

## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1951

#### \$40,000 TO GO

A 5 THE Memorial Hospital- building fund campaign picks up steam again today, the goal of \$400,000 is just about \$40,000 away. Since the Dec. 20 formal report, when \$346,200 was tabulated, additional contributions have been received and the total now stands at \$360,000.

This achievement by a small corps of rorkers, led by James J. Harris and Carl workers, led by James J. Harris and Cari McCraw, is all the more remarkable when one considers that the first part of the cam-paign was conducted in the busy pre-Christ-mas season. Even so, attendance at the re-port meetings and the enthusiasm of the workers have been both running high.

The best performing section to date is that led by Dr. J. M. Alexander and E. M. O'Herron Jr., with six Charlotte doctors as team captains: Dr. W. E. Daniels, Dr. Tom Huey, Dr. John M. Kester, Dr. Clinton

McKay, Dr. W. H. Pettus, and Dr. Raymond Wheeler. Soliciting from members of the medical profession only, this section reported \$106,310. of the \$346,200. In praising the doctors for their warm and generous support of the campaign. Co-Chairman Harris pointed out that the pro-portion of contributions by doctors to the

portion of contributions by doctors to the current, campigin has been between two and three times the proportion in similar campaigns across the nation.

Because the remaining \$40,000 is urgently needed to complete the building program and expand the services of the community's great medical center, it was decided to renew the solicitation today and continue it until Jan. 15. The co-chairmen hope that the extra time will enable them to reach the \$40,000 goal—a hope that is shared by this newspaper and, we believe, the whole community.

#### DEPLETED TAXPAYER REPLETES OIL CLUB

THE newly opened Petroleum Club of Houston, says the Wall Street Journal, is "the swankiest in the world".

"the svankies in the world".

"the svankies in the world".

Membership, restricted to oil men, is now 700. Fifty more are on the waiting list, axious to browse through the \$\$10,000 worth of exotic trappings, 6A, 2500-word brochure describes the objets d'ort in the ten-room club atop the Rice Hotel.) Members who have paid what club officials call the "modest" membership fee of \$500 can now feast their eyes on the ten-foot high por-ceilain stow which used to hest one of the palece rooms of Frans Josef, emperor Austria. They can dawdle health as reacted their thirst wills standing alongside and elevan-foot high glib-brone flyeur of Kwan Yin, Chinese goddess of virtue and mercy, which was turned out in 1508 for the Pekin Winter palece.

Last month Congress passed a tax law This

Last month Congress passed a tax law. This aw included reference to "percentage desaw included reference to "percentage de-pletion"; a meaningless phrase to most tax-payers, but full of meaning for the members of the Petroleum Club of Houston. What the law does, although the sponsors of course would phrase it differently is deplete the U. S. Treasury, to the tune of about \$750 million this year, and replete the bank accounts of the members of the Petroleum Club.

An industry dealing with non-exhaustible resources, a textile plant for example, is granted ordinary tax-free allowance for depreciation of equipment. If a million dollar factory has an estimated life of 20 years, it is allowed \$50,000 free of tex each year for 20 years.

But the story is different regarding "exhaustible" resources, such as oil, gas and coal. Exhaustible resource operators, such as oil men, now receive a straight 275 per cent taxfree depletion. This depletion is not calculated on the cost of the well. but on the earnings of the well. An oil well, say, costs \$1 million. The first year it earns \$5 million. Depletion allowance is then \$1375 million. Depletion allowance and the well.

And this same percentage depletion continues, on and on, as long as the well produce.

tinues, on and on, as long as the well produces.

A Treasury Department study, according to Philip M Stern writing in the Reporter, showed that percentage depletion provides huge tax benefits for individuals who own most of their income from oil and gas. Ten such men, according to the study, earned a total of \$62 million over a five-year period. But after taking depletion and other special deductions, which left about three-fourths of their incomes tax-free, they paid the same tax as a person earning, about \$7,000 a year. "One gas-and-oil operator." reports Mr. Stern, "who would ordinarily have to pay 35 per cent of his \$143 million income, actually paid taxes amounting to only 0.6 per cent." Depletion allowances, in effect, have become subsidies, just like airline, shipping of farm sibadicial—but the bite by the oil companies, while hidden from the public spotlight of the appropriation process, is much larger.

