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ON PRIVATE COUNCIL SESSIONS

WE SEE by the papers that the City Council may vote today to resume the practice of creating legislative sessions prior to the open public meetings. The practice, followed by previous Councils, was abandoned in May of this year after grave abuses in the private sessions had developed. The Council had reached the stage where it was actually transacting a great deal of public business in private session and merely rubber-stamping it in the public meeting.

They should realize that the very core of democracy—one of the fundamentals which make democratic government superior to autocratic forms of government—is the principle that the people's business should be transacted in full view of the public. This principle has been written into the North Carolina constitution, and the wording is quite clear: "The City governing body shall from time to time establish rules for its proceedings. Regular and special meetings shall be held at a time and place fixed by the council. All legislative sessions shall be open to the public and every matter shall not be considered or voted on in private session. A full and accurate journal of the proceedings shall be kept, and shall be open to the inspection of any qualified registered voter of the City."

A SOLDIER CALLS FOR UNION

IT IS now apparent that General Eisenhower has reached a very definite conclusion as to what he believes is necessary to the establishment of real security for the free world. The key to the problem, he says, is the establishment of a federal union in Western Europe.

of government—and the benefit to be derived therefrom—is the essential need. What he proposes is that the citizens of Western Europe put their relation on a firm basis. The situation is similar to that which existed in this country in the 1780's. Then the thirteen allied colonies each conducted diplomatic relations with the others, coined their own money and imposed tariff walls. Then, in the constitutional convention of 1787 delegates assigned the weak alliance and decided to abandon certain powers to a common government, reserving others for the states. This was done in a remarkably elastic and beneficial federal union type of government, which has proven notably successful in knitting diverse language and cultural groups together wherever it has been tried—in Switzerland and in Canada as well as the U. S.

BUREAUCRACY DOESN'T END AT HOME

NEW of the administrative threads controlled from Washington are more numerous than the Federal Government's overseas operations. Three years ago the Hoover Commission passed 200,000 employees in 96 countries, representing 40 different Federal agencies. This activity is controlled by 30 Congressional committees.

And I might add right here, that I do not fear external force as much as I do the forces working within. Russia can most likely win her end without an armed conflict with us or Western Europe. Inflation and exhaustion will more likely turn the trick. Further, we should stop going at the idea of Communism when we are going to the same destination via the welfare state and Socialism. The end result is the same, and the difference being a matter of time of arrival and method of approach.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN NEGLECTED

SUPERINTENDENT of Public Instruction Clyde Erwin has estimated that 65,000 handicapped North Carolina school children need special instruction. To date, little more than a bare start has been made toward providing for these children. Handicapped children fall into several categories—speech defective, slow learning, crippled, cerebral palsy, visually handicapped, and deaf of hearing.

classes are provided for those children having handicaps needing special attention. Provision was also made for home-bound services to supply instruction. It is obvious from the statistics given by School Facts that (1) an enlargement of the total program, and (2) a better distribution of the special services are urgently needed. Last year Tom Fesperman of The News staff helped moderate the efforts of the State to provide proper supervision. All of them should have the advantage now enjoyed by a relative handful. The pastor of one of the largest churches in North Carolina says he will run for governor of the state, if he feels he is called. Well, parson, we never yet met a politician who isn't convinced that he was called. The most of them do the calling themselves.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

It's Not Perfect But It's The Only World We've Got



Diplomatic Reports Sometimes Colored So They'll Be Safe

By MARQUIS CHILDS

THE raw material that enters into the making of the policy decisions chiefly of reports from experts in various parts of the world on what is happening to governments and peoples. If these reports are colored by prejudice or trimmed down as a process for reasons of expediency and fear, then it is as though the pilot on a ship entering a narrow and perilous waterway had before him charts that were incorrect and misleading. That this is now happening no one can doubt. A case history has been reported to this correspondent by the State Department, and by a high-ranking military officer whose only motive is his concern that American policy be based on facts rather than on fiction colored by politics and prejudice. It is not surprising that it can be taken against the persons involved, here is the case. At the top of the list was a young Army officer who was several times wounded in North Africa and Europe, and decided to enter the foreign service. He was well qualified by education and especially by his knowledge of foreign languages. Along with a number of young servicemen, he passed the State Department's examinations and became one of America's young rank diplomats. He was assigned a year and a half ago to an Asian country torn by the cold war between Communism and the West. Country X, like so many others and particularly in Asia, has a weak government, and a very real kind of obstacle. Whether it has any real roots in popular support is a significant question. The young diplomat set out to try to appraise this government. Working with earnestness and objectivity, he went behind the front of politeness and propaganda. He dug for the truth. What he found was not at all encouraging and the report he wrote took a rather pessimistic line.

People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Different Roads To Disaster

YOUR editorial of Aug. 24 under the caption "Lost Perspective" needs, I think, a revision. The caption should read "Lost Perspective and Lost Direction."

nothing more nor less than the rawest of political propaganda, put in circulation for the purpose of glossing over the many mistakes—if they were mistakes—of the men that have been successful in "misrouting" the American road since 1932. If Pegler and Lewis, as claimed, are guilty of libeling the great and near-great of the New Deal-Fair Deal persuasion, why has not some action been taken, other than a belated mention in a newspaper article that probably will not be read by one person in a thousand?

