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PROMPT MENTAL TREATMENT PAYS OFF

WE DON'T HEAR much about "preventive medicine" in the field of mental health, but it has a number of practitioners and a host of lay enthusiasts. Among its supporters in the Mecklenburg area are the members of the Mental Hygiene Society, one of the United Appeal Services.

The business of preventing serious mental illness by early treatment might be called mental first aid, if it did not go far beyond that. The Mental Hygiene Clinic, which has been around more than 20 years, handled 542 cases of mental illness or personality disturbance in the period from May, 1952, through last month.

The ills of those who sought treatment at the Clinic during that period ranged from serious psychosis (94 cases) to narcotic or alcoholic addiction (23 cases). There were neurotic children, mentally deficient persons, psychopathic personalities, people suffering from convulsive disorders and many who just had trouble thinking or acting correctly.

Unfortunately, some of these eventually wound up in one of the state's four mental hospitals. But many received at the Clinic all the treatment necessary. At the end of last month, Dr. Marshall Fisher, psychiatrist and director of the Clinic, could report 42 patients "satisfactorily improved" and 93 "improved".

The number of these who might eventually have been committed to a state hospital, but for prompt treatment here, will never be known. However, Dr. Robert Felix, director of the National Institute of Health, says that an average of $5,600 in hospitalization costs alone is saved every time a patient is prevented from entering a state mental hospital by receiving outpatient treatment from a psychiatrist. If one psychiatrist were able to do no more than keep 10 patients out of hospitals each year, in 10 years the savings to society would amount to $560,000 for each psychiatrist.

"Preventive medicine" in mental health work might well enable the state to use more effectively the $9,000,000 it is expending each year on the more than 11,000 patients in the mental hospitals and institutions of North Carolina. Although custodial care is almost all we can offer now, treatment might be provided if more funds were available.

This week one health worker, Edward S. Haswell, chief psychiatric social worker with the Mental Health Section of the State Board of Health, re-emphasized the need for at least four more mental hygiene clinics in North Carolina. In addition to the seven clinics now in operation—all west of Raleigh—Mr. Haswell believes that clinics are vitally needed in Wilmington, Fayetteville, Greenville and Elizabeth City.

Another goal is the establishment of traveling clinics to serve the rural areas or, if that should prove impossible, the placement of a psychiatric social worker in one or more rural counties to work closely with the nearest clinic.

"North Carolina," says Mr. Haswell, "would then have a psychiatric service of which it could well be proud.

And, we add, the costly number of new admissions to the state hospitals and institutions each year could thus be substantially reduced.

LIFE-SAVER

"MOST of our wounded in Korea have been saved by a miracle—blood. Their lifeline is literally the thin rubber tube through which precious life-restoring blood and plasma flow into their veins. Without this miracle neither surgical skill nor medical invention can help."

—Gen. Omar N. Bradley.

The Red Cross Blood Center, at 510 E. Morehead, is open to donors Tuesdays from 10:30 to 6:30, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 to 4:30, Thursdays from 9:30 to 12:30, and Saturday from 10:30 to 12:30.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

IT WASN'T LONG AGO that plain old White Street, out Sharon-Amity way, became Castleton Road. And now that the City Planning Board and Council have nodded approval, Redbird Street shall be known as Cardinal Drive. A trend, we suspect, is under way. Mecklenburgers and Charlotteans, like all other Americans, just have to have a "good address". Believing that a street by any other name sounds so much sweeter, they'll likely blossom out with a bunch of proposed terraces, drives, places and ways, preceded by names that conjure up a vision of $30,000 ramblers with a double-car garage.

Oh, well, if the powers that be want to string along, there are a few place names in the city that could be dressed up. Wood Alley may become Magnolia Drive. Frog Alley (also known as Rhyne's Row, and Smyly Alley) could be improved by almost any change.

Perhaps, too, political changes of recent years will have their effect. Something might have to be done about that Isenhour-McArthur intersection. Kerr Alley, possibly, will become Bill Umstead Boulevard. And, for all we know, the residents of Truman Road might insist upon living on Eisenhower Terrace.

However, before petitioners descend on the name-changing authorities, we would pass on the sage observation of a couple of old poets. William Cowper figured that "Some, to the fascination of a name, surrender judgment hoodwink'd." And, as Alexander Pope said, "How vain, without the merit, is the name."

