

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1954

The Invisible Strings Must Be Cut

THAT tattle-tale gray in North Carolina's judiciary is the justice of the peace system. It is part of crude and imperfect legal machinery set up many years ago and never really modernized. Today it is held together by a hundred invisible strings of timidity and orthodoxy—although it is shamefully defective and generally inadequate for 20th century conditions.

Reforms in this field are badly needed. It is going to see that the problem is getting attention at last.

First, the North Carolina Bar Association directed the State Judicial Council to find ways to eliminate abuses in the justice system. Now, President Warren C. Stack of the Mecklenburg Bar Association has promised that in the coming year lawyers will explore the possibility of placing all justices on a salary and will study proposals for a small claims court.

This matter of compensation is one of many unsatisfactory aspects of the whole unhappy justice picture. Today, magistrates are paid only from fees they col-

lect. The result in too many cases: judgment for the plaintiff. Since the supervision of justices is completely inadequate, there are numberless opportunities for abuses of authority and graft. Since there are no qualifications for persons who sit as magistrates, the possibility of corruption is ever greater.

A 1949 law permits 26 North Carolina counties to limit the number of justices and place them on a straight salary. Mecklenburg is one of these counties. There should be no delay in making use of this authority.

The proposal for a small claims court is also linked to the general problem of magistrates and their authority. At present, civil matters not handled by justice of the peace courts are taken care of in Superior Courts. The result: a legal bottleneck. Clogged calendars, long waits for justice. A small claims court could relieve this jam and give better judicial service than the vague, inconsistent justice courts. In time it might be possible to eliminate the justice system entirely.

Yes, Even The Girl Scouts

CONVENTION resolutions are frequently ill-conceived and hastily considered. Any real or supposed anti-Communist resolution is virtually assured endorsement by the major veteran organizations. Thus it is not too surprising that the Illinois Department of the American Legion overwhelmingly passed a resolution condemning the Girl Scouts because of "un-American influences" in their literature, and directing Legionnaires to withhold support of the organization.

The resolution represented more than the successful attempt of some zealots to push a resolution through a convention of tired men anxious to adjourn and resume the less boring aspects of convention life. It was an attempt to discourage not communism, but simple good neighborliness and understanding of other peoples. And it was successful, inasmuch as Girl Scout leaders decided to tone down their literature instead of telling the Legionnaires where to head in.

The genesis of this affair is recorded in several recent issues of the *Constitutional Record*, and makes interesting reading. It apparently started when a Robert Le Fevre's invitation to speak at a Girl Scout group was rescinded. He subsequently wrote an article for *Human Events*. He was angered by the "one worldism" he found in the Girl Scout

handbook, phrases like "We the people of the United Nations." Too, the writers of the handbook had neglected to give favorable mention to the League of Women Voters! To his chagrin, he found that the Girl Scouts even give out "World Neighbor" and "One World" merit badges, and that their award required some knowledge of the U. N. Charter.

Scout and civic leaders pointed out, in reply, that the Constitution and Bill of Rights were required reading for other badges and that, generally, Mr. Le Fevre had done a very reckless thing. But the anti-Girl Scouts movement was under way, resulting in the Illinois resolution and a decision by Girl Scout leaders to rewrite the U. N. section of the handbook, rename the "One World" badge "World Neighbor" and to make the Girl Scout program, or at least its literature, a little less neighborly and internationalistic.

They ought, however, to add another merit badge, and award it to each Girl Scout who will go up and twined the nose of one of those unduly disturbed Legionnaires, and invite him to come out to camp for a little fresh air.

Both Thinkers And Doers Are Needed

JOSEPH and Stewart Alsop exposed a weakness in the fabric of our society Saturday when they pointed out that William Fulbright of Arkansas is one of the few "readers" in the U. S. Senate. It is an eccentricity he shares only with Sen. Paul Douglas, Sen. James Duff and a few others, they wrote.

It is reminiscent of a remark made last year by Sen. Wayne Morse. He said he belongs to the "protest non-reading fraternity in America—the United States Senate." The outspoken Oregon independent added that if many of his colleagues ever read a book on political philosophy they would surely suffer ill health.

This rejection of learning has not only infected the world of politics but other areas of modern life as well. It is part of the growing wave of anti-intellectualism washing America.

