

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1954

The Senate's Stock Goes Down

THE United States Senate, it has been said, is the repository of greatness in our democracy. Or put another way, the Senate has always been considered "the saucer in which the hot tea of the House is cooled."

In the opinion of James Reston, Washington bureau chief of the New York Times, the Senate is fast losing its claim to being the more responsible and high-minded of the two houses of Congress. In this session, at least, the roles have been reduced.

Reston cites a good many incidents: 1. Sen. Langer's publicizing of irresponsible and unchecked accusations against Chief Justice Earl Warren.

2. Sen. McCarthy's abuse of a distinguished general of the U. S. Army.

3. The failure of Democratic members of the McCarthy subcommittee to protest against his tactics.

4. The willingness of many senators to sign the Bricker amendment, although they had not studied it and did not understand its implications.

5. The failure of Sen. Lyndon Johnson to call a Democratic caucus, at which opposition policy could be mapped.

6. The Senate's casual attitude toward important pending legislation.

"It (the Senate) prides itself in being a company of equals, tolerant of the rights of the sovereign states, and what it tolerates it perpetuates, and what it tolerates recently is certainly not worthy of its best," writes Reston.

Elsewhere on today's editorial page is a report by CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY on President Eisenhower's 196-point legislative program, which tends to substantiate Reston's charge that the Senate is wasting time. Other than a law to increase cotton acreage, no major piece of legislation has come out of Congress at this session, fast nearing the two-month mark.

Most basic thing in the American democracy is the respect of the people for their institutions, and of government for the people. The U. S. Senate has done precious little this year to merit that respect.

No Need To Grease The Hoover Cart

FEDERAL spending this fiscal year will be an estimated four per cent below that of last year. Next fiscal year, according to the President's budget, it will drop another seven and one half per cent.

This spending decrease, along with some other economic indices, suggests that a major recession may be likely. But, before you grease up the Hoover cart, hear this:

While federal spending is going down, state and local government spending is going up. This totaled over 25 billion dollars last year, and a Census Bureau official estimates the rate of expenditure will increase annually by 10 per cent. Increases like that will almost compensate for the forecast decreases in federal expenditures.

The Commerce Department recently

reported that state and local governments have on hand 10 or 15 billion dollars. They have a 100 billion dollar backlog of construction projects. State and municipal bond issues hit a new high last year—over five billion dollars.

There are two reasons why these increased state and local expenditures are desirable.

First, they are a good cushion for the economy, one that is often overlooked in the scare talk about depression.

Secondly, they represent increased governmental activity at a level where it is strengthening—right at home. One of the best ways to reduce federal government activity is to increase the authority and activity of state and local governments, so they can take over those chores which must be done by government at some level.

For Young Local Artists, A Backpat

YOU MAY DEBATE either side of the question whether public schools are spending too much time on art, sculpture, ceramics, enameling and the like to the neglect of fundamentals.

But there's no debating the ability of Charlotte youngsters to do it. The first North Carolina Art Exhibit, currently on display in Winston-Salem, has a total of 302 works by 24 students.

Ninety-four of the exhibits were done by 77 students in the Charlotte schools. And the young local artists were awarded two of the four first prizes, 16 gold keys, and 75 certificates of merit.

Other words, the Charlotte kids practically walked off with the contest—a fact in which the youngsters, their parents and teachers, and indeed the whole community can take pride.

Too Much Trivia In The Mail

RECENTLY the Army reportedly saved several thousand dollars simply by adopting a veteran's suggestion that it quit drilling holes in broom handles, save as how Army brooms aren't hung up any more. Ralph N. Jones, whose letter appears in today's People's Platform, has an equally meritorious and simple suggestion for saving Uncle Sam's money.

He wants the Post Office Department to furnish notice forms to send companies which send out second, third and fourth-class mail unwanted by the intended recipient. As Mr. Jones observes, individual letters could be written, but more people would ask that their name be taken off mailing lists if a simple form were available.

His suggestion prompted us to survey the pile of mail accumulated on our desk. And what did we find? Well, the political handouts ranged from the regular one-man resolutions of the American Party (we made the mistake of inquiring about it during the '52 campaign and have been deluged by it ever since) to a pamphlet intriguingly titled: "Let's Kick Out Both Parties."

There were the usual special offers from magazines, Enterprising, arty, well-

heeled Trax even wrote the address in longhand, attached some fancy Deutsche Post stamps to the envelope and mailed it from Berlin. The "Headquarters Fighting Homefoks of Fighting Men" sent us another mimeographed message, several corporation presidents again favored us with attractively-bound copies of their or their ghostwriters' observations.

There was only one—there have been as many as four—press releases from the government of India in the day's mail. There were detailed reports, from other points abroad, on the blow-up in Buganda and progress on Vienna's airport. Of Clipseheads (from Methodist to Twentieth Century Fund) and Fact Sheets (from Tobacco to Tariff) we had a sumptuous superfluity. Next to the lengthy statement from The Watchmakers of Switzerland was a 16-page brochure from The American Watch Manufacturers Association.

Then in came a man with some magazines which he put on the stack of unread newspapers on the pile of unread books at the front of the desk that was covered with everything but copy for tomorrow's paper.

As we said, Mr. Jones has a fine idea.

From The Greensboro Daily News

HIGH MEDICAL COSTS

THE first year-end report of Cone Memorial Hospital reflects the high cost of hospital care.

The new Greensboro Institution had an operating loss of \$496,000 during its first twelve months. As the Daily News story pointed out Sunday, few hospitals in the nation can afford such a loss. One can, under the generous bequest of the late Mrs. Bertha Lindsay Corcoran and other members of the Cone family. The hospital, which is now the largest stockholder in Cone Mills Corp., had an income of \$900,000 last year. The fund was used to make up the operating deficit and also to complete payments on the building, on new equipment, on site improvements and on investments designed to produce more income.

Fortunately the Greensboro area has the notable benefaction of the Cone family to make up its hospital deficit. What about other hospitals operating without such endowment? The hospital business is sick. Its cost is far too large, and the average citizen staggers under the load.

The medical profession, we think, has a responsibility to find the answer to this question. Unless it somehow exerts its leadership and comes up with a plan which will make medical costs reasonable, the health will be grabbed by others less competent and intelligent to deal with the problem. The whole question of the high cost of medical care is simmering now. It may reach the boiling stage at any moment and when it does, watch out.

This letter exemplifies the power of the press: "Dear Editor: Thursday I lost a gold watch I valued very highly. Immediately I inserted an ad in your lost-and-found column and waited. Yesterday I went home and found the watch in the pocket of another suit. God bless your paper."—GREENVILLE (TENN.) SUN.

The World Health Organization reports that the little man gets drunk quicker than the big man, and the worst of it is that he gets bigger as he gets drunker.—COLUMBIA (S. C.) STATE.

Greatest Deliberative Body In The World



196 Specific Requests

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON CONGRESS faces a long list of bills in 1954. President Eisenhower has sent 196 specific requests for legislative action to Capitol Hill, according to a tabulation by Congressional Quarterly.

The President's Feb. 17 message on atomic energy substituted 13 recommendations for three more general requests submitted earlier, raising the total to 196 in striking distance of the 200.

Republicans and Democrats agree that the voters next November will judge the President and the 81st Congress largely by the fate of the administration's legislative program. Both parties' candidates will have to justify their treatment of controversial White House recommendations.

The President has started many of the bills by proposing them to Congress in the form of executive orders. Among the recommendations already in the statute books is one which discharges Commodity Credit Corporation indebtedness due to losses on farm price supports. The Senate has passed a bill to carry out one of the President's major recommendations—authorization of U. S. participation in the B. Lawrence Seaway.

Seaway measure is pending in the House.

In sitting down Mr. Eisenhower's recommendations, CQ. Confirmed the list to requests by the President, eliminating recommendations submitted only by his subordinates; eliminated generalized requests; omitted recommendations and appropriations requests; eliminated duplications, listing each recommendation in its most concrete form; omitted most recommendations which require no new Congressional action.

CQ. has organized the 196 proposals by broad subject categories. Here they are, with the number of proposals in each category:

AGRICULTURE (22)

Booster Commodity Credit Corporation resources (two requests); use existing farm commodity surpluses in non-commercial channels (three requests); build foreign markets; allow modernized farms to take effect; institute or continue flexible price supports for most farm commodities (11 requests).

Continue 90 per cent of parity supports for tobacco; permit use of conservation funds to control diverted acreage; continue or liberalize indirect aid to some commodities (six requests); aid wool producers through direct payments; continue aiding hay distribution in drought areas; ex-

pand and revise the conservation program (three requests); curtail federal sales in agricultural disease programs (two requests).

HEALTH (6)

Strengthen public health research; expand and revise state aids for health and welfare (three requests); re-insure private health insurance plans; create National Commission for Health Improvement.

