

J. E. DOWD...... B. S. GRIFFITH.....

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1950

SHAMEFUL PRISON CONDITIONS

Dr. Austin MacCormick made a preliminary report on the state prison system
in which he recommended that the system be separated from the Highway Commission and placed with other correctional
institutions under a new State Department
of Corrections. He said then he would
give detailed reasons later.

Well also were supported from the Highway Comindustries, and fire prevention squads as
offering a more useful outlet for their
labor.

Well, he gave the reasons Wednesday night to the special Advisory Prison Council. And they added up to a truly shocking array of evidence that our prison system is archate, inadequate, and riddled with politics.

system is archaic, inadequate, and riddled with politics.

Dr. MacCormick leveled his atrongent blast at Central Prison—"a disgrace to the prison system". "a mediocre institution at best", "discredit to the State State of the prisoners are idle, though there is excellent industrial equipment for them to use. The prison is operated in a "acta-ba-actabh-can" manner, with harsh discipline for offenders, and a fine idle life for those who obey the rules. The warden, Joseph Crawford, was "appointed for political purposes and has neither the training nor the understanding for the position" Purthermore, Crawford is not the "king-pin" at Central Prison. That role is carried out by a deputy, Bruce Pocle, who, Dr. MacCormick said, has no idea or conception of modern prison prison calling it merciy a "disgrace" and "the victum of long neglect. He added that it was inadequate, undermanned, and underfinanced.

nanced.

He lashed the road camp system. "A
dollar sign has been placed on the back
of every prisoner: the main thought is to
get full value from him on the roads."
There is no rehabilitation program or any
attempt to reform prisoners. During most
of the week, prisoners are in sole charge
during daylight hours of guards and fore-

labor. He found several bright spots—the new Butner Youth Center, established last October; the prison department's farm director, H. G. Meacham, "the equal of any in the job I have met anywhere"; the Caledonia Prison Farm (which, he said, ought to be expanded.)

n summation; the archaic methods and discipline, and the lack of a rehabilitation program result "in the State's prison population flowing back into the world and the crime and then thought to program the state's prison population flowing back into the world and the crime and then thought the prison. into crime and then through the prisons and out again as through a revolving

door."

Strong language? Yes, but just the kind
of tongue-lashing that North Carolina
needs to make it wake up and carry out
some long-needed reforms in its prison

system.

A good many years ago, a special hospital board of 'inquiry headed by Marshail Spears of Durham used the same kind of language in its report on conditions in the mental Institutions. As a result of the Spears report, a board of control was set up, the Institutions were removed from politics and given enough money to do the job. The improvement has been remarkable.

Dr. MacCormick's suggestion that a new Dr. MacCormick's susgestion that a new Denartment of Correction be set up may not be the right answer, but it deserves the immegliate consideration of Governor Scott and the Prison Advisors Council. Unless a better plan is found, it ought to be presented to the 1831 General Assembly. We've had enough inaction. What we need now is action to remove this chame from North Carolina.

FURTHER LIGHT ON SEGREGATION

MORE detail on the recent Supreme Court segregation decisions has now become available, and it offers good cause for the people of North Carolina to ponder the future of their universities and public schools for Negroes

the future of their universities and public schools for Negroes.

Already a test case has been brought by seven Negroe students at the North Carolina Law College at Durham. They contend it is not the equal of the University of North Carolina. The State, answering the suit contends that the Durham institution, which was recently accredited by the American Bar Association, is substantially equal.

Let's see how this "substantially equal' claim will fare under the Supreme Court's ruling in the Sweatt Case, You will recall that Texas set up a special law school for Negroes. The plaintiff, Herman Marion Sweatt, contended that the facilities at the Negro school over not equal. Here's what

Negro school were not equal. Here's what Chief Justice Vinson wrote for the ma-

All of that adds up to a very rigid stand-ard for measuring equality of educational opportunity. If the Court holds to that line of reasoning, it is conceivable that no separate graduate achool for Negroes could meet the court's standard.

meet the court's standard.

And if that is true of State-supported graduate institutions, would it be true for regular undergraduate institutions? And what about the public graded schools?

These questions will not be answered for some months or years until test cases involving North Carolina are fought through to the Supreme Court. The court has, however, given a clear enough indication that the old standard for equality has been discarded in favor of a new one. And the new standard may put North Carolina in an awkward and untenable position. It is not too early to start thinking about how we can conform.