Too many people are frankly frightened by the nation's book readers and thinkers today. It is not without cause that the average politician shuns the book. It is politically disastrous to be known as an intellectual. When a candidate betrays any erudition or even an unusual command of the English language he is labeled an "egg-head." If he's not really careful he will also be derided as subversive, atheistic, Communist and generally un-American. Leo Gurko documented this trend in his recent book, "Heroes, Highbrows and the Popular Mind." He discussed the instinctive American preference for the "doer" over the "thinker," noted how the Jeffersons, Adamses and Hayes gradually disappeared from public life in the 19th century and how the teacher or professional changed in the popular concept from a respectable figure to a foolish one.

Unfortunately, the roots of anti-intellectualism reach deep into the soil of our culture. It is a ridiculous and dangerous attitude and one that is thoroughly un-American. There is room for both the "thinker" and the "doer" in our society and a good combination of the two would be difficult to beat. Literate lawmakers are needed today more than ever before—needed to grasp the complex cause-and-effect relationships that exist in human affairs. This "fear of the intellectuals" must be conquered.

We shouldn't complain when things don't always seem to go right. Just think of the lot of a baseball umpire. Besides wearing silly clothes, by summertime standards, he often is wrong when right and right when wrong—depending on the umpire.—GREENWOOD (Miss.) COMMENTARY

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'State Rights' Barometer



HERB LOCK © 1954 THE WASHINGTON POST

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.

Never Call It 'Homy Grits'

Charleston, S. C.

RE "homy grits"; this from the Charleston Junior League Cookbook. "Never call it 'homy grits' or you will give Charlestonians fits!" When it comes from the mill, it's 'grits'.

After you cook it well, I wish, you serve 'homy'! Do not skip— with it and lots of shrimp.—GRITUIS, P.S. They're not talking about "big homy."

What Is Wrong With Saying 'Homy Grits'?

Spartanburg, S. C.

Editors: The News: About the way Miss Universe and other people from the South refer to grits as "homy grits." I want to ask you sincerely what is wrong with the term "homy grits," since the makers also use it.

It is found on all package grits put out by the Quaker Oats Co. of Chicago, Ill., and also other companies which package grits.

Mr. Editor, can a thing like this be held against a girl who has just won the title of Miss Universe, or any other person who sees it on every package of grits he or she buys each day? —JOE E. YOUNG (Editors' Note: As we said in the editorial, South Carolina's Miss Universe probably was misquoted when the phrase "homy grits" was attributed to her. After the editorial appeared here and in Charlotte called to say she agreed that Miss Universe would not use that Yankee misnomer, "homy grits.")

Marshall Helped Bring About Great Tragedies

Charlotte

Editors: The News: YOUR intercolumnial eulogies on the late President Marshall recall to mind a pass-

age from the classics: "... too much proved, that with devotion's visage and pious action, we do sugar o'er the devil him."

New Deal spawned and reared Marshall's astounding talents catapulted him to many honors, including chief of staff of the armed forces. At first thought, it might seem incredible that this distinction was achieved without Marshall ever having personally commanded a division (with nothing of an army) in the field. But this handsome friendship waris during the New Deal dynasty were not uncommon.

In fairness though, this "yes man" must be chastised on more specific points. The fact that devotion to the "cause" gained him promotions and partisan honors. The real issue is — what did he do in positions of high public responsibility — how did he conduct himself in the American people's interest? Therein lies the real truth about Catlett Marshall.

I contend, based on a study of documents, that had Marshall brought about or substantially aided in bringing about two colossal tragedies, as chief of staff at the time of Pearl Harbor, I believe the evidence indicates that he willfully withheld advising, by the quickest possible means, our military contingents in Hawaii of the certainty of the impending Japanese attack. It is common knowledge today that such information was obtained before the attack by U. S. Army intelligence through the interception of Japanese radio messages, which our intelligence could decipher, because some months before the attack it had broken the Japanese code.

The fact that Marshall might have been (and doubtless was) acting under orders from higher up in the government is immaterial to me. I see it. Heaven knows that disobedience to orders under the circumstances would have been infinitely more than justified! Grief for the thousands of American boys slaughtered and maimed in the Pacific is not the least of my sorrow. I would long to see in American homes, Marshall's misdeeds reprobated and his responsibility made clear. That hour is to be his most disgraceful act — entitling him only to base contempt. One does not need to ponder over what the great American patriot, Douglas MacArthur, would have done under the circumstances.

