

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1953

REHABILITATION OR REPETITION?

From Peel' returned to the headlines.

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Headlines are the second of the seco

which Rep. Arthur Goodman hopes will be increased.
Browsing through the News files on this case raises conflicting emolions. The numerous letters, editorials and articles show what a peraistent reporter like the late W. M. Jones and dogged colleagues can do to expose and help rectify a sordid system.

In one respect, a comparison with the prison system then and now is striking. By 1003 social revolution had weept away many old Ideas and methods, but had not touched North Carolina's prison system. It was still based on the chaingang/forging philosophy. Nawaman Tim Pridgen graphically described the attitude of the Mckleenburg camp master toward his subjects:
"Come here, nigger... the guard says."

"Come here, nigger ... the guard says you won't work ... I been seein' it, myself, but I kept my see off of you ... hopin' you'd get some sense ... take off that shirt! ... makin'm tear off your shirt that way ... ain'Byou got no sense! ... got what ... it takes to put some sense in ... sow ... stop barrel ... take off them pants ... two three! ... four! ... wan! ten in the same place? ... eighteen! ... ain't no use prayin, mean as you are ... twenty! ... God don't love a lazy nigger ... now, that's just a sample ... sample .

THIS week the notorious "Case of the tical prison camp man", Tim wrote, said Fromes Feet" returned to the headlines. a good whipping was the only practical means it reaswakened polgnamt memories in the of discipline. The new school of thought held newsroom, and among Mecklenburgers who the recall the grueemen. Eye-er-aid story of the gangs for painshment, but for restoration as two Negro prisoners, Woodrow Wilson good citizens:

The chaingang, the whip, the "little dark houses" of solitary fifth were abolished. Prisoners were treated as human beings. But were they restored?

Prisoners were treated as human beings. But were they restored?

Shropshire and Barnes, understandably, were not. Two years after the expose Stropshire, drunk and armed with a beer bottle, hobbled along the streets of York looking for a fight—and was put on a York County chaingang. The same year Barnes was convicted of second-degree murder. From 1937 to 1932 there were 15 charges against him, many of them minor. Twenty charges were slodged against Shropshire from 1936 until last December. Society had been grossly unjust toward them, and left a lasting mark. How about contemporary lawbreakers, who at least don't get horribly mistreated? Are they, in reasonable numbers, finding their way back to lavint society?

No. The North Carolina prison system offers, as its main course, postgraduate instruction in crims. A first offender goes to the roads, where he works alongisch hardened criminals. They are his teachers.

ened criminals. They are his teachers. Upon release, the first offenders ply their newly-learned trade, become repeaters, and go back to the roads. In 1980, more than 10,000 of the 14,000 persons admitted to prisons were repeaters. In 1981 all but about 2,000 of the 14,000 inmates of water prisons were repeaters.

In 18 years North Carolina has vastly improved its prison facilities and disciplinary improved tis prison facilities and disciplinary to the property of the prisons were repeaters. The second of the prisons were repeater to the prisons were repeated by the prisons were repeated by the prisons were repeated by the prisons of the priso

THE COUNCIL TOSSES A WARM SPUD

AT NO TIME prior to or during the 1947 General Assembly was the Charlotte City Council asked for its opinion about the leg-islation that established the Firemen's Re-

islation that established the Firemen's Re-tirement Fund that year. Council minutes show no reference to it whatsoever. Nor has the Council any control over ad-ministration of the fund. Three of the (trus-tees are appointed by the firemen, three serve by virtue of their office (City Manager, City Tressurer, and Municipal Accountant), and the challenga is named by the Parish City Treasurer, and Municipal Accountant, and the chairman is named by the Resident

tion that the firemen make rrom their own-salaries.
Hence, the decision of the Council this week to refer the looming bankruptcy of the fund to the legislative delegation and the trustees was entirely in order. A previous legislative delegation having created this financial monster, the present delegation will have to bring it under control.
The Council's resolution, introduced by Basil M. Boyd, was also on solid ground when it requested the delegation to keep the City's contribution in line with the systems of the council of

tems for policemen and other municipal employees.

That, it seems to us, is the crux of the whole matter. Wisely or unwisely, the firemen were given a relitement system with more lavish benefits than other city employees enjoy. The joint contribution by the city and the firemen is far short of the amount needed to put the fund on an actuarially sound basis. Now the fund faces bankruptcy.