THE OTHER SIDE

IT'S an old and well-proven adage that there are two sides to every question. Sometimes, however, both sides aren't pre-

sented.
When President Truman sent Congress
several rooganization plans affecting key
reverument bureaus and agencies, opponents raised an effective amokescreen by
shouting that the plans were just attempts to grab power. The argument took
hold because the President, following the
Hoover Commission recommendations,
sought to gain more direct control over
these agencies by appointing their chairmen.

men.

But there is another side to the question, and it has been effectively pointed up by Joseph C. Hartsch, chief of the Washington bureau of the Christian Science Monitor. He asks this question:

And then he explains that the American ne control over the Pres members of his cabinet. They thrown out of office every four

he is elected for several successive terms he is elected for several successive terms. And when these agency heads become entrenched, they generally pay more attention to the wishes of the interests they serve than of the general public. The 'salroads, for example, fought the plan to reorganize the Intertatate Commerce Commission. The banks fought the plan to make the Comptroller of Currency subject to the authority of the Treasury Secretary. The shipping lines and shipbuilding companies fought the plan affecting the Maritime Commission. The broadcastine companies fought the plan affecting the Maritime Commission. The broadcastine companies fought the plan which would have changed the Prderal Communications.

Mr. Hower's Commission understood how thoroughly these spencies had been insulated from the control of the voter. And the reports, while making no effort to abolish the system, did urge more con-trol by the President. Since more control by the President would mean more control

the of the resident. Since more control by the Periodent would mean more control by the roter, those reorganization plans would really bring much of the Pederal establishment closer to the people it serves. A President might, of course, abuse his powers under the Hoover promosals. For example, Mr. Truman immediately named has old crony. Mon Walleren, to the chairmanshin of the Pederal Power Commission after Congress okayed the reorganization of that asency. Yet in the ioner run, the people of this country will probably get better government, and government that is more reaponates to their wishes, if the Hower Commission suggestions are approved by the Congress. That is the other side to the 'power grab' argument, and it makes good sence to us.

Fly In The Ointment



People's Platform

Competitive Transport Needed

Editors, Thu News:

IN Reading Mr. R. C. Bolen's letter on your editorial page regarding the alleged damage done to high-ways by motor trucks, I note that Mr. Bolen failed to mention that he was an employee of the Southern judiced viewpoint. I am in the motor carrier builded viewpoint. I am in the motor carrier building the sam any figures and static favorable to that business as Mr. Bolen or anyone cle can seratch up or cook up against it, but I feel that the general public is already confused from and almould not be subjected to even more of this controversy.

and should not be suggested.

Authoritised to this nation's transportation faciliates would be a tragic thing for every cuttern, and a state of the state of the

'Pull Down Your Smokestack'

Pull Down Your Smokestack'

CHARLOTTE

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USST immabed reading Mr. R. C. Boden's letter in

USST immabed reading relative to truess and our
highways and can not resist the temptation of atimplifing to enlighten him as to why we have trucks

on or highways. The answer is no simple that even

mand for mofor transportation by the people of this

country put these so-called box cars on their, the

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Mr. Boden is a free country, and the method of trans
poorting passencers of freight shall be deer other and every

time they pay, then trucks didn't brilled the high
max. The people of this country did that and every

time they pay, then hack into the highways to en
saligh them to continue to receive the type of service

they want if the proofs of this country want to move

their riegal tour their put the roads and will con
time to keep them up one way or mother and use

been as they see tilt. Pail down your smodestack Mr.

Bolen. your rails are showing.

BILL MAULDIN

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Jail. And I know you don't will also a control of the control of t

glad it has reached the newspaper, but it should have been there long ago. I am afraid these exhibitionists are more numerous than have been reported.

been there long ago. I am afraid these exhibitionists are more numerous than have been reported.

I live across the street from Independence Park and have in two occasions in the past year and a half sect one of these men in the park. We are all a half sect one of these men in the park was approached by a man who exposed himself. This was in the morning around 9:30 A. M. one time around 5 P. M. in the attention the second time. Both times the man the policeman on duty down by the playground. He dold me to-report it to one of the park maintenance men. I did this and he went into the rest room after two men talking logether, then they parted, each going in separate directions.

What good does it do to let such a person go? If I have seen several source see the park of the parks and part of the parks and the the parks.

I am the mother of a ten-year-old girl and like all mothers, I think something should be done about those things before it is too late.

—MRS. M. G. MILLER.

'An III Wind' CHARLOTTE

ocean't get to represent me.

Moneyer, it is on ill wind that blows nobody good, on N. C. newspaper—a quondam supporter of Smiths—warned him that the recent primary showed, if nothing else, that North Carolinans by and large did not want him to serve them at this particular me in the capacity of Sensor. In run-off sagning further—that if the would mark finis to any contemplated political career that he might have envisioned for himself.

No. Mr. Bolen, the trucks didn't build the highwars. The people of this country did that and every
time they pay there most transportation charges a
large part goes right back into the highways to ensingle therm (not smooth of this country want to make
the time that the sound of this country want to ensingle them (not sound) of this country want to make
their treight over their own highways in hired trucks
they will do so. They built the roads and will contime to keep them up one way one macketack Mr.
Bolen your rails are showing.

—BILL MALLDIN

On Exhibitionists

CHARLOTTE

Editor, The News

CHARLOTTE

Editor, The News

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US Mustn't Fight Communism By Authoritarian Measures

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON

GROUP OF his firm Department recently to visit this country to make a study of civil liberties. The logality programs with typical Oers in the country to make a study of civil liberties. Such as the country to make a study of civil liberties in the country to make a study of civil liberties. The country to make a study of civil liberties for a discussion of the gradations of logality. He somewhat confuses the country to work the country t

All-Summer Plans Of Voque Mightily Beguile The Rogue

By ROBERT C. RUARK

"You might make an all-ummer plan." says Mrs. Edna Wooliman Chase's oracle. "To lose so many pounds, to make Prench Irregular Verts ours forewer, to kant three cardigans and jumpers or the children, to read all of Trollope or the Warety nove its mid regime. Here are some small things you might like to do. ."
Making Prench Irregular Verbas

NEW YORK I you feel like it."

I AND BEEN mildly baffled, recently, about how to spend my be a heil of a mess, with my summer—torn between Switzerland Third Ave, if there be such a randar fare my grimp little fingers got hold of that magnet not be a received. And "Yogue" solved it for me again, with beguling about our control took.

"You might make an all-num."

"You might make an all-num."

dull music going round and round and milk-and-orange jude coming out here.

It was also if am supposed to the coming out here. I am supposed to the coming of the coming o

Drew—Taft Is Daft To Call Me A Liar

next. and so on.

"And the Senator didn't denv any of those stories." I tell the little woman, getting steamed up. "That was late 22. And why." Because his support of McCarthy bomeranged. By that time he could see McCarthy didn't have anything and public sentiment was turning solven from the stories of th

Stimson And Denials

Stimson And Deniols

A TTERWAND I got to thinking about an incident which
A cocurred when I was a young reporter covering the State
Department under Henry L. Stimson. The Japanese had
just invaded Manchuria, and Secretary Stimson, who saw
things more clearly than almost across cele amound the
stimson when the clearly than almost across cele amound the
the Manchurian Invasion as the first sign of Pacific conquest and World War. So he asked the povernments of
Chile and Mexico for the use of their seaports as U. S.
Marurally he did this by private cable. And when I reported that Mexico and Chile had offered us bases. Stimsons stood up in his press conference and issued a cateman stood up in his press conference and issued a catematerial to the stood of the seapons of the conmaterial to the season of the season of the conmaterial to the season of the season of the season of the
Third cereating, however he called me-sup to his home
and explained that he had to deep the story for free Chile
and Mexico would be indignant over the leak. I think also
However was deced apposed to atticking our necks out in the
Pacific.

Anyway, perhaps the Talt definal that he had agreed.

Pacific Anyway, perhaps the Tait denial that he had, agreed to deliver six Republican votes to the South do continue to the same of the sa

TAST-MOVING Secretary of Agriculture Brannan established an emergency fund to save Colorado's forom being wiped out by bark beetles. The beetlee been devastating spruce trees which make up 80 per of Colorado's forests and in another two weeks, the b will sprout wings and apread throughout the state.

So while Congress dillydallied about authorizing money fighting the beetles, Brannan juggled his budget, created emergency fund, and an army of aprayers are already eparing to march against the bark beetles.

Merry-Go-Round