Can't Get To Heaven By Signing A Card

Charlotte

Editors: The News: TODAY I talk to some young people and have asked them if they were saved and they say, "I joined the church; I don't know what you mean." If anyone ever enters Heaven, it will be saved — not just sign a card—anyone can do that. It is getting late, and no one knows when they are going out to eternity. It is time to check up on who is lost, or ready to meet God. —MRS. MAYME BARGER.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Washington

JIM Haggerty, White House press secretary, who used to work for Tom Dewey, was categorical the other day in stating that the longtime governor of New York would not run again. Haggerty knows Dewey about as well as anyone, and his statement probably means that Dewey is also out of the race for President in 1956. Many observers had figured that Eisenhower would throw his weight to Dewey for the GOP nomination, in case, as expected, Eisenhower is a one-term President.

Haggerty made his statement at a luncheon of the "Bull Elephant" Club, an organization of male secretaries of Republican congressmen. "Dewey will not run," Haggerty said categorically. "I've known Tom a long time." He indicated that Sen. Irving L. Underhill would run for governor of New York instead. Snailed Atom Talk The question that chiefly snarled the closed-door conference dealt over the

Dewey Won't Run, yes May — Haggerty

Washington

atomic energy control bill was the control of patents. This sounds technical, but it goes to the root of the question of whether your children or a few big corporations will monopolize atomic energy in the next generation. At present the U. S. government controls all the patents on atomic energy. The original Eisenhower atom bill, by the Hon. Charles McNamara, gave the Atomic Energy Commission the right to control the patents on atomic energy for the next generation. In the secret debate, however, Congressman Underhill, who is a Republican, battled hard to wipe out of public control and permit the corporation to begin taking out atomic patents immediately.

Like Agreed With Democrats Bricker Hickenoper of Iowa noted that the Eisenhower administration sided with the Democrats on the control of patents much more than the Republicans. The original Eisenhower atom bill provided for the pooling of atomic patents for five years, so that any company, large or small, would have the right to

Candidates Disinclined To Make 'McCarthyism' An Issue

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

DESPITE all the current ruckus, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy will not be an important issue in this year's election campaign. Indeed, by all the signs, he won't be any issue at all.

This may seem a little hard to believe, what with all another committee grinding its loins to exploit the McCarthy phenomenon. Yet it is demonstrably true. McCarthy will only become an issue in any state election if some candidate wants to make him an issue. And these reporters, after searching high and low in both parties in any state election if some candidate wants to make him an issue. And these reporters, after searching high and low in both parties in any state election if some candidate wants to make him an issue.

Hear, for example, Rep. George Bender of Ohio, Republican candidate for the Senate. Queried on what stand he will take on McCarthyism, Bender replies: "I don't propose to enter into that situation any way at all, and I propose to say so frankly to the voters."

Or hear Patrick McNamara of Michigan, Democratic candidate for the Senate. Asked for his opinion on McCarthy and McCarthyism, McNamara replies: "Things are such a fluid state it is difficult to put into words." Undoubtedly, in view of this difficulty, he adds that he has no particular plans for attacking McCarthy an issue right now.

Polonius' Advice Even those who are committed up to the hilt have no intention of rolling up the voters unnecessarily. Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois was one of the brave little hands of it senators who voted against ducking the McCarthy censure resolution. Asked whether he intends to press the issue in the forthcoming campaign, Sen. Douglas replies by quoting the advice Polonius gave Laertes: "Beware of entrance to a quarrel, but being in, bear it like a general who has the opposed may beware of thee."

To put the matter less elegantly, if Joseph Meek, Sen. Douglas' opponent, wants a fight on the McCarthy issue, he can have one. But Douglas himself isn't going to start anything. At the moment, at least, it does not look as though Meek intended to start anything either. Some weeks back, he was making what sounded like a loud pro-McCarthy noises. Now he says, "among many other things" that he "can't quite understand what all the excitement is about" and that he "just can't see why it's an issue in Illinois."

It may be that President Eisen-

hower's surprisingly warm letter of endorsement, which Meek had long sought, had something to do with this cool indifference. A rather similar situation prevails in Senate. The Republican senatorial candidate there, Rep. Thomas Martin, was also taking a while back about "welcoming" McCarthy into his state.

Now, reportedly as the result of some knuckle-rapping by both the state and national organizations, Martin is no longer making McCarthy noises. As for the Democratic incumbent, Sen. Guy Gillette, he says simply of the McCarthy issue, "I don't intend to even mention it."

Wherever you look, from Massachusetts to California, you will find a candidate who "don't even intend to mention it." In some states, this is because there is not much point in mentioning it. Kentucky's Sen. John Sherman Cooper, for example, has come out flat-footed against McCarthyism and Clifford Case, Republican incumbent in New Jersey, has taken a similarly cautious stand. Thus their Democratic opponents could not make the McCarthy issue, "I don't even if they had a mind to."

