

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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CHUG, CHUG, CHUG GOES THE STEAMROLLER

JUST as everyone expected, the well-lubricated Taft steamroller started chugging away in Chicago yesterday.
First the Taft-dominated Republican National Committee overrode the 22 recommendation of its special committee, and handed any television, radio or recorded accounts of its deliberations on disputed delegates.

BIG BROTHER BYRNES KNOWS BEST

YESTERDAY, when we were pointing out to Southern Democrats that they no longer have the dominant voice in national party councils, we had a misgiving a power continued shifts by the national administration, i. e., a shift by the Republican Party.
Before the final edition of The News was deposited on your doorstep, South Carolina Governor James B. Byrnes was sounding off on the same topic at the governors' conference in Houston. But what the wily and adroit Mr. Byrnes has in the back of his head is quite a different proposition.

DEMOCRACY CAN'T WIN THIS WAY

IT was blistering hot last Saturday, so not many Mecklenburgers who had not decided to vote on the morning of the election didn't bother to vote. And in the late afternoon, a thunderstorm blew up. It may have deterred some hundreds or thousands who had planned to vote near the end of the day.
Whatever the reason, Mecklenburg let down one of its most distinguished residents, Judge William H. Bobbitt, an eminently deserving candidate for the N. C. Supreme Court, lost the primary race to Judge R. C. Hoke. At last tally, the difference was less than 3,000 votes.

CONGRESS GOES ON A SPENDING SPREE

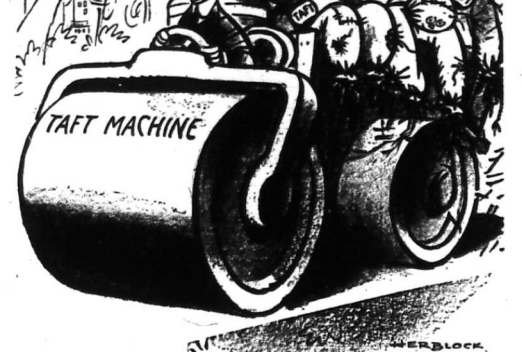
THE frenzied period right before adjournment is the worst possible time for Congress to spend money. Yet this year, because of its own procrastination and its jag of investigating, Congress finds itself faced with the greatest appropriation logjam in all history.
The logjam comes to roughly \$60 billion in spending bills. The House is in somewhat better shape than the Senate. Up to this week, it had voted to spend some \$61 billion, and still had some \$12 billion to go. The Senate, thanks to the McKinley City session, has approved only one bill, the Kenneth McKellar, had voted to spend only some \$15 billion. It had a long way to go.

ator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, Senator James P. Kem of Missouri, former Secretary of War Pat Hurley, Senator Henry Cain of Washington, and that great American, Senator Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin, whose one-man smear campaign has received the benign blessing of Senator Taft. In all the list of 17 speakers, there was no Robert to leave the dough.
Oh, well, this is in the cards. Son Noert learned how to run a steamroller from Papa Taft, and everybody anticipated such a showman's event in the final stages of the convention. When the fight branches out on the convention floor, it will be a different story. There the American people will be able to see and hear the steamroller in action. And if their senses are not only watching over us, we think it is, and if their judgment is as good as we believe it to be, the Taft tactics will backfire—just as the Taft steamroller in 1912 reversed itself and flattened the engineer.

will vote just as Mr. Byrnes wishes them to vote, be it Democratic, Republican, or Dixiecratic.
This is a super-refinement of George Orwell's "Big Brother" technique. In this case, we will be able to watch over his little people, he is also planning how to cast their vote for their President. Big Brother knows best, in other words, what is good for the people. The people, obviously, are not competent to decide what is best for their own interests.
The Byrnes scheme is the complete opposite of the democratic ideal. It would demolish the whole concept of the free ballot. It would turn the election of the U. S. Presidency over to a crew of hand-picked electors. Byrnes said the Carolina delegates with such superior wisdom that they should be permitted to fashion the political destinies of their people.
Had Governor Byrnes threatened to vote Republican himself, and to urge Southerners to do the same, the Carolina delegates would be "unacceptable," we would cheer him on. But so long as we have faith in the free exercise of the ballot and in the intelligence and discrimination of the average American voter, we will oppose a reversion to the antiquated and undemocratic procedure that Byrnes has put forward.

