FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1951

STAGGERED COMMISSION TERMS

THE axiom that there are two sides to every question applies to the proposal to stagger terms of the members of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commis-

sioners.

The current board thinks that terms should be staggered, so that there will always be one or more members with some experience in running the County's ss. It has asked the County Attorney

Jone experience in running the County's business. It has asked the County Attorney to draw up such a bill.

One or two other points about the proposition immediately present themselves, and the Meckineburg legislative deleasing will want to consider them before introducing such a bill.

First, there is the length of term. Under the present system, the five board members, including the chairman are elected every two years, if the term of office remains the same, the only way to stagger the terms would be to hold a County election every year. If elections are held every two years, as they are at present, four-year terms would be required to get an staggered effect.

Second, the longer terms and the stagered arrangement would make it much harder to "turn the rascals out" if it ever

happens that, by accident or otherwise, a group of incompetents gets in power. The short term has its disadvantages, but it does afford the voters a measure of pro-tection against incompetency or wayward-

While the delegation is working on the

While the delegation is working on the County Commissioners' proposal: It might consider another—the establishing of a Commission-Manager form of government for the County like that of the City.

As it is today, the Chalirman of the Board of Commission-Marian active member of the board. He is also the County Manager, in charge of administering the County's business affairs. Ha dual role gives him an influence with the somewhat thregular, just as if City Manager. Henry Yaneev were also a member of the City Council the City Council
Without implying any criticism of the

Without implying any criticism of the present Commissioners, The News believes that the Commission-Manager form would be Just as sound for the County Government as it is for the City Government. Then the County Commissioners would set policy, and would employ a County Manager as administrator.

ON CHANGING THE VOTING AGE

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IN CONSIDERING the extension of the I ballot to 18-year-olds, North Carolin-tans should remember that the change can be-made only by popular approval of a constitutional amendment. The General Assembly has no voice in the matter, other than deciding whether to submit the question to the people.

Nonetheless, it is not too early to put the issue in proper focus. So far as Tex News has been able to find out, the arcument for changing the state voting law stimers down to this: it he's old enough to fight, he's old enough to vote.

That argument has a persuasiveness that is difficult to combat, especially in a time of crisis when these young men are being called upon to defend their country. But it is not quite so simple as that, if you examine it closely.

The Frankin Press notes the ballot is not so much a privilege, conferred, as a reward, as it is a, responsibility, and carries the argument to this conclusion: "It the boy who megety spends a few months or years in the armed forces is entitled to a score who my object to the control of the con

PEARSON'S PENTAGON PIPELINE HAVING noted through the years Drew Pearson's penchant for drama, or rather melodrama, we have generally taken with a grain of salt some of his "secret" and "top-secret" revealed in the "confidential" the why was able to be "confidential" the why was able to be the secret when the "confidential" the why was able to be the secret when the property of the secret when the secret was a secret when the secret was an analysis of the secret was a secret when the secret was a secret was a secret when the secret was a secret when the secret was a secret was the "confidential" tips that you pick up by the hundreds from any Washington news-letter.

And having become thoroughly disgusted with Senator Joe McCarthy, whose abuse of Senatorial privilege and plain decency of Senatorial privilege and plain decency has done irreparable damage to the stature of the U. S. Senate and wreaked great harm on the reputations of his targets, we are inclined to view him as a sore on the body politic that should be treated with strong medicine.

From The Roleigh News & Observer

WHO DID IT?

SOME time ago, when Governor Scott was pressing his campaign for more and better rural electrical service, one of the replies, of the utility companies was that over 85 per cent of North Carolina's farms already were electrified.

This is true, according to a report made by the North Carolina Brain Electrication Authority. However, the report raises the question of whether the picute utilities, have any great reason to beat themselves on the chests because of the accomplishment.

ment.
The utilities fought the REA when it was established some by sear and, despite the fact they had of their own necord extended electrical service to only 12 per cent of the State's farmers by Jan. 1, 1935, the year in which the REA began operating. Without the threat of competition from the electric membership corporations which soon dotted the State, would the expansion of power service have been nearly so great as it has been in the last decade and a half?