DROPPED ONE COATTAIL Yet the fact is that no one has a mind to, in other words, even intend to mention it. This is partly because, as in the case of Meek, many Republicans desperately need the President's support, and it is clearly no longer possible to hang onto both McCarthy and the presidential coattails.

Rep. Bender, for example, who is now so inconspicuous in New Jersey, has taken a similar cautious stand. Thus their Democratic opponents could not make the McCarthy issue, "I don't even if they had a mind to."

This change derives essentially from the fact that any politician always hesitates to take a strong stand on any issue on which a minority in voters feel passionately — but about all these voters normally belong his party. It is because so many hard-core party members have seen Democrats that Democratic candidates, with a few notable exceptions, have tended to wessel on McCarthy.

News Congratulated On Editorial Stand

Pinehurst

Editors: The News: YOUR lead editorial of Tuesday, Aug. 3 — "The Senate Has Done A Shameful Thing" — mimics no words, and its full intent is reasonable and correct. Particularly is one section of the editorial — great interest, where you say: "And on the hustings McCarthy and his crowd can truly claim a victory, thanks to the fact that the political leadership of his party—including the President, and his fellow senators — including the Democrats—didn't have the guts to take a stand against him. It is a shameful thing."

From the above there can be no debate that you are saying the President didn't have the guts to take a stand against McCarthy. Congratulations! At long last you have seen the light which has been so apparent for many a long day. While you and your readers may get bored with constant repetition, don't overlook the fact that the President, then the Republican nominee, showed his guilelessness in the 1952 campaign when he, at the demand of McCarthy, deleted from his Wisconsin speech all reference to Gen. George C. Marshall.

Don't blame me—I voted Democratic. —ELMER M. SIMKINS.

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Charlotte

Editors: The News: TODAY I talk to some young people and have asked them if they were saved and they say, "I joined the church; I don't know what you mean." If anyone ever enters Heaven, it will be saved — not just sign a card—anyone can do that. It is getting late, and no one knows when they are going out to eternity. It is time to check up on who is lost, or ready to meet God. —MRS. MAYME BARGER.

Gen. Marshall Was Middle Man In Old Political Feud

Washington

WHEN NAVY Under Secretary Dan A. Kimball was promoted to secretary in the summer of 1951, he said to his superior, Defense Secretary George Catlett Marshall, "General, have you any suggestions about filling my old job?" Marshall's reply was prompt and powerful.

"Kimball," he barked, "get your own under secretary. I don't want any part of it. Get somebody you can work with and I'll fight for him all the way to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and back to the Pentagon."

"I had to be chief of staff to a secretary of war and his first assistant who weren't speaking to each other. They're not only didn't talk to each other, they hated and despised each other, they ran to the President behind each other's back. Then the President could send for me to get the facts."

PULLED THE ROUG

Washington

IN the end Roosevelt pulled the rug out from under both Woodring and Johnson—and the Republicans as well — as Republicans were gathering in Philadelphia to inaugurate the 1948 ticket Roosevelt explained that the nation's defense must have bipartisan support so he was naming Woodring as the late Henry L. Simson and the late Frank Knox — as secretaries of war and navy. Woodring departed Washington for his native Kansas in a rage which never subsided to inflame. He has fought Democrats and Democratic policies with the vigor of an once associated himself with the effort to organize a splinter party.

Johnson, actually the more badly used, he had been promised by Roosevelt he should get Woodring's job, left quietly but lived to rule — albeit briefly — at the Pentagon again. Woodring was never considered one of the brighter ornaments of the New Deal but he had one enormous asset — he was FRIC. For Roosevelt Before Chicago, As he was in charge of the support counted in the 1932 convention, and Jim Farley put him on the "must" list for his

Washington Pipeline

Washington

It was Secretary of State Dulles who pressured Prime Minister Churchill into agreeing to British bases at the Sea Canal. Of the six "must" bills President Eisenhower pleaded with Congress to pass as long as possible so plans won't be the wiretapping legislation — at least in the form Brownell wants it.

The auto companies always cut back production in the late fall to post next year's models. This time, Postmaster General, an old Chevrolet dealer and a power in Michigan where they make autos, has urged the manufacturers to postpone the cuts as long as possible so plans won't be closing down just before elections in November.

Bricker Would Die

Washington

Another hassle took place over Sen. Langer's amendment that if any company which had been licensed to produce atomic energy should be found guilty of violating the antitrust laws, it shall forfeit the license. "I will fight that till I die," declared Sen. Bricker of Ohio, referring to part