

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1950

ASKING FOR TROUBLE

A N ARTICLE elsewhere on this page by lenburg County Commissioners declined to follow a 1948 law governing magstrates and elected instead to follow the crusty old system which has long been out-of-date and frequently productive of gross misconduct in office.

misconduct in office.

The commissioners have short memories.

The was just fourteen months ago, in December, 1948, that the Meddenburg Grand Jury turned up settled the provision of the control of the commission of the commissio

It was not the first time that "Jaypee Justice" had broken into the news in North Carolins in an unfavorable light. Year after year, in this county and others, un-awayry operations have been uncovered which pointed up the need for revising the

incient system.

And as long as magistrates depend upon onvictions for their fees, as long as they are chosen without regard for training

are chosen without regard for training and qualifications, as long as they are inadequately supervised, there will con-tinue to be unavory situations.

The new law remedies most of the old dereta. It provides that the Commission-ers can limit the number of magistrates, fir their salaries, and require strict re-porting on their operations. Fees, fines and forfeitures would go into the County

Treasury instead of into the magistrate's pockets. They would be appointed by the resident Superior Court judge, instead of better in the superior court judge, instead of better in the superior court judge, instead of better in the superior court in the legislative monstrosity known as the 'omnibus bill' which blennishly names hundred of Jay.

Mr. Olbaon cites three reasons why the Commissioners apurated this new law:

1. Paying salaries and providing snee for several mansfirstrates would essistiate an unnecessary department of the County Overnment. (We don't know how many "several" is, but there is no need for more than one or two regular magistrates. And it's a debatable question whether such a department is "unnecessary" or not.)

2. The salary a competent magistrate would ask would be too feasy a drain on the treasury. (This infers that the magone of the things which ought to be corrected.)

3. The board airready has sufficient con-

The board already has sufficient contool over the Mekinburg institute of the
peace. As long as magistrates get paid,
only when they find a defendant sully,
how can the Commissioners, who don't alt
in on the "titals," know whether defendants are getting a fair trial or not?)
We would suggest respectfully to the
Commissioners that they take another
look at this new magistrate law. They
have been given an opportunity to correct
a system which has given off bad odges
for many years. And they might have red
faces if, in the coming months, another
acandal should crop up, as it is likely to do.

ANOTHER 'STUDY' IS LAUNCHED

WITH the permission of our little read-ers, we'll sit back and wait for the results of the joint Duke Power-City Gov-ernment study of bus service before wax-

emment study of our service before wax-ing too enthinstatic.

It is good, of course, that the question has moved beyond the talking stage. There has been entirely too much talking and too little doing. And a great deal of the talk, especially that directed at the State Utilities Commission, has been so much bot alt, since the question of adequate service is not properly the concern of the

what is new about this study, when you et right down to it?

ret right down to it?

First, a new note of harmony has been truck. The City Council and the Duke ower Co. are humming the same tune or a change.

Second, City officials are going to parcicipate in the study.

That is about all. Representing the Duke

Power Co. will be the same officials who have been in charge of "studying" their bus system all along.

The reason we doubt that the study will produce any very spectacular result is that the efficient operation of a bus system is a highly specialized science. Duke's engineers are probably experts, but they have been too close to their traditional system to see it objectively. And while Mr. Yancey is a first rate City Manager and Mr. Hoose is a first rate traffic engineer, we doubt that either of them can qualify as a top-notto bus system engineer.

Ah, well, the Council and the company have agreed to employ an outside engineer in the council and the company have agreed to employ an outside engineer with the present bus gerfoce and can endure it another 80 days while the City finish out that the best way to do a specialized job is to get specialists to do it.

USE BOTH BARRELS, SENATOR

VIROINA'S HARTY F. Byrd, self-appointed watch-dog of the Pederal budget, is probably the best informed man in Congress on wasterial expenditures and effect financing. And every time he gets an opportunity, he speaks out against both, documenting his case with facts and figures and further bolstering it with cold, clear logic.

When he spoke to the North Carolina Citizens Association in Raleigh this week, he reiterated his convictions that this anation is well along the road 40 Socialism, and that continued deficit innancing will bring economic disaster which, in turn, will speed the swing to Socialism.

