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WILLIAM OATIS—SYMBOL OF FREE MEN

SO LONG as AP Correspondent William Oatis remained in his Czech prison cell, the great tradition for which stood—freedom of information—was weakened and sullied.

By force and by trickery, the masters of the slave state Russia—satellite has managed to trample on all democratic principles of news gathering and news reporting. Makers of their own rules, fearful of an informed public, they had sought to make of Oatis an example of their power over the minds and beings of all people in their jurisdiction.

But through it all, Oatis' spirit of defiance, his loyalty to principle, and the conviction that he had done no wrong never wavered. He bent, as most men will bend to the cold and efficient psychological treatment applied by his captors. But he never broke.

And now William Oatis, once again a free man, becomes a symbol for free men everywhere—and a useful and needed symbol. He has written a large chapter in the long struggle of free men to keep open the sources of information, to resist attempts by governmental authority to keep its subjects

jailed in darkness and ignorance. Rigid control of public information is the first requirement of totalitarian rule. A free press cannot exist under dictatorship for the very simple reason that dictatorship cannot exist with a free press. Hitler, Mussolini, Hirohito, Stalin, Peron—all the dictators of modern times have crushed freedom of information as a necessary preliminary to fastening iron control on their people.

So long as William Oatis walks among us, he will be a reminder that it can happen here just as it happened in Czechoslovakia, if freedom of assembly, freedom of religion and press are ever weakened or threatened by ambitious, power-hungry political leaders.

The American people rejoice in Oatis' release. In honor him for having carried out his journalistic duties with scrupulous attention to the digging out and reporting of all the facts and if they are wise, they will ever keep under intense scrutiny any effort to tamper with or to deny them the information that belongs to them as free citizens of a free society.

A MOOT POINT, BUT INTERESTING

A CATHOLIC PRIEST in Abbeville, N. C., has raised an interesting point in the continuing public debate over the separation of church and state.

Father Raphael Landser of St. Charles Catholic Church contends that the holding of baccalaureate services in the Abbeville Catholic Church, or in any church of any denomination, is "a violation of the spirit, if not the letter" of the Bill of Rights.

In reply, the Rev. Oscar Creech, for 28 years pastor of the church and now an official of Chowan College at Murfreesboro, says there is "no violation in the principle of separation of church and state." He cites the long tradition of holding Abbeville baccalaureate services in churches throughout the country. Senior classes select their baccalaureate speakers, and also the site of the ceremony. In many instances school auditoriums are simply not large enough for the students, their parents and their friends. The stories from Abbeville are not clear on this point. As a practical matter, however, it would have to be considered.

The tradition is of no importance if a valid issue has been raised. But is this a valid issue?

Father Landser's protest was sent to the *Rosenclose News* in the form of a letter, and appeared to have been directed to the parents of the community. He told the choice of place and speaker was dictated neither by the Baptist Church nor by the State. It was by vote of the seniors.

If there is a wrong here, it should be

remedied by the parents of the community through their children. There is no violation of the letter of the law. Yet if one or more Abbeville seniors, or their parents, object on religious grounds to attending a school ceremony in a denominational church their objection should be given heed. The historic record of Protestant opposition to encroachment by the State or the Church into the realm of the other should dictate a sympathetic reception of this protest.

MORE THAN AN HONOR

CHARLOTTE CIVILIANS merit a pat on the back for giving even greater significance to their annual citizenship award.

In the past, the seniors in the 13 high schools in Mecklenburg chosen by the fellow students as the "best citizens" have been given medals. The honor was the important thing, this point.

Now the Civilians have gone forward another step. This year, for the first time, the 13 winners will be given a five-day guided, expense-paid tour of the nation's capital and historic places in Virginia.

And having seen where American history was made, and where the high standards of citizenship have been shaped through the centuries, another man's work with a critical eye for in so doing they spotted their own misdeeds. And they have profited from the criticism of the other members of the

WHEN EDITORS GET TOGETHER

READERS of this page, both the faithful (bless 'em) and the occasional, would have gotten many a chuckle at our expense from the critiques at Saturday's conference of N. editorial writers in Chapel Hill.

Not that we pretend to perfection, or even to a superior brand of craftsmanship. The editorial writer who stays in the business for any length of time without developing a keen awareness of his shortcomings is either a stupid fellow or an insufferable egotist.

When the editorial writer spreads his thoughts on the public print day after day, he expects to be caught up in the maelstrom, his frequent errors of fact, his lapses of logic, his flaws of syntax and style. The quick reaction from his alert readers is one of the calculated risks of this business.

You would think that the editorial writer would get enough criticism from his readers to satisfy him. But no, he goes off to a room

ference like the one at Chapel Hill and asks for more weeks prior to the meeting pages are exchanged among members of the critique groups. Each man takes out the red pencil and marks up someone else's pages. And in the no-holds-barred discussion, even the toughest skin is scarred.

