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SENATE SPENDING SPREE

THIS WEEK the United States Senate faced up to the supreme economy challenge of the session—the annual rivers and harbors measure which lumps together scores of local "pork barrel" projects in virtually every state of the union.

In a spirited five-day battle, a log-rolling majority of the Senate beat off every effort to cut the whopping appropriation and finally approved it by a 53-19 vote.

The net result: an authorization for spending $1,840,000,000 in the next fiscal year, $740,000,000 more than the House of Representatives had voted, and over $800,000,000 more than the Bureau of the Budget had approved.

Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois waged a courageous fight for a reduction in the bill. He offered some twenty amendments during the course of the debate. Each one was soundly defeated.

The Illinois Senator confessed that a part of the blame must be attached to the voters back home. Said he:

"How many times have we listened to the urgent plea for political statesmanship? But I am making a plea for citizen statesmanship as well. Citizen statesmanship recognizes legitimate local or special needs, but it places the national interest first . . .

"All too often, these groups (of citizens) loudly proclaim their desire for economy, but at the same time they vent their local pet projects at the Federal Government's expense. They want economy practiced on the other fellow, but not on themselves. They assign their Representatives to bring home the bacon 'or else'."

Senator Byrd of Virginia, pointing out that the Bureau of the Budget had approved projects totaling only one billion dollars, said the Congress had already approved commitments for future years that will cost an estimated $30 billion. And he added:

"At a time like this when we have been 'in the red' for most of twenty years, when we are already facing more deficit years, I think we are treading on dangerous ground when we undertake to pass new authorizations which are not urgently needed, such as the more than 25 per cent which have not been given unqualified approval by the Bureau of the Budget."

Even the sensible suggestion of Senator Ferguson of Michigan that the omnibus bill be laid aside and the projects be taken up one by one, each to be considered on its merits, was voted down.

Recently THE NEWS published a story from the *Wall Street Journal* which showed how much "pork" is in this measure. We said at that time that the bill would test the sincerity of Senate economy advocates.

Well, they have failed their test, and failed it miserably. When North Carolina taxpayers fork over their income tax next year, they can remember that both of our Senators, Mr. Hoey and Mr. Graham, voted for this legislative monstrosity.

ANY LETTERS TODAY?

POSTMASTER General Donaldson's sharp curtailment of mail services will offer an interesting new yardstick to measure the sincerity of those among us, citizens as well as lawmakers, who pay lip-service to government economy.

Facing an ever-growing deficit, and discouraged over his effort to get Congress to increase mail rates substantially, Mr. Donaldson ordered once-a-day delivery to residential sections and corresponding reductions in service to business establishments, mail pick-ups, and the like.

Protests will certainly be forthcoming from postal workers, some of whom will lose their jobs, and from irate customers. There will probably be some outcries from Congressmen who will see in the move an effort to "pressure" Congress into granting a bigger appropriation for the Post Office Department.

The cut in services outlined in the first news stories is reasonable enough. Certainly, the average citizen can get along on one delivery of mail to his residence a day. That will make it possible for carriers to cover twice as much territory in one day instead of doubling back on their same route.

Still, the American people have grown to expect fast, efficient mail service. They don't understand that the annual operating deficit of the Post Office Department must be made up out of general tax revenues. They just want to get their mail, and get it in a hurry.

The House of Representatives will vote on the annual postal appropriation in the near future, possibly next week. The outcome of that vote will help to show whether Congress is willing to displease some constituents in order to bring the budget into better balance.

A LESSON FOR THE WORLD

WILLIAM VOGT, the ornithologist-turned-conservationist, is a man with a crusade. His goal is nothing less than informing humanity that it will do itself in unless everybody quits taking resources for granted.

Somehow, we never seem to think about, for instance, the certainty that there is only so much coal in the earth and that we are ripping it out without the slightest idea of what we are going to do when it's all gone.

With the same headlong disregard for the inevitable, we are chopping away forests and wearing out our soil with thoughtless planting programs.

Our population is increasing by leaps and bounds even though conservationists tell us that there is already insufficient acreage to grow food for the world's needs.

The U. S. was fortunate, in the beginning, to have a virgin continent with untapped resources. It has been wise in recent years in certain portions of its conservation programs.

But what of such areas as South America and portions of the Orient? Some South American countries have already, according to Mr. Vogt, used up their natural resources. The people of Haiti, for instance, must eventually either move away or starve. It's that simple.

Haiti is an example of what can happen to the world if it ignores the warning of men like William Vogt.

