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Hodges Yanks At The Old Inadequacies

Gov. Luther Hodges last night presented the General Assembly with an egg-shaped capsule of change. It was useless to sugar-coat the pill and the governor didn't try. He frankly described his reform-packed legislative program as "one of many facets and far-reaching conclusions."

The complexities, however, lie less in the program's own substance than in the certain difficulty of getting it passed. The aim of simple efficiency and orderliness in government affairs recommends much of the Hodges' blueprint, and a legitimate concern for the economic future of North Carolina almost all the rest.

Actually, most reforms requested are startling only in comparison with the impacted inadequacies which they are meant to remove. Legislative reapportionment, for example, would alter almost imperceptibly the make-up of the General Assembly. Besides that, the Assembly has a constitutional duty to reapportion. Yet the governor's request will be opposed with all the wily rurlar wrath that has sunk similar recommendations before.

Passage of the Hodges' program will require all of his and the people's persuasion. It deserves that support.

We hope his failure to specify a figure in his minimum wage request signifies no defeatism on the governor's part. No state can build prosperity on the shaky foundations of poverty and low wages. In 1955, when the Assembly rejected a 55-cent minimum, more than 45,000 Tar Heels were making less than that. The figure doubtless is higher today, while other thousands of Tar Heels enjoy the protection of a recently increased federal minimum.

Provision of some sort of state wage floor should accompany revision of the state's tax structure. Both are vital steps toward removing Tar Heelia's tail-end economic status.

We like all of the governor's proposed mechanical reforms in state government. He generously described the state constitution as "old and outmoded," and could reasonably have requested a constitutional convention to reweave that tattered instrument of another time. Creation of a study commission to recommend more constitutional patchwork to the next legislature is the least the Assembly can do. The state capital also is outmoded, and the governor's request for steps toward construction of a new building is pertinent.

There is, as the governor said, "no longer a barrier to continuing the prison system under the highway commission." Separation is long overdue. So is the governor's planned reorganization of the highway department, replacing the "little kingdoms" of district commissioners with a non-political highway director to plan road construction on a statewide basis. The same goal of better planning and greater efficiency is embodied in Mr. Hodges' appeal for creation of a state department of administration to centralize certain functions including planning of various departments.

Pay raises recommended for teachers and state employees are justified. The merit system, where workable, should apply.

The governor wisely suggested that the legislature refrain from excursions into the sensitive field of segregation. The Pearsall Plan is entirely adequate for the present, and deserves to be tested by time and experience.

In sum, Gov. Hodges has requested a common sense program of minimum progress for North Carolina. It would use little but old and obvious shortcomings. It would not make any improvement in prospects for the future of all Tar Heels.

The program deserves the sympathetic and active consideration of the General Assembly.

A New Dimension For City Classrooms

It now seems clear that television offers the greatest opportunity for the advancement of education since the introduction of printing by movable type. —Dr. Thomas Clark Pollock, New York University.

This sober comparison by one of educational television's pioneers has special significance in Charlotte, where city school officials are now working to bring TV to the classroom.

Someday soon, Charlotte school children will be able to see chemistry experiments, symphonies and operas, great works of art on television screens. Programs will originate in the city or at the University of North Carolina — perhaps, in time, at both places. In this way, the state's most notable experts in a vast variety of areas will be brought into close contact with those they can benefit most, the young.

Some serious problems stand in the way. The planners of educational TV must avoid a passive "learning-by-looking" philosophy. They must re-ear school organization, they must find funds. They must train skillful television teachers.

But so powerful a means of communication is television that means must be devised to pass these roadblocks. The result is sure to be worth it. Television can bring personality and human reaction very close to those who listen and view. There is an intimacy to it that rivals the personal teacher-student relationship of the present.

Already, television has done much to promote "common learnings" among our people. The implications of television directed toward education, not amusement, become exciting to contemplate.

In addition, TV promises to effect a saving in school costs. It may mean that fewer teachers will be necessary — not fewer than we have now, but fewer than would otherwise be demanded 10 or 20 years from now.

The use of television in Charlotte schools need not and should not rule out discussion, review and interchange between teachers and pupils.

It should bring a new dimension to classroom teaching, however — one that justifies Dr. Pollock's comparison and offers encouragement to those officials charged with giving our children the best possible education.

Cleaner Air Rates A Cautious Hurrar

Like Carl Sandburg's fog, optimism about air pollution control in Charlotte moves on little cat feet. One factory stack belching smoke can spread potentially dangerous contaminants over a wide area. There is no such thing as an insurance policy against the room of smoke, smog, or smog.

But improvements in the condition of Charlotte's air — noted after exhaustive scientific tests — are significant. They indicate Charles S. Frost's air pollution control program is proving itself slowly but surely. All sound and fury about re-establishing a smoke program in Charlotte was obviously not expended in vain. Those who battled so valiantly against heavy odds, are now being rewarded by the knowledge that

measurable results justify their stand. But smoke control, like so many things, takes a lot of running just to stay in the same place. As Charlotte grows, potential sources of air pollution will mushroom. An effective program of education and enforcement will have to be maintained, or, possibly, even broadened.

