THOMAS L. ROBINSON J. E DOWD...... B. S. GRIPFITH . C. A. McKNIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1950

LODGE PROPOSAL HITS A SNAG

THE UNFAVORABLE vote in the House IR. Rules Committee on the Lodge-Gossett electoral reform bill probably means the death of that measure in the Sist Congress. There is little likelihood that the committee will reverse its action, or that the measure can be forced to the floor by

the measure can be forced to the floor by other means.

The constitutional amendment received the necessary two-thirds majority in the Senate, but was defeated in the Rules Committee by a 7 to 4 voic. Voting in favor were Reps. Cox of Georgis, Smith of Virginia, Lipe of Texas, Democrats, and Herter of Massachusetts, Republican. The seven negative voices were cast by Sabath of Illinois, Madden of Indiana, McSweeney of Ohio, Delaney of New York, Democrats, and Allen of Illinois, Brown of Ohio and Wadsworth of New York, Republicans. *The voic reveals why the measure was rejected. Democrats and Republicans from mid-Western states fear that the Lodge proposal would give more power to con-

proposal would give more power to con-servative Southerners. They reason that proportional division of electoral votes in each state would enable Southern states to

This might be true at first. One of the best arguments for the Lodge plan, however, is that it would vitalize a two-party system in the South by making it worth-while for both Republicans and Democratic to work hard in every precinct. Before long, the big Democratic majorities would be trimmed.

be trimmed.

What has happened is that the gimleteyed political strategists of both major
parties have scrutinized the proposal to
see how it would affect the 1952 Fresidential election, not to see how it would
remely existing wrongs. It does not matter to them that under the present system
marks millions of Americans are effectively
marks millions of Americans are effectively
or that minimizing for their President,
or that minimizing for their President,
or that minimize the control of the
cerant power in close states. All that
matters is staying in office, or getting-inorfice, and on that issue the question has
been decided.

INJUSTICE FINALLY RECTIFIED

THERE have been times during the year-long battle to repeal the unfair taxes on oleomargarine when we have had doubts about the democratic processes. The business of levying a tribute on one domestic product from combert domestic product from combert domestic product from combert domestic product from combertion, and making the consumer foot the bill for that protection, seemed so unjust and un-American that we had no sympathy whatsoever for that we had no sympathy whatsoever for the mail dairy bloc in the Congress and, indeed, for a Congressional system that would permit such a bloc to exercise such great power.

Those doubts are not entirely dispelled by the final passage of a measure lifting the taxes off oleomargarine. There remains the taxes off oleomargarine. There remains

KITTEN IN THE KILN

THE case of the cooked cat should raise
the hopes of atomic age citizens no
end. If the calico cat of Minerva. Ohlo,
could stand 36 hours of 600 degree heat in
a brick company kini, think how useful he,
and his kind might be in the event of a
hydrogen bomb attack.
Sealed accidentally in the kiin, the cat
got singed all oved-footpads, scalp, nose
—but he lived. Veterinarians are astounded.

So are we, but not so astounded that we annot recognize the potential value of a reed of supercats trained to fulfill nec-ssary public functions while weaker hu-

mans huddle in deep, atomic-proof caves.
We could indoctrinate them to serve as feline firemen to hold bomb conflagrations to a minimum or perhaps we could develop from some of the hardler varieties a medical corps to minister to humans who couldn't make it to the bomb shelter is time.

in time.

There's but one possible disadvantage in the education and mobilization of the world's cata—could they not become mad with power, strong in their immunity to heat and refuse to give the world back to us when we eneep fearfully from our sub-terranean retreats?

BLOWING YOUR OWN HORN

THERE are, we'll admit, times when an ill automobile horn must sound pretty nice—when you're a teen-age girl and the "beep" is attached to your best boy friends auto out front or when you're waiting for a bus in the rain and someone wants to give you a lift to work.

But he was the same was a translation to the same wants to give you a lift to work.

give you a lift to work.

But, by and large, we're anti-auto horn.

Neither the claxon call of a limousine nor
the melodic salute of the sporty convertible
nor even the work-day warble of a light
truck sends us, as the musician would say.

It is indeed true that automobiles must be equipped with horns and that on occa-sion they must be blown to prevent main-ing or manslaughter, but some dreadful torment should be arranged for drivers with litchy horn fingers.

In a sense, there is a punishment devised for them.

Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, they're pretty likely to wind up with the motor, in their lap or a lawsuit on their hands.

"Show me," says Mr. Wilson, "a motorist who relies on his horn instead of his brakes and caution and I'll show you a motorist who has considerably more than a 50-50 chance of being responsible for an accident one of these days."

these days."

As a partial explanation for hornitis on
the part of many travelers, Mr. Wilson
explains that the warning device was once
actually required by law.
In an except from a Royal Ordinance
dating back to the days of King Alfred
in 700 A.D. It is declared. "If a far coming
man or a stranger, journeying through a
bit of the many neither shoult nor blows
his hornibary neither shoult nor blows
the form of the first of the first of
either slain or redeemed."

Those days, Mr. Wilson points out, and

Those days, Mr. Wilson points out, and we agree, are gone forever.

THE OIL MEN ARE WAILING

THE oil industry, to nobody's surprise, a "mercker and destroyer" because he asked Congress to plug the capital-depletion tax loophole which for years has been giving oil men a unique exemption from taxes—an exemption no other businessmen enjoy.

oil hen a unique exemption from takes— an exemption no other businessmen enjoy.
"Elimination of the depletion clause would wreck the independent producing business in the United States." wails an editorial being widely circulated by the petroleum industry.
But the boys either deliberately or through a misapprehension have missed the President's point. He has not asked— as we understand it—that the depletion allowance be wholty eliminated. He has asked, however, and we think with the soundest reasons, that the "perpetuity" feature of the exemption be removed, and a reasonable limit be placed on the time during which the 27 1/2% subsidy is ap-plicable.

pilcable.

Under the present law, an oil producer pays no income tax on 27, 1/2% of his gross income. That is designed to let him recoup his original capital investment in an oil well, over a period of years. But the exemption decent end when he has regained all the capital he put in. It goes regained all the capital he put in the total the put in the capital he put in the capital he put in the capital he put in the long run yierset the producer a gift of ne high III. It is this elernal feature to which Mr.

Truman objects as an unfair and inequi-table special privilege to the oil industry. table special privilege to the oil industry. The oil people, say that their industry is so hazardous they are entitled to special treatment, because exploration of special treatment, because exploration exploration which cost a great deal of money, are necessary to the national welfar and security. But what is the hazard special depletion allowance, virtually guarantees the industry against risk? That's what it amounts to.

amounts to.

Furthermore, when oil companies were
able in 1949 to increase their dividends by
\$37,000,000, or 18.5 per cent over 1948, they
don't seem to be doing so badly, for all
the risks they take. The oil men need a
stronger rebutal of Mr. Truman's position
than they have yet produced.

It's nice to hear that more street? widening is in prospect, but it would be nicer if weaving motorists wouldn't make horoustice weaving motorists wouldn't make nicely-widened thoroughfares continue to be two-car drives, with two lanes per car.—Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.

Personality is a human being alive in every inch of his flesh.—Mattoon (III.) Journal-Gazette.

'Hey-You're Cramping My Style'



News From The Capital

N. C. To Lose One Congressman

By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlette News Special Writer
WASHINGTON
A TREND that started nearly 100 years age in North
A TREND that started nearly 100 years age in North
Burnauth will be reversed that year if Census
For the first time since the population count of
Soft the first time since the population count of
Soft the first time since the population count of
that its population increase has not kept pace with
that its population increase has not kept pace with
the sational rate. The increased its possitation unce180 by more that 8 per cent. according to the consus Bureau. But the national average has been about
19 per cent.
20 per cen

Lee Bulwinkle.

North Carolina's low point in representation was reached after the ceruss of 1860 when only 7 members are considered to the control of the c

WHY the cut? - Each State's representative is based on its population. The quotas are reapportioned every 10 years, following the regular census count. The total number of representatives is now fixed at 435. Therefore one State's gain is another State's

And, in this case, the West Coast states will gain of the 15 House seats involved, according to the man Bureau

IN WASHINGTON, campaign managers have one of a Democratic mapping to offset these two counties.