IN PASSING

MEMBERS of the North Carolina General Assembly who voted for the much-discussed "secrecy" law might take note of the action of Superior Court Judge Jordan L. Martinelli of San Rafael, California.

On April 16, Judge Martinelli ordered the courtroom cleared during a divorce trial, but permitted reporters to stay because "they know their obligation to the public at large."

"The press has a duty. They have to be here. Their judge is the public, the finest monitor of the press at large," said the Judge.

SENATOR GEORGE MISSTATES THE CASE

"IF we are going to do anything in Indo-China, I hope we do it on our own without United Nations interference. I'm getting a little weary of the way the U. N. has tied us up in Korea. I'm afraid they are going to keep us there forever."

That was the comment of Senator George of Georgia on the Far Eastern situation Thursday.

Senator George is an estimable and experienced legislator. Possibly he was tired or out of sorts when he made that statement. There are at least three things wrong with it.

1. It's the Communists that have the U. S. tied up in Korea.

2. The U. S. is making decisions for the U. N., and not vice versa, in Korea.

3. U. N. "interference" in Korea has resulted in use of troops in Korea by a dozen or so nations besides the U. S. or South Korea.

From The Louisville Courier-Journal

HOW A NEW IDEA HELPS THE SOUTH

HOW $71,700,000 has been saved to Southern states in their bill for professional training is related by a bulletin of the Southern Regional Education program. What's more, the bulletin makes out a convincing argument that this is just the beginning.

The program is based on a compact approved by the legislatures of 14 states from Maryland to Texas (including Kentucky). It is an arrangement which makes available to all the "compact" states the best of university training in any.

The general thought is that by pooling resources, the states will save themselves the cost of setting up competitive facilities and courses. For example, a state lacking a medical or dental school (like Florida) pays for the education of Floridians in medicine at Vanderbilt or Mebarry in Nashville or Duke at Durham, N. C.

Four regional contract courses have been started—in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and social work. The heart of the bulletin's message is an estimate that it would have cost the "compact" states which lack schools of this sort a total of $64,000,000 to build them. It would cost an estimated total of $9,000,000 a year to operate them.

Under the contract arrangement, however, the capital expense of new facilities is saved. The courses are offered to their citizens by states lacking the facilities at a total annual cost of $1,300,000 (tuition paid to schools in other states), as expenses are running now, and the bills are being rendered.

This is not all. The professional schools receiving students from other "compact" states are getting more revenue. The additional income for three Tennessee schools, for example, is estimated at $1,525,375 for many years. Each reports that the new income has helped enlarge teaching staffs, add new courses and acquire equipment it would not have had otherwise.

It adds up, as we see it, to better education for more people rather than a constant competition of routine, under-staffed and continually hard-pressed professional schools if every state kept on trying to do everything for itself.

Austin V. Butcher Jr. of the *Altoona Tribune*, takes grim satisfaction in the fact that since he will soon be 53 years of age he cannot possibly spend most of his life in the penitentiary.—*Joplin (Mo.) Globe.*

The only places in the modern world where a man can spit are the bathroom, which he can get in by chance, and the dentist's chair, by appointment.—*Ellisville (Ga.) Sun.*

Old-timers like to brag about walking two miles to school on frozen ground. The next generation will probably boast of having ridden to school on a bus that wasn't heated and air-conditioned.—*Blakely (Ga.) News.*

Administration Priorities Questioned

Bankruptcy Or Military Defeat?

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

I

WASHINGTON

IN the 1930s, a wrong order of priorities destroyed Britain as a great power and all but destroyed Britain as a nation. The British leaders of the period—men of the highest attainments and best possible intentions—genuinely believed their own catch phrase, which excused their long neglect of Britain's defenses:

"We must remember that Britain's first line of defense is Britain's economic strength."

Unfortunately, the event proved that a balanced budget would not stop a Panzer division or a Heinkel bomber, as it cannot be counted on today to stop a Soviet TU-4. It is at least highly significant, therefore, that the same order of priorities seems likely to be officially established by the Eisenhower Administration.

The debate has been going on for three months. In the somewhat airless chamber of the National Security Council, the President and the key members of his Cabinet have been wrestling continuously and prayerfully with the same problem of priorities on which Britain foundered. The tentative result—and it must be emphasized that it is only tentative—is a decision that "economic destruction" is just as much to be feared as national destruction in the more literal sense of the phrase.

This debate has been the real, unseen drama of the Eisenhower Administration to date. The issues in dispute were first raised in September, 1949, by the explosion of the Soviet atomic bomb.

Soviet Strength Must Be Matched

TO begin the policy story at its very beginning, the Soviet atomic explosion resulted in March, 1950, in a National Security Council policy paper known as NSC-68. Previously we had relied on our atomic monopoly as our sole defense. NSC-68 for the first time established the principal that Soviet military power must be in a measure matched by American military power.

President Truman and Secretary of Defense Johnson signed NSC-68 in March, but continued their contrary policy of American disarmament until June, 1950, when the Korean aggression taught them the error of their ways. The Korean war brought NSC-68 into force with a vengeance.

As early as 1951, however, a re-examination of NSC-68 was launched in the inner circle, largely on the motion of Secretary of Defense Lovett. This further study by the National Security Council revealed much that was deeply disquieting.

Despite the heaviness of our own defense burden, the Soviet military-industrial effort was still on a greater scale than ours. Meanwhile, the growing Soviet atomic stock and strategic air force were beginning to constitute a very serious threat to this country. Over-all America, once invulnerable, was becoming very vulnerable indeed. Such were the findings.

These findings led to a revision of NSC-68 known as NSC-141, calling for considerable intensification of the American defense effort in certain important spheres—especially in the sphere of air defense. This was Truman's legacy to Eisenhower.

NSC-141 and its supporting documents, such as the report on Project Lincoln's investigation of the air defense problem, were waiting for the President when he took office, like so many skeletons in the White House closet. The question was —and is—what to do about these skeletons, which in effect gnashed their ugly jaws and demanded a reversal of the President's campaign promises about the budget and fiscal policy.

The argument about this issue first broke out on the cruiser Helena, with Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey pleading for conservative fiscal policies, and Secretary of State Dulles arguing for a national effort adequate to safeguard the American future. This has been the main division ever since. Secretary Dulles has been supported by Mutual Security Administrator Harold Stassen and Under Secretary of State Bedell Smith.

According to credible reports, Vice President Nixon, who is playing a remarkably useful part behind the scenes, also took this side. And the President himself was also much impressed at first by NSC-141, and insisted that every Cabinet member give the closest study to this paper, its facts and its conclusions.

Wilson Sides With Humphrey

IN THE last analysis, however, any Cabinet member usually wins an argument mainly concerning his own department. In this instance Secretary of Defense Wilson, the chief party at interest, strongly sided with Secretary Humphrey. Hence the new doctrine, which is reported to be in process of official formulation by the Security Council, that we must fear "economic destruction" just as much as air-atomic devastation.

The biggest problems raised by NSC-141, such as the air defense problem, were not seriously tackled in the Truman defense budget, huge as this Truman budget was. Hence the President's cuts of the Truman budget did not absolutely preclude these problems being dealt with. Then too, the wisest men in the Administration pardonably argue that they cannot tackle gigantic new problems until they feel themselves in full control of the vast, unfamiliar government machine. Yet the indicated order of priorities is still wrong; for if worst comes to worst, who would not rather be a bankrupt American than an atom-bombed American or a defeated American?

People's Platform

When Mother's Gone, It's Too Late

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

SUNDAY thousands will honor their mothers. Every day should be Mothers' Day, for a mother is a friend who never forsakes her child. The whole world can turn its back on one but mother is always there with love and kindness.

Today, as I think of you who have your mother living, I want you to know you never miss her until she is gone, and then it is too late. Tell her and prove your love for her.

MRS. MAYME BARGER

China Story Being Repeated, In Some Ways, In Indo-China

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

IN THE BUSINESS of crying doom there is a great deal of competition in these times. The raw material is always available. And it sometimes seems impossible to exaggerate the magnitude of what has happened and what may yet happen.

China was "lost," and the pursuit of scapegoats among us still goes on. Now Indo-China is on the slippery slope. Strange place names come into the news. The Communist troops are advancing on the capital of Laos, one of the three countries that make up Indo-China.

Americans, who have paid little attention to that remote spot, are puzzled. What's the matter? We've been sending aid out there, haven't we? Who dunnit?

A TIME FOR FRANKNESS

The final crash may not come at all or it may be merely postponed. But it is time that American officials began to talk with greater candor about what is actually happening there, the power-full forces at work and what these forces can mean. The conventional phrases about rushing more aid may mask the final tragedy and open the way to another whodunit in the Chinese pattern, with assorted scapegoats tarred and feathered.

Those with access to detailed intelligence reports beyond the news accounts of battles won or lost see many similarities in the situation in Indo-China today and that in China five or six years ago. There are the same disturbing reports of the misuse of arms and material sent to the French in Saigon who have for seven years been resisting the Communist guerrillas.

Americans returning from Indo-China have reported that part of this supply is actually falling into Communist hands in one way or another. Reports just like that came from China in the last stages of Chiang Kai-shek's battle with the Communist armies.

The Indo-Chinese complain that the French have not granted essential political reforms, including a specific pledge of independence. They charge that loyal Vietnamese are not being trained and formed into an army to fight Ho Chi Minh's guerrillas. Reports come back that the local population not merely fails to resist but tolerates Communist infiltration. Here, too, the similarity to the conflict in China hardly needs pointing up.

Inherent in the situation in Indo-China is a dilemma that may be at the root of the tragedy. The French military have resisted the effort to grant greater independence to the governments of Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam. They argue with impressive logic that Frenchmen will not be willing to go out to fight and die in the green hell of jungle warfare for real estate that will be part of a federation independent of France when the war ends.

With logic just as impressive the leaders of the independence movement argue that their people will not fight for a French dependency. They know they need the partnership of France in this war. But they insist they must be promised independence when it ends.

What is most devastating from the viewpoint of a free Asia in partnership with the West is the propaganda effect of Communist successes. The shock of this news a native force pushing back what is supposedly a trained and armed force from the West — spreads with the impact of an earthquake through Thailand, Burma, India. This is loss of face, prestige. Moreover, it underscores the constant Communist propaganda that the French are fighting a colonial war against the people of Indo-China.

The earthquake has repercussions in Washington, too. As the contest over the extent of foreign aid begins in Congress, there are those who would be only too happy to find an excuse for cutting deeper into the aid appropriation. The discreet State Department line is "keep quiet." But it is well to remember that too much was kept quiet about China until after the debacle.

Congress Faces Big Decisions On Peace-Time Use Of Atom

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON

HOW SOON will atomic power be lighting your lamp and browning your toast?

With luck, in about five years.

That is the estimate of Chairman W. Sterling Cole (R-N.Y.) of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee and of many atomic scientists. But some atomic specialists estimate that it may be 50 years before the use of atomic power is commonplace.

The first atomic power plants are likely to be located in remote areas where conventional sources of power — coal, oil, gas or water —are not readily available, or in cities, where transportation costs of fuels are high.

Atomic power plants are not likely to produce power much more cheaply than present power plants. Reactors or "stoves" take the place of the conventional boiler in an atomic power plant, and the cost of installing reactors is very high.

But there are two distinct advantages to atomic power. It is compact, and there is virtually no transportation cost involved because atomic "stoves" fueled with uranium can run for long periods without refueling.

If atomic power should offer any economies in operation over conventional types of power, the early users are likely to be aluminum, magnesium and other industries in which power is a major production expense.

LAW CHANGES REQUIRED

Congress would have to modify the present Federal monopoly on atomic energy before an industrial atomic power plant could be built. Cole told CQ that he thought it would be two years or more before Congress does this, and perhaps another two years before an atomic power plant can be built.

The Joint Committee soon will begin hearings on the question of using atomic energy as a source of electric power. Cole said that the first sessions would be closed, but later open meetings will be held, perhaps continuing through the Summer and into the Fall.

But next year Congress may debate legislation which would allow the government to make fissionable material available to private industry for use as fuel in power plants and allow private ownership of such plants. The law now bars private ownership.

Congress faces three major policy decisions on industrial development of atomic power.

1. Should the Federal Government get into the atomic power business? If it is to participate in the development of atomic power for industrial use, this may require a Constitutional amendment, according to Cole.

Supreme Court decisions have held that the government can develop public power because of its jurisdiction over navigation and flood control, he said, "but there may be no authority for Congress to enact legislation authorizing Federal development of nuclear power for industrial use."

2. Should the U. S. aid in the construction of dual-purpose plants which would produce electric power for industrial use and plutonium for the government? Plutonium is a vital ingredient in the production of atomic weapons. If Congress should decide on this course, it would mean that the federal subsidy would be costly and permanent, Cole pointed out.