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR EDUCATION

BUNCOMBE COUNTY turned in a thumping 4,000-vote majority in favor of a $5.5 million school building bond issue this week, and thus became the latest in a long string of Tar Heel counties to set about modernizing and enlarging their dilapidated and inadequate school plants.

The Buncombe voters also approved a sensible plan to put all their assorted school bond debts in one basket. By an equal majority, they decided to consolidate the present school debt of $3,198,000 now divided among 26 school districts.

We note the Buncombe election to point up the growing awareness among our people everywhere that our democracy can not thrive unless Americans are educated, and that our education system can not do the job it is supposed to do unless it has adequate tools and facilities.

The important thing is that the deficiencies are being corrected by local initiative. The fallacy in the argument for State and Federal aid in building schools is that it assumes the local units are not able to pay for their own buildings. North Carolina counties are proving, one by one, that local resources have not been fully utilized. In so doing, they are keeping control of their schools at home where it should be.

From The Chattanooga Times

DRIFTING TOWARD HYSTERIA

"Give me liberty to know, to think, to believe, and to utter freely, according to conscience, above all other liberties."
—John Milton

* * *

WHAT is most detestable in the Russian type of Communist state is complete suppression of freedom of opinion. Just how far this country has drifted under the present wave of fear and hysteria toward that type of state may be determined in North Carolina's Senatorial primary of May 27.

Senator Frank P. Graham, former president of the University of North Carolina, is being opposed by Willis Smith, Raleigh corporation lawyer and a former president of the American Bar Association, and former Senator Robert R. Reynolds.

Mr. Smith defines the main issue as "communism and socialism."

Mr. Reynolds sides with Smith on those alleged issues (though neither is a legitimate issue in North Carolina) and "Buncombe Bob" adds a $100-a-month pension for all persons over 65 as a bait for voters.

The real issue is Senator Graham's career of public service in which he has tried to work for all the people.

By innuendo or by direct charge, Mr. Graham's opponents are trying to defeat him by linking him with Communists. This campaign has gone so far that Senator Graham last week issued the following clear and unequivocal statement:

"I am opposed to Communism. I am opposed to Socialism. I am devoted to the American system of free enterprise for all the people.

"I have always fought, and will continue to fight, Fascism, Communism, Nazism, and every other form of totalitarianism."

Speaker Sam Rayburn, addressing young Democrats in Senator Graham's home state, at Asheville, recently said:

"The meanest man who walks the earth is the man who goes out and spreads unjustified fears and fills the people full of unhappiness and discontent and distrust."

But that type of Communist-Fascist technique has gone very far in every state in this country.

North Carolina will have a chance to halt that trend toward a totalitarian state in the May 27 primary.

'Where'd You Get The Idea I Was A Bodyguard?'

Collected By Bill Sharpe

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

C. B.'s For Olla
(Fuquay Independent)

C. B. Barefoot is definitely for Olla Ray Boyd for the Senatorship. When we pointed out that Boyd got only 2,000 votes when he ran for Governor two years ago, C. B. shouted: "Well, he'll get a lot more than that this time." Mr. Barefoot says he couldn't visualize a more valuable addition to the Senate than a hog-raiser. He thinks the lawyers, professional, and businessmen in the Senate have only made a mess of things and that it wouldn't do any harm to have a dirt farmer and pig grower there to bring flighty statesmen and "stuffed shirts" of the Senate down to earth.

* * *

Why Early Rising
(Moore County News)

The man who prided himself on arising each morning by four o'clock has about vanished. As we progress from the primitive rural life to the sophisticated city existence, the tendency is to turn day into night. Speaking of this, and the old supposition that men can do better work in the early hours, than in the later ones, Ernest Rogers, an Atlanta Journalist quotes the ancient lines:

"Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and a fool." That was the philosophy that people tried to live by in Ben Franklin's day, but not so now. Mr. Rogers revises the lines to read:

"Early to bed and early to rise makes you neglect some wonderful guys."

Quite so. Necessity has always been accounted a virtue. In the old days people went to bed early and got up and to their toils before the rise of the sun as near as possible. A lightwood knot or a tallow candle could not provide them with the light necessary either to do their work or enjoy their leisure. They simply had to turn in early and turn out early. Whereupon, this being a necessity, it was soon accounted a virtue.

