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WHY THE EXTRA $3,800 FOR PARKING METERS?

AT THE very core of the Council-Manager form of city government is the proposition that the Council shall decide matters of policy and the City Manager shall execute that policy.

This week the Council stepped over into the City Manager's province in the purchase of parking meters.

It is of some concern to the people of Charlotte that the Council, on its own initiative, overrode the recommendation of four qualified experts without apparent good reasons.

It is also of some concern to the people that the Council, in so doing, spent an extra $3,800 of public funds.

Here is what happened:

The City Manager, with the unanimous endorsement of—three City officials, recommended that a contract for 400 new parking meters be awarded to the Michaels Art Bronze Co., at a cost of $50 per meter or a total cost of $20,000. This type, known as the Mico Meter, is universally used in Charlotte at present.

Substantial Council sentiment developed for awarding the contract to the Duncan Parking Meter Co., makers of the Miller Meter, at $49 per meter, or a total of $27,600.

After some discussion, during which City Manager Yancey supported his recommendation, a compromise motion by Mr. Daughtry, seconded by Mr. Boyd, passed unanimously. It provided for the purchase of 200 Mico Meters and 200 Miller Meters at a total cost of $23,800.

The three City officials who had endorsed the lower price meters were City Purchasing Agent C. E. Beatty, City Treasurer L. L. Ledbetter, who is in charge of repairing and replacing meters and collecting money therefrom, and City Traffic Engineer Herman Hoose, who is responsible for the placing and timing of the meters.

As is customary in making all City purchases, these three endorsements were given after critical comparison of the two meters (including a complete break-down and rebuilding by an expert repairman), their flexibility, the quality of the materials and workmanship, the ease of repairs and collection, the cost of replace-

ment parts, a comparison of operations with other cities, and interviews with representatives of both companies.

There was no doubt that the more expensive meter is a good meter. These three officials did not, however, believe it was worth $19—or 38 per cent—more. Neither did Mr. Yancey, who reviewed their findings and added his own endorsement.

In spite of that, the Council decided to try 200 of the more expensive meters, at the extra cost to the people of $3,800. Mr. Daughtry, who made the motion, told THE NEWS that the Miller Meter "looked like a more substantial meter," that "it seemed to be superior," that "it is used extensively in other cities," and that "it appeared we were getting more or less to a monopoly in buying meters from just one company."

Giving the Council credit for all the sincerity in the world, it still appears to us that:

1. Quality and service being equal, a low bidder should always receive public awards;

2. It is a bad precedent to override recommendations of men experienced in the operation of such equipment, and especially to assume the prerogatives of the City Manager; and

3. In these days of rising government costs, $3,800 of the people's money should not be spent just to satisfy Councilmanic curiosity.

VIRGINIA'S SCHOOL PROGRAM

UP IN THE commonwealth to our north, the lines are forming for a battle over State grants for local school buildings not unlike the tussle in the 1949 session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Virginia's new Governor John Battle favors a $45,000,000 aid to schools program, the money being handed over to localities with no strings attached. He apparently has strong legislative support.

Governor Battle's successor in the State Senate, Edward O. McCue Jr. of Charlottesville, has criticized the program as starting a trend to a "paternalistic state". He has served notice he will fight for an alternate plan that would compel localities to put up $40 for each $60 received from the State.

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, an ever alert advocate of economy in government and a staunch believer in local responsibility, has lined up with Mr. McCue, pointing out that "even the Federal Government, so loudly and properly criticized in many instances by our 'organization' leaders, has always insisted that its grants for buildings be on a matching basis only." Battle's proposal, the paper adds, runs "counter to the very principle of local responsibility and local self-government which is supposed to have been for years a cardinal principle of the Byrd 'organization'."

North Carolina, already well into a $50,000,000 State school building program, will watch with considerable interest the Virginia battle. Although the program in this State does not require matching grants, it differs in one other respect: half of the $50,000,000 was allocated by the General Assembly from the postwar "cushion" fund; the other half, to be borrowed by issuing State bonds, was authorized by a vote of the people last June.

Thus the voters of North Carolina approved the departure from past policy which has held counties responsible for school buildings. It was not entirely a decision by the General Assembly.

The people's right to decide such questions is supreme. Though we still have regrets that this new breach in the already thin wall of local responsibility has been made, it at least was condoned by the people.

Furthermore, the State Board of Education in North Carolina maintains tight control over all school building projects, and we have already had ample evidence that the Board is making sure that the State money is being used wisely.

