

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
AS A LETTER writer President Truman was in a mood that was not so casual as that customary when he wrote to Federal Judge Learned Hand, who is retiring after high honors on the Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City. The letter to the 79-year-old judge was couched in congratulatory warmth and good will.

The distinguished jurist, a "judge's judge" who is also a reasoned philosopher, must have derived a certain dry humor from this letter. If anyone through the years has deserved appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States it was Learned Hand. And again he has demonstrated great legal skill and breadth of spirit and mind.

The final step up to the highest court that would have meant so much both to Judge Hand and the nation never came. What gives this six years in the present posture of the Supreme Court? During his six years in the White House, Truman has named a Chief Justice, Fred M. Vinson, and two associate justices, Vinson was a friend and adviser of long standing. Two of the other justices, Harold H. Burton and Sherman Minton, were clerks from Truman's days in the White House. Tom C. Clark, named as Attorney General by the President in 1945 and then moved on to the court.

Thus they all come from Truman's circle of former associates and friends. Minton has eight years of experience as a judge of the Federal Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Vinson has five years on the Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

McGRATH IN LINE
According to a persistent rumor, the President "promoted" the next vacancy to Attorney General Howard McGrath. McGrath is a Catholic and has no other member of that faith on the court.

Some observers believe that a vacancy will occur within the next twelve months. One of the justices has the most interest in retiring. McGrath was appointed to the court in 1945 and then moved on to the court.

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A SUGGESTION FOR SIX MAYORS

Within a few hours after the mayors of six Carolina cities assembled Wednesday night to try to avert a wage strike in their cities, it became apparent that their negotiations would bow down over one troublesome issue—wages.

The Duke Power Company had offered its drivers and mechanics an increase of five cents an hour—the largest increase that the drivers in Greensboro and Durham, represented by the Amalgamated union, had accepted last December.

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, which represents the drivers and mechanics in Greensboro and Spartanburg, S. C., Charlotte, Salisbury, High Point, and Winston-Salem, N. C., asked a ten per cent increase. That would average about 13 cents an hour.

There were other important differences, to be sure, but they could probably have been resolved quickly had wages been agreed upon.

Since it was the wage issue that stalled the desperate last-minute negotiations, we assume that there is little chance of restoring normal service until the wage question is resolved. Hence it becomes important to the company and the union together on this point as quickly as possible.

The Duke Power Co. must look at wages from several points of view:

1. Its ability to pay. This is governed by earnings from the bus systems and earnings. In turn, are governed by the volume of business on the scale and the demand for buses to be losing money from its bus operations. It cannot increase fares without the approval of the utility commissions in the two states. And even a moderate increase in fares will cause some reduction in volume of business.

2. The wages paid employees in its electric and gas operations, and throughout its corporate structure. Although these are distinct legal entities, the company cannot but consider the effect on the morale of its other employees from any such change in wages for bus drivers and mechanics.

3. The worth of this job. Bus driving is hard work, but it requires little skill or professional training, and wages paid should be commensurate with the worker's relationship to other employment.

4. The reaction of members of the Amalgamated union, who have already accepted the five cents an hour increase. It is quite apparent that the Brotherhood would like to get more for its members than the Amalgamated negotiators obtained. It is also quite obvious that Duke does not wish to become an industrial warlord.

The Brotherhood's position on the wage question is not governed by so many complicating factors. The members want more money to keep pace with the rising cost of living. They think they deserve more money. And they have shown by this strike that they are determined to get more money.

CLASH IN IRAN

This week Gen. Omar Bradley told a Congressional committee that Russia may be trying to start a new aggression in Iran by sending troops into that fabulously-rich but misery-stricken Middle East nation. Yesterday the British in Iran, who have been taking the initiative and send troops in first—thus shifting the legal charge of aggression.

Several weeks ago the British, as the sixteenth of the nationalization of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. came to a head, called in their British 26th Parachute Brigade and put it on a 48-hour alert.

This week they sent the Brigade—4,000 men and the Mediterranean Fleet—into Cyprus within a few flying hours distance of the oil fields of Iran.