If you go to Houston soon why not drop in

larger.

If you go to Houston soon why not drop in at the Petroleum Club? After all, you—the taxpayer—are paying for it.

## GENERAL VAUGHAN FITS THE DESCRIPTION

GENERAL VAUGHAN FIT

AST week the director of the Federal
Housing & Home Financing Agency is,
sued a directive to his employees regarding
their acceptance of gifts. None should be
accepted, he said, from 'amp person, firm or
claimant before the agency.'
President Truman praised this directive as
"the correct policy for all of the government". Many papers, the same day, carried
a picture of Truman receiving a Christmas
turkey from the National Turkey Federation.
Well, we don't begrudge the President his
Christmas turkey. Of course, by strict definition, every organization, including the National Turkey Federation, 'does business
with' the executive branch of the Federal
Government. But Mr. Truman musily passes
of the Homel of the Federal
Covernment. But Mr. Truman musily passes
of at Walter. Reset Homeliness. be patients. his Christmas food presents to patients Walter Reed Hospital or other worthy

But the President is backing into a situa-tion which so totally condemns his own stand regarding his staff that further delay in cleaning out the deadwood is indefensible. Let us take but one example, Harry Vaughan, whose activity wonderfully fits into the di-rective's description of forbidden practice. General Vaugham helped officials of the

General Vaughare helped officials of the Verlay Perfume Company get to Europe on an Army transport. And he accepted, not only for himself, but for Mrs. Turnan, the Little White House. Secretary of the Treasury Snyder and others, deep freezers from this same company. Queried as to his reason for acceptance. Vaughan replied: "Since he (a company efficial) would not let me pay for the freezers, I could only say "Think" Yeu."

We can think of no better candidate for dismissal, under the terms of the directive the President has approved, than General Vaughan.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

#### NO MORE PRESIDENT

power to a nine-member Federal Council similar to that of Switzerland.

As a matter of fact, the people of Urugusy like to think of themselves as the Swiss of Latin America. Theirs is a small country, celly a dah larger than Missouri, hemmed in by powerful neighbors. But it is prosperous and cultivated. And those who do not read the encyclopedia wax acctatic about its "tradition of democracy".

Well, there is some uncertainty as to just what constitutes a tradition, so there is no point in issuing a challenge. Urugusy has had its share of political intrigue, military domination and economic exploitation. But sianoe the tears of political intrigue, military domination and economic exploitation. But sianoe the tears of the century, the record has been considerably improved—except for 1933 when Prasidents Cabriel Terrs, faced by the symblems of the depression, disorted a council very much like the one just voted into power and made himself a presidential dictation.

ctator.

By Latin American standards, this may to have been very much of a coup, and it is all regularized by a constitutional congustion, Since then, government has been deely and democratic—and satisfactorily ficient since the Colorados, the party high has been in power for 85 years, still memends popular support.

Newbe R is a technonial to Urugueyan measure that the historie prefer as empo-

THE voters of Uruguay—or at least the "tive council rather than the authority of one go the polls—have changed their form mape it is a further testimonial that Presidence of government. From something which, on paper, resembled the American presidential form they have transferred the executive power to a nigne-member Federal Council similar to that of Switzerland.

Yet an American cannot help being in-trigued. There is something very inviting about the possibility of not having any more Presidential years with all their acrimony.

Police told a Dallas couple that they'd let them go on a hit-and-run charge if they passed a lle detector test. The couple agreed, and officers took them to Austin. They passed, but when the officers men-tioned burglary and shoplifting the needle almost jumped out of the machine. The officers had evice their word thusthe they officers had given their word, though: they let the two loose.—Dallas (Tex.) Morning News.

There is a good deal of disagreement as to the location of Hell and as to what kind of a place it is. But we are all pretty ell agreed on what it's for. It's for the folks whose opinions differ very widely from ours.

—Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

Old Bud Crawson Mays he neard about a welfare worker making her customary annual visit to interview an old gent on the rolls. He was polite but firm: "Can't be bothered with you now, Sis. Hopalong Cassidy is on our TV with his hard-riding program."

A. G. Jolis in The Bortow (Ga.) Hereld.

#### Troubles Of The Volunteer Fire Department



# People's Platform

#### Age-Old Challenge

Editors, The News:

THE cittens of Steele CreekBerryhll community
in their suburban cottages are meeting the
age-old challenge — that of future and progress. The
proposed extension of the runway at Douglas Municipal Airport has created for them a problem — it
is inevitable.

is inevitable. This is not mock piety, but clear recognition of the contingencies of our Nation's armament race and our belignences is used, a situation. Common sense should tell them that the best thing to do is to accept this vitual air protection and make such adjustments as are necessary.

We believe these citizens have courage enough to face the future.

We believe that their idealism is not dead. We believe that they have the same bravery and the same devotion to the things worthwhile that their forefathers had.

forefathers had.

We believe that these citizens will not be unaware of their responsibilities.

COURTLAND A. JONES President, Charlotte Junior Chamber of Commerce.

# Columnist Ruark's 'Joke' CHARLOTTE

Editors, Tur News.

L'NDER the date line of Dec. 13, columnist Robert.

Rank disclosed that the highly extelled octogenarian, Bernard Baruch, was not the venerable model of morality generally assumed. But rarelate "as veritable devil with the girts': a definite factor "contributing to organized crime", through this patronage of race track bookies, completely without probitly when the "describes his ability at shooting quait"; consistently "chest at canadity were discovered ... by the local law ... on the premised of his South Carolina estate. Ruark appropriately admig that "if it had been you or me, we'd be in jail", Baruch however, is only dubbed "a common country bootlegger".

First neweer, is only unosed a common country of the c

#### be funny are privileged to stand on their heads

It is evident that this studen right-about-face was forced by pressure agents of a kind that con-sider themselves "untouchables" and beyond re-proach, and completely without compunction for sacrificing truth to expediency.

secrificing truth to expediency.

By surrendering to this sort of harassment,
Mr. Ruark has displayed a moral and intellectual
cowardice that can never command the same respect among his readers as before. Henceforth,
and purposes, and whether or not he is dealing in
fact or merely amusing himself in the amafeurish
role of a comic.

role of a comic.

And although my sympathies are for Mr. Ruark,
I cannot condone his lack of courage to resist the
pressure combines, Perhaps the time will come
mail it to the barn door, and if so they can have
it and welcome. But they will never bring me to my
knees in bootlicking apology for having hurled
the truth into their face.

## Quote, Unquote ...

A Communist is a guy who wants to use your pot to cook your goose in.—Carlsbad (N.M.) Current-Argus.

Thirty-live years ago two-thirds of country editors, each year, would inform farmers how to farm, what to plant, etc. All that foolishness has come to an end. It is very seldom you read where an editor exposes his imporance of farming.—Banks Country (Ga.) Jor uni.

People say they like the Fall of the year best. And that is funny considering that it is the Fall when they have to start a fire in the furnace, let it go out, start it again, let it go out, and so on, 20 times. And meanwhile they STIIL have to go on mowing the lawn.—Ringsport (Tean). Times.

One widely known coilege coach feels that shawing points in a baskethall contest into thad, at long as the game inn't actually known. This, then, makes paragraph two of the new code of eithes, right below the one about a free ham under ten pounds not being a bribe.—Jackson-wille (Fla.) Time-Union.