Though these two points—approval by the people and control over the spending of the money—are not presently at issue in Virginia, we suggest them as two useful checks on the trend toward a "paternalistic state".

POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL

NINE-YEAR-OLD Lora Lee Michel isn't having any fun. She's making a goodly sum of money for appearing in movies, to be sure, but that doesn't appeal to her.

"I don't want to be in the movies. I want to eat whatever I want, and go out and play without worrying whether I get my knees scratched," she said.

The occasion was an interview after a closed court custody hearing in Los Angeles. In court she claimed she was punished when she didn't stay on a diet, that she was beaten when she ate too much and gained weight.

Arrested in the case was Mrs. Lorraine Michel, 35. She was charged with child mistreatment. She and her husband adopted the child five years ago.

Such a case as this causes most of us to wonder anew about the tinsel-and-gold land of Hollywood, about the peculiar values that give rise to such a situation.

The life of most adults tangled up in the world of celluloid seems to bear little relation to that of the millions whom they "entertain" in the movie houses of the nation. But what must the lives of the "juveniles" be like? How are they affected by the unending pressure on them to be "cute" and perfect and, above all, as like as peas in a pod?

Must they all fit the classic Shirley Temple pattern—pink and gold and dimpled of knee? Must they cultivate unnatural "baby talk" voices? Must they conform in gesture and expression to the kewpie-doll concept of Hollywood?

If it were only the score or so little girls in Hollywood who were affected by this oppressive formula it would not be quite so unfortunate; but how many thousands of children over the nation are poured into the Shirley Temple mold by doting but silly mothers?

Little Lora Lee has our sympathy, we are with her in her desire to eat and play like the other kids—but she's not, we fear, alone.

Journalist-of-the-year was probably the Arizona editor who, in apologizing for leaving the groom's name out of a wedding writeup, omitted it from the apology.—*Jackson (Miss.) Daily News.*

There are too many folks who use up a dollar's worth of time to save a nickel, believing this is a triumph in thrift.—*Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.*

Health column item: "For days I've noticed a snapping of the bones in the joints. What shall I do?" Give police the addresses.—*Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.*

A mother of seventeen says she supposes the reason she kept on having so many children was just to keep the youngest one from being spoiled.—*Barlow (Ga.) Herald.*

Another thing I am quite sure I will never learn, and that is to pronounce route as rout.—*Abbeville (Ga.) Chronicle.*

Collected By Bill Sharpe
TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

Junior Helps
(Zebulon Record)

The four-year-old answered the telephone, said father was out. Then, brightly efficient: "Would you like to leave a message?"

"Yes, tell him Mr. Brown called."

"Mr. Brown? How do you spell it?"

"B-r-o-w-n."

Pause for reflection. Then a plaintive voice: "How do you make a 'B'?"

Death On Wheels
(Rocky Mount Telegram)

For every 1,250 registered vehicles in the state last year, there was one traffic death. In other words, one might say that after passing, meeting, or walking across in front of vehicles 1,250 times, it would be a good idea to keep on friendly terms with the neighborhood mortician because the survival odds are no longer favorable.

Barbecue A La
(Sanford Herald)

On a recent night we went into a local restaurant and seeing Mrs. Nina Matthews, went over to join her. She was studying the menu trying to decide what to order. "You know," she said, "I would dearly love some barbecue, but I am on a strict diet and am not supposed to eat any pork."

After pondering for some time she turned to the waitress waiting to take her order and said, "Oh well, bring me some barbecue a la suicide."

A Hard Name After All
(Waynesville Mountaineer)

George Owl, a well known resident of Cherokee, delights in telling his friends this story:

Not so long ago, a woman seemed a little disturbed over the fact that he said his name was "Owl".

"Spelled and pronounced just like any old hoot owl," George explained. "Just plain O-W-L," he spelled.

The woman then understood, and remarked, "I wish I had a name as simple, and as easy to remember as 'Owl'."

The next day the two happened to meet in the village again, and George tipped his hat as they passed, and the woman said sweetly, "Good morning, Mr. Crow."

It's Her Responsibility
(Zebulon Record)

A Johnston County veteran was married to a twin. The housing shortage forced the couple to live in the home of the wife's parents.

"Those sisters look so much alike even their folks can't tell 'em apart—how do you know which one to make love to?" observed a friend.

"I don't know which is which either," was the reply, "but when I feel affectionate I seize one of 'em and if she ain't mine she defends herself."

