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THE SOUNDPROOF CURTAIN

"Our task is to present the truth to the millions of people who are uninformed or misinformed or unconvinced. Our task is to reach them in their daily lives, as they work and learn. We must be alert, ingenious and diligent in reaching people of other countries, and of their educational and cultural backgrounds may be. Our task is to show them that freedom is the way to economic and social advancement, the way to political independence, the way to strength, happiness and peace."

officials are "playing cops and robbers" with the press, Reston said.

There seems to be a widespread opinion among Washington-based newspapermen that the State Department and almost everyone else (except headline hunting columnists) there are trying to hide news from the press.

Often when newspapermen get a story out of the State Department it is in spite of Acheson. Most of these stories that newspapermen "break" are important bits of news that are being suppressed in the press to assure Acheson that secrets concerning the welfare of the nation will not be published.

But because a few unscrupulous reporters have caused trouble for some State men, the Administration has lowered a soundproof curtain around much of the nation's capital.

Until Acheson and other secretive officials learn the truth of President Truman's opinion, the newspaper editors, the task of explaining freedom will be doubly difficult.

It is to be hoped that President Truman's remark to the editors—"I have directed the Secretary of State to plan a strategy whereby we will find the way to effort to use the great power of truth in working for peace"—will help remedy the situation.

THAT'S a big job the President has set for himself and the newspaper editors of America, for the newspaper editors themselves are often "uninformed or misinformed or unconvinced"—and it is not always their own fault.

As James Reston, New York Times diplomatic editor, wrote some weeks ago in The Atlantic Monthly:

"... the people have to be adequately informed in a democracy and the Government is not doing what it could to keep them informed. The more complex our problems become, the more they must be explained to the people; but the opposite procedure now prevails."

Reston's particular target was Secretary of State Dean Acheson and his department. Acheson and other administration

AN UNNATURAL MARRIAGE

ALTHOUGH the mass of supporting detail is yet to be made public, the main recommendations of prison specialist Austin MacCormick give the people of North Carolina plenty to think about.

Mr. MacCormick has been studying the state prison system for several months. He recommended to the Prison Advisory Council last week:

- 1. That the system be removed from the State Highway Commission's administrative control, and placed under a new Department of Corrections.
2. That prisoner rehabilitation be made the primary aim of the Department of Corrections.
3. That greater emphasis be placed on diversified employment and organized training.
4. That selected prisoners be made available to the Highway Commission as a time-incentive plan, with the State Highway partially the operating costs of the Department.

Just what Mr. MacCormick found to prompt these suggestions will not be known until the remainder of the report is presented. In all probability he found what

a good many North Carolinians have been thinking all along: that the Highway Commission is an agency for building roads, and has neither the time, the training, nor the inclination to rebuild men.

The marriage of the prison system and the road-building agency has been an unnatural one, the only thing in common being the use of prison labor on roads. The man who can erect bridges is not qualified to close the gap between society and a criminal. The man who designs superhighways is hardly equipped to probe the minds and souls of the men who think in terms of ribbons of concrete in the earth.

It seems to us entirely fundamental that the two systems be separated, not merely to create another bureau, but to limit each to its natural field. And we await with growing interest the detailed information which, we are confident, will prove the wisdom of this major recommendation.

ABOVE THE MISTS

SENATOR WILEY of Wisconsin has this week's report received by the Foreign Relations Committee, the Wisconsin Committee, but he has not yet spoken so long as Senator Vandenberg, recuperating from a recent operation, remains inactive.

If Wiley stands firm in his support for the bill while other Republicans—Senator Wile, for example—are wavering, the Administration's \$3,372,450,000 foreign aid bill.

He laid it on the line for his colleagues in the Senate.

- 1. "We will support the cost of the war, the cost of this peace program is small."
2. "If we fall to carry on, Communism will take over."
3. "The best insurance we have against another war."

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NATURE SUBVERTED

The front page of a recent New York Times displayed an article about the April 14 snowfall in the Big City. The fact that snow fell after Easter was unusual enough, but there was an O. Henry touch:

"Dr. Howell had been 'seeing' the clouds up over the Catskills to make it rain in New York's upstate reservoirs. But something happened and the bulging clouds gave birth to a litter of swirling white flakes. After a while the snow stopped. There

was little damage, agriculturally speaking, but tradition suffered a telling blow. New York again can birds, poets, farmers and just ordinary folks count on the certainty of the seasons.

If man can make it snow in Spring, what can he do with the elemental forces of nature? How long before he makes the trees bud in October and leaves turn red and gold in May?

How will the birds know when to go South, the farmer know when to plant, the poet know when to compose his lyrics to summer's glory, the young man know when to let his fancy lightly turn?

