

THOMAS L. ROBINSON... J. E. DOWD... B. S. GRIFFITH... C. A. MCKNIGHT...

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1951

RUNWAY MUST—AND CAN BE—EXTENDED

IN THE LIGHT of the clarifications and information resulting from the appearance of three representatives of the N. C. National Guard before the County Commissioners yesterday, it is incredible that the proposed runway extension at Morrison Field was voted down, 3 to 2, by the County Commissioners...

Several major points emerged from the discussion preceding the vote. They were: 1. No houses will have to be moved in order to extend the runway. At a previous meeting...

2. It is very unlikely that the runway will have to be further extended, after the proposed extension, which will lengthen it to 9,500 feet (including 1,000 feet graded area at each end) is made. Steele Creek-Berryhill residents have been understandably afraid that the extension of the runway will be followed by another, which would require razing of their homes and additional expenditure...

3. It is possible that, because of the shortage of fields and the need for them, the National Guard will have to operate from the present runway. In that case the danger to Steele Creek and Berryhill residents, and of course to the airman, will be much greater, because of the short runway.

Arguments voiced by those who opposed the extension do not meet up well against these facts. One critic objected to receiving a government "handout" (of course the funds are paid by all of us as taxpayers, as we support other government "handouts" for

national defense). Several thought a new runway should be built, farther away from town. This would require much larger "handout" for which money is simply unavailable. Unlike the proposed extension, a new airport would require the razing of homes, even if a site could be found, and all we can imagine the city which would go up from affected owners.

Commercially and militarily, it is desirable to have an airport of sufficient size as close to town as possible. National Guard units must operate near large center population to their members and to maintain their civilian positions. Greensboro and Winston-Salem, like Charlotte, have sufficient personnel to man a Guard unit, but the airports there are ruled out by the Guard because the financial outlay necessary to provide their airports with necessary facilities would be greater than for Charlotte.

In Atlanta buildings are being razed to lengthen the airport runways. Let us repeat—the proposed Charlotte extension will not require such demolition of homes. Our proposed runway extension is one of those all-too-rare instances where government, local and private interest coincide. It will provide our defense city with a runway, and avoid, from which might operate some day planes that protect the citizens of Mecklenburg County. It will aid this area financially because of the commerce deriving from an airport which can accommodate large airlines. It will decrease the danger to our citizens, especially the Steele Creek-Berryhill residents, because of the safety factor of length which it will provide for today and tomorrow's aircraft.

The runway thus must be extended, despite the adverse votes of Commissioners Beatty, McEwen and Porter. How best to accomplish it? The city may be able to complete the routing of Dixie Road if not, the obvious and necessary answer is the election of three new and more enlightened County Commissioners next year.

GOOD NEWS IF TRUE

THE decision of the North Korean and Chinese Communists to turn over a list of 11,559 U. N. prisoners, including 3,196 Americans, belongs under the classification of good news.

There is still reason to temper optimism with caution, however—a reason given by Brig-Gen. William P. Nickols in these words:

"I cannot emphasize too strongly that the information received from the Communists is questionable due to their continued refusal to allow communists to Red Cross to inspect their prisoners of war facilities and operations."

Most newsworthy angle, of course, is the report that the name of Maj.-Gen. William P. Dean is on the list. The fighting General commanded the U. S. 24th Division, and has been missing since the fall of Taeyon in July, 1950, the first month of the war. The discovery of his helmet liner punctured by two bullet holes had dimmed any hope that he might be alive.

The Joy of General Dean's family and

JOE JOHNSTON—FRIEND OF YOUTH

THERE may be more important assignments in life than that given to Dr. Joseph B. Johnston, but we'd be hard put to think of any.

For 27 years Joe Johnston was superintendent of the Presbyterian Orphan Home at Barium Springs, North Carolina. During that span there were both lean years and fat years, as the budget of the institution varied accordingly. Our train arrived at the Presbyterian who kept the orphanage going with their contributions.

Joe Johnston liked young people. He knew how to get along with them. And he knew boys were concerned, he had a highly successful formula. To the building of their bodies, their minds and their souls, he added one extra ingredient—a generous helping of football know-how. Hence it was that many a

UNPULPED INFLUENCE

THE other day a lady from India was telling of her trip to the U. S., and it put us to wondering.