Of the more than 70,000 miles of lines added to the 'rural power system since 1335, or authorized for addition at the time the report period ended last June 30, the REA membership corporations themselves that accounted of 33,000 miles. With private companies were credited with 30,000 miles of lines actually con-

Of the 65,000 miles of lines actually con-Of the 65,000 miles of lines actually con-structed by last June 30, the REA claimed 50.3 per cent of the lines and 32.9 per cent of the considers, while privately owned utilities were credited with 44.5 per cent of the lines and 59.7 per cent of the con-sumers. Municipally owned power com-sumers. panies and those serving public institutions were credited with the other 5.2 per cent of lines and 8.4 per cent of customers.

Nonetheless, the latest flare-up in the Pearson-McCarthy feud raises a question that needs attention. The Senator read Pearson's column of Dec 30, which purported to reveal the contents of "secreti" Pentagon dispatches, and promptly asked Secretary of the Army Frank Pace to explain how Pearson obtained access to the communications. If the columnist is right in billing his stuff as military secrets, the McCarthy query is in order. No unauthorized persons should be permitted to see, much less publish, secret military dispatches until they are properly "eleased We rather suspect that Pearson was just dressine up a good story if not, then Mr. Pace should get busy and patch up the leaks in the Pentagon

From those cold facts, it is apparent that the REA cauried the load in the sparsely sattled regions, building more than haif the line mileage to connect with less than one-third the customers.

one-third the customers.

The facts also present the point that, even had they continued at the rate they did with no REA to spur them on, the private companies could have answered Governor Scott with the claim that only 67 per cent of the farms were electrified. And they could claim responsibility for only 887 per cent. And they could e only 58.7 per cent.

only 98.7 per cent.

Maybe they owe a vote of thanks to the REA for helping bolster their position in the argument. But while they're about that, let's not forget the 32.844 farms which still lacked electric power on last

A city out in Washington has 167.45 inches of rain during the year. Must be trying to compete with Los Angeles.—Fort Myers (Flq.) News-Press.

Judging by the looks of things on Christmas morning Santa Claus must have been overloaded with cowboy suits and cap pistols and dumped them all in Omega.—Oruega (Ga.) News.

Tenants who did not "make it" with cotton at 40 cents a pound should be gotten rid of.—Grenada County (Miss.) Weekly.

Communists Make Capital Of Taft's Foreign Policy

By MARQUIS CHILDS

REGARDLESS OF SHINNOTON
Regard and the season of the seaso

be too late.
PRAVDA'S ANALYSIS
The New York Times dispatch

PRAVDA'S ANALYSIS
The New York Times dispatch
from Moscow puts emphasis on
analysis of the Tart speech. This
stresses the statement by Taft
that he sees "no unquestionable proofs" that the Soviet Union "intends to begin war with the United
States." Anot the Times correspondent in a story passed by Russian
do to be of the greatest interest to
be of the greatest interest to
Soviet readers that the head of the

President's Family Keeps Clear Of Malicious Gossip

By ROBERT C. RUARK

IT IS HARD TO find much io admire in our Administration to-day, on any side, but once in a long while you wish to knock off a side of the control of the con

board. She has promoted nothing, to the best of my knowledge. She has joined nothing to the has joined nothing she has not preved upon the Presidency. She has behaved upon the Presidency. She has behaved publicly with the admirable restraint of Queen Elizabeth of Enaland, of Manne Exempower of Mrs. George Marsholl et Mrs. George Patton, which is to say of propriety. Somether of the propriety of the propriety.