Administration. If Congress had a little bring economic disaster which, in turn, will speed the swing to Socialism.

The Senator said, we pand these Socialism charging the time to refer the congress to vote these wasteful expenditures and these Socialists measures. What he should have added—or at least inferred—in flat Congress is also to blame for letting itself be "pressured" by the and that continued deficit innancing will speed the swing to Socialism.

Which we can endores much of what the sent further definition, charging it with "pressuring" Congress to vote these wasteful expenditures and these Socialists measures. Interred—in flat Congress is also to blame for letting itself be "pressured" by the administration. If Congress had a little courage, it would quickly put a stop to deficit financing and unbalanced budgets. The Senator socred with one blast. He should have pulled the trigger on the other barrel, too.

CRIME AND SAUCERS

THERE was more than coincidence in the fact that two stories about radio's irresponsibility made the papers on the

same day.

Way out in Norman, Oklahoma, Chairman Wayne Coy of the Federal Communications Commission called on radio and
television to "clean house" in the matter
of crime programs and "livery stable
humor."

humor."

Closer home, in Greensbore, N. C., a radio announcer told his early morning audience that he had just seen a flying saucer land in the street adjacent to the radio station. (The hole had been there for two weeks. It was made by workmen fixing a water line. The object he said

had come from the saucer was a part of a desk.)

By 9 A. M., some 1,200 people had come to the scene. The station got hundreds of

to the scene. The station got hundreds or telephone calls. Quipped the announcer: "It was strictly a gag... It just goes to prove if you tell a fantastic state, people will believe it." It goes to prove more than that. It goes to prove more than that. It goes to prove more than that. It goes to prove more than that it goes prove that FOC Chairman Coy was the prove that FOC Chairman Coy was the prove that FOC Chairman Coy will demand in the more drastic remove up—action with the more drastic remove up—action which will come despite all that this and other newspapers can do to defend radio's right of free expression.

NOT FOR LESSER MEN!

WE NOMINATE Dr. Robert A. Millikan miserably wondering what is expected of for the Order of the Turning Worm.

If there fairly dany such order, one ought to be invented. If the award isn't as fa
Dr. Millikan, faced by such a situation, faced up to it and conquered it like a there are many who would like to make

We nominate him on behalf of legions We nominate him on behalf of legions of long-suffering banqueters who have sat through report after report, remarks upon remarks, introductions as lengthy as lectures, only to be controuted at long last by the speaker of the evening who grimly pronounces every last word he came prepared to any.

We nominate him on behalf of all those speakers who rise to face an sudience outside the product of the area of the Average Wornis will have the nerve turn-next time?

Dr. Millikan, faced by such a situation, faced up to it and conquered it like a champion. Said he:

"At this hour, I fear the mind is too weary to listen to the speech I have prepared. I had intended to discuss one of the chapters in my new book. The Road to Peace." Any of you who are interested may read the book."



People's Platform

A Plug For Senator Graham

Editors. The News:

Tutle bette is switten in appreciation of the switcher Tutle bette is carolina's current candidates for the tutle to United States Senate, Bob Reynolds and Senator to United States Senate, Bob Reynolds and Senator Frank P, Graham. I think both of these men are grand, but I cannot say enough for Senator Graham, it is so unusual to have an honorable, unright Christian with such wonderful ideals in a high place in South of the senator of the Senator Senator

Again, many thanks for the articles on Senator

-MRS. A. RADER

Church Editorial Praised CHARLOTTE

Citizer. The News:

I WART you to know that I thorough appreciate

I WART you to know that I thorough appreciate
the editorial "The New Church" in your edition
of March 13. Although brief, it was to the point
of March 13. Although brief, it was to the point
of March 13. Although brief, it was to the point
of March 13. There is no in a long
time in the secular press concentrate on the secular press concentrate of the secular press concentrate on the security of the secular press concentrate on the secular press concentrate on the secular press concentrate

Thank You, Mr. Jones

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

THAT was a good job you did on your editorial page,
I issue of March 14. (Editorial. "A School Problem", and digest of magazine article, "Quackery in
the Schools") More power to you.

—PETER JONES.

'Culture And Collards'

Editor, The News:

CHARLOTTE.

Editor, The News:

THE coming parel discussion on the subject of
THE coming parel discussion on the subject of
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JOSEPH SHIELDS HUTCHISON

Nothing Like It!

Editors The News:

I AM spending six weeks in Titusville. The fishing is good and the temperature is around 85. But best of all is The Charlotte News which I receive each morning. Nothing like it—not even the trout fishing!

-ERNEST H. TODD. Mint Concerts Popular

Mint Concerts Popular

Minter, Ten News:

18 CHARLOTTE developing musically as well as a numerically 1 remember when some of you older critisens at together many, many years ago with the critisen as together many, many years ago with the critisen as the control of the control

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words type-written if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscently will be deleted—otherwise anything ones. Each letter must be signed.—Editors, The News.

Commissioners Spurn Law To Regulate Magistrates

By RALPH GIBSON

MECKLENBURG was one of 26 North Carolina counties empowered by the last General Assembly to abolish the fee system for justices of the peace and limit the number of these magistrates who may operate in the County.

The County Commissioners, however, elected to continue the old system of letting the justice collect a fee for each conviction he hands down

Members of the five-man board fell-that (1) paying salaries and providing space for several magistrates would establish an unnecessary department of the County Government; (2) the salary a competent magistrate would ask would be too heavy a drain on the treasury; and 30 the Board already has sufficient control over the few justices of the peace in Mecklenburg who make active use of their commissions,

UNDER the 1949 law which the Board rejected, the Commissioners would have been given power to say how many magnitrates the County may have. They would fix the salaries, and demand the same strict reporting system now in effect.

The magistrates would continue to collect fees, fines, and for-feitures, but instead of keeping them, they would turn them in to the County Treasurer.

At present, magistrates have jurisdiction only in the township in which they hold office. Under the new law, they would have county-wide furisdiction.

Now the magistrates are appointed either by the Governor or the Legislature, or elected in the various townships. There is no limit on the number in any one county.

The new act west appointive authority in the resident Superior Court Judge of the judgel district. The judge has the power to recours Judge of the power for Judge of the Judge of the

The County's legislators in the General Assembly introduced s bill to require regular reports from all magistrates. The bill subsequently became law. The new system is in effect now.

The later law giving the Commissioners and the resident judge full jurisdiction over justices of the peace was ignored by the Board when it met the first Monday in March. It cannot be adopted now until the first Monday of March, 1931.

Scholar-Gentleman Acheson Object Of GOP Attacks

By MARQUIS CHILDS

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Mixed Feelings About Peace Overtures

FOR some time there has been a running private debate statement. By the statement will be some and the State Dept. over the all-important private debate all-important private private should be statement of the statement of the

ommand for a meeting with Stallin, the debate has become more acute. Trush has been given been stated in the resident Trush has been given been stalled in the could sit down with Stallin, they could then the high side of the world's problems. Yet he cart help bring ired at Stalin for being alsof, and for ignoring repeated hints that he, Truman, would be side to take to him if he came to the United States. Overriding this, however, is Mr. Truman's mystic sense Overriding this, however, is Mr. Truman's mystic sense members of his staff he speaks of this spain and sgain, During the visits of While House callers he will sometimes walk to the world globe at one side of his deak and say with deep emotion;

Noyes, and Chief Justice Fred Vinsen the Mea of sending the Chief Justice to Macoow for a talk with Stalin. When this got back to the State Dept., it was immediately transmitted by Acting Secretary Robert Lovett to General Marshall, then stending the UN Assembly meeting in Parts. Alarmed, Marshall flew home for a quick two-day conference. Marshall flew home for a quick two-day conference move until it was cleared with our Western allies a reason move until it was cleared with our Western allies a reason with the second transmitted by the second transmitted transmitted transmitted transmitted transmitted transmitted transmitted to the second transmitted transmitt

President Truman has long felt and expressed himself in private that if the could sit down with Stalin, they could thresh out a lot of the world's problems. Yet he can't help being fried at Stalin for being adol, and for importang repeated the country of the co