THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE ADMISSIONS BOTTLENECK

WHEN Mayor Victor Shaw and other City and County officials met last week to consider the need for a pre-admission mental unit for Charlotte they found themselves face to face with one of the greatest—and one of the most enduring—problems they might ever encounter.

The mentally ill person has, throughout history, been not only someone who is incapable of adjusting himself to society, but someone to whom society has not been able to adjust itself.

Social planners have lamented the pitiable plight of the mentally ill but have been unable — in most cases — to convince the public of the necessity for action. It is true that the care of the mentally ill has come a long way since those with derangements were shut away in cellars. It is true that, even in North Carolina, there are some skilled men employed by the State to care for the mentally ill. The Legislature at each session allots an increasingly large amount of funds for physical improvement of the State hospitals.

But even now, despite the procurement of skilled personnel and the great improvement of the State hospitals, there are hundreds of mentally sick persons locked away in county jails throughout the state. There are some in the Mecklenburg County jail. They may stay there for months before they can be admitted to the crowded State Hospital at Morganton.

This, then, is the blind spot in North Carolina's program for the care of the mentally ill: the pre-admission period when a man's mind might be saved by proper treatment.

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THAT was the problem the group of city and county leaders and medical men faced when they considered the program of R. E. Thomas Jr. to build a psychopathic wing at a local hospital.

As administrator of Charlotte Memorial Hospital, Mr. Thomas has had occasion to see many persons suffering from both physical and mental ills admitted to Memorial for treatment. Memorial Hospital is equipped to treat only physical ills. Therefore, Mr. Thomas has also had occasion to see many physically cured persons discharged from the hospital while they are still mentally ill.

These persons, he told the group at Mayor Shaw's office, may roam through the community at will or they may be jailed prior to admission to the State Hospital.

In the first case, the mentally ill person may do harm to himself or to someone else. In the second case, he will not be able to harm others but he will—if only mentally—be able to hurt himself.

The jail is not, and the discussion group knew it, a place for the mentally ill.

Yet, the argument of a number of those present against the establishment by the City and County of a special mental unit was sound. If such a ward or unit were built, they felt, State hospitals would be even more slow in admission of patients from Charlotte.

It is the policy — and a good one—of the hospitals to take those deranged persons held in county jails before those from comfortable private hospitals or private homes.

Doubtless, patients would remain in a special hospital ward longer than in county jails; and since the ward would be small and utilized for treatment and observation as well as detention, it might well become clogged and almost useless.

Furthermore, speakers felt, it would not be wise for the city or county to assume the State's responsibility in the care of mental patients. Since the core of the problem is the pre-admission delay of hospitals, and since, they felt, that was the State's fault, then it was a State problem, not a local or county matter.

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IN deciding to present the problem to Governor Scott and to State Hospitals Board of Control Superintendent Dr. David G. Young, Mayor Shaw took the most logical course. He demonstrated, too, a sincere interest in the plight of the mentally ill.

The State could take one of two courses of action:

(1) It could construct a number of small pre-admission mental units in such centers of population as Charlotte and Greensboro and Winston-Salem and thus keep mental patients out of jails, or

(2) It could speed up its admission procedure and thus do much to alleviate the problem in Charlotte and other cities.

If, however, the State cannot or will not take such action, then Charlotte's distasteful necessity will be to continue to jail people because they become sick in their minds. It is regrettable that, though we have learned much about treatment for mental patients, we have failed to break the admissions bottleneck.

OFF TO A GOOD START

TWO important Commissions of the City Government, both of which have new appointees in the majority role, are displaying a promising degree of interest and enthusiasm as they tackle their assignments.

Last Thursday the City Solicitations Commission held its first meeting since the appointment of Chairman Mark P. Johnson and John F. Durham to serve with T. E. Pickard Jr. at hand was the old law governing solicitations, admittedly weak and ineffectual. A movement to adopt a stronger ordinance had collapsed after strenuous objection from several influential individuals and a handful of organizations.

Instead of lamenting over the puny legal powers at hand, the new Commission called in City Attorney John D. Shaw to find out just what positive powers the ordinance did provide. Then it announced that the possession of a solicitation permit as provided by the law would be a strict requirement, and that the Police Department would be promptly notified of any violators.