* * *

We Pay Well
(Beatrice Cobb, Morganton News-Herald)

It should be a matter of some gratification to North Carolinians—it was to me—to learn that in the matter of compensation our Governors now rank in the top salary brackets. Governor Scott is paid $15,000 a year and gives an allowance of $5,000 for travel and expenses. No other Southern state, not even Florida or Texas with $12,000 each, comes close to our total allowance of $20,000 a year to our Governors. New York's and California's are $25,000 each. Maryland seemed to have the lowest rating in the table I saw, $4,500, and the average runs around $10,000, with quite a number at $7,500 and $8,000.

My Notions
(John Wesley Clay, Winston-Salem Journal)

One of the first days of Spring a man and his wife went driving to the country. The wife saw some wild flowers beside the road in a pasture, and she made her husband crawl under the fence to pick them. As he picked the flowers he noticed a large bull nearby, and he yelled to the farmer: "Say, mister, is that bull safe?" The farmer spat his tobacco juice and replied: "Yes, he's a blankety blank safer'n you are."

* * *

'Banquet'
(W. G. Hasel, Fee Dee Advocate)

You will note that I have quoted the word "banquet." I did that purposely and with aforethought. The only thing that made it a banquet, so far as I could see, was that the tickets cost $2.75, that many of the women wore evening dresses, and that there was an after-dinner speaker. So far as the food was concerned, I could do better at any restaurant in town for $1.25 at the most. It happened that I was not hungry, but if I had been I could have eaten down half the length of one of the long tables.

The Last Squeak
(Sanford Herald)

Ray Sexton has a new car and is rather proud of it, now that some of its eccentricities are smoothed out. It seems the car had several unexplainable rattles and squeaks. All but one were tracked down and corrected.

The mystery rattle was traced to a rear window and there hanging by a string from the inside of the frame-work was a small bottle. Inside the bottle was a note which read:

"How long did it take you to locate this one?"

Precaution
(H. C. McFayden, State Magazine)

Old Aunt Lucy
Won't let none of them
Pickaninnies of hers
Eat onions.
Done drummed it into them
"Till you can't git a onion
Down one of 'em.

Says if one of them died
Or got killed sudden,
Couldn't never git to heaven
With onion on his breath!
I swigger!

* * *

Confusion
(Camden Chronicle)

Just to show you the state of confusion that exists in the world, an elderly Negro man was found walking along the road the other day pulling a long rope. When asked what he was doing, he replied: "I don't know boss. I is so confused dat I don't know whether I have lost a mule or found a rope."

Russians Make Careful Plan To Embarrass West Powers

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL reports from Germany indicate that the Russians have plotted a political-diplomatic coup calculated to take the West by surprise. The timing is aimed at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Western powers set for London in mid-May.

The objective is to present the world with the sham front of an "independent" East German State. That state will sign a treaty of peace with the Soviet Union. And the USSR will agree to remove all its troops from East Germany within a year.

These moves, which may be announced very shortly, are being plotted by Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Premier of the East German State. Ten days ago Ulbricht returned secretly to Berlin from a visit to Moscow where the whole plan was worked out.

Ulbricht immediately initiated a series of conferences to set the plot in motion. The idea as originally projected was to call into being in East Germany a National Front Congress. The Congress would have administrative powers to sign a peace treaty with Russia that would seem to give East Germany a most favorable status.

PROPAGANDA VALUE

While this would be a fake, it would nevertheless have a powerful propaganda force in all of Germany and in Europe. For one thing, it would strengthen the extreme Nazi-Storm Trooper elements in West Germany that are today saying the only hope is in at least a temporary union with Russia. Whatever decision the Foreign Ministers might take in London with respect to Germany would seem to be a reaction to an achievement already brought off by the Soviet. That same thing has happened far too often in the past.

There is one big hole in the Russian plan that could be readily exploited by the West. That is the Russian action in handing over to Poland just as the war was ending all the German territory east of the Neisse River. As Winston Churchill pointed out at the Potsdam Conference, this took nearly one-fourth of the arable land within Germany's 1937 frontiers.

Under Ulbricht's direction today thousands of Germans working in schools, hospitals and other institutions in the East Zone are being coached to say that they accept gladly the Oder-Neisse line as a permanent frontier. But this will not conceal the true feelings of the German people whether in the East or West Zones.

At the Foreign Ministers' Conference next month Secretary of State Dean Acheson will recommend a review of German policy and a drastic revision in our light of present realities. Acheson is in favor of putting a greatly increased allocation of Marshall Plan money into West Berlin to revive employment and trade.

In recent weeks the American occupation authorities in Berlin, under the very able direction of Maj. Gen. Maxwell Taylor, have been preparing to meet the threat of the May 23 demonstration. Indications are now that the Russian-directed march on the West Sector from the East Zone will be a much more modest affair than originally intended. With resistance fully prepared by American, British and French forces, East German youths are not likely to be so eager to make trouble with a mass invasion of West Berlin.

