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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1952

ATTENTION: COUNTY RESIDENTS

OVER at Chapel Hill, the good citizens who live in and around that university town are preoccupied with the serious problem facing the Mecklenburg County Commissioners, i. e., the zoning of the rural areas around the town edges.

This week Chapel Hillians overflooded the courtroom where a public hearing was held. There was no direct opposition to zoning, but many people wanted to read and study a proposed ordinance further before it was passed. The Aldermen agreed, held up final action.

The incident prompted Editor Louis Graves of the Chapel Hill Weekly, to write a front page editorial. Of course, most everything Mr. Graves wrote is an editorial of sorts, whether it be a sally at Bob Taft on the editorial page or a conversation with a co-ed on Page 3. But this one was clearly labeled "An Editorial," and the story it tells ought to be interesting to Mecklenburgians, and pertinent to the County Commissioners' problem. It said:

NO CYNIC, BUT A REALIST

I EST you are awayed by those who have snapped cynicism and "Pendergastism" at President Truman's disrespect for Presidential primaries, let us hasten to suggest that the "Right Executive" can may produce unexpected dividends. Perhaps you will drive home to the American people the brutal truth that they have little or no voice in the nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President, and bestir them to do something about it.

We could all afford to call Mr. Truman a "cynic," as Mr. Stassen did, for saying that Presidential primaries are eyewash, and that he'll get the Democratic nomination if he decides he wants it and to heck with the primaries. We could hardly cast the Stassen stone, for we have said the same thing over and over, in language not quite so blunt per-

OLD-FASHIONED CONGRESS

AN EFFICIENCY expert from Cleveland, Robert Heller, has been looking long and hard at Congress, a notoriously inefficient organization. He has found many sound ideas about modernizing Congress.

He would like to see electric voting equipment installed in the House of Representatives. According to his figures the House spends more than a month in each session shuffling "yes" or "no" and answering quorum calls.

The Senate consumes months of legislative time talking about matters which do not pertain to pending legislation. He notes hopefully that a "rule of relevancy" is being considered by the Senate.

Congressmen complain about their work loads but, if any political delegate, their adoption would save both time and money, and would measurably increase the efficiency of Congressional machinery.

LET THE PATRIOTS REST

AMERICA'S giants of the past must indeed be squirming in their graves as they are compared to present-day political leaders.

Senator Taft, for example, evokes the vision of Abraham Lincoln to Congressman Hoffman of Michigan. The Congressman, notified by a recent news service description of Senator Taft as he appeared on the TV program—"Taft's maid didn't fit, his mannerisms were awkward, his replies did not indicate the easy control which is to be expected in a big man"—told his House colleagues that he recently looked up from his reading and noticed a book on the table.

"On the cover was a picture of a great man—a martyr. But a picture of a man who lacked grace, glamor—yes, it was not a picture of a handsome man, his clothes did not fit. Maybe Taft's suits do not fit. I do not know, but who doubts but that his po-

SOVIET LEAD IN AIRCRAFT FRIGHTENING BY THE ALSOOPS

IT IS TIME to face up to a simple, bleak fact. The Soviet Union is currently outproducing the United States by an incredibly wide margin, in modern combat planes. Since air power is vital to the effective conduct of war, comes, this is frightening, to put it mildly. Yet it is easy enough to see that it is a fact. The war of the future will be fought with jet-powered planes. And here the figures tell their own disturbing story.

First, take jet interceptors. Soviet production of the MIG-15 jet fighter, plus newer models, reached the last year according to most reliable estimates, an annual production rate of between 3,500 and 4,000—a really astonishing achievement of 1946 Soviet aircraft industry. American production of the F-84 was in the middle hundreds, and of the F-86 in the low hundreds—the very low hundreds.

