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STATE MERIT SYSTEM

The American people have learned through long and often painful experience that the best way to guarantee reasonably efficient government is to remove as many jobs as possible from the whims of party politics.
It is almost axiomatic that we cannot attract and hold competent government employees unless we afford them as much job security as they find in private employment...

charged tomorrow at the order of the Governor if he so wished.
In the past our Governors have studiously avoided the wholesale shuffling of State jobs to pay off political debts or punish political enemies. A few top jobs change hands with every Administration, but the people down in the lower echelons have been reasonably safe from such political whims...

A TREMENDOUS GAMBLE

It is one of the paradoxes of these strange times that the democratic United States should extend, through the Export-Import Bank, a \$20 million credit to Marshal Tito without Communist dictation in Yugoslavia is the antithesis of U. S. democracy and, presumably, of our objectives for the world.
With only minor differences in philosophy and method, Yugoslavia is a scale model of Soviet Russia, and Tito's power over his people is as absolute as Marshal Stalin's.

nations within the Soviet orbit have slapped an economic blockade on Yugoslavia, and Moscow has been bombarding Tito with bitter diplomatic notes.
The U. S. liking neither of the two Communist nations, might leave them alone and let them fight it out. If only Yugoslavia and Russia were involved, that would suit everyone on this side of the Atlantic. But Russia is the hostile nation and her influence throughout the world are involved in this struggle, and it is certainly to the interest of the Western democracies that Tito be given such assistance as would enable him to withstand the economic boycott.

When, you ask, should this nation first sell Tito a \$20 million steel factory and then lend him \$30 million?
The answer is found in the weird struggle between Tito and the Communist bloc a struggle which began with ideological differences and has now grown into a full-scale economic and propaganda war. The

CONGRESS AND MONEY

A recent compilation of thirteen major appropriation bills either passed by both houses or pending conference committee reports show that Congress has shaved President Truman's requests by \$1,732,791,675. The saving may be slightly larger if Senate conferees accept lower House figures and vice versa.
But there are some jokers to this apparent reduction:
1. The House cut spending for veterans' pensions and readjustment benefits below requests by \$222 million and \$424 million respectively, but authorized a similar deficiency appropriation at Veterans Administration estimates prove accurate. Recent trends indicate the accuracy of the vote.

Actually, when Congress finally ends this torturous season, we may find that the reductions in the President's budget are so small as to be insignificant, and that the deferred payment authorizations may mean greater financial difficulties in future years.
It has not been an impressive economy request so far by a Congress which has given lip service to economy while voting more money right and left.

THE FIRST AUTUMN

It gives us pleasure, as Autumn approaches, to consider what effect the crisp, brilliant season would have on, say, a visitor from Putrescencia, Costa Rica.
But we must not let our minds get all big about Putrescencia for a season, to taste for the first time with tropical seas the winery air on the first chill morning of the year.
And here could the newcomer assimilate that nostalgic languor mixed with intoxicated vigor which Autumn seems magically to produce?
What would he say of the champagne woodlands, green and cool one day and tomorrow dead as if afire? His feet on fallen leaves; golden, crackling leaves.
Would he savor the musky smoke that

curls from piles of leaves in yards and twists under through the strolling streets?
To be the Putrescencian and stand in October below a cold blue sky, beside a rushing trout stream where pebbles glidge like pearls in the depths of the ley water.
Or, in the city, to see the brisker strollers, hear their more animated conversation, see the city revive from its Summer stupor, come alive under the influence of the cooler season; see the slanting, new gold Autumn sun sink at the end of the street and anticipate the chill purple nights; to watch flocks of wheeling birds blacken the sky above the city's white towers.
It would, indeed, be pleasant to see Autumn for the first time.