It is at least a temporary advantage of dictatorship that strategy can be shifted almost overnight without regard either for public opinion or for positions previously taken. The democracies move much more slowly. But in view of what has been happening in Germany, and what threatens to happen, it must seem at times as though this were not an inevitable retarded tempo but a kind of paralysis.

Night Games, Union Troubles And All Have Ruined Baseball

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

THIS IS A TIME of year when an old sports writer is duty-bound to write about baseball, and I have been rassling with the chore for a couple of weeks. I guess it's only conclusion I can draw is I'm glad I don't cover it any more, even in spring training.

Like everything else, baseball, once a wonderfully simple operation, has become so confused around the fringes that it seems to resemble the rest of the world, rather than a beautiful delusion that was perpetrated on sunny afternoons under a smiling sun. Radical pressure has entered into it. It has had a fling at unionism. There are new rules about bonus players. It is full of courthouse talk and legislation. It has been commercialized to the scuppers, in perversion of its original hit, run and pitch. From national pastime it seems to have developed into a variety show for a television sponsor.

THE MAIN POINT

And those night games. I guess that's the crux of my beef. They will play more night games this year than ever before, and I will see none. Night ball has upped attendance tremendously and has given baseball to great gobs of people who couldn't see it before, except on week-ends, but I'm still mad at it.

I like to remember my baseball watching according to the way a hot dog tasted in a seat over third base, with just a little breeze and the sun hot enough to pink your nose but not enough to drench your shirt. I like to remember the bleacher crowds that shucked their shirts and sat around in their skivvies.

Baseball in the daytime looks natural. You can tell the balls from the strikes, and when a ball is hit you can say pretty well whether it's safe or out before it has traveled far. Day ball was a game between men who seemingly enjoyed what they were doing on a sunny afternoon, far fetched from science.

Night ball seems as unreal to me as polo in the parlor. The great massed batteries of lights shed a malevolent glare, like the brilliant clusters of globes in an operating room. The green grass no longer looks like grass—it looks like the baize cover of a pool table. Moths flutter over the field. A full moon still looks out of place at a ball game.

CONCENTRATION CAMP

Spring training now seems to have become mechanized and run like a concentration camp. They have house-rules and bulletins tacked up in the chow-hall boards, and penalties for this and that, and automatic pitchers, and even a psychologist to work the kinks out of the St. Louis Browns, so they'll all hit homers and pitch no-hitters.

The accent on money-making exhibitions is so strong now that the players aren't allowed sufficient time to work easily into shape. It seems to the performers that they have played half a season before they come north in April.

Big baseball news has been in the law courts ever since a flock of players jumped to the Mexicans just after the war. They have tried to unionize baseball and make racial issues out of it, and just recently the New York legislature tried to enjoin the Brooklyn Dodgers from charging separate admission to games played in the same day but not as double-headers.

They use the platoon system everywhere now, jerking players in and out of the lineup and switching pitchers for each new hitter, until it looks more like football than baseball.

I'm sorry if I sound sour, but it used to be such a fine, simple game. Now it's getting as complicated as a treason trial.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

McCarthy Star Witness Plotted Murder

WASHINGTON

LOUIS BUDENZ, star witness in the Sen. McCarthy charges, was born in Indianapolis 50 years ago of German Catholic parents, has been tried 21 times in labor disputes, acquitted 21 times, and helped plot the murder of Leon Trotsky in Mexico.

Educated at St. Xavier's College and St. Mary's College, Budenz forsook his religion to become one of the most effective Communists in the United States, though at first he worked with the right-wing American Federation of Labor.

His first job was as editor of "The Carpenter," official newspaper of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners. Later he became an executive of the German-American Central Verein in St. Louis, leaving it when World War I broke in Europe. During the period of the first war he worked for the St. Louis Civic League and the Federal Electric Railways Commission, which had no war service.

Shortly after the war, Budenz went back to labor activities as editor of Labor Age for a ten-year period—1921-31; though during part of this time he was also special strike organizer for the AF of L, and handled such important strikes as the Paterson silk strike of 1930, the Toledo Auto-Lite strike of 1934.

Becomes Communist

IT was shortly after the Toledo Auto-Lite strike that Budenz went over to the Communist Daily Worker first as its labor editor, later as its president and managing editor. There he remained for approximately ten years, until 1940, when Monsignor Sheen persuaded him to return to his original Catholic faith.