For Sis
(Smithfield Herald)

People are telling this one on Jimmy Creech. It seems a young woman walked into the drug store and asked Creech if he could prepare a dose of castor oil so it could not be tasted when taken.

Jimmy said he could, but that it would require a few minutes. He suggested that she drink a lemonade while she waited.

A few minutes later Jimmy noticed the young lady had finished her lemonade. He walked over and asked her if she tasted the castor oil when she drank the lemonade.

"Good gosh," she exclaimed. "The castor oil was for my sister."

Here 'Tis
(Sanford Herald)

Miss Gertrude Little tells us a humorous incident about Sanford during the early 1900's at the time she was attending Woman's College.

In traveling through Sanford to Greensboro one night she found it necessary to change trains here.

Someone among the group—while waiting at the station—asked where Sanford was. Miss Little said a little boy standing by looked at the questioner for a moment unbelievingly and exclaimed: "You fool, you're standing on it!"

Cold War Technique
(Laurinburg Exchange)

Russia is supposed to be past master of the technique of the cold war, but it is practiced with equal assiduity and effectiveness in the internal life of this country. Liberals, radicals, conservatives, middle-of-the-roaders, labor, management, and the lunatic fringe, all employ it and sometimes with devastating effect. Mostly we seem to be engaged in smearing and discredited the other fellow and not so much with any sincere and honest approach to the problems of politics, finance, and peace.

Instead of a simple and direct method, we often prefer to take the round-about way. Instead of agreement, on vital and serious matters, we take delight in disagreement. Instead of facts and realities, we choose illusions and fantastic possibilities. All this tends to create dissension and unrest, to keep the public mind in a state of ferment, and at the same time makes us cynical, callous and calculating. It is the technique of the cold war as applied to domestic and internal affairs, or to politics and economy.

Please Unwind
(Sanford Herald)

The other night James Fields' three-year-old son, Eddie, went up to his father and, holding an orange, asked:

"Daddy, will you undo this for me?"

Quote, Unquote

Since the Government is guaranteeing farmers 90 per cent parity prices for cotton, it is well to remember that the boll weevil is saving the nation's taxpayers a lot of money. —West Point (Miss.) Times-Leader.

Things will come to a good balance in this country when the Government takes from the people all they have and hands back to them all that they ever get. —New Orleans (La.) States.

'Hello, Dear, And All You Boys On The Wire Taps'

U.S. Cannot Rely On Some Magic Formula For Security

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

FOR years before 1940 the Army spent hundreds of millions of dollars on their Maginot Line. It was a kind of magic formula for security. Behind this magic the divisions and dissensions in politics related to military policy could be ignored.

I suggest that we are in danger of erecting the atom bomb into the same kind of magic. That danger is doubly vast in view of the issue of the proposed hydrogen bomb.

Only tiny grains of information have trickled out from under the curtain of secrecy. Almost the only statement from those with official knowledge can be that of Sen. John J. McCloy, who has been Assistant Secretary of War at right-hand man to Henry L. Stimson from 1941 to 1945, made a speech on security in the atom age that touched off a wave of speculation around the world. In the said:

"From first hand information given to me by the scientists whose prophecies were uncanny perfect during the course of the war, there can be little doubt that within the next ten years, to be conservative, bombs of a size of the post-equivalent to 100,000 to 250,000 tons of TNT can be made, something over ten times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

"And if we can 'move' to the other end of the periodic table and utilise hydrogen in the generation of energy, we would have a bomb somewhere around one hundred times as powerful as the Nagasaki bomb. I have been told by scientists who are not mere theorists who actually planned and made the bomb which was exploded in New Mexico that, given the same intensive effort which was employed during the war toward the production of that bomb, we were within two years' time at the close of the war of producing a bomb of the hydrogen-helium type, i.e., a bomb of approximately one thousand times the power of the present bombs.

The cost of the Manhattan Project, which produced the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, has been put officially at $2,000,000,000. That money was spent over three years, 1942-45. It is safe to assume that the spending gathered momentum as the project grew. Thus two years more at the same intensive rate would put the cost of the hydrogen bomb at under $2,000,000,000, but probably not very much below $1,500,000,000.

If something like that amount is spent over the next few years on the new bomb, it will almost certainly come out of defense and foreign spending. No better indication of that could be had—and along with it a perfect illustration of the Maginot magic psychology—than the reaction of Sen. Kenneth Wherry of Nebraska. Of course, said Sen. Wherry in a radio interview, we should make the hydrogen bomb and make ourselves strong and quit all this foreign spending.