SOCIAL SECURITY (7)

Extend coverage, increase benefits, and relax restrictions on Old Age and Survivors Insurance (six requests); extend current formula for public assistance state aid; pending revisions.

UNEMPLOYMENT INS. (6)

Extend unemployment insurance coverage; revise methods of computing period for employers to qualify for unemployment compensation; experience ratings; provide for loans to state unemployment insurance reserve funds (two requests).

EDUCATION (3)

Expand educational advisory and research activities (four requests); help states construct schools (two requests).

HOUSING (13)

Revise federal activities in home mortgage and slum-clearance fields; emphasize on private credit (11 requests); provide for farm-housing loans to expire; expand program of loans for home repairs; authorize 35,000 new units of public housing annually for next four years; reorganize Housing and Home Finance Agency.

FOREIGN POLICY (9)

Approve treaties (two requests); revise methods of controlling foreign aid (three requests); facilitate exchange of certain atomic information and material (four requests).

LABOR (18)

Revise Taft-Hartley labor law through 18 changes highlighted by: Relaxation of prohibitions against secondary boycotts; prohibit strikes against unions against labor of representatives rights; authorization of stricter union security in certain industries; provision for government-conducted strike votes.

MILITARY, VETERANS (3)

Strengthen continental and close defense; correct weaknesses in military reserve system; liberalize armed forces fringe benefits; continue limitations on veterans' dental treatment; set deadline for application for unemployment compensation by Korean veterans.

GOVERNMENT (8)

Propose Constitutional amendment granting suffrage to 18-year-olds; cooperate with states on uniform standards for overseas servicemen's ballots; grant District of Columbia national suffrage, home rule, and aid in executive branch of the government, and that he, Eisenhower, would cooperate with McCarthy's probes.

How Probe Started

That was how McCarthy happened to get carbon copies of the Army's investigation of itself at Fort Monmouth. The Army, leaning over backward to check its own security, had started a probe of Fort Monmouth and dutifully turned the McCarthy committee carbon copies of its preliminary findings—in obedience with Eisenhower's order.

It was McCarthy's aides who spotted the carbons and notified their chief, then on his honeymoon, to come back to Washington. A big spy scandal was brewing, they figured, and the Senator could ride the headlines.

So McCarthy flew back and has been getting headlines on the Fort Monmouth investigation ever since. Stevens meanwhile said nothing. He gave to defend the Army. But when the stanch Republican New York Herald Tribune published a scathing series of articles showing that there was no espionage danger at Fort Monmouth,

panding public works (three requests); grant statehood to Hawaii; establish basic government for Pacific Trust Territory; permit citizens of Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Richland, Wash. to buy their own homes and establish schools.

INTERNAL SECURITY (4)

Provide stronger tools to combat subversion (two requests); provide for forfeiture of citizenship in certain cases of subversion; permit greater flexibility in regulations governing security of atomic energy (five requests).

POSTAL (4)

Raise postal rates by \$20 million; establish postal rate-setting commissions; moderate Post Office (two requests).

CIVIL SERVICE (7)

Improve working conditions, better incentives, and correct construction of National power project on non-federal basis; establish corporation to operate Washington National Airport; extend rules on dependency exemption; allow government agencies to choose employees from among top five on Civil Service (two requests).

RESOURCES, WORKS (22)

Approve U. S. participation in B. Lawrence Seaway; authorize construction of Niagara power project on non-federal basis; establish corporation to operate Washington National Airport; extend rules on dependency exemption; allow government agencies to choose employees from among top five on Civil Service (two requests).

TAXES (11)

Cancel half-cent cut in gasoline tax; postpone for one year scheduled cut in corporation income tax rates; postpone gifts in excise taxes and maintain excise's annual yield at about \$10 billion (two requests).

Repeal tax laws through 37 changes highlighted by: Liberalize rules on dependency exemption; allowance of some child-care expense deductions; fuller deductions for medical expenses; liberalize rules on pensions, annuities, and sickness benefits; tax credits for dividend income; shift credits for investment income to income tax returns to April 15; authorization for faster depreciation allowances; extension of loss carryback to two years; authorize limited deductions of soil-conservation expenses; and liberalized tax incentives for American investments abroad.

DEBT, CONTRACTS (7)

Raise federal debt limit; extend Renegotiation Act of 1951.