Post haste a Soviet spokesman—Ambassador Gregory Pukhlik—announced that Russia will "resist" injection of foreign troops into the Iranian crisis. And this despite the "promises" of the Soviet Ambassador to Iran, from The Richmond Times-Dispatch.

How, then, can the two be brought together on the wage issue?

On Wednesday night the Company rejected a fact-finding procedure, on the grounds that it was extra-legal and hence powerless to produce the extra revenue needed to meet any requirements that might make The Brotherhood accept fact-finding.

The Brotherhood, in turn, rejected arbitration outright, and the Company accepted it only if it was carried out by the utility commissions of North and South Carolina.

Whether between these two extremes of unilateral fact-finding and arbitration by the utility commissions there should be a middle ground that would enable the six Mayors to discharge their obligation to the public, and do so in such a way that the interests of the company, the union, and the public would be simultaneously protected.

Since the big problem is wages, the Mayors should set about determining a fair compensation for bus drivers. Without consulting either the company or the union, they should take the initiative and urge Governors Scott and Byrnes to appoint a joint fact-finding committee to consider wages and allied compensation benefits aloft, excluding any other compensation or demand that would be a hindrance to the committee's work.

Such a committee should include members of the Utility Commissions, since any wage increase may necessitate a higher fare. It should include representatives of the two State Departments of Labor, who would have access to and knowledge about the wealth of statistical information on wages and hours for various occupations throughout this area.

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Neither side would be bound to accept the figure fixed by the wage fact-finding committee. The company would not be forced to accept the recommended scale, and the union would be free to strike again if it didn't like the recommended figure. Both would be under strong obligation to do so, however.

It would also give the bewildered public some basis for measuring the current dispute, and it would solidify public opinion behind what should be the basic consideration in all disputes between the managers of the British-owned oil fields and the workers of the British-owned oil fields.

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Meanwhile, the House Judiciary Committee has been trying some parliamentary stratagem this week to "break a roof" the legislation which is tying the hands of the Nimitz Committee.

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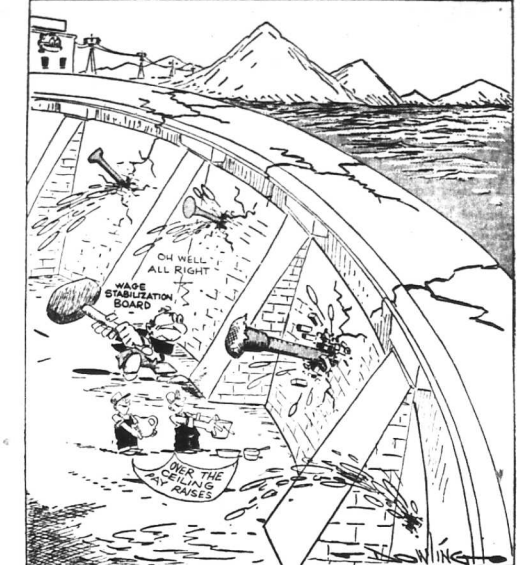
This move—if successful—would bypass the McCarran Committee. However, observers give it little chance. It faces two major Senate obstacles, if it reaches the House: the opposition of McCarran and very likely that of the Senate Rules Committee.

Senator Hoey said he believed the law wasn't intended to prevent private citizens from taking temporary positions with the government, adding he favored making the usual exemption in the case of a "one-time" appointment.

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One assumes with the Norfolk Virginian Pilot that this is only a temporary mood on the part of these officials and that they will realize the importance of giving so distinguished an American the welcome he deserves. Anything less would be hardly short of scandalous, and wholly out of keeping with Norfolk's reputation for hospitality.



News From The Capital
Smith Supports McCarran Position

By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News Special Writer
WASHINGTON
Senator Pat McCarran (D., Nev.) has found a champion in Senator Willis Smith (R., Va.) in his fight to block the bill to exempt the Nimitz Commission from the conflict-of-interest laws.

The situation deals with the special commission appointed by President Truman, headed by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, to study laws and practices "concerning the protection of the nation against treason, espionage, sabotage and other subversive activities."