After it is all over, the editorial writers are friends again. They have profited from the criticism of their colleagues. And they have profited from the criticism of the other members of the critique group.

Mr. Dooley once said that the duty of a newspaper is to afflict the comfortable, and comfort the afflicted. In applying the first part of that mandate to their own craft, the editorial writers of North Carolina are doing a splendid job. And with the best traditions of a free and responsible press.

From The Wall Street Journal

FOR SOMEBODY ELSE

DO VOTERS really want their Uncle Sam to spend less money this year, according to a recent story from the Washington bureau of the plaintive agency owned by New Hampshire's Congressman Norris Cotton, who's beginning to wonder.

Mr. Cotton has been receiving some sad sacks of mail from his constituents about recent cuts in government appropriations. Said Mr. Cotton:

"A change sends me a resolution against the lopping off of money for agriculture. A pulp company executive is concerned over the scaling down of forestry funds. A business association decries the elimination of an industrial census. A nurseryman is worried about control of the Japanese beetle."

An engineering firm, he says, complains about a reduction in weather bureau funds. "They don't want that money," he added, "nearly 250 per cent in the last decade and the weather hasn't improved a bit."

Mr. Cotton is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and he knows a lot about what cuts are being made. He knows, too, that the cuts are being made for all sorts of reasons. "An Administration which deprives people of enough financial benefits to put the nation back on a pay-as-you-go basis," he felt, "has been in history but a dead place now."

We must say that we have a lot of sympathy for Mr. Cotton and for all the rest of

the Congressmen who are trying to carry out their campaign pledges to reduce costs and ease the country's economy.

But habits are hard to break, especially bad habits. And the trouble Congressmen like Mr. Cotton are running into now comes from habits the people acquired over some 20 years. It is difficult for an individual to quit a habit of two decades. It is much more difficult for a people collectively to change their ways.

To be sure, the politicians cultivated these habits in the people. The practice of cutting something from the government made only people forget that what they got back was only a part of what they gave. They paid attention to the speeches that all of this was for the good of the country. The politicians twisted into a socialist scheme a pretty phrase about promoting the general welfare and told the people that the government owed them their living and their ease.

But such a system feeds upon itself, because it is a corrupt system, it sicken from what it feeds upon. Finally many people came to realize that the system was bad and that it had to be changed. So they supported and elected to office men pledged to change the system. And now they are willing to cut and save even though it hurts—somebody else.

'Maybe We'd Better Start With A Big 2 Meeting'

Nixon, Taft In Disagreement

On Basic Security Policies

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP



WASHINGTON

PERHAPS the best clue of what has really been happening inside the Administration was given at the recent meeting of the Business Advisory Council at Hot Springs. Rumors of curious events at this government-sponsored, semi-private, off-the-record rally of large business men have already got abroad; but the full story is needed to give the full significance.

In brief, Vice-President Richard Nixon attended the meeting as a featured speaker, while Robert A. Taft was in Hot Springs to spend a week-end with Mrs. Taft, who had been taking a short holiday there. The Vice-President spoke at a daytime meeting when the Senator canceled to drop in.

Bearing in mind that the able and serious Nixon has taken a most active part in the work of the National Security Council, what he had to say was downright startling.

In the first part of his talk, the Vice-President embroiled the guests that have become familiar in the Eisenhower administration, declaring that we must be careful not to crush the free enterprise system under too heavy a defense burden. He then went on, however, to point out that there were other dangers to consider as well. Specifically, he frankly warned that in a rather short time the Kremlin would be able to destroy the United States by air-attack.

Four years was the interval of comparative safety the Vice-President allowed. This suggests, incidentally, that the National Security Council is somewhat more realistic than some of the scientists, who have forecast that the danger of air-atomic destruction by the Kremlin will begin in two to three years. But this also suggests that it can be averted, at least as solid proof—that the higher American policy-making body also thought the future danger as altogether real.

Having described the danger, Nixon went on to point out that the Kremlin would always be able to launch an attack on this country by surprise. He therefore argued, altogether convincingly, that American policy would have to be paralyzed when the Kremlin achieved this terrible capability. Hence, he reasoned, it was needful to forestall the future danger, by somehow altering the power balance so that the Soviet threat would be so great.

The so-called "containment" policy "as not good enough, he as-

serted, precisely because it would not forestall this future danger. What was needed (crudely summarizing Nixon's more careful language) was a roll-back of Soviet power. This in turn necessitated effective American military power. And these were the reasons, the Vice-President concluded, why the American defense budget could not be cut so deeply as the best interest of the economy probably demanded, and as the assembled members of the Business Advisory Council now wished.