People's Platform

Milk Commissioner Queried

Chapel Hill

Editors, The News:

FOR many days the tempo of the furor over "dipping" milk prices has been increasing considerably. This is to be expected, just as were the earlier cries of the consumer when prices were mounting. And if the lamenting of the milk distributor over the reduced profit margin was the only occurrence, then nothing need be said by any of us, the casually interested consumer-by-standers. But this is not all.

The chairman of the N. C. State Milk Commission, W. W. Phipps, is paraphrasing in The Durham Morning Herald of Feb. 17 as having said a "disaster" could occur if the "price war" spreads. He is further paraphrased as saying that some "difficulty" exists because he does not have the power to control consumer prices.

On Feb. 19, in the same paper, he is paraphrased as saying that the "distributors who are cutting prices soon will learn their error and correct their ways." Then, Feb. 21, The Raleigh News and Observer quotes him as saying: "I don't see any end to the situation until the distributors get together (my emphasis) and realize that the price should be returned to their former levels."

The various implications of his statements are most serious.

First, the inference must be drawn that if the market process of price determination, whereby consumers and producers meet in a "free market" and bid for commodities and offer supplies of that commodity at a series of prices until a "going price" is established, i.e., by demand and supply, is allowed to operate in the milk industry of North Carolina, disaster is to be expected.

Second, until recently we did not have a freely operating private enterprise economy in North Carolina, i.e., prior to the "price war" by Cable Dairy Products, Inc., the prices paid by us consumers were "fixed" (in a more kindly tone we could say "administered").

Third, the only sensible thing for milk distributors to do is "get

together" to restore former prices, thus create (or restore) a quasi-monopoly situation.

Fourth, if distributors do not learn the "error of their ways," then an agency to control prices is needed, presumably even suggested.

Does the commissioner not have a responsibility to the people of North Carolina to reconcile his position with that of us who still suspect a shell of a competitive private economy exists in this state, in this nation? It strikes me forcibly that he does have such an obligation. It would seem that a situation has evolved wherein the commission's position requires an open and complete explanation of his public and private views regarding the milk industry.

—PATRICK HUNTLEY

How The P. O. Can Reduce Its Deficit

Editors The News:

IF is my humble opinion that if the Post Office Department would furnish some type of stop notice for individuals or companies to send to these company and company representatives who plague them with second, third and fourth class mail, I believe it would go a long way toward reducing the mail volume, and thereby reducing the Post Office deficit.

I, for one, and many others that I know, do not even open any mail which does not carry first class postage. I would much prefer that such matter did not clutter up my post office box. If a postal form is obtainable at a local post office, even for a fee, that an individual could have to send to the companies who mail such material notifying them to remove his name from their mailing list, it would be a great help. I realize that individual letters could be written, but if such a form was available, many more people would make use of them. In searching for ways to reduce the postal deficit it might be well to consider to consider the above.

RALPH N. JONES

Stevens' Retreat Stalls Off Showdown Once Again

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON

NO MATTER WHO won the skirmish between Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.) and the Eisenhower administration's secretary of the Army, Robert T. Stevens, the Republican as a party were bound to lose if the fighting became a public, televised clash.

The Republicans had campaigned in 1952 on the promise to get Communists out of the government. And McCarthy was demanding information on why it took an army under Stevens' command more than a year to get rid of a major who had refused to answer questions about membership in subversive organizations.

A wide-open fight between McCarthy and Stevens on this point, in an election year, might have split the party into McCarthy Republicans and Eisenhower Republicans. The showdown was avoided.

Stevens, who had ordered his generals to stand back while he handled the senator personally in a public hearing scheduled for today, agreed to give McCarthy what he wanted after talking with the senator two hours yesterday behind closed doors in the Capitol. McCarthy then called off today's snarling dogs.

Afterwards, Stevens was represented as surprised that the outcome was considered a defeat for him. But the general's intention was that he yielded and, in so doing, created a bit of a mystery.

Did he decide on his own to back down? He seemed determined up to a minute before he saw McCarthy yesterday, to go through with the showdown today, for when a reporter questioned him, he said: "I have no comment on anything. Tomorrow I'll have plenty of comment."

Or did President Eisenhower, who returned to Washington just shortly before the face-to-face Stevens-McCarthy meeting, tell his Army secretary not to force an open break with the senator? Or did Vice President Nixon arrange it? He was close by while Stevens talked with McCarthy.

The White House said the Presi-

dent did not set up the meeting. Sen. Mundt (R-S.D.) said the idea for the session was his—not Eisenhower's or Nixon's.

Stevens said later he is not a man who surrenders. On the matter, the fact is he gave McCarthy just what McCarthy wanted:

1. McCarthy wanted the names of the Army's top people who handled the case of Maj. Irving Peress, a New York dentist, who received an honorable discharge this month after refusing, 14 months before, to answer questions about membership in subversive organizations.

2. McCarthy wanted to question two generals who had had some part, even though remote, in handling Peress' case. Stevens had told the generals not to appear before McCarthy because, he said, the senator was "abusive."

Stevens, after his session with McCarthy, not only agreed to give the names of all those connected with the Peress case but let McCarthy call them for questioning. And he said McCarthy could question the generals too. Stevens said he's "confident" now officers will not be "abused."

Before it can be established whether this was a surrender or a truce, this question must be answered: Will McCarthy pursue this investigation and call the witnesses or will he let the Army make its own investigation and, perhaps, give the public a report?

It's possible the Eisenhower administration, which has had several run-ins with McCarthy in the past year, may have decided to let it out with him once for all in this case, and they couldn't change his mind for strategic reasons.

Several months ago, in discussing foreign affairs, Secretary of State Dulles said that if war came the Eisenhower administration would choose its own battleground. In this dispute with McCarthy the Army had no choice of battleground. McCarthy chose it.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

SINCE Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens got himself in the predicament of being summoned before McCarthy's committee only after an amazing series of backstage events, including a telephone call to his president, at Palm Springs, Calif.

The events illustrate what happens to an official, whether Democrat or Republican, if he either appeases or stands up to McCarthy.

Stevens' phone call to Eisenhower was for the purpose of asking the whether he should issue a statement throwing down the gauntlet to McCarthy and charging him with "unwarranted abuse of our loyal Army officers." He gave the green light. As a result, Stevens is now getting the full force of McCarthy's well-known penchant for revenge.

But some months before, Eisenhower had issued a statement to Stevens and to other Cabinet officers—namely, to cooperate with McCarthy and give him whatever he wanted. It was the President's position at that time that McCarthy was a problem for the Senate of the United States to deal with, not

the executive branch of the government, and that he, Eisenhower, would cooperate with McCarthy's probes.

How Probe Started

That was how McCarthy happened to get carbon copies of the Army's investigation of itself at Fort Monmouth. The Army, leaning over backward to check its own security, had started a probe of Fort Monmouth and dutifully turned the McCarthy committee carbon copies of its preliminary findings—in obedience with Eisenhower's order.

It was McCarthy's aides who spotted the carbons and notified their chief, then on his honeymoon, to come back to Washington. A big spy scandal was brewing, they figured, and the Senator could ride the headlines.

So McCarthy flew back and has been getting headlines on the Fort Monmouth investigation ever since. Stevens meanwhile said nothing. He gave to defend the Army. But when the stanch Republican New York Herald Tribune published a scathing series of articles showing that there was no espionage danger at Fort Monmouth,

Republican Secretary Stevens was finally pushed into a press conference at which he admitted the truth of what the Herald Tribune, The Washington Post and The New York Times were saying.

Specifically, Stevens stated that no one at Fort Monmouth had been charged with espionage. There may have been some charges 10 years ago, back in 1944, but they had been dropped, as he said, but there was no evidence since that time.

Dutiful Army Secretary

This statement by the Secretary of the Army caused the Senator from Wisconsin to hit the ceiling. He promptly summoned Stevens to New York, and Stevens dutifully went. And a private luncheon also attended by Roy O. Cohn, McCarthy's counsel, the Secretary of the Army was asked for making a statement which put McCarthy in a hole.

Lamently, Stevens explained that he was pushed into holding a press conference, and there was nothing else for him to say but the truth.

Stevens' Original Stand

Finally McCarthy persuaded the Secretary of the Army to issue a clarifying statement, after he left the luncheon at the Hotel Washington. The inference was that Stevens did not know what McCarthy had been developing in these executive sessions and that McCarthy might have run across espionage unknown to the Army.

McCarthy was satisfied—but for only as short time.

For, in Senate debate on McCarthy's appropriations, Sen. Ellender of Louisiana pulled from his pocket letters from Secretary Stevens denying McCarthy's charges of Fort Monmouth espionage.

"Insofar as the Army has thus far been able to determine," the Secretary of the Army wrote Ellender, "there is no current espionage or other subversive activity at Fort Monmouth."

McCarthy has been boiling at Stevens ever since. Meanwhile Stevens has come to the belated conclusion that it doesn't pay to appease the Senator from Wisconsin.