IN WASHINGTON, campaign managers have one of the west of a Democratic mapping to offset these two counties.

In WASHINGTON, campaign managers have one of the west of a Democratic part of the west while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the west while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the west while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 1 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 2 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 2 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 2 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 2 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 2 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 2 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 2 to the West while decreasing that of the East of Section 2 to the Section 2 to the West of Section 2 to the Section 2 to the West of Section 2

this will be accompanied by a decrease in Southern influence both nationally and within the Democratic Party.

arty. Southern and border states would lose nine seats.
Fair Deal Democrats argue that the South's loss hardly a loss at all, that it really doean't mather there are not be easily and an administration bill the state of the st

State will still have two Senators no matter what its population. Its population is a population of the shaping of political pattern in the next forced in the shaping of political pattern in the next forced in the shaping of political pattern in the next forced in the shaping of the shaping

Burke. Avery. Calawas. Instead. to deather incides the many control of the contro

It usually takes all that Mecklenburg can produce way of a Democratic majority to offset these two

It Is Later Than You Think By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

Warning To Taft Opponents:

TI IS PROBABLY WASHINGTON IN PROBABLY WASHINGTON IN PROBABLY to early in the project the source and the properties from the Democratic Senatorial nomination in Ohio, Yet all observers seem convinced that vicing the properties of the political hack, State Auditor Joseph Perguon. It is undoubted too early to predict the outcome yet all observers seem equally convinced that Sen. Robert A. Taft will best Ferguon unless the Old Taft will best ferguon the predict the outcome of the 192 Republican Presidential nomination. Yet the two probabilities from Yet Taft will have a huge lead on all contenders for the nom-

lecture and a second will have a buge lead on all contenders for the nomination.

NO SUPPCRT
Preguent that rival is Major
Preguent and the friends and the most powerful portions of the benote powerful portions of the Democratic organization in Ohio regular, was always the first department of the preguent of the pregu

In The Soviet Union Even The Writers Make A Living

By ROBERT C. RUARK

I WAS sitting on the other end of a log from Mr. Bernard Baruch not so long ago, down in South most so long ago, down in South waiting for one of the old gentlemen's tame quali to attack us, so ecould shoot him in self-defense. We were talking taxes, a favortie togle at this horrid time of the

Journal of the control of the contro

While it may be said that un-doubtedly artists—be they writes or, boxers or bailplayers—obtain some extra dividend of enjoyment from their work that is denied more prosale toilers, it is still regretable that no taxation arrangement exists whereby they may arrange a more astifactory amortization of a rea-tingly abort period of peak earn-ings.

"Naw," he said. "This is a thought I am just tinkering with. Let's go shoot a bird."

Let's polynos arterasency with while I am emaged in this pleasant journalistic enfeavor. I for thinking about builplayers and artipleasers and newspaper people are manufactores, and how the are manufactores, who was remained to DMAageto, who was without the control of the con

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Pentagon Told About British Radicals

Merry-Go-Round

Washinoton

A Massador Lew Douolas made a special visit to the Pentagon this week to dictus with Secretary of Defrase to the property of Defrase to the Pentagon Shines and the property of Defrase to the Pentagon Shines Shines to the Pentagon Shines to the Pentagon Shines Shines to the Pentagon Shines Shines Shine

Rabbits Vs. Education

"Then, I'd reach down and feel his ribs. If he wasn't fat, I'd let him go and take out after another rabbit."

More Tax Fraud

Crime Expert

James Mont!

Bureaucrats get a lot of kicking around on Capitol Hill
and in the newspapers. But Campbell is one of the socalled bureaucrats who not only did a superb job, but played
an important role in the destinies of the nation.

Senator Can't Slap Backs

Sendor Con't Slop Backs

Sen Frank (Ghariam of their Carolina, who has made

Sas great an impression on Compress as any newcomer on

Caultof Hill, faces a tought result of their control of thei