Senator Taft also attended the dinner meetings, and he was then called on to say a few words. He ignored the really striking elements of the Vice-President's address—the acknowledgment of the future air-atomic danger, and the suggestion that this danger must be forestalled. But he roundly attacked the Eisenhower defense program as the very opposite of the plan for that program. On these points, Taft spoke strongly and vehemently.

The Senator's argument was simple. The Eisenhower defense program, he felt, was a mere correction of the Truman program. It was essentially the work of the same group of Staff who had drawn up the Truman program. The Senator had never seen any reason to place trust for the present Joint Chiefs.

What he wanted, the Senator went on, was a new look at American defense. He wanted a program new Joint Chiefs whom he could trust. He hoped the new Chiefs would come up with a program costing less than the Eisenhower program. He did not exclude the possibility of their coming up with a more costly program, but he felt that many things had been left undone which ought to have been done.

If such a new look were made, however, by new Joint Chiefs in whom he could have confidence, the Eisenhower program would be accepted. But he was unable to accept or to be satisfied with the Eisenhower program, which he said was a failure. His source in the present Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The question remains, whether the Eisenhower program is really to take an honest new look at this country's military strategic situation. The answer, we think, is really based on the national defense needs. Such a new look will be invaluable. It will be disastrous if the so-called new look is simply an exercise to find out what can be accomplished under the present inadequate feeling on defense spending.

Sissified Baseball No Sport For The Bloodthirsty Fan

By ROBERT C. RUARK

FAR BE IT from me to applaud the sissification of baseball, but a gentle soul, but it seems to me that baseball is getting a little sissified in its general make-up. Where you are supposed to do a little batter or quarrel with an umpire or even to take a punch at an opponent. And, as for the pitcher, he is saving the other fellow, meaning the attendance delegates.

One player, like Billy Martin, belts another, or Jackie Robinson gives it to Solly Hemus, and they are sent to the United States. Or, if it is Or. Mr. Maglie pitches high and inside to Mr. Furillo, and Mr. Furillo comes out and hits him, he calls for a forfeit comment, and a new revision of the international whatever that is. It is of intent when a pitcher throws one tight is that he is attempting to hit his chum in the head, and when that is heaved in retaliation the idea is to fracture a vertebra.

THE men I admired most when I was doing sports were seldom gone from the field. I remember a caddy second baseman for Washington, name of Budny, who was a bulldog. He had not got hit batted on purpose. Mr. Myer was a Louisiana boy

whose hot South'n blood boiled so easy, even Mr. Myer would hit him if he was properly introduced.

Around the premises at the time was another sully Southern named Ben Chapman, who could be as tough as a hog, but the mood touched him. Mr. Chapman would occasionally climb into the stands, rebuke a fan who displeased him, and he had the reputation for being the most inimitable athlete about the place. I also thought Mr. Chapman was fine.

One of my other heroes was a Mr. Wesley Ferrell, who never did get into the game, but he was a man who would beat his head against the wall, rip apart his glove, and throw it away. He was a match — trod up and down on a lovely and expensive gold watch in the field. I remember a pitcher named Red Smith's hero, Billy Owsell, a man with a simply lovely smile on the field.

The only modern hero I now court is young Mr. Martin of the Yankees. Mr. Martin has a temper, and he is a tough, but he never reforms him into amiability. If they do they have to live with him, with a bulldog nose as a nose as Billie simply must strike the first blow.

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.

A Memory Of 'Callie'

NEWTON

NEWSPAPERS are currently publishing releases about the records of the Ford archives dated May 7 as part of the 50th anniversary of the auto empire celebration.

Some of the new Ford releases refer to Mr. Ford's beloved wife "Callie." One item in my memory about her I believe has never been published.

During the early 1920's I was acquainted with several young women investigators in the Public Welfare Department at Detroit.

With Mrs. Ford's quiet, unassuming background the welfare of unfortunate people, she appeared one day at the Welfare office while the women were receiving their daily assignments.

It was a cold, clammy, drizzly day of continuous rain and darkness. Noting that they were not too well prepared to cope with the weather, she asked them if they had to go out afoot under such conditions.

Not long after her visit, on the same day, a glowing brand new Ford sedan of that period was delivered free of all charge, at the entrance of the Welfare office. This was told to me by one of the women investigators on the same day.

E. F. LUMBER

Endorsement Appreciated

CHARLOTTE

WISHT to express my deep appreciation of the flattering editorial which you had in The Charlotte News of May 13 regarding the action of the 25 county members of the Bar Association for its appointment by the Governor as a Superior Court Judge.

The endorsement by the Mecklenburg County Bar was a great appreciation and a warm word to you to know that regardless of the Governor's whims in this matter I shall ever be grateful to you and also to my fellow members of the Bar.