She made the trip with her husband, a businessman. She told Margaret Parton of the New York Herald Tribune about the fine reception they received.

"In Washington, for instance, we met a man from St. Louis, and we happened to mention that we were going to pass through there on a certain day. Our train arrived at three in the morning, but do you know, he was on the platform, waiting for us! He stayed with us and took us to a coffee shop, and helped us change trains—and yet he was just a casual acquaintance."

And in San Francisco the Indian business man and his wife weren't allowed to pay their hotel bill. "One of our new American friends" insisted on picking up the tab.

Now not long ago we would have just nodded approvingly, perhaps murmured that it just goes to show how hospitable Americans are, and let it go at that. But, having just finished the daily account of free hotels, favors, etc., dispensed with discretion to certain influential citizens, we immediately wondered what angle the "casual acquaintance" and

"new American friends" had. Is the jute market going to be fixed? Is someone angling for a teakwood yacht, or manganese mineral rights?

Well, we don't know, and with the Christmas season upon us we are disinclined to pursue the matter. If the new year brings reports of shenanigans in the subcontinent which originated, as is often the case of late, in Washington, St. Louis or San Francisco, we shall sorely inform the Congressional committee which of course will investigate the matter that the deed probably had its genesis during the trip above-mentioned.

But for the time being we shall suppose that a few Americans were just being nice to persons from India who are disinclined to even stranger one. Despite the headlines, some persons, who exert but not peddle influence yielding much more than five percent in international good will, do still exist.

People generally are far better off here than were a couple hundred years ago. Which is funny when you consider that the world is so much worse off—Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.



Annual Roundup Parties Live Up To Promises

By Congressional Quarterly

WASHINGTON BOTH the Democratic and Republican parties have made good, to some extent, on most planks of their national platforms.

This may come as a surprise to Mr. Average Voter—who sometimes, suspecting the worst of politicians may have been inclined to think of the party platforms as fancy-worded documents designed to lure ballots and then be conveniently forgotten.

A Congressional Quarterly comparison of platform promises, made in 1948, with performance in Congress in 1949, 1950 and 1951 shows that both parties made attempts to carry out almost all their campaign pledges.

Some tries failed, often because of the opposition of the other party. Others still are hanging fire. In the successful attempt to reduce 1948 promises, the parties often had made similar commitments or were able to agree on a compromise, CQ found.

'Platform Time' Nearing PARTY platforms are drawn up every four years or each major political party convenes to pick its Presidential ticket. The platform is a long statement of principles plus a program of action for the next four years.

The last Democratic and Republican platforms were written in the 1948 conventions. The parties have had more than three years to make good on their promises. They have only a few months left to complete the job before they again put their plans on paper for the '52 election.

The Democratic Party has had the best chance to deliver, as it has been in power. However, the Republican Party performance can be evaluated on the basis of votes on Congress in 1949, 1950, and even when they are made by Democrats.

Planks Often Similar PLATFORM planks of the two parties frequently are similar, and in voting showdowns in Congress, most members of both parties often voted together. The Democratic platform more often endorsed an existing program, CQ found, while the GOP's dealt in broader terms of over-all policy.

For instance, the Democrats pledged continuation of the Marshall Plan, while the Republicans endorsed the program for aid to Europe.

As the Democrats held power in Congress, their particular program usually was the one to be voted on. In order to carry through on stated principles, Republicans had to vote for or against the Democratic plan. In some instances—reciprocal trade agreements was an example—Republicans were able to get their program over its opposition to a majority of Democrats.

The platforms were vague on many points, endorsing "further aid" to the "Every Man Made For Law" promotion of education and educational facilities. But for almost every platform plank, a piece of legislation was found.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IN considering how corruption takes root in government, it's necessary to give some attention to the social whirl. There is many an official who would be horrified at the idea of taking money for a favor who nevertheless will perform great favors as the result of a dinner party, a yachting trip or a week-end at a duck blind.

