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A BOOST FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT

LONG-OVERDUE step toward more efficient and less corrupt government was taken yesterday afternoon when the President sent Congress Reorganization Plan No. 2, which would take the Post Office Department out of politics.

Two committees are carefully studying the fine print. It is the Committee's impression that the merit system would be fully retained. Thus the Postmaster General could not make political plums out of appointments even if he so chose, and the Congress would have to get their fingers out of what is now a juicy plum pudding.

At present first, second and third class postmasters are appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate. That's where politics comes in. The President, in making recommendations, depends largely on the advice of his party stalwarts throughout the country. Prospective postmasters must pass Civil Service tests, but the person getting the highest score doesn't necessarily get the job—nor by any means. The postmaster is selected from a list of three eligibles, usually confirmed by the Senate.

This is definitely good news in the field of governmental reorganization. For two years a bill providing for essentially the same changes has been bottled up in the Post Office & Civil Service Committee headed by Senator Johnston of South Carolina. We can now expect to hear the cries of disgruntled Congressmen, as they tear into the plan, just as they tried, unsuccessfully, to defeat the BIR reorganization measure. The louder they shout the more one may realize the extent to which this plan will decrease Congressional influence—most of it bad—in the post offices.

SEVEN YEARS AGO TOMORROW

SEVEN years ago tomorrow, hundreds of Christians gathered in silence and sorrow around the Southern Railroad depot. It was around midnight, yet the most singular thing about the entire incident was that there were so many babies and young children. It was as if the people correctly sensed the impact of history and instinctively felt that they wanted their children to witness the drama. The train slowed down as it passed the station. It carried the body of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

While President, his figure is already beginning to stand above controversy and bitterness, and it will not be too long ere it rises even above party lines. It may yet be a remote possibility, but the pattern is already taking shape. Just as the Democrats on occasion lay claim to Abraham Lincoln, it is not outside the realm of possibility that the day may come soon when the Republicans may claim FDR as one of their own.

A BOW FOR STASSEN

A LITTLE BOW for Harold Stassen before he returns to the cloistered halls of Pennsylvania U. that he ought not to have left. Mr. Stassen made some rather desperate bids for votes during his round of the primaries. Despite his opposition to Federal meddling he painted for New Hampshire voters a glowing picture of how Stassen, if elected, would pour Federal funds into the sagging New England textile industry. But he got few votes.

In Minnesota he offered to split all his delegates with General Eisenhower, who was not in the contest. He split the vote and defeated Mr. Stassen didn't have a single delegate to split. After-Nebraska, where he was on the ballot but was beaten by write-in candidates Taft and Eisenhower, he has seen the light. But he stayed on in Illinois. There, in one of his final speeches, he denounced McCarthyism, an issue which he had previously sidestepped.

TURN THE LIGHT ON N. C. LOBBYISTS

IN ADVOCATING a stronger lobby for teachers while the Legislature is in session at Raleigh, Forsyth's Representative, Joe King, has helped to turn the spotlight on lobbyists.

Legitimate lobbyists—and there are of course many legitimate lobbyists who perform a real service for the law makers—are doing nothing to fear. There is light is turned on their activities at Raleigh. Only the lobbyists who prefer darkness rather than light would object to publicity on their work.

A 72-year-old El Paso plumber made his seventeenth trip to the altar the other day. His 47-year-old bride is number fourteen on his list of wives. He has been married 17 times, and he has had 17 children. He is now a widower. He is now a widower. He is now a widower.

The high prices sure are tough. They're making us do without a lot of things our parents never had.—Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.

What's Going On Down There Among The Mortals?



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writers name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

For Charlotte's Young Airmen

THE News: You're getting set for a new law — and they are succeeding in a big way. Your politics will do anything to get their names in the paper, especially Mr. Boyd.

Three Important People

EDITH, Mrs. News: As I am shut in trying to recover from a long boy, especially when you are busy with your work, it is just thinking of three most important people to appreciate.

He Didn't Like It Here

EDITH, Mrs. News: I DETEST Charlotte!!! So I left. But in leaving I have, thank God I beg of you to allow me space to vent my spleen. Over four years ago I moved to the "Queen City" from Atlanta, and established my headquarters there. And in Charlotte I found the most cutthroat businessmen, pseudo-society, a m. o. and their spouses, and a whole city full of spoiled brats, puffing on cigarettes at the tender age of fourteen (or under) in their parents', and with school officials' blessings.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

DAN BOLICH, the No. 2 tax collector who bought \$21 million and developed a special taste for \$350 monogrammed handkerchiefs, pleaded poverty when he testified secretly before Congressional investigators.

Bolich Pleaded Poverty

It was worth even the inconvenience as well as the financial gain. Bolich also explained his friendship with the mysterious Carl Routahn, 72-year-old Mansfield, Ohio, merchant, who paid Bolich \$400 a month—totaling over \$30,000.

Point 4 One of Few Real Ideas In Superficial World

ANYONE WHO deals with the news from day to day, if his conscience has not been entirely eroded away, must be shocked at the condition of the world. What is important, and important for the long haul, as compared to the momentary and sensational.

What's The Meaning Of The Word 'Champion', Anyway?

NEW YORK: I AM READING a piece by a colleague named Frank Camp. It is a long and involved piece. It is a long and involved piece. It is a long and involved piece.

Buried Street Car Tracks

RECENTLY there has been a great deal of discussion about the transfer of ownership of the city bus lines from the City of Charlotte to a newly organized company. These discussions cover rates, routes, deficits, assets, and liabilities.

Editorial Appreciated

I WANT to thank you sincerely for your editorial notice of me. Especially am I grateful to you for the editorial in The News of April 3 entitled: "Here's Your Forgotten Man."

Won \$7,500 On Trueman

BOLICH'S income-tax returns while he worked for the Internal Revenue Bureau listed only his Government salary, plus a bonus of \$7,500 in 1948 and \$600 in 1949. He explained the outside income during 1948 as the petty earnings of his children and a \$500 election year bonus.

My Poor, Deluded Friend

My poor, deluded friend, Mr. Coniff, who made headlines pilgrimage to the Polo Grounds out of habit for years, now says such phrases as "the distinction of being the best," and "it's a lot of fun being champion." This is the grossest lie on a superlative that I have seen since Jack Doyle was referred to as a prize fighter.

My Poor, Deluded Friend

Chief Counsel Adrian DeWind finally asked me "What you please state the circumstances surrounding your resignation as assistant commissioner?" I communicated with (then) Commissioner Schoenman and told him I was not going to be able to go the limit in time to work for him. I would appreciate it if he would select somebody else for the post and give me a quiet assignment.