Since then he has been teaching economics at two Catholic universities, Notre Dame and Fordham, and has also been a star witness in the trial of the twelve leaders of the Communist Party.

Budenz also has published numerous magazine articles and a book which have been extremely helpful in letting the outside world know the inner workings and machinations of the Communist Party. A new book, "Men Without Faces," to be published by Harpers in May, is already in galley proofs.

Today, Budenz is testifying that Frederick Field, a millionaire Communist, and Earl Browder, former head of the Communist Party, told him about Lattimore and referred to him in such a way as to indicate he was being used by the Communist Party. He was even a member.

However, it is significant that in all his previous writings, Budenz never mentioned Lattimore's name.

In the original manuscript of the forthcoming book for Harpers, Budenz tells about the Institute of Pacific Relations, of which Lattimore was a member, and names Philip Jessup, now of the State Dept., as a member of the institute. He also names a great many others, but not Lattimore.

However, a few days ago and after the book was in galley-proof form, Budenz suddenly inserted Lattimore's name. The reasons for Budenz' afterthought and what pressures, if any, influenced him, may be something the Senate committee will want to inquire about.

Furthermore, in all his magazine writings and in the large volume of original information he gave the FBI, Budenz also failed to mention Lattimore's name. Budenz spent days on end with the FBI earlier, telling them every detail about the operation of the Communist Party; but up until last week after he was approached by Sen. McCarthy, he had not told the FBI anything about Lattimore.

Plot Against Trotsky

BUDENZ is extremely frank, and in one Collier's article he states: "It was then that I was assigned to work with a Russian police agent in forming the murder ring which ultimately assassinated Trotsky."

In another Collier's article, Budenz takes pains to describe the Institute of Pacific Relations, the organization which Sen. McCarthy indicates was used by Owen Lattimore to influence State Dept. policy toward China.

"The Institute is, as I said, not a Communist front," Budenz wrote. "Most of the 1,800 members of the American section of its ten-nation Pacific council are patriotic U. S. citizens. But early members and apologists have infiltrated its most influential committees and publications. Their articles and speeches have been used as reference material by the Far Eastern division of our State Dept."

Budenz' description of how the Communists used well-meaning and well-known Americans as fronts is especially revealing. For instance, when the Soviet Government staged its famed purge trials, the American reaction was bad. So American Communist agents set out to get a list of leading Americans who would approve the Moscow purge trials.

Fooling The Public

THEY selected as their top name, Corliss Lamont, son of the J. P. Morgan partner, whose Wall Street background would give solidarity and respectability to their list. From that point on they enlisted 150 names of "American artists, writers, composers, editors, college professors and Broadway figures."

"Few, if any of those who signed the whitewash of the trials," wrote Budenz, "could possibly know that the idea was hatched by top Communist officials in conference with NKVD agents."

Budenz went on to tell how he had set up another front organization, with Mrs. Roosevelt as honorary chairman and Harry Truman as a member, to serve as a screen for Marshal Tito, then under Moscow's wing.

"As editor of The Daily Worker," he wrote in Collier's, "I reported the launching in 1944, of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief. Under the guise of charity, this was simply an innocents' front to help Marshal Tito fasten his fangs on his country.

"But Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt became honorary chairman. Among the sponsors were the then Senator (now President) Harry S. Truman, Dr. Albert Einstein, Rita Hayworth, William Green and Philip Murray. These names speak volumes for the skill with which we twisted the arms of our sponsors. These and other sponsors dropped out when the Communist influence became increasingly evident in the following year. Over $3,000,000 was collected from soft-hearted Americans."

Budenz Deserves Credit

THERE are several points to be emphasized about the above.

1. The American public has the right to know how it was fooled in the past, and Budenz deserves credit for bringing it out.

2. Most of this happened during the war when we were allied with Russia and when millions of people were praying for the Red Army's success, not only to hasten the war's end but in order that American lives might be saved.

3. One harm accomplished by Sen. McCarthy is to make suspect as a Communist any public official who sided with the Russians while we were allies. Mrs. Roosevelt and Harry Truman are strong enough to take care of themselves. But there are many little people, unwittingly used by the Communists and now on McCarthy's list, who can hardly sleep at night.

They were gullible, susceptible to flattery, and made the mistake of lending their names to some "front" organizations. But they were no more Communists than Harry Truman. However, a speech on the Senate floor—and they may be ruined.

Therefore it should be remembered that, despite the McCarthy witch hunt, to have been friendly to Russia from 1941-45 does not necessarily mean one was a Communist.