after weeks of quiet negotiation, Russia has agreed that the blockade can be lifted after a definite date is set for a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four major powers. The U. S. has accepted that one condition - provided it is the only string attached.

TEST FOR THE PROFESSION

MOST of our Washington experts agree that there is little likelihood that the President's compulsory health insurance program will be adopted during this session. The American people simply haven't been sold on the measure, and the more sophisticated public opinion behind it to force its passage over the understandable opposition of the medical profession and the more conservative members of Congress.

Both sides, in their eagerness to advance their cause, have been guilty of misstatements of confusion. The proponents have distorted some of their facts and figures, have been purposefully vague about the probable cost of the program. The opponents have diverted attention from the basic issues by screaming "socialized medicine" and painting all sorts of horrible pictures of a system of medicine about like that in Russia today.

The people have a great stake in this national debate. It is their health and their medical care which are involved. They have grown up under a system of private medicine in which the doctor occupies a position in their lives not unlike that of the minister. It is their health and their medical care which are involved. They have grown up under a system of private medicine in which the doctor occupies a position in their lives not unlike that of the minister.

HARDING AND GARINGER

LONG after Harry Harding has gone from the active scene, the stamp of his influence will continue to show on the big, ever-growing Charlotte public school system. For 45 years—38 of them as Superintendent—he has been associated with the Charlotte school system. In that time the investment in school buildings and facilities, and in the modern equipment, has multiplied many times over up till today the Charlotte school system is a complex and important business.

Through it all, the quiet, modest, unassuming little man with the high forehead and big eyes for the president and teacher himself, he saw the problem of education in all of its multiple reflections on the life of the community, the state, and the nation. He was always in the forefront of movements to improve the school system he directed, and the fact that the people of Charlotte have spent money so generously on buildings and are supplementing the budget so liberally reflects their confidence in his administration.

It is fortunate that a successor was at hand. It is always better to entrust great responsibility to those we know. Dr. E. H. Garinger, who has been principal of Central High School and subsequently as assistant superintendent, has shown the same qualities of intelligence, responsibility and vigor that his predecessor possessed so bountifully.

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PERHAPS it is too soon to feel good; perhaps something will happen to delay the lifting of the blockade. If so, we can still be patient. One day last week, the U. S. and British aircraft pilots put on an extra burst of energy and flew into Berlin 12,000 tons of supplies—equivalent to 22 freight trains, more than West Berlin got in a single day by train before the nine-month-old blockade began.

It was a convincing demonstration, and it has just notified through the Charlotte newspapers that the Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Co. has been granted a rate increase approximating 70 per cent of what they asked for in their appeal to your Commission. Frankly, we are very surprised that you granted the increase, particularly in view of lowered costs which are becoming apparent.

People's Platform Hits Phone Rate Increase

CHARLOTTE classes of our people so that we may dwell in an atmosphere of peace, prosperity and happiness with civic righteousness prevailing, generating brotherly kindness and good will.

Praise For The Winner

HAVING won Mr. Shaw with high esteem for a quarter of a century, and also his honorable father during his later years. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I enter my hearty congratulations on his overwhelming victory in the race for the office of mayor of our city.

I am confident that he will undertake to promote constructive institutions and influences, and to eradicate sources of vice which are harassed and protected by the law. By intervening now, the present time we must endure "respectable" hot beds of crime which promote juvenile delinquency and the salivating of fire hazards and safety devices regulations.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IT was officially recorded, but New Hampshire's Styles Bridges recently struck a sharp blow at the partisan foreign policy by demanding that GOP's own standing on foreign affairs—particularly in China.

He shot the challenge squarely at Michigan's Sen. Arthur Vandenberg. "The first church-going city in America" during a secret meeting of the Republican Policy Committee. The debate got so heated that at one point, Vandenberg accused Styles Bridges of being a "dark force" for the party.

The smoke and smog about which we've read and written so much seems to have cleared up remarkably since the janitor got around to washing our office windows.

Little Girl in "Cummy" look at that funny man around the street. "Kid's job 'til he's doing" Little Girl "He's sitting on the sidewalk talking to a banana peel." — Pittsburg (Texas) Gazette.



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About Auto Inspection

CONGRATULATIONS for printing Dick Tupper's cartoon "Memento." In the "General Assembly" that will advance the efforts for re-establishment of Mechanical Inspection North Carolina. Your paper did a very commendable job of supporting the House of Representatives in its fight for the inspection of automobiles.

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Marquis Childs Strong Middle Ground

FOR A LONG TIME now Congress has been divided into two camps: the liberal and the conservative. The liberal camp is the one that is in the majority. The conservative camp is the one that is in the minority.

But Congress seems actually about to pass a bill which will mean direct Federal aid to build decent housing for some of the lowest income families. The "liberal" most discredited and overcredited since it was in place.

In spite of all that the private housing lobby could do, the Senate has now passed a bill calling for construction of 100,000 new units over a period of six years. For some clearance, the measure provides for \$100,000,000 in Federal loans and grants. The Senate, of course, is not the final word.

Today, however, there is general confidence the House will be allowed to vote on the bill, and if it does, it will be a landmark. Speaker Sam Rayburn and Majority Leader Charles McNamara have both expressed their optimism to President Truman.

If these confident forecasts prove true, several people will be able to step forward and take marked appreciation. One of the people who has been consistently ever since has been the House of Representatives. Long before that, in the Senate, urged the need for Government help in building homes for the poor.

Another will be Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio. Taft's sponsorship of the bill has been a landmark in his career. In 1945 he joined with the President's Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs.

James Marlow How Far To Go

LEPT the lid on the argument about the health program and you find this: It is not an argument over whether the Government should have a health program, but over how far to go.

The problem is how far should such a program, backed with Government money and some Government control, be allowed to go. This will give you an idea of how far to go. The program is a limited way—helping the nation's health.

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Truman Sore At Israel

PRESIDENT TRUMAN, who frequently blows hot and cold over the Middle East, is now the new President of Israel. He is holding mad at the Israeli Government for what he considers an unbecomingly anti-American attitude.

McDonald reported to the President that during a recent interview with the Israeli Minister of Defense, the Minister spoke disparagingly of American aid to Israel. This made Truman so mad he ordered a special investigation committee to look into the case.

Austin's silence shocked the Israel because they were counting on wholehearted American support for their cause. The result was a series of meetings during personal conferences with President Truman.