

BYRD COOLS OFF THE TAX SLASHERS

HARRY BYRD of Virginia is not what has been loudly labeled the "tax and tax-spend spend, elect and elect" kind of Democrat. A low-tax man, a staunch advocate of economy, a shrewd student of government financing in all its phases, Senator Byrd was a thorn in the flesh of the Truman Administration. And now he is needling the tax-cutters of the GOP.

According to Edwin L. Dale Jr. in the N. Y. Herald Tribune, Mr. Byrd is quietly letting it be known around Congress that the Federal budget for fiscal 1954 cannot be balanced unless existing taxes are extended beyond their scheduled expiration dates.

The Virginia's stand will be a blow to Rep. Daniel Reed, chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee, who believes in slashing taxes without regard to looming budgetary deficits. That's where the two men differ. Byrd believes that it is more important at the moment to balance the budget and thus reduce the inflationary effect of deficit financing, than it is to cut taxes.

Furthermore, Mr. Byrd has sized up the international situation realistically. He believes in a strong defense, and he doubts that a material reduction in defense spending can be achieved in the next few months. And he is aware that more than half of the foreign aid spending projected for the next fiscal year will come from previously allocated funds, most of them earmarked for military supplies. Hence, with a budget tentatively out of balance by some \$9.9 billion, it will test the ingenuity of the Eisenhower Administration and Congress to close the gap between spending and revenue. Should revenue be reduced by tax cuts, the gap would be even wider.

There was a great deal of wishful thinking in the last year of the Truman Administration, and there has been a great deal of wishful thinking since then, about the Federal budget. True there was in it—"fat" if you please. But in \$2 per cent is going to pay for past, present and future wars, including veterans' benefits and the interest of the national debt, both fixed by law, it is no easy task to bring spending down. It cannot be done overnight—especially when threatening new gestures in Europe by the Malenkov Soviet regime may call for a stepping up instead of a curtailing, of defense spending.

It may be possible to hold the House in line on Rep. Reed's proposal. After all, every member of the House is up for re-election next year, and tax-cutting is an effective vote-getter. But a better performance is expected in the coming year. Financially, as Harry Byrd, The Senator, by tradition, is the repository of greatness in this nation; in this case, it will have to be the repository of common sense, as well.

A STEP TOWARD HOME RULE

THE resolution by the County Commissioners on the "home rule" bill yesterday apparently dispelled any doubts our Mecklenburg legislators might have had about including this county in a statewide bill aimed at giving county boards more authority.

There had been news reports that Mecklenburg would be excluded from the measure, introduced by Rep. Regan of Robeson County, to permit County Commissioners to fix the salaries of elected county officials. This was to be done because the Mecklenburg Commissioners reportedly didn't want the authority.

Signals were crossed somewhere. When Commissioner McIninch offered his motion to include Mecklenburg in the statewide measure, only one member of the board voted against it—and he made it clear that he didn't know enough about the bill to vote for it. Word from Raleigh today says that at least four members of the delegation will go along.

There is nothing revolutionary about the measure. A number of North Carolina Boards of County Commissioners already have the authority to set the salaries of such officials as the Clerk of Court, Register of Deeds, and Sheriff. The system has worked well, and it makes a good deal more sense than calling on the N. C. General Assembly for authority to raise or lower salaries of these officials.

This is just a beginning toward establishing some measure of home rule in North Carolina. This bill will give the Legislature from one major burden. More needs to be done. A report by a special commission on local and private legislation has been gathering dust in Raleigh for four years now. We have ready-made legislation to throw away, and serious consideration given to the more fundamental constitutional and statutory changes proposed therein.

HOW ABOUT THOSE COUNTY JOBS?

WHEN L. R. Sides pitched his hat into the ring last week, he assured the voters of a spirited fight for the job as Charlotte's Mayor.

Mr. Sides has been around the town for a long time. He has held several public positions. He is well known and well liked. He has promised to wage a vigorous campaign. Believing that warm contacts for public office stir voters out of their lethargy and into action, he welcomed Mr. Sides' announcement. The race with Philip Van Every should be fast and furious.

slots on the City Council is not yet so spirited. Four members of the present Council will run again, and several other candidates have announced. But the field is not yet crowded; it's wide open for the kind of lively campaign, complete with clearly-drawn lines, that we like to see.

