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THE ABUSE OF VETERAN PRIVILEGE

AS PERSONS who attended the recent Disabled American Veterans' Convention in Charlotte will attest, the questions of Administration policy toward and programs for non-service-connected disabled veterans are a mounting concern among their organization leaders. They have been putting considerable pressure on the House Appropriations Committee to be at least as generous to the veterans as former President Truman proposed they be.

It is our thought that this Administration can be generous to the deserving veteran as every Administration should be, and at the same time indulge the desire of all taxpayers. This can be done by stricter interpretation of the meaning of a law that permits VA hospitalization of veterans with non-service-connected disabilities when facilities are "available."

A recent study of the non-service-connected patient load in VA hospitals, made by the General Accounting Office, indicates the possibilities of reducing VA costs in this field, without reducing availability of care for deserving veterans including some 300 non-service-connected disabilities. The GAO found that as of last June 30 the 66,830 non-service-connected patient load included:

- 11,830 patients with service-connected disabilities who were receiving treatment for non-service-connected disabilities;
25,736 pensioned veterans with non-service-connected disabilities;
11,530 veterans being treated for non-service-connected tuberculosis, psychosis and other chronic disabilities;
622 Federal employees and humanitarian cases;
630 patients who claimed their disabilities were service-connected but whose cases had not been adjudicated;
10,481 veterans who were being treated as general medical and surgical cases for less than 90 days in connection with non-service-connected disabilities and who claimed no service-connected disabilities.
Some of these patients, like the TB and psychiatric cases, are in VA hospitals primarily because there is no place else for them to go. It should be recognized that the VA is footing the bill for their care.

LEADERSHIP IS NOT LOBBYING

NOT for the first time, Chairman Daniel Reed of the Ways & Means Committee has attempted to confuse the public. Yesterday he warned Treasury Secretary Humphrey that his readily-admitted efforts to drum up support of the President's tax program in conversations with business men, may be lobbying.

A lobbyist, by legal definition, "directly or indirectly, solicits, collects or receives money or any other thing of value" in return for influencing or attempting to influence a federal official. This the Secretary did not do. As an officer of the executive branch he simply exercised leadership in public policy as he should.

The trouble with Congressman Reed is that he is completely one-way on tax matters. He has long promised businessmen a tax cut. As he sees it, national tax policy is up to him, not the President. He is in the Administration or House leadership when he started his tax-sham program last winter.

TAX STUDY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE officials charged with responsibility for raising revenue are national sales tax. We are not persuaded that this kind of regressive tax is advisable. Nevertheless its serious consideration should be part of a badly-needed study of the nation's complicated tax structure.
And at least equally deserving of a place on the tax study agenda are other possible revenue sources, like:

CITY BOYHOOD HAS ITS MEMORIES

WE CERTAINLY were in tune with President Eisenhower when he told the American Retail Federation that there ought to be more things in the lives of contemporary youngsters which will grow into the sentimental memories of their older years. He talked about the open cracker barrel and the pickle keg of the old-time village and country life. Thanks to Summer vacations on a Midwestern farm, we can appreciate how he feels. But we hasten to say that the President need not be too sorry for those of us who grew up on the city sidewalks. They, too, had their charms—or so it seems to us now.

Maybe these were not as frequently associated with storekeepers as President Eisenhower feels nostalgic recollections should be. But there was the butcher who handed us a free sausage when we called for the family roast. There was the baker who passed out cookies. There was the confectioner who served sodas and sundae at marble top tables. There was the chair-maker who made the pushcart popcorn vendor and the penny candy store full of delights: Orange balls, licorice whips, wax wine bottles and marshmallow turkey dinners, two for a cent.

There was the big outdoor department store clock under which downtown Charlotte used to hold the early nickelodeons with The Perils of Pauline every Sat-

because their community or state does not offer facilities for them.

Others—like a few federal employees—are because the VA has in its cases relaxed undesirable regulations that often make it impossible for an employee of one branch of the government to be treated in the hospital at another branch. There are 20 independent medical systems in the government which operate with little knowledge and no regard for the operations of the others. Duplication of services results. Patients overflow at one hospital; beds are empty at another in the same city. This uneconomical situation likely will obtain until a united medical administration is created.