The Commission appeared to feel that it could still accomplish something toward restoring order in the solicitations field without a new law, an opinion which this newspaper shares. More power to them.

The next day the new City Civil Service Commission met. It also had two new appointees, Dr. Hunter Blakely and Attorney William T. Covington Jr., who are serving with Chairman Al Smith. Whether the infusion of the new blood was responsible, we don't know. But this Commission, too, started off in a business-like fashion.

First of all, the Commissioners decided that none of them would discuss pending matters outside regular meetings, a custom which, if adhered to, will mean full public knowledge of all the Commission's doings. Next the members launched a study of a better system of examinations for those seeking appointments under civil service. Finally, the Commissioners heard that a new ordinance is in the making which will state more specifically the procedures of the Commission and eliminate much of the guesswork under the present ordinance.

Mayor Shaw and the Council have chosen these four appointees wisely. All are men of influence and integrity who may be expected to revitalize, insofar as the law permits them to, the two Commissions. If they maintain the momentum they've generated so far, we can expect some real action.

SYMBOLIC DECISION

THE decisive defeat of an attempt by the dairy bloc to ban the use of oleomargarine by the armed services indicates clearly that the oleo tax-repeal measure would pass if brought to a vote. The Senate beat down Senator Wiley's amendment to the Army appropriation bill by a vote of 45 to 31, and four pairs among non-voting Senators pointed to a minimum of 49 votes in favor of eliminating the remaining Federal restrictions on oleo.

Now it would appear that no one except the Democratic leadership can be blamed if the tax-repeal measure is not brought up for Senate consideration. It was passed by the House on April 1 by a big majority of 279 to 89. It was reported out by the Senate Finance Committee on April 27. It has been on the Senate document since that time.

Senator Scott Lucas, the majority leader, has expressed fear of a filibuster by dairy state Senators, and has declined so far to call the measure up, lest the talkathon delay other more pressing legislation.

But the months are passing by, and the end of the 81st Congress on Jan. 3, 1951, is steadily approaching. If the bill is not acted on by that time, the whole torturous process will have to be started all over again.

The South has a bigger stake than any other region in the repeal of all laws which discriminate against oleo. Refusal of the Administration to bring the measure up may be an indirect way of chastising some Southern Senators who have opposed other Administration measures.

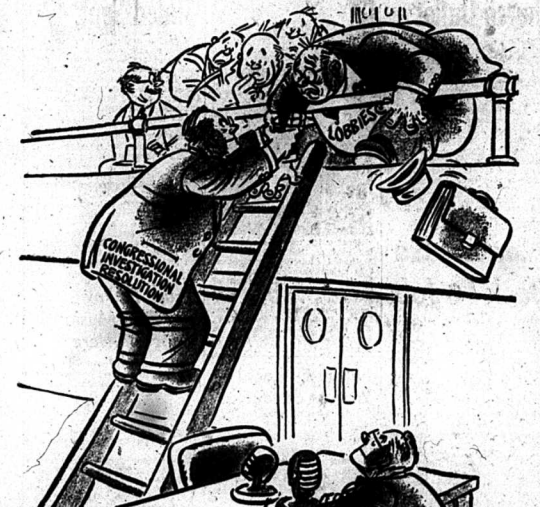
If so, it is a peculiarly callous attitude on the part of the Administration. The oleo-butter controversy may have regional overtones, but the unjust penalizing of one product to protect another strikes at the very foundation of the American system of free competition.

Speaking of inspection trips, I plan to visit the country club (where I hear there's lots of goings-on) and make a factual, objective report of what I see, hear and am told. Unless you want a factual report, you had better be good. — *Grenada County (Miss.) Weekly.*

Did you see anything amusing in yesterday's ads in the *Daily Current-Argus?* A Carlsbad store offered an engagement ring, a diamond wedding ring and a double-barrelled shotgun, all in one ad. Sounds like the perfect bargain for an enterprising papa. — *Carlsbad (N. M.) Current-Argus.*

Even borrowed copies are effective in advertising. A fellow in Duck Hill borrowed a copy and saw the Army Store's ad about that big rubber bath tub, or swimming contraption, and came in and hauled one away. —*Grenada County (Miss.) Weekly.*

Audience Participation Program



People's Platform

Bus, Truck Drivers Defended

LAUREL HILL

Editors, THE NEWS:

IT is with disgust that I have been reading in some of our state newspapers of another Safe Driving Campaign.

I would like very much during my lifetime to hear of North Carolina having one safety director who did not have truck and bus speed at the top, middle and bottom of his safety campaign. If the safety director made an accurate survey of records available to him, he would probably learn that: trucks and busses pay around 80 per cent of the highway revenue paid in North Carolina; that without a single exception, truck and bus drivers enjoy the best driving record of any group of people operating motor vehicles on public highways; that in a very few years, probably three, truck and bus drivers will drive farther than the average automobile driver will drive in a lifetime; that they are responsible for the success of North Carolina farmers, especially truck farmers, textile manufacturers and industry in general as well as being necessary for imports to this state. What would freight rates be without trucks? What would passenger rates be without busses? Now, how about putting on a Safe Safety Campaign?

I never heard of but one arrest in North Carolina for failure of an automobile to dim lights at night, never heard of a single warning given a driver about following another vehicle at night with bright lights, which is just as dangerous as meeting with bright lights. Bus and truck drivers, who are by far the most courteous of any group of drivers, nearly always dim their lights upon nearing another vehicle going their same direction as well as when meeting.

I will say that an accurate report would not show as many wrecks caused by speeding busses and trucks as by slow moving automobiles, 15 to 20 mph out on highways built for traffic to move on instead of pet on.

There is the common hazard so often committed in this state at stop signs. A lot of automobile drivers pull up, barely stop, then just because they have stopped, pull right in front of anyone who may be on the highway, regardless of distance or speed of the vehicle on the through highway. There are dangerous intersections where a lot of wrecks, some serious, have occurred due to blind corners, etc., that may not have happened if the Highway Dept. had erected stop lights instead of a caution light.

I repeat that bus (not school) and truck drivers are the most efficient, courteous, safe drivers on our highways today and you can learn a lot about safety from them.

—H. B. HARTIS.

Clean-Up Job Needed

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

RECENTLY our community was shocked at the brutal slaying of the esteemed Mrs. E. O. Anderson at the hands of a criminally-minded assassin. The culprit entered the home and committed the dastardly deed when no thought of danger was apparent.

Who, then, is safe? How can any of us be sure of life or property at any time?

Let us examine the contributing causes of this horrible deed. The culprit had been discharged as butler in the beautiful home of his theft and other lawless acts. He was evidently incensed at his loss of a good job. But let us look further for another contributing cause. The police found in his room a collection of pictures of nude women; indicating a source of inspiration that contributed to building his criminal character. Evidently he had been feeding his corrupt mind on such mental poison, including lewd stories and sordid matter. Look at the consequences!

The pictures referred to were brought from France, but similar pictures are on sale in Charlotte newsstands.

Christian people, it is high time for us to recognize the presence of many evil influences that bewitch our young people, and drag them down to destruction. The attractive appeal of indecent movies, harmful periodicals, and public dance halls are some of the bait the devil uses to catch thousands of our young people for training in the ways of sin and iniquity.

When a disease epidemic occurs, we search for the cause of the contagion and use every agency at our command to eradicate it. We are now overwhelmed with a crime epidemic which is increasing by leaps and bounds. The contributing factors are well-known and easy to find. Why don't we begin a wholesale war on these insidious crime germs and knock them out with deadly fire? Save our boys and girls by removing the pitfalls of sin and our nation will be saved from ruin! the churches, schools, Christian homes, and other desirable factors co-operating.

A few months ago the Junior Chamber of Commerce accomplished a marvelous piece of community work in physical cleanliness which was widely commended as a blessing to our city. Why should we not attempt the far more important work of moral cleanliness? Continue to purge the periodicals that are being distributed in our city; cleanse the movies; let the road houses be under control; require the social clubs to respect the law or to close up; and let every crime breeding spot and sinful resort in our community be handled with the strong arm of the law.