Many other examples could be cited. But there is a larger question that gets more directly at the danger that we may be hiding ostrich-like behind the atom bomb. Congress, and for that matter public opinion, and even expert military opinion, may not be seriously underestimating the industrial and military potentialities of the Soviet Union. In his highly significant book, "Soviet Arms and Soviet Power" (Infantry Journal Press), Gen. Augustin Guillaume, who was French Military Attache in Moscow from 1946 to 1948, sums up:

"Time and defeated on the Eastern front because he never realized the true import of the deep transformations that had occurred in the USSR since the very first of endeavor from 1917 on . . . and he did not accurately judge the capacity of the Red Army for resistance, for he had underestimated the total power of the Soviet state."

Let's not be so blinded by the magic of atomic power that we neglect or ignore the essentials of security. It may be the time for a complete overhaul of American concepts of war and peace rather than a further descent into the awe-inspiring atom wonderland.

Governmental Action Injured By Intellectual Arogance

By ROBERT C. RUARK

ONE thing that the misdection of this country has produced in massive supply is intellectual arrogance, a grand delusion which strikes our scientific, governmental and diplomatic bellwethers. Intellectual arrogance is a disease of the individual mind, and is predicated on the belief that a short handful of heavy thinkers know what is best for everybody, everywhere.

The whole past generation of arrogants, from the politicos to the atom boys to the generals and diplomats and economists, have operated on the smug assumption that only their select group knows what's right and what's wrong for the masses—that's you and me—and the masses must never, never be let in on the act. Junior must never be afflicted with knowledge, lest he trip and bruise himself on same.

LET ME DO IT

A flagrant type of intellectual arrogance showed its face the other day when David Lilienthal nominated himself a candidate to visit Josef Stalin, for some secret hog-trading over control of the new hydrogen bomb. Mr. Lilienthal is retiring as chief of the Atomic Energy Commission. He is now reported violently opposed to the manufacture of hydrogen bombs.

The H-bomb's action, as I get it, is roughly like hitting the sun to do your dirty work for you. Appalled at the prospect of a sunburned world, just one big blister, Mr. Lilienthal now wants to go argue the point with Stalin.

The enormous vanity of these deep and cogent thinkers would be amusing if not so pathetic and so dangerous to us back-burner brains. Who in the name of Pete does Mr. Lilienthal think he is, that he can mediate with a cluster of international thugs who have thrived on the double-cross at every turn?

On the record, the Russians have lifted our pants every time we attempted any private business with them, and any time you start to swapping recipes with them you got nothing to win but a bland smile and a picked pocket. If I were Mr. Truman I wouldn't let anybody who could spell atom into Russia. Some of our lads in trusted places, like a wistful Mr. Hiss, have seemed too eager to share the wealth with our happy little red brethren.

Kindergarten children can tell you the possibility of doing business with a bunch of ruffians on the make, as we learned from the late Mr. Hitler, and more latterly the Russkies. But awhile back you had a starry-eyed Henry Wallace pleading for a chance to make all digs right between us and the Russ, stomwise. Henry was going out to talk them into burning their blueprints, and we would burn us right back—and so they popped up with their own bomb two years ahead of sked.

This is arrogance, and so was our Marshall Ploy in China, and so was the State Department action on Formosa. The action of our top militarists in scrapping with each other against the public welfare is intellectual arrogance, and the feathered prescriptions of the tame economists is utter arrogance and the voodoo talk of the maddlesome psychiatrists sheer nonsensical arrogance.

The arrogant thinkers talk down to you, and meet private to applaud their own gift minds, and then go off and dedicate in your name without telling you that you are signing the check. They make their lethal mudpies and get tangled in con games with international cardsharps.

My quarrel with the arrogants is that the arrogants so often wrong, and then it is up to a few lowercase millions to pull their feet out of the fire. It is sometimes extremely hard on the millions, in taxes, death and privation only breed more arrogants to prescribe further futilities to end in bloodshed.

It is my private opinion that most of these self-style leaders are little wiser and just as confused as you and me, and that is so I want in on their act before they go off and buy us another hunk of trouble. Meanwhile I would admire great hunks of truth, instead of outright lies and bubble-talk, for we are all big boys now and well able to face the fact of life, however unpleasant it may be.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Taft Reworks Report On Taft-Hartley

WASHINGTON

GOP SENATOR Bob Taft has just shown himself a real miracle worker—this time by pulling wires inside the Democratic Party.