Take for example the ebullient and expansive Congressman from Mobile, "Every Man Made For Law" Frank Boykin, and let's see how he operates his influence-machine. While Boykin is not exactly typical, his methods are taking money for a favor who nevertheless will perform great favors as the result of a dinner party, a yachting trip or a week-end at a duck blind.

Fast Loan CHAPTER NO. 1—Deals with Boykin's amazing wire pulling which got a \$455,750 loan for the Stotts Lumber Co. of Thomaston, Ala., described in this column June 14, 1951. Not only did the Congressman have a contract to sell his timber to this company, but Stotts immediately used \$300,000 of the RFC loan to pay an overdraft at the Citizens Bank & Trust Co., two of whose officials have now been indicted.

Usually it takes months to get a loan through the RFC. In the case of the Stotts loan, however, it was done in a matter of days. The loan on Aug. 18, '49, just two weeks after he had entertained RFC officials and other bigwigs at his historic dinner on Aug. 2. The regional director of RFC in Birmingham opposed the loan, but it went through the RFC directors in Washington with flying colors.

Caudlesism Is The Product Of Truman's Second Ratons

By JOSEPH ALSON

THE President has picturesque and quite truthfully told the country that "wringers have no house with a good underlying explanation of the rash of corruption in the Administration—this is certainly the first time—none the less lies in Harry S. Truman's character. The trouble is that the President, Harry S. Truman, is not a wringer, but to hopeless second-raters, who in turn are the third and fourth raters to the Administration's house.

In the second Truman administration, moreover, the wringers have gained noticeably. Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder and Major General Harry Vaughan, we have had always with us. But in Truman's first period, he at least controlled and mainly followed an extremely able personal advisor, Clark Clifford, on questions of domestic policy; and he left foreign and defense matters to the brilliant men then in charge of those problems.

Connelly was the second Truman administration was replaced when Louis A. Johnson replaced James V. Forrestal as Secretary of the Defense establishment, while the President's appointments secured Clark Connelly, the Vaughans and the Donald R. Byrd inter alia, regularly consulted on policy matters. It is probably complimentary to Connelly as a major policy-maker, that he was not a wringer, but a flatterer and luxury. The big money has been made by the smart men who got work and a departure from the White House.

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Rubber and Tin From Malaya Threatened By Red Campaign

By MARQUIS CHILDS

LONDON WITH THE aid of Marshall Plan funds, Britons have been striving to sell more goods for dollars in Malaya. But the Communist line in Malaya, such an attack, under present circumstances, would rob Malaya of the beginning of the World War III, and therefore the Communist plotters might hesitate.

But, strenuous as this effort was, it cannot match the dollar earnings of rubber and tin. The Communist line in Malaya, such an attack, under present circumstances, would rob Malaya of the beginning of the World War III, and therefore the Communist plotters might hesitate.

It is possible that, when all returns are in, the number of dollars earned in Malaya in the current year may be close to a billion. Yet, this all-important source of Britain's economy is being threatened by the shaky base of the old colonialism.

Thanks to the heroism, the Britons to the heroism, the sheer guts of the Britons who operate the plantations and the mines in the Malayan jungle, that rubber and tin are to flow. They are engaged in a ruthless, unceasing warfare against the Communist forces.

Britain maintains 22,000 British troops in Malaya. But in this kind of warfare troops are a limited usefulness. Communist efforts recently have been concentrated on forcing the Malayan workers to strike with the same terrorist methods employed against

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Joe Martin, Members of the Fisheries and Wildlife Commission "did not attend the party, supposed to be a party of refuting Virginia's Congressman Howard Smith and his derogatory remarks about the "love life of the racoon."

By the time some people were beginning to think that "Everything Is Made For Love" Boykin would be called "Everything Is Made For Love."

CHAPTER NO. 3—Though never before published, Congressman Boykin pulled frantic wires to kill Federal prosecution of a vote-traded case in his home town.

In 1943, when tires were negroed, Boykin installed tires from a Tupelo, Miss., filling station, but got Mitchell even got \$500 of his original bond back.

In 1945, Mitchell was convicted for violating the Jones laws and sentenced to 60 days hard labor. During the trial, Mitchell was already in the hospital, and later swore they were paid \$100 a week by Mitchell to stay out of town. Later, the case was reversed in the Supreme Court.