—BERNARD T. WALKER.

Johnson's Slash Approved

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

ALL thinking people should congratulate Secretary of Defense Johnson for his decision to purge thousands of persons from Government pay rolls in all sections of the country. The plan to eliminate these thousands of people whose services are not now needed bespeaks Secretary Johnson as a man gifted with wisdom and common sense. I regard him as a man of courage, for it is certain that he will be visited by delegations representing selfish interests in an effort to get him to rescind his decision.

It is to be hoped that more men of the caliber of Secretary Johnson and Senator Byrd may enter Government service.

—WILLIAM C. BURNETT.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Gen. Vaughan And Dogs Ended Vacation

WASHINGTON

ABOUT the middle of August I finally succumbed to Mrs. P's erroneous and unreasonable idea that Washington is hot in the Summertime and we went out to California on an alleged vacation.

Usually I have the excuse of filling the silo to stay right on the farm where I do the best place in the world to relax. But by August my resistance against Mrs. P's arguments had completely broken down. In the first place we filled the silo early, using alfalfa instead of corn. In the second place I wanted to see my grandson who lives in California, and who either because of the California sunshine or the fact that his mother requires a lot of three-cornered accourtements and trappings for him when he travels, was not inclined to come to see me. So we departed.

Well, we had a nice time in California. I spoiled the baby only a little bit, we met a lot of nice folks, I didn't get too lonesome for the constant ringing of the telephone, and in fact got almost reconciled to leaving Washington—when suddenly the office called up to report on a number of things.

Mrs. P's dog, they said, had puppies. The kitten had become unhousebroken. The painter who was supposed to re-do the kitchen in our absence had got drunk and insisted on working at midnight. Also the bachelor pals count on the cows went up so high that I will never be able to win any more dairying arguments with Gov. Dewey.

However, at least the pigs didn't get out. But, added the office, Gen. Harry Vaughan was also tapping my wires, feeding information derived therefrom to Westbrook Pegler and doing his best to put me in jail. Otherwise, said the office, everything was fine.

Vaughan Asked Prosecution

OF course, the fact that Gen. Vaughan was trying to put me in jail wasn't exactly new. He tried to do that father vigorously once before, at the time I wrote the first columns exposing the amazing Mr. Maragon back in March 1947.

I had then reported that Vaughan and Maragon were as thick as an unwashed syrup pitcher on its saucer, but I didn't know how really close they were until the good General appeared in the office of the U. S. District Attorney in Washington to demand that I be prosecuted for criminal libel.

Gen. Vaughan, it seemed, was irked because I had reported various things about Maragon, many of which the Senate committee has since brought out under oath. Among other things, I stated that "He once pleaded guilty of transporting liquor illegally (7/17/20), was these times arrested for disorderly conduct but never prosecuted, once as recently as last Nov. 29 and got into a brawl in the locker room of the Washington Senators where some of the ball players beat him up."

Gen. Vaughan, appearing before the District Attorney, claimed this was not true. His "lovable" friend, he said, had been maligned and he demanded prosecution of the guilty columnist.

Mr. Morris Fay, the district attorney, was a little flabbergasted at seeing the top military aide to the President of the United States turn up on an errand of this kind, but he replied that he would be glad to talk to Mr. Maragon.

However, he subsequently made it clear that there had been no criminal libel case brought in the District of Columbia since about the time of the Civil War, and that he had instructions from the Justice Dept. to bring none without prior consultation.

This was because, in a criminal libel case, the Government of the United States becomes the prosecutor, and undertakes to convict and jail the offending editor or newspaperman without any expense or effort on the part of the party supposedly libeled—in this case Maragon.

Vaughan Is Persistent

THIS explanation, conveyed to Gen. Vaughan, did not dampen his persistency. It merely increased his efforts on behalf of his "lovable" friend.

With the question of prosecuting Pearson referred by the District Attorney to the Justice Dept., the good General transferred his pressure higher up, and tried to bulldoze J. Edgar Hoover.

"I thought when orders were given in this Government, they were carried out," he stormed.

Hoover told him that his job was to investigate, not to prosecute, and that if orders were given him by the Attorney General to investigate the Pearson charges against Maragon, he would certainly do so.