Taft generally considered the arch-enemy of labor, would be the last person expected to dictate a democratic report on the Taft-Hartley Act. But that is essentially what he did behind closed doors of the Senate Labor Committee.

Though the Democrats have the votes to say what they please in any Senate labor report, Taft managed to milk the vinegar out of a Senate report criticizing the Taft-Hartley law.

Word by word, comma by comma the Democrats gave in to Taft until he slashed the original, 40-page report critical of his T-H Act down to sixteen pages which weren't critical at all. All that is now left is an outline for future investigation, written in gentle Sunday School language.

Two Democrats, Sen. Jim Murray of Montana and Matt Neely of West Virginia, put up a fight against Taft. But even they backed down in order not to antagonize Republican support for a $135,000 appropriation to continue investigating labor-management relations.

The original report—before Taft pulled out the stingers—won't be released to the press, but this column has obtained a copy.

Uncensored Version

THE most important section chopped out by Taft, deals with trade unionism in the South, and charges that "industrial unionism (in the South) has lagged far behind other parts of the country."

"Desire for union organization has been successfully resisted by a substantial number of employers," declared the uncensored version before Taft toned it down. "Terrorism and intimidation, often resulting in violence, is still reported in some cases, though this tendency is thought to be on the decrease. On the other hand . . . organized labor feels that an employer determined to resist union organization can do so successfully and remain substantially within the law, and that an increasing number of attorneys have developed expanding practices advising employers of the devices available to them in this field."

All this was blue-pencilled by Taft, even though the National Labor Relations Board was cited for proof. Here are some of the shocking case histories which Taft chucked in the wastebasket:

Regarding the Russell Manufacturing Co. of Alexander City, Ala., the original report declares: "The trial examiner (of the NLRB) . . . found that the company management participated in and carried out an assault on the union organizer, that the personnel director of the company hired a man to beat up a union employee and that the local chief of police, acting in behalf of the company, ordered the union organizer to 'leave town or he would be taken out and mobbed.'

Had Killed People Before

IT WAS found that a Mr. Alford, acting for the company, assisted by a group of company employees that 'he would kill him (the union organizer) if it took him two years,' adding that he had 'plenty of ammunition,' that he had 'killed people' before and that he would do it again."

Again, in the case of the Anchor-Rome Mills, the uncensored report declared: "The NLRB ordered the company to cease and desist from 'instigating, encouraging or assisting physical assaults or threats of physical violence.' The trial examiner's report refers to the shocking assaults upon two female pickets and upon several other male strikers. The company was also ordered to cease and desist from procuring pistol licenses for its management officials for the purpose of intimidating or coercing strikers."

Taft also deleted the experience of Mrs. Edna Martin, a middle-aged woman who tried to organize employees of the American Thread Co. in Tallapoosa, Ga.

"She was kidnapped from her room and ordered by her abductors not to 'come back to Tallapoosa or you will be shot on sight,' according to the uncensored report. Later, armed employees came out of the plant and drove union representatives from the gate when they were passing out union literature. And at another time a man and his wife were bitten into insensibility when the man attempted to pass out door of the Georgia Labor News on a public sidewalk."

Criticisms Deleted

NOT ALL anti-union activity in the South has been so violent, but Taft even weeded out criticism of the non-violent practices. Some of these, cited in the original report, are: "When organization of the plant is begun, foremen, supervisors and so forth are instructed to watch employees closely discreetly of the dire results which will follow if the unions are established in the plant, and these warnings usually suggest reduction of the work force or a threat that the plant will close completely.

"Harassment of union organizers and sympathetic employees, surveillance of union activities and threats of loss of employment are reported. In one case a discharge of 100 employees most active in the union," the original report continued. "These may be accompanied by large scale layoffs with the implied threat that they will be permanent if the union drive is successful. . . .

"If the union files charges of unfair labor practices, the election for union certification is suspended until the charges are disposed of. On the average, this means a delay of nearly seventeen months before final determination by the NLRB. Such a lapse of time must often result in the complete disintegration of union organization."

Taft scrutinized each word in the report and knocked out almost everything that displeased him. For example, he deleted underlined phrases in the following sentences: "Public policy is committed to the preservation and encouragement of collective bargaining as a pillar of free economy," and "the use and effect of injunctions as a disruptive influence in labor-management relations."

In short, Taft struck out all the hostile references to the Taft-Hartley Act from a Democratic report which Truman planned to use against him in the coming campaign. It was like being given the privilege of removing the bullets from a gun that will be used to fire at you.