democracy? For these reasons:
1. General indifference—37 per cent.
2. Neglect... intended to vote but didn't—21 per cent.
3. Disabled in women's voting—5 per cent.
4. Insufficient legal residence—7 per cent.
5. Wrong information about the election—4 per cent.
6. Absence from city—4 per cent.
Then came the shocker. Dr. Cheek said she had based her poll on the red hot 1950 primary and general election when the Smith-Graham fight pulled out one of the biggest votes in the state's history.
If less than 37 per cent of the eligible voters took part in that zipper, it is understandable why less than 21 per cent of the registered Democrats turned out for the second primary here Saturday. But the fact that the vote was conducted by more adroit men and was more effective because these men knew how to clothe their calamities with plausibility. Spearheaded by numerous of the world's best people, these people pictured General Eisenhower as a man of socialistic tendencies, a New Dealer, a national wastrel, and the architect of the atomic bomb. Now Senator McCarran, the end of World War II. Yet everyone who has taken the trouble to study Eisenhower's speeches and papers, and his beliefs, are the belief of a sound Kansas Republican. He does believe, again soundly, that we must guard our frontiers abroad, as well as at home. It was this conviction, which he has voiced courageously, that brought about the campaign of distortion.

Unfortunately, however, too many Taft ad-
Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round
State Department Surveys Master Boners
Those who know the inside on several State Department matters are beginning to wonder how our tumbling diplomats have been able to keep the U.S.A. out of war as well as with the common sense.
Boner after boner has been pulled by State Department, could have been prevented. Here are the three latest:
1. The Lattimore Snafu could have been softened even at the last moment when Michael McDermott, State Department press officer, was asked if it was true that a Department report had believed that a number of citizens from foreign travel.
Grandiloquently replied McDermott: "The State Department does not take action on fantasies or fantasies."
Yet, in the Lattimore case that was exactly what the State Department did.
The fact that the State Department has had in its hands amazing details of how the China Lobby has been trying to buy, bribe, and subvert American foreign policy. Yet it's done nothing. Now Senator McCarran, who has a Department enemy, has moved in with a secret probe to browbeat State Department witnesses.
2. Failure to notify the British in the Yalu Dam incident is one of the most momentous blunders in years. It was such a cockeyed comedy of errors that it's unbelievable. Here is a play-by-play account of what happened.
3. Lord Alexander's Rug
FOR weeks Churchill's government has been getting lambasted by the Laborites over lack of co-operation in Korea. So Lord Alexander, British Min-



Honest Convention Imperative

Will The GOP Commit Suicide?

By BEN HIBBS
(THERE are times when the Republican Party seems beset with a curious suicidal tendency. In the case of the Taft machine, the suicidal tendency was "in the bag." Candidate Dewey failed to put on the kind of fighting campaign that he had assumed incorrectly that the November a great many local GOP workers sat on their hands, and several million Republican voters didn't bother to go to the polls.

THE rank and file of Republican voters in Texas—and there is a surprisingly large and growing number of them in Southern states—are up in arms over this miscarriage of our democratic system. In Louisiana, somewhat similar methods were used with similar results. And in view of the fact that the delegations from these two states, if seated, might well cast the deciding votes at Chicago, the chicanery of the Republican machines in Texas and Louisiana assumes enormous proportions.
SENATOR Taft's forces will largely control the convention machinery at Chicago. If they choose to use their power unfairly, seating illegal delegations by an unbroken vote, they will be missing this immense advantage to destroy a highly popular candidate, the breach in the ranks will be healed, and they will probably get many more. We repeat: We think Senator Taft is an honorable man, and for the good of his party and the good of the country, we earnestly hope that he will be in the position that he wants, the nomination only if fairly gained.

Moreover, we hope that the Eisenhower forces will be unbothered and perhaps not attempt any blitz tactics such as were employed at the Wilkie convention. We live in the most critical time in our history, and the decision on the Presidency must be made not only honestly but with haste.
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herents obviously read only what they want to believe about the General—as has been demonstrated by the fact that his supporters in the Chicago Tribune and the mouthings of such pygmy politicians as the inefable E. Carroll Frazier have had their effect. And the breach in the party lines has been still further widened. If there has been any similar campaign misrepresentation about Senator Taft from the Eisenhower camp, we have not seen it.