THE MAYOR'S NEW HOUSING AGENCY

MAYOR DARST makes a sound suggestion in proposing the creation of a separate municipal agency to handle urban redevelopment housing.

The St. Louis Housing Authority, set up to handle public housing, has been taking care of detached work by the wayward genius of the newly proposed privately-financed housing. To continue this arrangement because the St. Louis Housing Authority, which has its hands full of its own private concerns, now would like to take the privately-financed housing program, which deserves the attention of an administrative agency whose primary business it is.

When the new agency proposed by Mayor Darst is set up, it should be true that it will be placed under the political

thumb as the Mayor has placed the Council on Human Relations should not be made vulnerable to political pressures.

Mayor Darst has given some of his most energetic interest to housing. A large part of the success which his administration will be able to claim will be in the housing field. It is to be hoped that the Mayor will be interested in his own record, therefore, for the urban development agency he proposes to create to be the non-political and efficient agency which it should be.

Yet no one gets out-martialed for running around our Ship of State—Dallas (Tex.) Morning News.



News From The Capital

Economy Begins Somewhere Else

By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News Special Writer

MOST Senators agree that economy is a fine thing, but it doesn't start at home.

Both Senators Graham and Hoyer received wires and letters protesting possible cuts in local projects, which certainly took much wind out of their current economy drives.

There's a supposedly true story of one Democratic member of Congress who was puzzled by the inconsistency of his constituents.

Then he added, "Of course, this will mean giving up our dam."

THE present act, among other things, seeks an authorization for streams and harbor projects amounting to \$1.1 billion in N. C.

A STATE newspaper is reading a comprehensive report on the Senate and the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

THE Army and Air Force (with Navy and Marine support) maneuvers in North Carolina next week have been tagged the "boldest forward look yet made

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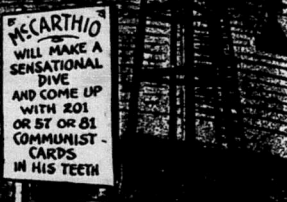
THE budget doesn't know it, but the real reason for wanting to regulate veterans hospitals is politics.

THE budget Bureau's hospital—another glaring case is at Annapolis, Md., where the Veterans Affairs Budget Bureau, is being forced to take over a ramshackle Navy hospital for neuropsychiatric patients.

More important, this hospital cannot be adequately staffed, with doctors and technicians to handle the 1,000 patients.

Closed-Open Embassy
Spring-Egypt the allegedly elite home of Washington are set up on display for the benefit of a church charity.

MR. SIDNEY Hechtner, wife of a leading Washington lawyer, is expected to have a very busy time during a tour at the Egyptian Embassy.



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THE Senate's new "acoustical" ceiling is so good that it works three ways.

CERTAINLY one of the more controversial of the President's reorganization proposals in his plan for abolishing the office of general counsel to the Labor Relations Board and transferring its powers and functions to the five-man board and its chairman.

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GORDON GRAY told his last Pentagon press conference that his greatest ambition is to be postmaster general.

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WASHINGTON
WILEY BOOM MAY NOT be heard in the movement to make Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower President of the United States.

It has the backing of some formidable names, all of which came out at the time as an open and all-out campaign to elect Eisenhower.

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Taft's nomination, and it seemed nearly certain to be the choice of these Republicans that the general was the only man who could defeat

Here, plainly, a titanic struggle for dominance. While the Taft forces now have a strong grip on the party machinery, a great deal will depend on the outcome of the election this fall.

In Ohio, I talked with one of the shrewdest and most knowledgeable politicians in that state, who said that the odds were in Taft's favor. Although he declined to be quoted by name, this opinion expressed the following view:

In the past three months a change has taken place. In my opinion Taft's majority in November will be smaller than anyone now expects. There is a change in my mind, however, but that he will beat Ferguson.

It was on the assumption that the Democratic nominees would be State Auditor Joseph Ferguson. It was made the subject of conversation that Taft would get some vote of conservative Democrats.

Most of this, of course, still in the speculative stage. In my opinion many unexpected things may happen. For Eisenhower the role his part in the election will be to him in no way. He must be Patient on a monument, indifferent to the pleas of his admirers, even when they differed with his views.

But reaction solidified the conviction in a large and important segment of the party that Taft must be elected in 1952. Obviously, Eisenhower was the only man who could prevent

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Dottie Takes It Easy And Watches the Money Pour In

By ROBERT C. RUARK

WASHINGTON
MR. ROCKY RILEY, a sage generalist who makes a habit of turning journalistic silk purses back into gold, says that he has seen Dottie when she got scopped you admit it and go along with the party.

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