WE'RE JUST AN EIGHTBALL

WE should drop dead. We've had it. And we confess frankly we're an eight-ball. And we neither the purple hots nor the warms. We don't even have the green sweets.
In short, to use the language of an earlier era, we're simply not in the groove.
The trouble is, just about the time we figured we had heard the ultimate in slangage, the stuff all of a sudden, becomes outdated. As Millard Grimes puts it in the Columbia Ledger-Examiner, our college students today have given our jargon a retreat job.
One is no longer a square or a jiv, Mr. Grimes reports. The latest intelligence is that if you are a square, you're a square, you are an eightball. When someone tells you to drop dead or that you've had it, it means you're done.
Even love has undergone a verbal facial according to Mr. Grimes' research. When a boy and a girl go steadily with one another,

they are referred to as having the hots. There are even terms for the purple hots, the hots. There are the purple hots, the hots and the semi-sweets.
Coffee is no longer Arbuckle's or Java. It is Joe. The telephone is no Ameche; it's a tube. The automobile is no college; it's a car. And when you join friends for a gab-fest plus a sandwich and soda, you go out to jelly.
The veterans who have returned to the college campus are largely responsible for this assault with intent to murder upon our language. Mr. Grimes gives out. We should be grateful to him for the intelligence, and would be were we not quite so young as he is.
We think we'd better get on the tube and call for the unit. We need a breath of fresh air.
Oh, happy dawn,
In gone!—Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.

Heavens, We Hope So



State Issue

Merit System Argued

By DICK YOUNG, JR.
(Lead Column in this Article)
AT present some 5,500 government workers in North Carolina are in the process of being reclassified under a new merit system. Many political observers think this should be extended to cover all State employees.
These 5,500 people for State and local units who receive their pay from the State, are required to have a merit system similar to Federal Government employees.
The North Carolina merit system was established in 1938 to serve the Unemployment Compensation Commission. It has since been extended to the State Board of Health, the State Board of Public Welfare, and the Medical Care Commission.
The Merit System is supervised by the Merit System Council, which was appointed by the Governor. It has headquarters in Durham.
FUNCTIONS OF THE SYSTEM
Many of its functions are akin to those of the State Personnel Dept. For instance, it holds preliminary examinations so that job-seekers may be placed in the system.
It keeps a register of names of applicants for jobs. When the State wants to hire a new worker he applies to the Merit System and is furnished the names of persons available for the job. From this list the State chooses the one to hire.
It keeps a promotional register. Whenever a superior has an opening in his department, he notifies the Merit System. It then sends the names of five persons in the system who have passed examinations that are held every six months.
The Merit System has set up a board of appeals to hear appeals of employees. It also has a board of appeals to hear appeals of employees.
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Disturbing Events

Open Letter To Governor Scott

(Editorial in the FRANKLIN PRESS)
Dear Governor Scott:
I VOTED for you, in the second primary, and then in the general election. I favored and voted for your road and school bond program. I would vote the same way, were those elections to be held tomorrow.
I applaud your determination to bring the services of the public utilities within reach of more rural people. I believe your plan is a good one (though, I am sure, often uncomical) graft is badly needed. I am convinced that your campaign for prison reform is a long overdue one.
I admire the imagination and courage which you have shown through such a bold program as yours. I admit, of course, that you are not perfect, which suggests honesty rather than political smugness.
I have said repeatedly that you have an opportunity to become a great Governor. I still say so. I mention this to you because it is my hope that you will live up to it.
I am one of a minority in the Democratic Party in North Carolina that has long been dissatisfied with the old order, that has rejected having the decisions made and handed down from above. Most of us are relatively obscure citizens who want and expect nothing for ourselves; whose only interest is better government, and especially in a more democratic approach toward government.
For decades we have talked and worked—but we have done nothing to change a stone wall. Politically, we simply had nowhere to go.
But that, most of us thought, was changed when the figure of W. Kerr Scott emerged. We supported you and your program with enthusiasm. And we hailed your victory. Not just as a personal favor to you, but as a triumph of the democratic forces within the State.
I can see you can see why we want so desperately to see your program and your administration to be successful.

Rank Herys

MR. AUGUSTUS GOETZ had his wife, Ruth, go singing back to the States. She had committed herself in the advertising campaign for the new Rank Herys.
An admission of this sort may get them stoned by all the screenwriters who have had a hand in it. Hollywood, while knocking its head against the door to get the film, has never been anything but fashionable to refer to the cinema as the "art of the movie."
It has even been the vogue to look into the salaries of the stars. It has been the vogue to look into the salaries of the stars. It has been the vogue to look into the salaries of the stars.
As a clincher, both refuse to knock the American people for their movie-making. But believe that the movie makers have been guilty of a crime against the intelligence of the paymaster.
The commonest complaint of the people is that the movie industry is a racket. It is a racket. It is a racket. It is a racket.
And they are naive enough to believe that your program is so splendid that, if it succeeds, you will not be any political machine. It is a racket. It is a racket. It is a racket.
A LOT of us are still betting on you, Governor. But we are disturbed. We are disturbed. We are disturbed.
—(Editor, The Franklin Press.)