Air pollution will never disappear. But understanding its nature — and backing up this understanding with programs of cooperative action — will reduce it from a noxious, life-shortening menace to something unobtrusive as it takes in its stride.

All of us can just be thankful that Charlotte got to work on the problem before it was too late. It is a safe bet now that the Queen City's atmosphere will never be royal purple.

From The Des Moines Register

ON WRITING ESSAYS

Down with essay contests, say high school principals. Of 200 principals who gave their views in a survey made by their national association, only two found any merit in many of the competitions to determine which student can write the best essay about politics, patriotism, pickles or what have you.

The high school principals find these contests lead to dishonesty. Some students would submit unbindingly, as their own, an essay on honesty which had been written by Ralph Waldo Emerson or Adlai Stevenson. One girl a few years ago won a national contest in this way and the plagiarism was not disclosed until she had gone to Washington to receive the award. Most of the dishonesty in essay contests isn't this, but frequently essay contestants will appropriate a lot of material without crediting it to its author.

In essay contests, students write to please contest sponsors and judges. If the

pickles people sponsor the contest, the students extoll pickles even though they may be allergic to them. Contests are not likely to promote critical thinking. They just put a premium on hypocrisy.

Essay contests also put an intolerable burden on judges. Most of the essays are just plain awful. The remedy for this is not to have more essay contests. But the quality of essays might improve if there were more of the essay writing tests in classrooms, where students are on their own, and fewer of "right or wrong" tests which are so much easier to correct — and easier to read, too.

A little boy attending his first wedding asked his mother why the bride was dressed in white. "Because," answered the mother, "white stands for purity and joy." "Then why was the retort logical, and the groom wear black?" — Four Myras (Fla.), News-Press.

Jittery America Becomes A Nation Of Hypochondriacs

By ROBERT C. RUARK

WE SEEM in recent years to have become a nation of do-it-yourself diagnosticians, and anybody with no baleful symptoms is a social outcast. Once upon a time we talked about girls and baseball, now there is less sex than syndrome, less baseball and more peptic ulcer in the cocktail chatter.

Everybody feels lousy from time to time, and it used to be put down to something you ate, or maybe you picked up some bad ice somewhere. I have known people who give up cigarettes and alcohol and feel bad ALL the time because the booze and the nicotine masked the nagging little ills that are parcel to the human mechanism as it approaches aged.

From what I know of doctor, diagnosis, one man's meat is another man's pension, and the diagnosis is often likely to be



Everybody feels lousy from time to time

At the moment, for instance, there is to be released a vending machine which will offer the layman a kit for testing himself for diabetes. Cost of kit: 25 cents. And the machines will be placed in supermarkets, bus stations, railroad and subway stations, airports and the like.

SICK DOLLS

The doll industry has so far advanced that a new sick doll is out. This doll not only wets its pants, squeaks, blinks its eyes, but also has an internal heating apparatus which gives dolls a temperature. It comes complete with thermometer and flexible mouth.

That's starting 'em off pretty young in the hypochondriac field. First thing you know dolls will be taking Salk shots and possessing a special slot for Miltovans. Judging from my own medicine shelf and from snooty peeks at the bedrooms of friends, adults of my



If the doctor's patient is coated the patient is bilious

From salts and a bottle of Bromo-Seltzer used to be stock bathroom pharmacy in my earlier days, and all seemed to live longer.

I am highly in favor of surgery, regular physicals, and competent medical care. But I also know that a hangover can assume the proportions of cancer at 3 a.m. on a white night, and what used to be correctly assumed as late night detoxicating now takes on all the symptoms of heart disease.

NEW HOBBY

A real good hangover can give you delusions of leprosy-cum-bankruptcy. Today, they even have prescriptions for love-sickness, and some people wonder if they're sick because they have no symptoms.

IT'LL GO AWAY

And now we are going to have self-testing machines, probably for everything from diabetes to cancer. I saw a serious piece the other day in which some character reckons you can measure cancer by handwringing tests.

The only answer I can suggest for that machine is to let nature self-healing is another machine which will produce cards saying: "You're still breathing, so you're still alive. It's only a hangover. Don't look at it and maybe it'll go away."

'How Dare You Disregard Our Instructions!'



A Secret Strength Boom Town On The Volga

By JOSEPH ALSOP

IN DEEP snow, with the Soviet government's stern enforcement of an unchangeable first priority, an absolute first call on all resources for the expansion of this country's industrial base.

Yet I think, perhaps too boldly, that I have found two other important parts of the secret here.

TECHNICUM

One of these is looked to by the boys and girls began bright and alert, but their school had little of the elaborate equipment that you would find in a technical high school in a big American city. Only the most brilliant 5 per cent were expected to go on to college.