3. Should the government authorize the construction by private industry of atomic power plants which would produce power only? This would minimize federal participation, Cole said.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Wagner Wanted FDR - Willkie Ticket In '44

WASHINGTON

AN old man who came to this country from Germany at the age of eight died in New York the other day. He was almost 76, and during those years he had written more laws to help the common man than any other person in the history of this nation.

Most people will remember Bob Wagner for those laws—old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, the Wagner Labor Relations Act and rightly so. But I shall always remember him because of a role he played in trying to get Wendell Willkie to run with Franklin Roosevelt on a coalition Democratic-Republican ticket in the closing years of the war.

Had those efforts been successful in 1944 the postwar history of the United States might have been entirely different.

I have never written this story in full, partly because I played a personal and confidential role in it. However, most of the people involved are dead now, and there is no reason why it cannot be told.

In the early Summer of 1944 when it was apparent Franklin Roosevelt planned to run for a fourth term, the jockeying for No. 2 spot on the Democratic ticket became intense. The friends of Henry Wallace demanded that he be renominated as Vice-President. Friends of Justice William O. Douglas, led by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, were less vocal but more persuasive.

Many Southern Democrats still urged Jimmie Byrnes; while the big city bosses—Ed Flynn of the Bronx, Ed Kelly of Chicago, Frank Hague of Jersey City and Bob Hannegan of St. Louis—were bent on nominating Harry Truman.

All knew that the life expectancy of the President was such that the man who became Vice-President was likely to end up in the White House.

Willkie Got FDR's OK

DURING the period between his defeat in 1940 and 1944 I had come to know Wendell Willkie well. One day in New York some weeks before the Democratic convention I sounded him out on the idea of being the Vice-Presidential candidate on a coalition ticket.

At first he pooh-poohed the idea, said the Democrats would never go for it. But the more he talked about it, the more he warmed up. Finally he agreed to stand still until Roosevelt himself could be sounded out.

The man who did the sounding was Leo Crowley, then head of the Federal Economic Administration. He came out of the White House with the confidential information that the President would welcome the idea of Wendell Willkie as his running mate, provided there was a spontaneous move from the Democratic convention to nominate him. He added that he didn't want anything that smacked of a political deal.

Simultaneously he scribbled a note to Willkie in longhand, and it was later typed by his secretary, Grace Tully. The President left for the West Coast and Alaska almost immediately, so he never actually signed the note, but it was mailed to Willkie.

Wagner Sparked Move

THE Chicago convention began at once. The problem there was to arrange the spontaneous move for Willkie that FDR wanted, and to this end I told Senator Wagner, the grand old man of the Democratic Party, about our conversations.

He reacted with enthusiasm.

His plan was to make the Willkie nominating speech himself, and he delegated Leon Keyserling, his former secretary, later head of the Council of Economic Advisers, to start writing the speech. Wagner called in various members of the New York delegation in my presence to unfold the Willkie idea, and they too were enthusiastic. I was a little surprised that Edward Loughlin, then head of Tammany, volunteered to second Willkie's nomination.

Wagner talked to other key Democrats at Chicago while I talked to several newspapermen, among them David Stern, then publisher of the Philadelphia Record. They agreed that, faced with the deadlock between Wallace and Truman, the Willkie nomination should be a natural. They also felt that Willkie's name on the ticket would be a great thing for the unity of the nation.

Most of this took place during the preliminary days of the convention, actually before the convention got down to business.

Senator Wagner felt that the psychological moment to make the nominating speech was after the expected deadlock between Truman and Wallace had developed. But he made one mistake. There was also one factor that he could not get around. This was the fact that Roosevelt was on his train crossing the continent and either could not or did not want to take telephone calls.

Big City Bosses Won

THEREFORE Wagner relied on the President's supposedly closest political adviser—Ed Flynn, Bob Hannegan and the big city bosses. This was his great mistake.

For at about 3 A. M. on the day before the balloting on the Vice Presidency got down to grips, Wagner got word from the bosses that Roosevelt wanted Truman, not Willkie.

The Senator was a man of party discipline. During his long career in the Senate he had almost never bucked the President. He had been brought up that way—from the days he and Al Smith had served together in the New York Legislature. So he did not argue. He did not question the word of the party bosses. Nor would he make the Willkie nominating speech in view of their veto.

Personally I always doubted that Hannegan et al. had ever really reached the President. For there was no step they would not have taken at that time to put across their man.

Thus a great chance to unify the nation failed.