Shortly before this, Vaughan had lifted no audible voice of protest when Maragon violated the customs laws by smuggling perfume into the USA. In fact, Vaughan had continued to give him White House credentials, even though Maragon had served a prison term in attempted smuggling and had wantonly violated their use.

Nevertheless, Vaughan now demanded the prosecution of one who had exposed Maragon's lawbreaking.

FBI Investigates

AND, thanks to Vaughan's persistency, the Justice Dept. did order the the FBI to investigate. The investigation cost the taxpayers a few extra dollars, plus the time of busy FBI agents needed for loyalty tests.

Maragon had claimed that the man guilty of bootlegging on July 17, 1920, was a "John F. Margon," not the "lovable" friend of Gen. Vaughan, "John F. Maragon". So after a lot of work, including a search for fingerprints which were not taken in 1920, the FBI finally located the handwriting on the bondsman's records back in 1920. This handwriting of "John F. Margon" they found to be the very same handwriting of "John F. Maragon," the "lovable" friend.

Whereupon the criminal case against this writer was dropped.

Sequel came just the other day when Maragon publicly admitted in a press interview that he did plead guilty to transporting liquor in 1920. But in March and April, 1947, the President's military aide, claiming just the contrary, wasted a lot of FBI time plus the taxpayers' money by his persistent demand that the newsman making this statement should be jailed.

Well, as I said, the office called me up on the beach at Santa Barbara, Calif., to report on the puppies, the kitten, the midnight-painted kitchen, the cows' bacteria count and Gen. Vaughan. So finally we came home—not to check on Gen. Vaughan, but to see the puppies.

Joseph And Stewart Alsop

Labor And Politics

WASHINGTON

IF ANYONE wants to think about serious subjects during this Labor Day season, a pretty good subject is labor's new politics.

Before long, American labor's political effectiveness will receive a pre-election test. As every one knows, the man the CIO, the AFL, the Railway Brotherhoods and all the independent unions most want to beat is Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio. As fewer people realize, the man labor has chosen to defeat Taft is a likeable progressive farm leader and chieftain of the American co-operative movement, Murray D. Lincoln, who has been the biggest influence in the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation for many years.

It has already been described in this space how the united political arms of the otherwise warring labor groups selected Lincoln as their candidate after carefully reviewing the whole field, and how they announced their choice to him in early July. More recently the labor strategists have also enlisted the aid of the Administration in order to get Lincoln to run.

BOYLE GOES ALONG

Democratic National Chairman William Boyle, who is wiser than some of his subordinates, promptly agreed to go along when asked to do so by Jack Kroll of the CIO, Joseph Keenan of the AFL, and C T. Anderson of railway labor's political league. "Ohio is your baby," was the way Boyle put it. Kroll, Keenan and Anderson asked Boyle to get the help of President Truman, and by Boyle's request, the President telephoned Murray Lincoln and asked him to make the fenating fight.

The President's telephone call followed other, similarly inspired requests by Administration leaders, like Secretary of Agriculture Brannan. And the aforementioned test that will come in a few days will take the form of Murray Lincoln's final decision, to make the race against Taft, or to reject the opportunity that has been offered him.

Nothing could have been better planned, or more efficiently organized, than the campaign to make Lincoln a candidate. The fact that Lincoln still is hesitating hints at labor's chief political weakness. For Lincoln has been slow to throw his hat in the ring because he has not been sure of the support of the Ohio Democratic organization. And the divergence between the Democratic organizations and the political branches of the labor groups has been, and is, a main cause of trouble for the labor strategists.

On the other hand, it is already very clear that the Democratic Party needs the labor groups more than the labor groups need the Democrats.

Such wise leaders as Jack Arvery in Chicago and Ed Flynn of New York have already acknowledged the fact. And this is not surprising, since the Republicans, with their Taft-Hartley Act, have accomplished a miracle that Franklin Delano Roosevelt longed for in vain. The Taft-Hartley Act has absolutely united the labor movement on the political level. It has also driven the labor movement to organize politically, for the first time in history, in a serious, professional manner.