Then came the final prevention move to take the nomination by force. This move was made through the ragtag Republican organizations which still control party affairs in some of the Southern states. In Texas, for example, which so strongly Eisenhower country that many political observers believe the General could actually carry the state into the Republican column in November, the fraudulent strategy of the state organization, which controlled the state-convention machinery, was so brazen that the Dallas Morning News called upon Senator Taft to repudiate the action of the Texas convention. Eisenhower delegates to the state convention, legally elected in the precinct and county meetings, were in an overwhelming majority, but the machine simply denied them seats and elected a slate of Taft delegates to the national convention.

Further, the strengthening of the Communist air force has been accompanied by other signs even more disquieting, although less clearly defined for public consumption.
"The Russians," it is said by those who will discuss the subject as if regarded as a neutral "third party." Reports are circulating that the Communist Air Force in the Korean theater is being reinforced by 300 new jet fighters which have not gone through the significant formality of having their insignia painted over. Other reports suggest the appointment of an over-all Soviet Air Commander, who would be in command of this more overt Soviet participation is not precisely defined, the fact is quite undisputed.
All this does not mean, of course, that new trouble in Korea is now in the air. It does mean, however, even as a probability. For one thing, so far as is known, the reinforcement of the Communist air power does not yet include jet fighters or bombers. With really fast fighter-bombers, which are being developed, would be sent to Manchuria at the last minute, the Communists could make a pretty fair attempt to knock out the American forward airfields in the Seoul area. But with the obsolete medium bombers which are being sent to the Communists will have the odds heavily against them in any such attempt.
While we occupy the Seoul airfields, the Communist air units will find it very difficult to prepare

Exalts Struggle For Freedom

By VIC REINEMER
Associate Editor, The News
THE CHARLOTTE NEWS takes the scenic three-hour trip (or make it four and enjoy the country) to Boone, N. C., to see the new outdoor drama "The Struggle for Freedom."
He will cool off, Shawin and coals, and get a good after the sun sets in crimson profusion 'neath the tall oaks and pines behind the amphitheater.
He will have a fuller appreciation of his state's rich history. He will marvel at the ability of his fellow-citizens, many of them unprofessionals, to re-enact this historical drama.

U.S. Air Forces In Korea Reinforced Heavily By Jets

WASHINGTON
The American air forces in Korea are now receiving massive reinforcements of jet fighters and fighters in the air force. This reinforcement will increase the overall strength by nearly 40 per cent and will increase the percentage of jet fighters to nearly 50 per cent.
This great and painful effort is a response to a corresponding increase in the strength of the Communist air force. The United States Air Force is now estimated to have 1,000 jet fighters in Korea. This is a significant increase from the 600 jet fighters it had in Korea at the end of the war.
The Communist air force is now estimated to have 300 jet fighters in Korea. This is a significant increase from the 100 jet fighters it had in Korea at the end of the war.

and use their own airfields in North Korea. And without these forward air bases of their own, the short range of the British jets cannot easily challenge our supremacy in the air over the battle lines.
The British jets are being used to reinforce our air force. This is a significant increase from the 100 jet fighters it had in Korea at the end of the war.
The Communist air force is now estimated to have 300 jet fighters in Korea. This is a significant increase from the 100 jet fighters it had in Korea at the end of the war.

Strictly speaking, it was not necessary to notify the British. If the jets broke out. But there is a difference between a spin and the truth. The jets are broken off or merely bogged down. Furthermore, Foreign Secretary Morrison understood London was to be notified, even though this understanding was never reduced to writing.
The easiest solution obviously was to pick up the phone and tell the British. This is a personal responsibility which the British should have been able to handle.
Reason for General Clark's desire to bomb the dams was important. About three weeks ago he got worried that the Communists were going to get the dams. He feared they were using the trucks as a blind for a secret attack. On one occasion the Communists threw 15,000 tons of dynamite to begin with. He was afraid that the Chinese command was trying to find a weak spot in U.N. lines.
It was at this point that Clark and General Van Fleet decided to knock out the dams. These dams have provided the power for the Communist radar network that directs enemy fighters and artillery. They also feed electricity to most of the war industry of Manchuria.
Clark asked permission of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington to bomb the dams, and got an OK. But the State Department, whose job it was to handle all communications with the British Embassy, didn't "assume" the British had been notified.
When in London, learned of the news, he telephoned his Undersecretary, Mr. Bruce, and gave him a highly undiplomatic bawling out. Then he arranged to talk with 200 British members of Parliament, at which he did a bang-up job of explaining the tragedy of errors.