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STILL A QUESTION OF ETHICS

ON MAY 19, 1951, in an editorial entitled "A Question of Ethics," we suggested that Councilman Basil Boyd's active interest in the replacement of City Recorder E. McA. Currie raised a question of professional and political ethics. Mr. Boyd opposed another term for Judge Currie. It was no secret that he did not always agree with Judge Currie's ruling on his cases. And it was no secret that he tried to promote Attorney Ralph Kidd for Mr. Currie's post. Mr. Kidd at that time shared an office in the Law Building with Mr. Boyd. No more than three votes could be mustered for Mr. Kidd, however. Attention was then given to Attorney J. C. Seabury, who was elected with four votes and who, incidentally, has served with great distinction.

But the grand jury has a point. When he goes into Recorder's Court to represent a defendant, Mr. Boyd appears before a judge who was elected by the votes of Mr. Boyd and six others, whose salary is fixed by Mr. Boyd's vote and six others. As a rule, the witnesses for the state are city policemen whose salaries, working conditions, and fringe benefits are fixed by Mr. Boyd's vote and six others.

And since four votes are a majority, Mr. Boyd might cast one-fourth of the deciding vote in a split ballot, as he did in May, 1951.

We do not suggest that Recorder Seabury has permitted that to influence his decision on a single case. To the contrary, he is the kind of man who would lean over backward the other way. Nor do we have any evidence that police witnesses are less hostile—or perhaps less objective—is the better term—when they are testifying against Mr. Boyd's defendants than they are in other cases.

SOVIET REPLY DISTORTS

THE administration's handling of a date of the President's proposed "atoms-for-peace" pool affords an excellent example of skilled diplomacy. The proposal, made on Dec. 8, was put forth in moderate and succinct language. It was delivered before the proper forum, the United Nations. It was accompanied by representations to the Soviet government in Moscow by U. S. Ambassador Charles Bohlen, who impressed upon the Kremlin the sincerity and magnitude of the American proposal. And when the Soviet press attacked the proposal shortly after it was made, the U. S. government did not retort in kind. The administration calmly took the view that the hastily contrived reply might be a stalling device, designed to take the pressure off the Kremlin while it made up its mind. This evaluation of Soviet strategy now has been proved correct. Yesterday the Soviet government agreed to join the national atomic pool. Thus the proposal has cleared its first hurdle. This initial success does not indicate sincere Soviet desire to agree to formation of an international pool of atomic resources. Had the Kremlin turned down this offer to negotiate, such an impressioned diplomats around the world, the Soviet Union's oft-stated advocacy of peace would have sounded suspiciously like a usually done. If the Russians do not want the plan adopted they will wreck it in the suggested conference, if one is held, else haggle interminably over conference preliminaries (place of meeting, participants, agenda).

IKE'S ATOM TALK

The Soviet reply is politely phrased, but it distorts one of the President's basic points. In this manner: "The adoption of the (Eisenhower) proposal would in no way restrict the aggressor from using atomic weapons of any means or type. Consequently this proposal in no way reduces the danger of an atomic attack. Thus the conclusion follows that, as the United States, the proposal put forward neither stops the growing production of atomic weapons nor limits the possibility of their use in these weapons." The President, however, emphasized in his speech that this nation is "instantly prepared to accept any proposal that would end and find an acceptable solution to the atomic armaments race. He said the U. S. would seek more than the mere reduction or elimination of atomic materials available for military purposes. He said the U. S. would seek more than the mere reduction or elimination of atomic materials for peaceful purposes. The President indicated that the negotiators could consider reducing the atom's potential for war as well as increasing the atom's potential for peace. The President of course did not say this nation would destroy its atomic weapons if the Soviet Union would promise to do the same. Neither the U. S. S. R. nor the U. S. would consider destroying its major weapons at present. If the Soviet Union is willing to agree to complete disarmament, again, instead of helping to develop peace-time uses of atomic power and reduce the frictions that necessitate armament, then the Eisenhower plan will fall away, before long, next to the ill-fated Baruch plan.

A 'SUNNY PLATEAU' IN GOBBLEDYGOOK

THE jargon of the economists is a fascinating thing. Just the other day, we initiated Secretary of Agriculture Benson in this column for using the term "excess reserves" instead of the more opprobrious "surplus commodities" when talking about the farm problem. But Benson is not the only culprit. In an interview with U. S. News & World Report, W. Randolph Burgess, deputy to the secretary of the treasury, kept talking about a "readjustment." A questioner asked him to explain what he meant by "excess" and "readjustment," he replied: "I think it is in the extent. There anybody can make his own definition." Another term that he introduced into use with the new administration is "disinflation." Presumably, that's a softer term for the more sinister "deflation."

GUSSING GAME

THE gamblers who study meteorology, climatology and temperatureology tell us that the world is getting gradually warmer. This is a sort of corroboration of less learned people who have been telling us the world is rapidly going to a warmer climate—Kuessner (TOM). TALKS.

FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

After assiduously studying the stock market list, Robert D. Tracy, of Los Angeles, has made deductions from the news and the business they might be based in: American Cars—Outdoors advertising. American Loco—Sanatorium. American School—Flattery. American Steel—Diamonds. Bell Bros.—Old-fashioned toys. A. M. News—Purchasing agents (morning only). Courier Corp.—Pigeons. Cross Corporation—and television.

EDUCATION

Edison Mfg.—Knives and forks. Hayes Industries—Los Angeles "smog" manufacturer. Howe Sound—Hearing aids. Koppers Co.—Detective agency.