But, excepting patients in these two categories, there are still plenty of patients in VA hospitals who ought not to be there. We have in mind particularly the more than 10,000 veterans who had no service-connected disability, were admitted last year as general medical and surgical cases, for less than 90 days.

The GAO estimated the cost of their care last year at \$72.5 million. Some of them are in excellent position to pay for their hospitalization in the same city. This non-economical situation likely will obtain until a united medical administration is created.

If the free riders are ousted from the VA hospitals, there will be more room for deserving veterans with service-connected disabilities. There will be less need for construction of new VA hospitals. The Administration will honorably serve both veteran and taxpayer by enforcing stricter standards of hospitalization. And the veteran organizations, some of which have proposed a guideline on the nation's literature and entertainment in part. They are scarcely a justification for action, or lack of it, that harms both the individual and the government.

"It isn't necessary," he said. "It is quite necessary, in a democracy, to compromise. It is unnecessary to attribute ulterior motives to an honorable man of opposing views.

CHEER UP

IT is a gloomy moment in history. Not for the first time in the lifetime of most men who read this paper—has there been so much grave and deep apprehension, in the VA hospital, as usual, like a cloud, dark and silent, upon the horizon of Europe, while all the energies, resources and strength of the British Empire are sorely tried, and yet to be broken more sorely. Just in case anyone figures times never were so bad as they are now, the above paragraph, which could have been written today, appeared in Harper's Weekly 98 years ago.

- 1. The movie stars who, by living and occasionally working abroad for 18 months, do not pay any income tax on their earnings there.
2. Expanding businesses which presently obtain quick tax write-offs.
3. Oil interests which are permitted to deduct annually up to 27 1/2 per cent of gross income on a well year after year, even after 100 per cent of the invested capital has been retrieved tax-free.

Monday afternoon. The itinerant scissors-grinder and the barrel organ man, no doubt, were in the mercantile category, and perhaps also the Sunday baseball games, although we never quite thought of them that way.

We were not dependent on merchants, however, for memories. There were the horse-drawn fire engines. The horses were exercised every afternoon at four and sometimes, in spite of the rules, you got a ride on the pumper, the hook and ladder, or the hose cart. Then there were the attractions of the parks: Swimming and tennis in Summer, skating and sledding in winter. There were moonlight boat trips. We read The American Boy's Year. A favorite aunt would start a taffy pull or make lemonade at the slightest suggestion of a hint. There were wonderful Halloween parties in our neighborhood, and whoopee ball games, and magic lantern shows. There were foghorns and locomotive whistles in the night.

Oh, we could make quite a long list for the President. But the longer it would get the more sorry we would feel that he missed all the joys and thrills and glories of growing up in a city.

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP



Dams Vs. Diplomats

State Dept. Troubles Continue

By MARQUIS CHILDS

THE curious circumstances surrounding the State Dept. "to clear" Mrs. Mildred McAfee Horton in time to appoint her a delegate to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission have not been entirely explained away. Red tape and the "cumbrous mechanism" referred to by Acting Secretary of State Walter Bedell Smith are an explanation in part. They are scarcely a justification for action, or lack of it, that harms both the individual and the government.

"Oahe is paid for when Bob Hippie (Mr. Missouri River) and I had our office conference with Budget Director Joseph Dodge, at which time we agreed to restore Oahe, the budget and request \$2,250,000 for continued construction. I made him only one promise—namely that as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee I would try to find ways and means of cutting the overall appropriation of the government sufficiently so that this additional eight and a quarter million would not upset calculations."

"With budget approval of Oahe, it now appears we'll get our eight and a quarter million. On motions made by me in the Senate Appropriations Committee, \$8,000,000 was cut from the funds approved by the State Department personnel (still approving the department more funds than it had in World War II) and another \$300,000 was taken from the travel allowance for State Department functions. Thus, Oahe can go forward without the American taxpayer slipping backward."

"This is a remarkable gimmick. There is hardly a member of Congress so poor he does not have a dam or river project to promote. So you can visualize the State Dept. personnel's budget reduced to zero. But wouldn't it perhaps be fair in view of the earnest effort of the man now in the impossible office of Secretary of State to change the name from Oahe to John Foster Dulles Dam?"