However, you advance the argument that I have made all the while, that we are just bolstering our economy under false wraps in the belief that the American people would not approve of a frank disclosure of the facts—that our economy is not a self-sustaining one, but has to have "shots" regularly to avoid a collapse. You prove the case by showing that of the \$11 billion actually expended of the \$17 billion authorized under the Marshall Plan more than \$1 billion had been expended here in this country for food and machinery and such, and that much of the remainder of the \$11 billion had returned to us in one form or another.

Your recent articles on both General Arthur and Senator Taft are without rhyme or reason. Prejudiced to the point of absurdity, you are guilty of libeling the great and near-great of the New Deal-Fair Deal persuasion, why has not some action been taken, other than a belated mention in a newspaper article that probably will not be read by one person in a thousand?

You call the Marshall Plan a good investment, which perhaps it is if we consider its temporary effects only; but when we take a long-range look at the situation, there is much further and more to be said. We know we can't continue to pyramid our national debt, be it to aid other countries or sustain our domestic economy. We should stop short of disaster, which we appear little disposed to do. This disposition to be realistic makes me have nightmares, as it were. And am not selfish about the matter, either, for I have but little of life left—certainly, not enough to worry about. It's the future of our institutions and those to come after this generation that concerns me.

You also failed to mention the sordid and humiliating aspect of anti-American behavior of rift-rift-bologists who, no doubt at the behest of Fair Deal henchmen with a Communist complex, "bombarding Mr. Republican" at most every speaking engagement, with rotten fruit. Or the sicken- ing Cappy caricatures, plastered over the state for the purpose of making a ludicrous appeal to the Senator. The people of Ohio, along with a majority of voters, were outraged by the unbecomingly so-called "Mr. Republican" an unprecedented majority of nearly half million votes of confidence-over his opponent.

And I might add right here, that I do not fear external force as much as I do the forces working within. Russia can most likely win her end without an armed conflict with us or Western Europe. Inflation and exhaustion will more likely turn the trick. Further, we should stop going at the idea of Communism when we are going to the same destination via the welfare state and Socialism. The end result is the same, and the difference being a matter of time of arrival and method of approach.

That \$244,000 spent—just such amount was spent to assure Mr. Taft's election was money well spent, his victory was cheap at any price, as can be attested to by millions of good Americans, both Democrats and Republicans. It is high time for —JOHN W. HESTER.

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'Pitchmen' Series Criticized

EDITH J. ST. PAULS Editors, The News ANYONE gifted with the sense of a Jackass, on reading "Pitchmen of the Press" and taking note of the columnists "lauded" as well as those "dreaded," can come to but one conclusion: it is

to assure Mr. Taft's election was money well spent, his victory was cheap at any price, as can be attested to by millions of good Americans, both Democrats and Republicans. It is high time for —JOHN W. HESTER.

Pat Taylor For Governor

EDITH J. ST. PAULS Editors, The News I AM for Lieut. Gov. Pat Taylor for Governor of North Carolina. He was a lieutenant in the 37th Regiment, Everybody in North Carolina knows a square. —T. C. GUTHRIE.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

(ED. NOTE—While Drew Pearson is on a brief vacation, this column is being written by several distinguished guest columnists.) BY DR. HUGH BENNETT Chief of the Department of Soil Conservation Service WASHINGTON THE recent Midwestern floods have again shown with stark reality that the day of piecemeal flood control must end. Truly effective flood control must protect millions of farmers on the land and in the small creek bottoms as well as our great cities and major river valleys. In those July floods we had graphic proof that no single method of flood control can do the whole, watershed-wide job. We saw how some of our best soils became so saturated with the rains of May and June that the pastures could absorb little more when the final big rains came. Even so, the water-holding capacity of the soil helped moderate the effects of the run-off. Likewise, we saw how downstream levees, high enough to have withstood the largest previous flood, were overtopped by this super-flood.

Overwhelmed Control Is Necessary

Experience has proved that we can come pretty close to controlling floods on small tributary streams. With good conservation of the soil and proper drainage practices, the small streams will not overflow so destructively even when we get rains like those in the Midwest. But that part of our flood control program that is larger streams must be controlled by dams, levees and other measures. At present, the run-off from upland farms in small watersheds has not been properly controlled because the farmer cannot get all the technical training he needs and need to do the soil and water conservation job adequately on their own farms. And funds are not generally available for construction of small upstream dams and channel improvements. Don't Forget Small Creeks IF we ignore the little creeks of the upper valleys and the fields and pastures that flow from them, we will have only a partial program of flood control. But we are not going to ignore these upper watersheds. The big job is to get all the technical training he needs and need to do the soil and water conservation job adequately on their own farms. And funds are not generally available for construction of small upstream dams and channel improvements. Don't Forget Small Creeks IF we ignore the little creeks of the upper valleys and the fields and pastures that flow from them, we will have only a partial program of flood control. But we are not going to ignore these upper watersheds. The big job is to get all the technical training he needs and need to do the soil and water conservation job adequately on their own farms. And funds are not generally available for construction of small upstream dams and channel improvements.