In the wake of the resignation of the Fleet Admiral and seven other loyalty commission members, he has authorized many exceptions. Smith has pressed for a measure which would exempt the group from the law which the resigning body said "would hamper its activities."

However, Congress, as in the case of the Hoover Commission, has authorized many exceptions. The House, in this case, approved the exception of the Nimitz Commission without debate. But the bill has been amended for checks by the Senate committee headed by McCarran.

THIS delaying action is the full approval of the committee. "I see no reason for altering the status," McCarran told the lawmakers declared. "There are hundreds of thousands of businessmen and other capable citizens who could fill these jobs without causing the least bit of harm."

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There's More To A Teacher Than Her Work In The Class

By ROBERT C. RUARK

THE LITTLE Red Schoolhouse has sagged another notch in the formation of American character. We just had a vote by the High School Teachers Assn. here that sounds dreadfully like the one that would force the stoppage of extracurricular activities. The teachers refuse to perform their task in the classroom beyond the minimum requirements of "safety and decorum."

We quote more from "the association's board of delegates also banned participation on any activity related to departmental or school work." They resolved to adopt a policy of passive resistance and non-cooperation, should school officials resort to coercion, legally or official directives.

Since April of 1950 teachers have refused to play in outside activities, such as athletics and sports, but this is the first time the official stopper has dropped on nose-wiping in the classroom. Naturally salaries are being cut, and let's say right here that most teachers in most places are wretchedly underpaid. But also I hate the way they are forcing a few teachers back to the dear, dead, old days.

Flashback back to the dear, dead, old days. I recall I might be a criminal today except for the good fortune of a Miss Carrie Mae Knight, married name Mrs. Porter, who then could have been a great 20-year-old, present-day 7th grade class contained the most orderly collection of junior hoodlums at large. Including your mother, who once was placed in solitary for talking too much an ill that still afflicts him.

I suppose Miss Knight made some 80 bucks a month for the time being, but she was a support of pre-tying-up, with red hair and green eyes. When she crossed her knees, pink bloomers occasionally peeked, lending a touch of sex to a class that included a loud named young man, four or five years older than Carrie.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round
Democrats Seek Acheson's Successor

A GROUP within the Cabinet and the State Dept. policy and the news of the Democratic Party so far has been carefully concealed. However, the current struggle for Taft vs. Ike.

THE bitter feud between the pro-Taft and pro-Eisenhower factions in the Democratic Party so far has been carefully concealed. However, the current struggle for Taft vs. Ike.

THE fight for Texas' 37 delegates to the Republican convention is typical of the undercurrent contest between the friends of Taft and Ike, which is taking place in practically every state of the union.

Eisenhower spokesman in Texas is Houston's wealthy oilman H. J. "Jack" Porter, a long-time personal friend of Eisenhower. Porter has been quietly lining up delegates and is in frequent touch with Pennsylvania's astute Sen. Jim Duff, unofficial captain of the Eisenhower forces.

In recent weeks, however, Porter's well-aid plans have been thrown out of gear by Republican National Committee member Henry Ziefel of Fort Worth, who is passing out word that he's supporting Ike, and that he, not Porter, has been selected to round up Eisenhower support.

North Korean Prisoners

IT'S a regrettable but probable fact that friction is increasing between North Korean President Syngman Rhee and Gen. Matt Ridgway.

Last friction has been Rhee's nagging at Ridgway to free 35,000 North Korean prisoners of war to join the South Korean army and to help with the Spring farming in South Korea. These prisoners, who were captured by a South Korean inspection team, appointed by Minister of Defense Lee Kee Bun, who reported that of the 146,000 North Korean prisoners, 25,000 had been either reformed or were not Communists in the first place.

However, the American ground forces commander in Korea, Lt. Gen. James Van Fleet, rejected the report and refused to release a single North Korean. Van Fleet warned that he did not trust the North Koreans, that if 25,000 were released, they would be back in the hands of the Communists. He was backed up in his decision by General Ridgway.