We trust the situation will not long endure. The City Government is big business. It is important business. It demands the best in management and leadership. Potential candidates who have something to offer the voters need have no fear of plunging into the fray.

CLOUDS HAVE DARK TONES, TOO

THE first two of a special series of articles by the Alsop Brothers in The News yesterday and today spell out a grim story for the American people. Instead of cutting defense spending, as Candidate Eisenhower had hoped to do, it may be necessary for President Eisenhower to increase defense spending by some \$1 billion to \$20 billion to catch up with Soviet air power.

It is too early, of course, to draw final conclusions from these articles. The Alsops are persistent reporters, and on many occasions in the past they have dug deep to uncover big trends, and developments before they reached the headline stage. With the sources of information still hidden and with the Administration yet silent, readers should reserve judgment.

While recognizing Eastwood's merit, Mr. Eisenhower has at the same time given Mrs. Ladd an eloquent and convincing assistant. For the coming days on human rights. We expected big things of Mr. Eastwood last July; we have seen his reason to change our estimate of him since then.

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It happened on a bus up in Albemarle County the other day. A man gave his seat to a woman. She faints. On recovering, she thanked him. Then he fainted—Corbett (N. Y.) Current-Argus.

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YOUNG ATTORNEY WITH A BOOK

THE time was last July. The scene, the GOP national convention. The occasion, a clash between the Taft and Eisenhower wings of the party over setting the rival Georgia delegations.

A young man stepped to the microphone. In a clear, ringing voice and in close-cropped syllables, he warned the Taftites to "beware of the young attorney with a book," and proceeded to quote Supreme Court ruling that had bearing on the case. It was largely because of the young man's effective presentation that the Eisenhower group won the showdown struggle.

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'Down, Boy—Down'



Pretended Patriots Threaten Privacy of Religious Belief

(An Editorial From The Cleveland Times)

IF ANY American is fool enough to desire to be he may freely worship the devil. Our common bill of rights, the most precious for the protection of the individual in man's political arena, reserves that privilege for him.

It shall not be for you or me to constrain the conscience of our people. Let us be clear. We do not worship to worship, he may worship or refrain from worship. His gods may be idols in his soul. Indeed, his god may be a plummy tale—a fragile shadow. And, in the sense that we are his keeper and our conviction of rightness is strong, it is our hopeful mission to invite him to join us in enlightenment.

Men of little faith and great fear have gone about the land in these latter years, preaching a religion that is contrary to the Constitution. They would reduce truth to a simple formula, easily and automatically repeated. They would flay us for holding thought and compensate it with an approved label. For them, the only inalienable rights which all men are born to be unanimous.

These panic patrons have been hatched together in the common every medium of communication, damning for a traitor every writer, speaker, artist, cartoonist, actor, teacher, whose expressions smack of an individual search for truth, who is not content to submit to the dogma of a few men in jet of pat phrases. They have robbed men of jobs and honor for the crime of non-conformity.

As these thought-regulators have roared unchecked through their parades of republicanism, they have softened the tolerance of good men with magnificent oracles of oppression. They have rolled our security into a heap of rubble. They have struck the inner defenses of our

Let those who worship fear, who are slaves of their own worship malice, beware of the worship which they will. But, for the sake of our freedom to worship as we will, let us strike them down before they sacrifice that freedom to their own respective demons.

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.

Pleased By Award

WASHINGTON EDITOR, THE NEWS: I was pleased to learn of the American Heritage Foundation award made to The Charlotte News. This is certainly a well-merited honor and a fine service to your community and an right pride of you and your fine paper.

—ESTES KEFAUVER

'Smear Charged'

WASHINGTON, D. C. EDITOR, THE NEWS: We have read the editorial "Crackdown On U. S. Doctors" reprinted recently by The News from the Richmond Times-Dispatch. This editorial is a gratuitous smear of hundreds of thousands of conscientious American citizens serving their country in the Federal Civil Service.