In the effort to avoid backgrounder the City

In the effort to avoid bankruptcy, the City can fairly contribute as much, but no more, than it is giving to its other employees. Beyond that, the only alternatives are (1) a major reduction in the scale of benefits, or (2) a major increase in the contribution by the firemen from their salaries.

the firemen from their salaries.

The reluctance of the delegation to tackle so knotty a problem this late in the session is also understandable. But the unpleasant task must be taken up without further delay. The firemen deserve a sound retirement aystem, and the taxpayers deserve the assurance that they will not be called on to hail came the session of the deserve that the session of the deserve the session of the sessio

A SUGGESTION FOR HOUSE INVESTIGATORS

A SUGGESTION FOR HO.

A STATEMENT that a particular woman is a friend of an unfriendly power, according to a story published six years ago by that power's official newspaper, is hardly significant. That statement was made, nevertheless, by Chairman Velde of the House Un-American Activities Committee. The woman he mentioned was Mrs. Anges Meyer, wife of the board chairman of the Washington Port and quite a lady in her own right. She forthwith blasted him as an untruthful man, whereupon he double-checked and said bed made "an honest error". It was a Mrs. Mayer, up in British Columbia, who pleased the editors of Pugada after she wrote them a letter in 1947.

editors of Paguda after she wrote them a letter in 1947.
We do not question the sincerity of Representative Velde's profession of error. The original information, he said, 'was furnished to me as an accurate depiction of information in the files of the House Committee on UPA-American Activities." He may, however, be on the right track by suggesting that his committee would are in error. In fact, his committee would are in error. In fact, his committee would be on the said to investigate its own files and informants.

For example, last year the committee devoted one whole 70-page pamphile to the stationary of Harvey M. Matusow. Some of the committee, and the committee of the The fact that a statement was sworn befor

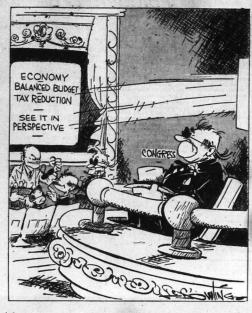
The fact that a statement was sworn before a Congressional committee does not make the statement true. Mr. Velde would save himself future embarrassment and render the country a signal service if he would clean out his committee's files, and verify or discard the unsubstantisted charges.

CRACKDOWN ON U. S. DRONES

THOSE mans you hear may be coming not the from Federal offices in Washington, where the Eisenbower Administration is cracking down already on the "two-hours of the first president himself is setting the argument of the first president himself is setting the argument. The Or the young the first president himself is setting the argument. The Or the word first of the first president himself is setting the argument. The Or the word first day at 8 A. M., and called on Republican leaders to meet him 20 minutes later. This was so unprecedented that it almost caused appaint. The Orly trooms were scared half to death, for fear they would be late.

Altonery-General Rrownell's first order stressed the novel thought that Pederal derivations of the word makes (We are willing to concept a first precedent of the word makes (We are willing to concept a first precedent of them would make (We are willing to concept, and the word of th

President Eisenhower's Three-Dimensional Movie



Administration Faces Reality

The New Team Comes Of Age

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

Three Unpleasant Cnoices

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and reasonable security reducements, by careful, unit reasonable security reducements, by careful, unit continued to the first continue to the had chosen the third course, as had been forecast here. The decision to ask for continuance of the excess profits tax, or for its remarks of the excess profits tax, or for its remarks of the excess profits tax, or for its remarks of the excess profits tax, or for its remarks of the excess profits tax, or for its remarks of the excess profits of the excess profits of the excess profits of the excess of

He is doing his job not as Franklin D. Roose-welt did, by dominating and directing in every im-

MASHINGTON

OMETIMES news is too big and too shapeless

I offit a headline. Pamilies know, for instance, when their children reach voting age, and a first birthdays can be marked with special feature. He is designed to the property of the reactive and least birthdays can be marked with special feature. When their children reach voting age, and let birthdays can be marked with special feature. When their children reach voting age, and let be dead by others, and then abruptly accept the turity, and is ready to face facts honestly and total with them realistically.

When the converted the chair, regularly and with a claim of the board. When the converted can be described by the celebrated as the time when the same reasonably be celebrated as the time when the same account of the converted can be considered to the challenge of its vast new responsibility.