House
It is certainly natural that promoters of concert television and radio would attempt to correal Miss government Truman, if she sang no better than militating

The HARD TO the major to day, on any side, but not end that day, on any side, but once in a pretty well. Six has been seen a long while you wish to knock off a fan letter. Mine would be directed far to cheapen her father's post-

EXTREMELY NICE GIRL

EXTREMELY NICE GRIL
The outside vote pronounces her an extremely nice girl, who has pade. She has been modest and awfully well poised in the face of the usual rumors which continually hartass princesses. So far as kicking the cain-can, another Margaret. King George's young'un, has already passed her in the stretch.

sking George's youngtum, has al-ready passed her in the stretch.

Margaret Trupnan is a health,
Margaret Trupnan is a health
young woman of decent, middle-class parents, who went to school and studied the door-eme-fa-so-last
for many a weary hour. She mas and her pass will not be President forever. It scarcely harms the function of the White House if she takes on a television program or some such and confines her activities to cause the expression. Harry, I'm to cause the expression, Harry, I'm to cause the expression, Harry, I'm to cause the expression of his daddy's critical appreciation of his ducking does not distract him from his duties at hand.

I have observed Miss Margaret in

his duties at hand.
I have observed Miss Markaret in some of the flossier bean joints of New York at close range, and she has always appeared stone so-her demure, and a credit to her raisin. To my knowledge she does not deliver impromptu arise in odd places. Certainly no cur of scandish has nipped at her lived.



'Good Morning, Sir. You, As The Head Of The House-'

People's Platform

Hits Car Inspection

MAXHAW

Mittors, The News:

IT APPRAIS that an effort will be made in that the control of the co

We're Losing Everywhere CHARLOTTE

We re Losing twertywhere

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

THE recent tip of President Truman to Waké laTHE recent tip of President Truman to Waké laTHE recent tip of President Truman to Waké laTHE President Truman to Waké laTHE LAND TRUMS AND TRUMS

to the control of the

and Africa, if we lose Germany. The outlook today is worse than when Hiller was riding the cred of his worse than when Hiller was riding the cred of his United States is through repentance and a return to God. If America goes down in defeat, it would be one of the worst catastrophes of history. God is calling on all true Christians to stand true to Han.
—WARREN W. WOODS.

A Policy For America

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.

A Policy For America

Editors. The News:

We SHOULD give the Javances home-rule as interest of the property of

Convess Our Own Sins NORTH BELMONT

Editors, The News:

NORTH BELMUNA

Editors, The News:

NORTH BELMUNA

WEITELE we are talking about other countries and

We exposing their situs and mistakes, as a people and

We could and should make a start by confessing
our own sins and mistakes, and hope and pray others
will do the same.

when the same is the property of the same of the

Merry-Go-Round

GOP Cabinet Figures Might Aid Unity

Most unfertunate officially about the current bricketing over forcian policy is the reaction abroad. All oyer Europe there has been indection and dismay. The recent foreign-policy controversies came on top of the Korean disaster, which is the control of the con

Morse Says No DURING every recent election, Wayne Morse, the inde-pendent, pro-labor Senator from Oregon, has walreed out into the political arens to make speeches for his con-servative anti-labor GOP colleagues. No matter how much Morse disagreed with those colleagues, he ralled to their support at election time—even making a speech selsains his close friend, Democratic Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois, in

When the new policy committee was announced at a seed-door caucus, North Dakota's Sen. Bill Langer snorted: protest this kind of a committee with no progressives it. I think Mores should be on it. You expect him to mpaign for you, but when it comes to recognition here, u pass him by.

Football And Politics

Footboll And Politics

Oklahoma University's Bod Wilkinson, recently of the Andrea Coach of the Year," proved himself as good a quipper as a coach of the Year," proved himself as good a quipper as a coach at a testimonal huncheon by Oklahoma Congressmen. Wilkinson even held his own with the Senate's new malority leader, Errest McFarland, the Arabert of the Senate's new malority leader, and the Arabert of the