FRANCIS O. CLARKSON

More Hospital Beds Needed

CHARLOTTE

I FEEL an acute sense of amusement mixed with indignation when I read the article in The News dealing with the proposed site for a unit for Negroes to be built at Memorial Hospital. The article read in part, and I quote, "There are more than 850 beds for colored patients in Charlotte. Since there are about 100,000 white citizens in the city, that provides one bed per 115 residents." This is an unfortunate statement, and makes obvious a potential medical problem which exists.

Including all these living in the fringe areas, just outside city limits, there are quite a lot more than 100,000 white citizens, but that is a minor point. The real issue, which is so blithely over-

Drew Perryson's

Meyers-Gorund

Republicans To Block Humphrey Tax Plan

WASHINGTON Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey doesn't know it when he presents his plan to the House Ways & Means Committee today, but the tax cuts are completely stacked against him. Chairman Dan Reed's feathers are ruffled over the whole tax situation and he just isn't going for it.

So no matter what Humphrey proposes in the way of new taxes, he just isn't going to get them. The House will not pass them. In fact, he'll probably get more cooperation from the Democrats.

What Humphrey has been working on in the way of a tax program is this: A—Continuation of the excess-profits tax. B—No cutting of income taxes this year.

C—As a sop to business, Humphrey is proposing more generous depreciation rates, thereby permitting a quicker write-off of capital investments.

But regarding the future, Humphrey believes Congress cannot cut taxes substantially without jeopardizing national defense.

What the Secretary of the Treasury doesn't know, however, is that Republicans on the Ways & Means Committee, who are supposed to support him, have agreed in a secret deal to let the excess-profits tax die on the way June 30—no matter what he recommends.

Furthermore, Uncle Dan Reed got quite nettled the other day when Humphrey

made the understandable mistake of conferring with Sen. George Millikin (Calif.) about taxes before he consulted Reed.

Doesn't he know, fumed Uncle Dan at a closed-door meeting, that tax legislation originates in the Ways & Means Committee, not in the Senate?

Of course, Humphrey is only a puny hard-working little businessman. He probably didn't realize the niceties of Congressional protocol, and when he should talk to first.

However, the result of all this is that there's almost certain to be no legislation passed at this session of Congress. The House, following the advice of Uncle Dan Reed, will do nothing. The Senate, led by Chairman Millikin of the Finance Committee, will accept the advice of Secretary Humphrey. But out of the impasse between the two, no new tax bill is likely to be written.

That means the excess-profits tax will automatically expire June 30 and personal income taxes automatically will be reduced 10 per cent at the end of the year.

Capital Capsules

IT'S intelligence experts are now convinced that the Chinese Communists want to end the Korean War. For example, not a single anti-American sign showed up in the Peking May Day parade. In

contrast, even before Korea, every May Day in America was a day of anti-Chinese demonstrations.

However, the British-American quartet over the latest trade offer may upset the Chinese. They are now in a quandary. The Chinese want to come to terms with Korea until we agree among ourselves and present a united front. They'll use the trade talks to split us.

New Labor Chairman—The White House is quietly lining up Harvard Professor Archibald Cox to be the new chairman of the National Labor Relations Board. Cox is the former war stabilization boss who

was with President Truman over the coal case. However, this wasn't enough to ease the Democratic case as far as the National Labor Relations Board is concerned. The new tariff is so important, trying to block the appointment, but he wants to curb the board's power and turn its judicial functions over to the federal courts.

New Ship Haven—Shipowners from all over the world are now registering their vessels in Liberia. The tiny African public which American Negroes founded—Under Liberia law, the shipowners pay practically no taxes, wages are low, safety inspection haphazard, and—the Liberian Government has no objection to the shipment of strategic materials to Communist countries. Liberia means "free" (If the American Negroes were freed that free republic knew what it was doing. It would turn over in their graves.)

Chiang Wants A War-Chiang Kai-Shek has flatly rejected American appeals to

move his Nationalist troops out of Burma.

The U.S. State Department has been told that the Nationalist Government may invade Burma on the pretext of pursuing this rugged Nationalist band. The Chinese are now in a quandary, leaving them in Burma, and some authorities believe he is deliberately trying to provoke the Chinese into a new war. The New World War III. Another world war is the only thing that would ever get him back in power in China.

Washington Pipeline

Secretary of Defense Wilson has become so fed up with the Pentagon's use of a Navy plane instead of the regular Air Force plane that has always flown the Secretary's mail that he has ordered a new magazine was so sure Gen. Carl Spaatz would be named chairman of the defense committee. It is a joke. He used his picture on last week's cover. Spaatz himself, who works for Newsweek, talked the defense committee into an atomic identical to an economy budget that Assistant Secretary W. J. McNell tried to pass in the House of Representatives last year and a half ago.

Lovett rejected it on the grounds it would jeopardize national security.