Tax policy was really the decisive fest, as it has been from the start. After all, lower taxes the same reasonably by cutting out waste. But when the hard budge that the chair is the chair of the converted to the challenge of its vast new responsibility.

Tax policy was really the decisive fest, as it has been from the start. After all, lower taxes have been promised by every flepholican, on the same of the board. When the hard budge is the converted to the challenge of the chall

Quote, Unquote

When Private Citizen Harry S. Truman stopping over in Cincinnati, says that "later on I hope I can say what I please," it's the first intimation that the last eight years in the White House have been nothing more than a warming-up session.—Nashville Tennessean.

sion.—Nashville Tennessean.
Lill—I hate my boss.
Till—Why?
Why thirdles such dirty songs!—Greenville (Tenn.) Sun.
Modesty: The feeling that others will discover
tow wonderful you are.—Ashville (N.C.) Citizen.
Trinking is like falling out a window. Stopping
be harder than starting.—Russelville (Ar.). Trib-

Smear Of Nixon Brings To Mind Other Unfair Attacks

BY MAROUIS CHILDS

AS THE level of politics steadily deteriorates, the word smear becomes more and more a part of the political vecabulary. The latest victim of the deliberate, calculated time of the deliberate, calculated Vice-President Richard Nixon.

With journalistic enterprise Richard Nixon.

political weabulary. The latest victim of the deliberate, calculated by a Senite committee, many vice-President Richard Nixon. Witchest Canapian. Go of the Ard Wilson in Look Magazine has told in detail the story of a food and the story of the story

coelime Communist leader, together. This attack is believed to
have caused Tydings' deleat.
The smear tydings were investitied. The smear tydings were investigated by a Sensite committee, and
signed a report denouncing this
pack-street campaign." One
the Republicans was Sen. Marparet Chaes Smith of Maine who
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The Saga Of The Professor With An Atomic Seeing Eye

BY FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

WASHINGTON charge of the spending, only he couldn't discover how much he had

THERE was this Spanishese.

The property of the spending only be considered to selentiat, who rode in a bled to spend, or spending to selentiate with the selection of the spending only be considered to be first flew as fast as a jet, and kept in his pocket a special such considerable to brick walls, steel vaults and other conque materials.

He was no peeping Tom; be wouldn't stoop to that He used his what the bodget was," he law conclusions a catching miscreants, such as heart robbers, child snatchers, and conclusional C or m u usist gang-steen, though these last usually conclusions and the robbers, that supermans adventures were pressed upon phonograph record by our Department of hidden south of the lowest of hidden south of hi

Drew Pearson's Congressmen Find Ike A Gracious Host Merry-Go-Round

CONGRESSIONAL leaders who lunched vided money for the remodeling. But I'm with Dresident Eistenbewer the other clast young the Democrats and Republicans, but also an artist who swings quite a paint-orush.

also an artist who swings quite a paint-brush.

Political protocol was forgotten at the luncheon of soun, whitefash, paralyed po-taines, green said, coffee, structury to con-taines, green said, coffee, structury to con-gressman Carnece Cannon of Missouri at his right and Congressman Carl Visson of Goergia directly across the table.

"There's Garlield, who was a former member of Congress, Poor fellow. He was repeated by the control of the control of the con-trol of the control of the con-cept of the control of the con-trol of the c

Lo, The Poor Indian

reshadowing.

"When I have the time I paint about its minutes every day for relaxation," the minutes every day for relaxation, the simulation of the control of the control

claims which the Indians had entrusted to

All Cops Are Alike

All Cops Are Alike
SECRETARY of the Interior Douglas McKey was bosting to White House
Key was bosting to White House
the Copy of the Copy of the Copy of the Copy
"Those boys are really tough," said MeKey, "especially or speeders. It makes no
difference who you are, you can't talk
ofference who you are, you can't talk
peed limit."

He added that the cops of his state were
particularly unimpressed by "political is an
awfully good excuse of sinches.

"Oh. I don't know and disches."

"Oh. I don't know and control that,"
impairly objected assistant president Sherman
Adama, who proceeded to tell how he
and Rajbh Cake, GOP national committee
patroliman in Oregon during the selection
apartoliman in Oregon during the selection
apartoliman in Oregon during the selection
"How did you do it!" inquired the du"How easy," said an member of Eisenhower's staff."