'Here's An Unusual One From A Fellow Named Benson'



People's Platform

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

Businessmen Too 'Hard-Headed'

Editors: The News: In your recent editorial, "49,156 A Year—Plus Wages," which comments favorably on Lincoln's executive management system, you say: "Why don't more hard-headed businessmen try it?" You have answered your own question. "Hard-headed." Lack of vision. They would rather fight unions.

Reds Should Have Been Outlined

Editors: The News: Some 20-odd years ago, New York City had a morning newspaper, known as the New York American. It was a good newspaper. It had good writers and a very large circulation, then one day, because of a personal grudge with the Russian government, Publisher Hearst chose to start a campaign to attack and knock the Bolsheviks, also known as Reds, now known as Communists, and devoted much of that newspaper's space to his program.

Obstacles To Progress

By DAVID LAWRENCE (Haver of Pittsburgh) The inhabitants of suburbia who get all the benefits of the center but contribute nothing to its support. One of the things we have been unable to do in Pittsburgh has been to make ourselves into a city bloc—to sum up leadership that would fight for Pittsburgh—no absolute partisan thinking. The ordinary man who makes up the majority of the city is affected. I do think we should exercise ourselves to the same job we nationally and city officials can't do the job alone. We are suspect in too many quarters as politicians, or what is ever worse, bureaucrats who have a stake in the cities awake to their own responsibilities and their direct line to the nation and at the state capitals everywhere to stop this purposeless and unproductive waste of the national wealth of America is concentrated in its cities. The ferment, the imagination, the talent, the scientific and technical skills are city qualities, concentrated in cities. The population of America is increasingly urban. And yet we permit the cities to decay, and fellow travelers. The rest of those days, office buildings, and their industries further and further away from the city.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

J. EDGAR HOOVER told a supersuperior meeting of the House Judiciary Committee (judiciary subcommittee) recently that to the best of his knowledge no Communist agents hold any policy-making jobs in the government.

Lonely Tom Dewey

PROBABLY the loneliest political feud ever experienced inside the Republican Party is now taking place in New York. It has direct bearing on the Republican nomination for 1956, and means that Gov. Tom Dewey, even if he wins it, will be out of the rubbing the gloves is now engaged in killing the taxes of some of the most important Republican political figures in New York State—some of them once close to him. Certain Republicans, in turn, are busy checking on the committee for Dewey. Dewey released Lucky Luciano from Sing Sing during the war. At that time, Lucky considered the No. 1 boss of New York and head of Murder,

Even The Commercials Look Good On Color Television

BY FREDERICK C. OTTMAN (Mr. Ottman is substituting for News Columnist Marjorie Childs, who is on vacation. Editors, The News.)

THE GOVERNMENT'S approval at last of long color television seems to have met with a strange approval by the commercial in the business. Some of the retail dealers are plumb disgusted. They suggested the Federal Communications Commission hold up the announcement until after Christmas, so as to put no ideas in the heads of their prospects. The FCC ignored this plea and the industry is buying advertising space to announce that color television isn't all everybody's hoped.

I'd have thought the manufacturers would have been jumping with joy at the prospect of putting rates in every living room. But they're still trying hard to sell black-and-white sets. In general they claim that the color television will be little 12-inch-sets around \$1,000 for the next year or maybe two, or even three.

\$700 PRICE PREDICTED One firm that says its first color sets will retail at \$700. Another insists it will produce color sets for the price of \$500. I've been talking to a wise man in the television business and he says it is in the well-known formula.

Most makers are betting on the three-gun picture tube (whatever it costs) as the one that will sell more than the black-and-white one. A smaller segment of the industry believes in the one-gun color producer at a far smaller cost. One firm has suggested that sure as haws color television might cost 50 cents more than the present black and gray idea. They say that \$1,000 color sets undoubtedly will be placed on

Did The Buck Or The Bang Come First At Pentagon?

By STEWART ALSTON

WASHINGTON THE Eisenhower Administration has been unofficiously but rather completely revealed. Judging from these plans, the administration is a miracle. The present level of defense spending is to be cut back close behind the colored pig. And further cuts are to reduce defense spending several more billions for levels involving an actual increase, rather than decrease, in defense spending. When Adm. Arthur Radford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, presented this "new look" to the disarrayed National Security Council, he made a brief but cogent statement to the council.

WHAT KIND OF WAR? He said, in effect, that a major reason why the military planners had never been told what sort of war they would be called on to fight a "conventional" war like the Korean war, which used no atomic weapons were used. If they could assume, instead, that atomic weapons would be used in the future war, this might make a big difference in their plans.

Some discussion, Radford and the other chiefs were told to have another look, in a new light. The National Security Council did not go so far as to instruct the military leaders to assume that any future war will be an atomic war—we must still be able to deal with "brush fire wars." But they were told to assume that "brush fire wars" atomic weapons will be used.

The Joint Chiefs accordingly went back and re-estimated their requirements for the atomic fire power can be substituted for manpower and conventional

Incorporated, still had about 90 years to go. Behind this GOP civil war is first the fact that Dewey, with a good record as governor, would be a hard sell to find voters. It is not clear if the political allies involved in the "race-track take" and other shades of dubious political operations.

Weakness in Washington, say his friends

When Dewey went to the White House last week to discuss the Niagara power project, he had to go in a hand, and he came away with a definite promise. He indicated that he was for letting Dewey have way at Niagara, but he didn't button it as Dewey's definition of "button" it is an excuse for a poor decision. It is no doubt still too early to judge, but even a "button" decision has been thoroughly explained and defended. But as these plans are further worked out, it is very likely that you will find the check-egg question which came first, the buck or the bang?