The MIG-15, will be added, is a first-rate, modern jet interceptor. It is reported that combat between the F-84 and MIG-15 in the Korean theater has already indicated the F-84 is not considered capable of holding its own in combat with the MIG-15. And American interceptors will not have reached a thousand by the end of this year, while the Soviet production is well on the increase. Thus, even by the end of this year, the Soviets will have an enormous six-to-one advantage, at least in the jet fighter field.

JET BOMBERS

The comparable figures on jet bombers are hardly more reassuring. The Soviet Union has already produced more than 1,000 jet bombers. The United States has produced only 100. The British (who are concentrating on commercial jet carriers) produced one jet bomber in 1949. The British are coming year. It is believed that more than 300 B-47s will come off the assembly line, plus a handful of British jet bombers. This number that hoped for Western production for the coming year will still represent less than half the production reached by the Soviets during the last year.

Here the dark picture must be balanced by certain other factors. The same intelligence sources which report the frighteningly high output of Soviet jet interceptors and bombers also report that the Soviet radar and control interception systems are still in the experimental stage. It is believed that at least for a time—the long-range intercepting engine bombers with jet engines, and intercepting techniques, could still reach Russian targets in case of war.

SHORTER RANGE

Moreover, the Soviet jet bomber is built on a shorter range. The MIG-15 is known to have a very short range indeed. The MIG-15 has a range of only 1,000 miles. Its function—interception at high altitude in reasonably clear weather. The Soviets are only just starting to develop fighters and the United States probably has an advantage in other types of planes for example for ground support.

Yet the above figures (which the Kremlin knows, of course, in far more detail than this article here) are very deeply disturbing. By any test, they mean simply that the Western alliance is very far behind the Soviet Union in modern combat plane production, which is the very heart of war strength in being, and that the West will remain behind for a very long time to come. It is time to face up to this fact frankly, and if forthcoming report will consider why it is so and what can be done about it.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE actors are not the same as ten years ago, but the stage and plot are identical to one of the most vital dramas fought during World War II—namely, the battle between civilians and the military for control of American economic life.

On the outcome of this battle depends the question of whether the nation will go dangerously into the hands of a few men, or whether we will shift gradually over to some of the totalitarian systems we have so consistently opposed in Europe.

Today the present tug-of-war in the Pentagon isn't as dramatic as during World War II. Not much of it has even leaked to the public. And the actors on both sides fight on a higher, more courteous level. The military is also duplicating orders, contracts and supplies between the Army, Navy and Air Force in a matter of weeks.

Sorry, Bud—I'm A Reporter Myself



YOU ARE NOW ENTERING NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY MARCH 11



An Unusual Kind Of Farming Where Mink Comes From

By F. A. BEHMER (The St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

WHERE DO they come from, the BEAUFORT, Mo. mink farms? They have been raising a mild mink odor in Washington, D. C., for years. The furriers' vaults to the backs of women whose husbands have the price or the influence or a standing with the right people.

But where do the furriers get the furs that are made into mink coats to grace the backs of the Washington women? Some of them come from Missouri, from the mink ranch of Lester Van Leer, out a little way in the hills from Beaufort. A batch of them, properly "pelted" have just been sent off to New York to be made up into coats.

Van Leer, when he was a farm-boy, trapped along the creeks for mink but didn't catch many, for they were scarce in these parts. They were scarce in the hills from Beaufort. A batch of them, properly "pelted" have just been sent off to New York to be made up into coats.

Four years ago he bought six of the little animals from a ranch in Minnesota. They cost him \$300, which was a lot of money for him. If he didn't make a go of it he would have to go back to the hills from Beaufort. The mink he bought were known in the trade as Yukons, dark brown, and half-blood silver blue, good colors for mink coats.

It was a glad day when he listened at the nests and heard the mouse-like squeaks which told him that the kits had arrived and were in need of a little sustenance. The squeaks were weak at first, but they grew stronger and stronger.