"People's Platform Wants Sunday Movies" GASTONIA. Editors, The News: THE people of Gastonia are hoping that Mayor T. Yancey and the new City Council will open the theaters on Sunday here. We have been without Sunday amusements long enough. J. M. SIGMAN.

"Word Misused" CHARLOTTE. Editors, The News: A RECENT issue of your newspaper had a picture of the prizes to be given away on Soap Box Derby Day, with this caption over it: "Load of Loot For Lucky Losers." I would like to suggest that you consider the definition and connotation of the word "load" which is more than a little unfortunate in the context that is, or should be, wholesome. I recall a similar headline was used about two months ago in connection with the State Dept. The dictionary gives us this definition: 1. Plunder, booty; spoils; esp., the booty taken in war, or the gains of conquest. 2. The action of looting, as the loot of a bank. Syn: See Booty. To plunder or sack, as a conquered city, esp. by corruption. I argued that discretion be put ahead of supposedly catch-headlines." W. DAVID WILLIAMS.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IT probably be denied, but even the FBI's most amazing devices ever given to a Cabinet regarding a particular Senator has just been suggested to Eisenhower Cabinet members—namely, to clear all major policy matters informally with Senator Taft. This was not handed out to the Eisenhower Cabinet as categorical hard-and-fast orders, but rather as a suggestion. However, the effect is just about the same, and the man is having two important results: 1. Taft, the man whom Eisenhower de-fected at Chicago, more than ever is becoming Mr. President. He is in the unique and enjoyable position of having power without official responsibility. While Eisenhower does not guarantee to go along with Taft on everything, as, for instance, co-operation with the United Nations, he has learned farther than any other President in years to give Taft the fullest co-operation—almost veto power over domestic policies and appointments.

Taft's Power Over Cabinet Increasing

Political enemy No. 1 of the labor movement is Robert Alfons Taft. Because he authored the Taft-Hartley Act, both the AFL and the CIO did everything in their power to defeat him. Therefore, for the Secretary of Labor, a former AFL executive, to clear policies with the enemy of labor is more than a little unfortunate. Durkin doesn't want to break with Eisenhower, and his AFL colleagues don't wish the idea to gain a bad contact with the instruction to clear with Taft stands. Durkin is almost certain to bow out of the Cabinet in the near future. Note—The Secretary of Labor has felt unhappy about two other things. He has received no help regarding the restoration of the Taft-Hartley Act. His colleagues in the Cabinet just aren't interested. Second, when he gets to Cabinet meetings, Durkin sometimes finds other Cabinet members in advance, gets the impression that certain matters have been decided before his arrival.

is groping frantically to justify his curtailment of the Air Force. Latest grope is to pull a brand-new atomic rabbit out of the hat. This is the theory that we have developed more powerful atomic bombs since the 143-wing Air Force was planned two years ago. Therefore, we must have the same punch with a smaller air force. Real fact: The plan to cut the budget first: The idea that we had stronger atomic bombs was brought up by Dean Acheson at least twice a week. The latter statement is pitifully correct about the new defense budget. The extra \$1.5 billion (mandatory) . . . The State Department no advance warning before Ambassador Acheson in some of the reports from Italy in the event De Gasperi's government is overthrown in next Sunday's elections. Her speech didn't help. . . la the last five months Washington's police have put in more than 10,000 hours over the past year—most of it during the inauguration week.

enough A-bombs to get was in 1954. Note—The airplanes Secretary Wilson is now cutting out of the budget are those to come off the production line in 1956. Washington Pipeline THE State barbershop still charges only 75 cents for a haircut. The price is \$125 in downtown Washington. . . During his recent illness, Ohio's influential Republican Senator Charles McNary had a temperature of 105. He credits Navy doctors at Bethesda Medical Center for saving his life. He has been in bed since he left Acheson at least twice a week. The latter statement is pitifully correct about the new defense budget. The extra \$1.5 billion (mandatory) . . . The State Department no advance warning before Ambassador Acheson in some of the reports from Italy in the event De Gasperi's government is overthrown in next Sunday's elections. Her speech didn't help. . . la the last five months Washington's police have put in more than 10,000 hours over the past year—most of it during the inauguration week.

Charlie Wilson's Rabbit

AS the Congressional head increases, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson