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THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE: OUTMODED

The electoral college system for the election of the President of the United States was instituted on the assumption that the American citizen didn't have enough sense to choose a competent man for the job.

The voters of each state were to designate a group of respected citizens who would cast the state's vote for the President of their choice. The citizens were to have no voice in the matter after they had chosen the elector.

The election of a President is still based on this undemocratic and outmoded eighteenth century decision. But it is not the fact that the electoral system is based on an undemocratic idea that makes it dangerous to the proper conduct of elections.

Electors are now relatively obscure men, certainly not the men of great achievement and vision by the men who wrote the Constitution. But they still have great potential power. It is true that they are "pledged" to cast their vote as to the state voters but they are not legally bound to do so.

It is not one of the great military efficiency sections impaired. It has taken many months to build up again the streamlined, hard-hitting force which he described as "the best peace-time military organization in our history."

WE NEED THE DRAFT MACHINERY

THE ADDRESS at Raleigh Saturday morning of the Army Gordon Gray made one perfectly clear for extension of the national Selective Service process of registration and classification, even though no men will actually be inducted.

Mr. Gray reminded his audience that the power of U. S. demobilization, "too hastily and too carelessly" left military efficiency seriously impaired. It has taken many months to build up again the streamlined, hard-hitting force which he described as "the best peace-time military organization in our history."

PLAYING POLITICS WITH TAXES

ALTHOUGH the President's tax message left many things to be desired, it set forth one perfectly sound principle: any tax reductions must be balanced by new revenue.

Everyone wants to reduce the annoying wartime excess taxes. For that matter, we'd like to see them abolished entirely. But we cannot go along with House Republicans who are trying to push a "quickie" tax cut before any consideration is given to raising new revenue.

AN HONOR FOR MR. SCOTT

North Carolina Israelite Gold Medal. It would certainly have to look very far when it came to select the Carolinian who made the most outstanding contribution to human rights in 1949.

There is one characteristic of Kerr Scott which stands out above the quarrelsome of his political opponents. It is his concern for the rights of all the people and his inflexible desire to see a full share of public services extended to those now denied them.

FOR EQUALITY IN THE ARMY

It is gratifying to know that the Selective Training and Service Act has been amended to provide for the inclusion of Negro personnel on a basis of equality, without regard to discrimination in the past.

procedure for electing the President was offered by a South Carolina representative. Hardly a session of Congress has passed since that time without the introduction of one or more resolutions of this character.

There is one now before the Senate-Senate Joint Resolution Two to abolish entirely the office of Presidential elector, but to retain the electoral vote per state (purely as an automatic counting device).

It also goes away with the unit rule system under which the candidate receiving a plurality of the popular vote in any state is credited with all the electoral votes of that state, regardless of how small the plurality.

For many years the Republicans have had absolutely no voice in the election of the President in certain Southern states; but under the proposed system they would contribute a few electoral votes though their numbers are small.

It might be the beginning of a two-party system in the South and national party leaders would certainly give the South more consideration if they knew the popular vote would have some bearing on the South's votes.

precious time in the event of war, thus adding greatly to our mobilization potential.

We are asking other nations to do all they can to prepare their defenses. Our friends might be dangerously discouraged if we should abandon Selective Service.

If thousands of young men were being sent monthly for no apparent purpose, critics of the draft act might have logic on their side. But as long as there are no inducements—and there haven't been any since January of last year—their objections are not very strong.

Under the pending legislation, inducements could not be resumed without a resolution by the Congress, or a decision by the President in the event Congress should not act in session. Surely this is an adequate safeguard against abuse of the act.

That would make the resulting deficit larger than the \$4.1 billion predicted by the Democrats. Then the Republicans could turn right around and raise even more of a fuss about deficit financing.

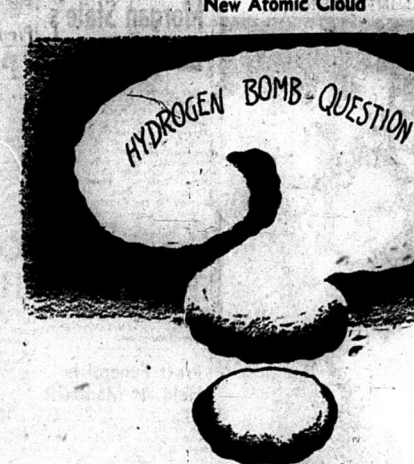
We might as well be realistic. The best way to bring the budget into balance and eventually decrease the terrible tax burden on the people is to reduce expenditures.