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
WHITE HOUSE intimates say President Truman is taking the fight over Government reorganization, arms for the North Atlantic Pact, or any of the main planks on the Fair Deal program.
Before Vaughan testified, President Truman personally coached him on the possible questions the Senators could ask. Vaughan's statements were rewritten three times and reduced to their bare essentials.
The President also urged his military aide to be all sweetness and light, not to lose his temper, never to insult the Senators, never to mention his critics by name.
Mr. Truman was chiefly worried over any probing of the military's operations. Since the hazarard committee worked directly with Louis Johnson. How much Vaughan has to say in office when Gen. Vaughan doesn't know, but some insiders estimate it at around \$100,000, from all sorts of sources.

Truman Coached Vaughan Before Hearing

For instance, Col. William Lee, who got into a scuffle with John Marston in Rome and was subsequently reprimanded, was coached by Truman. Lee was asked to check down cause as a result of the Marston incident.
Despite these written statements, however, Col. Lee admitted he was not so sure. Truman said he wanted him all the earmarks of a quick and powerful reminder from the White House, and now the Marston incident.
The behavior of Judge James McManry of Philadelphia is also interesting. In 1946, McManry, assistant to the Attorney General, was asked to resign. He was asked to resign. He was asked to resign.
Today, McManry, a U. S. district judge and a Catholic, has been appointed to fill the same position on the Supreme Court. Shortly after Catholic Justice Mr. Murphy died, McManry even made a special trip to the White House. And now he is in office when Gen. Vaughan is in the Burton jury-billing case in New Orleans.

Police-Stratism

WHITE HOUSE has really been using police-state methods in connection with the Vaughan case. Not only do Senators have a pretty good idea that their phones are being tapped, but certain witnesses and investigators have been subjected to pressure.
Francis Flannigan, case investigator for the Senate committee, has been threatened with a subpoena if he is not attached to the Truman Commission. Clark now draws \$100,000 a month as lobbyist for Franco Spain, and is on the verge of being subpoenaed.
Congressman Schacht of Michigan, Republican, also says he is threatened with a subpoena if he does not appear immediately after his public statement that Gen. Vaughan would be court-martialed. Others who have tangled with Gen. Vaughan, also have been threatened, with the appearance of having been either threatened or politically bribed.

FDR On Loyalty

WHEN Franklin Roosevelt was President of the United States, he applied to General Douglas MacArthur military commander approval to his men in the field. It was a matter of administration became a liability, made too many enemies in Congress. He was asked to resign, though they were his intimate friends—just as a military commander in the field would be asked to resign.
Restford Twigg, once summarized it this way to friends when he resigned as Undersecretary of Agriculture:
"General in battle can't afford to go into the front-line trenches. He's got to stay behind at staff headquarters. When his subordinates become casualties, they either get shipped back to the hospital or buried. No commander can hold up a war because of food and drug advertisements."
The trouble over pure food and drug advertisements, continuing to this day, is a good example of the way Roosevelt's ideas. But it was much better for me to take money out of the pockets of the people than to take it out of the pockets of the country, plus the money I was in some at, and it's better for the Chief if I now resign."

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Capital News Capsules

MADAME CHIANG IN EXILE—Madame Chiang Kai-shek is still confident she can raise enough money to save China. She has a number of friends who are helping her, she believes, to turn on the charm. Friends who have discussed plans with her, found the Madame living in London. She has a number of friends who are helping her, she believes, to turn on the charm. Friends who have discussed plans with her, found the Madame living in London. She has a number of friends who are helping her, she believes, to turn on the charm.
RUSSIAN 'TOURISTS'—The French Foreign Office has warned the State Dept. there are nearly 5,000 Russian tourists in France. The State Dept. is concerned that these Russians are actually supervising the storing of large quantities of arms that Moscow is sending to Albania. French diplomats incidentally are also the Westerners in Albania, today.