## Despite Big Expenditures, U.S. Propaganda A Failure

WASHINGTON
THE AMERICAN propagands elLort, for which very large
termines flop. This may not be true within the Soviet orbit. But it is certainly true in the areas of Europe and the Middle East which this reporter has recently stilled. The control of Europe and the Middle East which this reporter has recently stilled. The control of Europe and the Middle East which this reporter has recently stilled. The control of Europe and the Middle East which the reporter was asked by at least a dozen French soldiers why the Americans did not put on a superpost of the proper was asked by at least a dozen French soldiers why the americans propaganda had never concerned, there was no such thing as American propaganda had never as a communist — this reporter has a communist — this reporter beard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — this reporter heard two simple points made fer as a Communist — the third states, and control the community of the communi

## Be It Ever So Humble, Was There Ever Food Like This?

By ROBERT C. RUARK -

NEW YORK
THE business of eating used to
be a daily adventure, instead
of a distasteful chore. As I recall
it, food used to be fun, not an experiment in medical science, with
the consumer's good eye on a calorie chart and the weaker peeps'
on self-destruction with a spoon.

orie chart and the weaker peeper on self-destruction with a spoon. My Grandma Adkins used to set a right fancy table. We would, for instance, have about three, may be repeated to the self-destruction of the self-destructio

C. RUARK

The lims beans swam happilly in a pool of elistening juices from fat-back pork and so did the elistic pool of the carback pork and so did the elistic pool of the carback pork and to did the carback pool of the carbac

#### DiSalle Says Steel Can Afford Wage Hike Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

PRICE Administrator Mike DiSale has written an important confidential memorandum to Roger Putmam. Economic Stabilitation Administrator, stating cate gorically that the steel industry is able to absorb any wage increase without boosting prices.

Simultaneously, make the state of the state of

DISCONSEQUENCES OF the SEGUILLAND PROGRAM MUST be envisaged."

DiSalle was equally tough toward labor and critical of its attempt to break wage ceilings. However, he predict that the property of the second program of the property of the industry is making 32 per cent return on their net worth investment, compared with a 20.3 per cent return in 1847-49. The study also showed that after paying a possible fifteen per cent wage increase, the steel companies would will make a billion dollars a year most accordance to the property of the prop

### Severe Crisis

"FUEE steel wage negotiations and the resulting steel price
I problem mark the most sewere crisis which wage and
price stabilization have yet facilities the price stabilization have yet facilities have now declared open warfare upon the standards prescribed to
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allocated and the standards of the steelsworkers when the
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in their insistence on a complete pass-through of any wage increase. "Many in the Government refuse to become alarmed at this open attack. 'Let us wait,' they say, 'until the at the open attack.' Let us wait,' they say, 'until the that we will be presented with a request to approve an approvable increase, either of wages or prices. We clearly cannot comment on a case that is not even in court. "It is with this where that I take vigorous disagreements of the water of the water of the water of a public interest. Their concept of the public interest of a public interest. Their concept of the public interest to be is always present at the bargaining table; and if this interest has been expressed in an Admiration wage or price policy, it is almost vailably there.

## Steel Prices And Price Policy

Steel Prices And Price Policy

"OUR preliminary review of publicly available figures indicates that steel industry profits are running far above the industry entities attained which ESA has instructed us to use as a test for decisions on price increases other than those more specifically required by industry clearly can above any reasonably probable wage increase, with a substantial margin left for other cost increase. Past experience indicates, however, that the industry will strenuously resist any wage increase without simultaneous assurance of a price increase in the industry ability assurance of a price increase without simultaneous assurance of a price increase without above, the most serious consequences for the shabilination of the price increase were granted in spite of the industry's ability to above, the most serious consequences for the shabilination of the price increase were granted in spite of the industry's ability to above, the most serious consequences for the shabilination of the price increase were granted in spite of the industry's ability to above, the most serious consequences for the shabilination of the price increase present any other standard requiring cost absorption could be substituted ...

"(3) The industry earnings standard would have to be abundoned. It does not seem possible that any other standard requiring cost absorption could be substituted in the settlement would form a pattern for "(3) The wage and price increases resulting from such developments during the first half of 1082 would be substantially larger than the effect of siny of the Congressional amendments that we have no vigorously opposed.

time limit as the Capehar amendment now does . . . "(D) The combination of a wage and price increase in the steel industry with the implied acceptance of general cost pass-through would quickly change price exceptations of businessmen and probably also of consumers. This might be sufficient to stimulate a buying wave of large proportions . . .

## Steel Wages And Price Policy

Steel Wages And Price Policy

"I AM contident that a fair but time wage policy can after the present special property of the present special property of the present special property of the p