On Real Americanism

CHARLOTTE EDITOR, THE NEWS: THIS letter is written as a rebuke to the March 13 episode which appeared in this column under the name of Mrs. Helen Judt, American. As I read her letter, I was little shaken. I thought the signature at the end would read—Martha Washington, Ok., well, I was shocked. First of all, in my humble opinion, the present McCarran-Walter Act violates everything our country stands for in the Constitution. I do not like the Act as it stands, and believe it should be repealed.

Bonzo's A Pie Dog, But He Runs Nairobi's Best Hotel

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NAIROBI, Kenya. NAIROBI'S best streets, with no master, no home, and only the occasional ofal for food. He was called Bonzo because he was so scrupulous. He had no maima, no papa, no per diem.

Then one day Bonzo was crying on the porch. He was struck him. He saw a young man on the porch, giving orders in a harsh, commanding voice. He was called Bonzo because he was so scrupulous. He had no maima, no papa, no per diem.

Some people named Bonzo were crying on the porch. He was struck him. He saw a young man on the porch, giving orders in a harsh, commanding voice. He was called Bonzo because he was so scrupulous. He had no maima, no papa, no per diem.

I might say that the hotel is forbidden to all dogs except old Bonzo. There are signs all over the hotel. It is a product of the foreign settlements in big cities. And no one would be surprised to get their basic training in such terms.

Alger His—a four letter word, yet as red as blood spilled by anyone here. Here's a product of no melting pot, yet he looks so. How do you account for that?

We have the A-bomb and the H-bomb, yet it took American minds to produce the Fermi, and Einstein to help get it. Yes, they were Italian and German. German-American, do you see, and Americans, and if I may say so, far more so than we are.

At dinner time, Bonzo chooses a chair. People bring him steak and bears of artichoke or whatever he fancies. When he is eating, he sleeps in a big divan in the lobby—a divan intended originally for guests. When he is fed, he is accompanied to the registration desk, puts both foot on the register, and snarls at the attendant. He is available, which is usually true.

I look at this Bonzo and I have a feeling at his arrogance. Here is a dog who is sneaking around his superior freedom behind fogs of suspicion and fright, which any American can deliberately camouflage.

It was inevitable that they arrive at the American Activities Committee may get into the "church field." Three prominent clergymen have spoken out in a public way against "the pretended patriots" who have proved themselves "morally unfit" to investigate the nation's educational system, who are operating "on the assumption that they are the divinely constituted guardians of other men's consciences, other men's patriotism or thoughts," and "who have sought political advantages in an hour of hysteria by capitalizing upon fear and, in the name of Americanism, by attacking our country and dividing our people."

If we have not been aroused before, we will be aroused in angry indignation now that so few citizens should have the nerve to speak out in this way. It is our right to invade our churches and to change the propriety of the thoughts and motives that proceed from their altars. These are vicious men—McCarty, Jenner, Veloc and their disciples—who profess to hold a price claim on patriotism and now are reaching for a similar claim on our consciences. There is no end to our prayers. There is no end to our prayers. There is no end to our prayers. There is no end to our prayers.

Facts Vs. Fiction

CHARLOTTE EDITOR, THE NEWS: I do not desire to impose on you in prolonging our correspondence on the McCarran Immigration Act. However, as your columnist, Mr. Helen Judt, has raised several points which need clarification, since many people interested in honorable controversy have mislabeled the basic facts behind the "subversive" issue.

Eden Traces British Fears In Far East

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

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Battle For Oil

AFTER Ex-Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman testified at the House hearing on the McCarran Immigration Act, Senator Price Daniel came over to him and remarked: "You've agreed with your position, but you've made a lot of noise. You're the most effective witness ever to join your organization at its own expense."

Law Laughs

HERE is a cross-section of mail from happy taxpayers flooding the Internal Revenue Bureau around March 15. As usual, there were indignant, impetuous check letters from Irish-American, the annual income-tax gauge was a "British plot" to spend the country's tax money. "I'm a tax collector, I don't have to pay taxes," a sarcastic Texas wrote. "The difference between debt and taxes is that debt is paid by the government, taxes are paid by the citizen."

Chapman Reminded Republicans

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