If the Republicans and the economy-minded Democrats want to prove their sincerity, they can do so by pushing through courageously the necessary curtailment of governmental operations to balance the budget. Then, if they want to reduce the cost-time State officers who were brusquely removed from office after Scott's inauguration might object to the award on the grounds that the Government is inclined to vindictiveness; but one can hardly expect compassion for human rights to encompass political enemies in this enlightened age.

It was a well-merited honor. The Government has our commendation and congratulations.

sort of quota in such a field is unintelligent as well as inhumane. We have come to understand this valuation in many fields, such as sports, for example, and there is no reason why we should not apply it to all.

Beyond that is still another basic value, that of common humanity; the thing that we all defend as so important is that we hold it to be self-evident that all men were created equal and that they were endowed, obviously equally, with unalienable rights.



BY JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP
WASHINGTON
IF YOU are a bit bemused by all the blowing about the "new atomic cloud" that is being talked into the present status of national farm policy, here is where you may want to look for some planning may really work in America, simply because the planning has advanced further in this particular economic sector than in any other.

An Excerpt From The Record The New University President

(Reprinted from The Chapel Hill Weekly)
GORDON GRAY, Secretary of the Army, is to be President of the University.

When Frank P. Graham resigned as President of the University last March to accept the appointment to the U. S. Senate, there were a good many persons who expressed the hope that the trustees would choose a professional educator for the post.

It is pertinent to recall that two men who were successful in the presidency of the University of North Carolina had not when they came to the office any experience in educational administration.

IT HAS often been said, and of course it is an obvious truth, that the excellence of a university depends upon the excellence of its faculty.

It is probable that there has never been a head of an educational institution who requires as slender a staff as he had at his command, who did better than that in assembling and holding an able faculty.

I am mentioning the scientists because I desire to emphasize that President Truman made it clear that he was not only for cultured gentlemen as teachers but also for scholars of the research type.

BEFORE President Truman cut loose against tax evaders in his message to Congress he got some rugged pointers from Ben John Duggell of Michigan.

"The costliest money" move ever made by Congress was when it topped 7,000 million revenue agents off the payroll in 1949. Duggell told the President, "This was an open invitation to dishonest taxpayers to cheat the Government."

"We saved \$20,000,000 by that cut, but it cost the Government about \$600,000,000 in uncollected taxes. In other words, we lost \$580 million by the penny-pinchers in Congress who just \$20 in tax funds."

Duggell added that most of the discharged agents have been rehired as consultants to advise on international tax matters.

"An 'ah, well,' sighed Millikin, 'if the beds aren't covered, the Republicans will come in and fix up the boxes of a dinosaur and make him the national chairman.'"

"Peace Offensive"
THE Senate, Dept. and Atomic Commission have been started to a "peace offensive" from Moscow, in which the Russians will come in and fix up the boxes of a dinosaur and make him the national chairman.

National Farm Program Is Welfare State Aid Example

WASHINGTON
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Because of Federal farm support prices, a very high proportion of all the major crops of this country now pass through the hands of a Government agency, the Commodity Credit Corporation. The CCC makes loans on, or purchases outright, everything from cotton and wheat to blue lupine seeds. It controls vast storage facilities, deals actively on the commodity exchanges, and offers farm products for export.

THE first thing you discover when you delve into the workings of the national policy is that this is the happy hunting ground of special interests. Each of the three divisions of the University has its own special interest. The President is a constant associate and adviser of the President, it is to a great degree an extension of his own office.

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New Type Report Cards Need Sympathy Of Proud Parents

BY HENRY C. MCFADYEN
I SUPPOSE report cards are as old as life itself. I suppose that some of our parents are responsible for a lot of this emphasis, but parents are taking the blame for it.

Many schools are experimenting with new and different types of reports. The idea behind these experiments is that a child's progress should be graded in terms of what he has done rather than in terms of how he compares with the other children in the room.

Signing a report card does not necessarily mean that you like what you see. It means that you are returning a card unsigned with a note. "I can't sign a report card unless the teacher has done no more than a job."

TOUGH ON PARENTS
There are all kinds of reports from which parents may choose. Some of them are so complicated that they are almost impossible to understand.

THE first folks to kick about the new type of report arise to get away from the close shading of grades. Sometimes it is done in order to get away from the shading of the pupil's weaknesses and successes. Often the grading is done in terms of what the child has done rather than in terms of how he compares with the other children in the room.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Dingell Gives Economy Tips To Truman

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