PRECINCT POLITICS

The CIO-PAC under Jack Kroll, the AFL League for Political Education under Keenan, and the brotherhood's league under Anderson are not only closely and effectively allied with one another. They are also working with all the independent unions except John L. Lewis' mine workers. Furthermore, their work is real. It gets down to the county and the precinct level. As it continues, it will inevitably become the dominant factor in the northern industrial states. And the Democratic Party will be able to carry the northern industrial states in order to win.

For good measure, the labor organizations are already invading the South, with the purpose of defeating anti-labor conservative Democrats in the same way that they hope to defeat Taft.

This is a major political process, of the first importance. It will not bear fruit overnight. Perhaps the efforts of the Democratic CIO, AFL and railway brotherhoods may be frustrated in the 1950 election, just as it is possible that Lincoln may not make the Ohio race. But the importance of the process will not be greatly diminished by early failures. The labor effort in politics will now continue, no matter what reverses may be met with at first. And this is another blow for the sponsors of the Taft-Hartley Act, who started the whole process, to consider carefully and perhaps a little ruefully.

Robert C. Ruark

Skullprits

NEW YORK

I DON'T know how you feel about the American Medical Assn., but the hope have rendered me much aid and comfort that I am forced to send them a Valentine, out of season though it be.

Your correspondent is one of those lads whose fur piece is slipping badly. Each year the forehead slides up another inch. Each year the sun beats more painfully on the bald spot on the back of the head. About the only place the hair still grows profusely is on the nape of the neck. This created, for a time, a sense of panic and certain frantic efforts to preserve whatever fluff was not eroded from the skull.

There were the usual ointments and unguents, and at one time even a brief experiment with garlic, on the advice of some lady who recommended that a spot of the halitosic herb rubbed on the scalp would freighten the hair into regrowth. Not more, though, bub. The AMA has forever delivered me from dull care about hair.

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A committee has announced that there is just nothing you can do about being bald, and furthermore, nobody even knows what causes dandruff. Combinations of neither massage, mechanical devices, hormones, vitamins or any other treatment will regenerate hair lost in ordinary baldness."

The committee says that self-designated scalp specialists, or trichologists, are merely whistling "Dixie" when they issue prescriptions for the regrowth of dear, departed tresses. This pleases me no end. I used to worry so hard about not buying all the suggested nostrums that I'm convinced the fretting showed my hairline back another inch.

Now that I know there's nothing I can do to repopulate my pate with lush locks, I have an entirely new feeling about hair, or the lack of it. Who needs it? What's so special about hair?

Millions of men shave it off their faces daily, and people who allow it to flourish thereon are subject to shrill cries of "Beaver!" when they stride down public streets. Ladies shave it from their legs. Undue hair on the manly chest is regarded as unseemly by some. Among the lower orders of modern man, such as the Australian aboriginal, the hair sprouts profusely on the beetling brow that the abo seems to be peering through a sallbush. Gorillas are hairy. Whatever was a bald gorilla?

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Among our ladies, the smooth, pink skin of the face is greatly admired, and millions are spent annually to keep that skin soft, glowing and blemish-free. I see nothing beautiful about a full, glowing head of skin on a man. This is a sparkling adornment which can be placed in perfect array by a single swipe of the wash cloth. It does not ruffle in the wind, collects neither dandruff nor burrs, and needs no shampoo to keep it tidy.

A baby is admired when he is as bald as an egg, and nobody knocks his baldness or attempts to trick him out in a toupee. Many great lovers have been bald. Rudolfo Rosselini is on his last third of hair-ful head, and he won Ingrid Bergmin. Charlie Boyer is as shiny up top as a helicopter in full sunlight. Who needs hair to be fascinating?

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I see no reason why a guy with a primeval thatch growing clean down to his eyebrows should sneer at us bald guys. We with the high, intellectual foreheads, the nicely tanned or nicely pink or nicely freckled scalps. A man with hair can buy no more coffee for his dime than a man without. Hair has no bearing on the strength of the arm, the capacity to handle six dry martinis, or the credit rating in Dun & Bradstreet.

Enough, I say, of this inferiority complex about becoming bald. To anything other than a female chimpanzee, we eudemia are probably the prettiest men alive.