

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher; J. E. DOWD, General Manager; J. C. BENTLEY, Executive Editor; C. A. MCKINTY, Editor

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MENTAL HEALTH OBJECTIVES

REP. John Umstead's confidence that we will have our mentally ill people out of the jails and into hospitals by 1951 is heartening if his estimate is accurate. But the bumptious Mr. Umstead, who has worked devotedly for an adequate State hospital system for many years, is an incurable optimist who sometimes lets his enthusiasm run away with his better judgment.

The gentleman from Orange came to Charlotte this week to consult with a group of persons interested in a statewide network of clinics where disturbed patients could get custodial care pending admission to a hospital. He said that the patients could receive help in readjusting themselves to their community life.

SMOLDERING FIRES

THE alacrity with which other high-ranking U. S. Navy officers have come to the support of Captain John Crommelin in his attack on national defense policies is further proof, if any were needed, that the long-standing animosities between the various branches of the armed forces are still smoldering.

A NARROW ESCAPE

THE school bus accident near Mooresville yesterday which injured 37 children and adults, and in which the driver was warned to county school authorities in all parts of the state.

THE BILLINGSVILLE PROJECT

WE agree quite readily with the Raleigh News & Observer that a heart of many new school buildings in North Carolina, white and Negro, which ought to be abandoned rather than patched up.

are playing "politics." Perhaps some of them are. But more often the improper or irregular commitment of patients who do not actually need hospitalization is the fault of the system, not of the doctors.

The law requires that two doctors and two family members sign commitment papers. Perhaps doctors are too lax at times. But a clerk of court, who is no medical expert, is not to override doctors and refuse commitment once the legal prerequisites are met.

Legislative Roundup

Admiral Godwin is quoted in the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot as deploring the power concentration in a single civilian executive who is an appointee of the Government and not an elected representative of the American people.

Boxscore on Progress

FOLLOWING this general outline, here is a boxscore of progress Congress has made on the various measures:

Quote, Unquote

Mrs. Wilson Kown put her spell of insomnia to a practical use one night last week. She enjoyed a big chicken and gravy supper, drank freely of coffee, and then she went to bed.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IN all the bitter row between the Army and the Navy, the admirals have failed to let the public know of one naval activity for which they deserve great credit.

ILLUMINATION

IT would be difficult to think of anything more ridiculous than the fluorescent lighting in the four-room Orienteroom Negro school on the outskirts of Charlotte which is heated only by pot-bellied stoves and has open pipes as toilet facilities.



Veterans And Congress

THE 81st Congress so far has enacted into law twelve bills designed to aid the nation's ex-servicemen and their dependents.

Other Preproposals Pending

Other preproposals pending—(1) To give postal service credit for military service, no action; (2) to employ a Veterans' Economic Development unit, no action.

HOW MANY VETERANS?

ACCORDING to VA figures there are approximately 5,152,000 World War II veterans and 3,161,000 veterans of other wars living in U. S. or a total of 8,313,000.

Steel Workers Debate

THE steel workers' acceptance of the Fact-Finding Board's recommendations is a landmark in the history of the industry.

Capital News Capsules

MEANWHILE, here is the inside report of a prominent Truman suddenly agreed to let Congress appropriate \$75,000,000 for non-Communist China.

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ONE significant UNREPPOINTED agreement arose from the vital importance taken on Asia policy by the new administration.

However, Bevin refused to go along with Acheson's economic policy in China. The State Dept. wants only to get out of China's trade with the West.

Yet more vital significant than the election of the Acheson-Bevin talks is the simple fact that a positive vigorous American policy in Asia is now at last being evolved.

The work of Acheson and his staff is still the thinking stage, and there is a wide gap between thinking and doing.

Marquis Childs

THROUGH the questioning of Acheson before the Senate committee it was disclosed that Sen. Joseph P. Kamp was serving as a paid trustee for the United Mine Workers' Welfare Fund.

The Threat Grows

Facts about this trust were brought out in Sen. A. J. Acheson's investigation a year ago. The Bureau of Internal Revenue had at that time been informed of the trust.

Quote, Unquote

One of the most strongly expressed opinions of Congress, Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon, 1948, is that the Senate should do something about it.

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It is proposed instead that a mass of great funds be used to fund the money where it will do the most good. This is the plan of the State Dept. to take the centers of resistance to the Communists in China, or to arm the Communist forces in Indo-China.

Joseph himself has not finally decided in favor of the idea, nor has Acheson. Much will depend on whether a man can be found with the reputation necessary to do the job.

It is proposed is a brief, simple statement, containing three major points. First, the United States is not to be drawn into a dependent regime in Asia.

The purpose of the proposed statement is simply to reassure the Asian leaders that the United States has no designs on dominating Asia, as most Asians now believe.

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