THE HAZARD of a mink ranch is the appearance of a contagious distemper that will destroy the colony unless it is checked. There is a vaccine with which to fight it, but it has to be dealt with an epidemic. So when pelting time came early in December this year, he had nearly 90 of the little animals in his pens. They were all well and happy, and he had seen them all.

He had seen them all, and he had seen them all. He had seen them all, and he had seen them all. He had seen them all, and he had seen them all. He had seen them all, and he had seen them all.

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Fight Rates over Control Of Economy

WHILE the Secretary of Defense is supposed to exercise—but doesn't. General Bradley and the Joint Chiefs of Staff are not part of this campaign. It's being led by the procurement arm of the military, which spends two-thirds of its national budget and can really wreck the nation. At present, Budget Bureau, of going over Lovett's head to the Director of the Budget.

In brief, the military men want to report on what they've done and what they've done. It's being led by the procurement arm of the military, which spends two-thirds of its national budget and can really wreck the nation. At present, Budget Bureau, of going over Lovett's head to the Director of the Budget.

Saving The Taxpayers

ONE Congressman who has worked day and night to keep military toes out of the fur surplus spoils has been Louis E. Conroy, Democrat of Missouri. He has been fighting to keep military toes out of the fur surplus spoils.

GO Leaders

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON ONE of the very good reasons for bringing a new administration into power in this year of the quadrennial contest is to give the party a long outpour of power the sobering responsibility of office. For nearly 70 years the party has been laying down prescriptions for what should be done not only at home but in every corner of the globe.

Those neat prescriptions, bound round in recent years with political occasion, are all too easy to ignore. It has an entirely different look. What is done, and even more important what is left undone, can have such dire consequences.

The Middle East is a perfect illustration. In December of 1950 the National Security Council was convened on the task of working out a coherent, comprehensive policy for the Middle East. It has been more than a year ago, but that assignment has not been carried out.

AGREEMENT YET it has been found impossible to reach agreement on an overall policy statement. The result is a series of piecemeal, day-to-day decisions. This means that improvisation from day to day is inevitable, with the result that conflict is a consequence.

The tendency is to blame the machine—in this instance the National Security Council—for this kind of failure instead of the men who operate the machine. Many of the outsiders who complain say that the council members are too busy to give adequate time and thought to the intricate policy decisions through the mechanism of the council.

Certainly, the members all have a great deal to do. And therefore, according to critics, they tend to let subordinates too and three rank-and-file members tend to run the council. The result is a kind of bureaucratic exchange of memoranda which, in the long run, is the least common denominator of nothing.

On the other hand, those familiar with the working of the council from its inception in 1947 insist that it has functioned as it was intended. The council is not to be blamed for the failure of individual policy-makers. The council is not to be blamed for the failure of individual policy-makers.

THE PELTING is done when the skins are wintered. It is done when the skins are wintered. It is done when the skins are wintered. It is done when the skins are wintered.

There is a new mink color out, called Sapphire, a shade of blue, one of those mutations that happen once in a while. It is really classy and it can be picked up at from \$450 to \$350. How much better than the old mink color, which was acquired by Mrs. E. Meri Young, the White House stenographer, cost only \$25.00, and which she sold to the Lamasudra's number cost \$2,400 a wholesale.

A Washington woman who gets a Sapphire will have a right to be proud. She will have a right to be proud. She will have a right to be proud. She will have a right to be proud.

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From The Asheville Citizen

COMPLICATED

A SMALL order of confusion is in store for those who follow the high road in 1952. North Carolina has no less than 25 different kinds of auto license plates.

Cars of top drawer public officials carry only one, two, or three digits, depending upon the amount of brass behind the wheel. Highway Department vehicles boast the prefix "Judge" and are numbered by car. A private truck bears the number and TRUCK under it. But, by gosh, there are trucks and there are trucks: Farm trucks, so designated, common carrier trucks, with an F on their license, contract carrier trucks, marked C, and private license cars in four, Z, C, BX and R.