The friendly, sensible principal, Edim Yezepanov, made no bones about it: "The state needs at least three qualified technicians for every graduate engineer," he said. "And the chief job of every technician is to train skilled workers—technicians."

SECRET OF SUCCESS

The statistics tell the story. When Kulyshyev was still Samara and young Lenin hung out the queer little flag, this was an easygoing little mercantile center with a population of 130,000. Today, Kulyshyev is a big industrial city of 760,000, and the Kulyshyev boom continues unabated.

The first part of the secret of Kulyshyev's boom is of course

the Soviet government's stern enforcement of an unchangeable first priority, an absolute first call on all resources for the expansion of this country's industrial base. Beside Muravlenko, there was the slender, precise, shrewd head of the Kulyshyev branch of the State Bank, Vasily Romanovich Voinobuev, who provides the city's industries and trading establishments with a 100 per cent capitalistic banking and credit facilities. And besides Voinobuev, there was the chairman of the City Soviet or when I visited, common-sensible Vladimir Ivanovich Semenov who has been promoted from chief power station engineer to the head of the municipal problems of housing, water supply, sewage disposal, and the like.

HIGH COMPETENCE

I think anyone who talked for hours with these men who make Kulyshyev's wheels go round, as I did, would have agreed that they all appeared impressively competent and self-confident. And they might be, having come up the hard way to the highest posts in their city.

It was decidedly striking that Kulyshyev's boom town combination of a growing army of skilled workers and a top echelon of highly qualified managers. But I wonder if the combination would eventually demand some modification of the Soviet order of priorities, that would make Kulyshyev outwardly pleasant as well as inwardly dynamic.

lenko, whose great oil fields, with their 15,000 workers and 1,000 oil geologists and engineers, will soon be out-producing Baku. Besides Muravlenko, there was the slender, precise, shrewd head of the Kulyshyev branch of the State Bank, Vasily Romanovich Voinobuev, who provides the city's industries and trading establishments with a 100 per cent capitalistic banking and credit facilities. And besides Voinobuev, there was the chairman of the City Soviet or when I visited, common-sensible Vladimir Ivanovich Semenov who has been promoted from chief power station engineer to the head of the municipal problems of housing, water supply, sewage disposal, and the like.

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POETRY AND FACT

POPULAR judgment has seldom fallen into a greater error than that of supposing that poetry must necessarily, and from its very nature, convey false and therefore injurious impressions. The error lies in not discriminating between what is true to nature and what is true to fact. For the very nature of things, neither poetry nor any one of the imitative arts can in itself be false. They can be false no more than, by the imperfection of human skill, they convey to our eyes and ears a false and garbled view of what they represent. Hence a painting or poetical description may be true to nature, and yet false to fact. There is no reason to believe that one race is by nature so much more intelligent,

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON The entire calling list of Arab visitors here during the past two weeks, chalk up a plus mark for Mr. Dulles' efforts to woo the Near East.

Charles Malik, the Christian foreign minister of Lebanon, Abdul Halim, the pro-British crown prince of Iraq, King Saud, the wavering, onetime friend of Col. Nasser, all were part of an attempt to bring the Arab world to Egypt when Dulles once picked as America's best friend, but who has turned out to be Russia's best friend.

Youth Warmed Hearts

Biggest diplomatic victory was scored by none of the above, but by little Prince Mashurov, 3½-year-old son of King Prince

Diplomatic Hit Scored By 3-Year-Old

The generous outpouring of gifts and good will to the little prince warmed the heart of his father more than all the regal receptions and state dinner parties given in his honor, elegant as these were.

Saud Touched

The fact that the American people enthusiastically contributed all sorts of presents and deluged the little boy with get-well messages, touched the King's heart as much as any of the American people had no designs on his country. His staff purchased two extra trunks to carry the load of opobooks, miniature racing cars, and other knickknacks of the American public sent to the hospital.

In addition to this, the King was delighted with the U.S.—ranging from his

talks with Ike to Gal-Gali, the magician, who spoke in Arabic at the Arabian-American Oil Co. dinner given him at the Mayflower Hotel, to the fact that John Foster Dulles gave him practically all of what he wanted from the United States.

Trouble At Home

Dulles' real problem, however, is going to be after King Saud returns home. The King's influential brother, now acting as lord chamberlain in his absence, is intensely anti-western and pro-Nasser. In addition, Nasser has managed to infiltrate the army with Egyptian officers, thanks to the Egyptian military mission stationed in Saudi Arabia.

This is why Dulles' policy of sending

more arms to Saudi Arabia is so risky. Chances are they will eventually fall into the hands of the pro-Nasser clique inside the Saudi Arabian Army which has the support of the King's brother.

Glowing With Praise

The King himself went home glowing with praise for the U.S. However, he is almost blind, reads only that which his eyes can see, and naturally is subjected to all sorts of pressures. In the past, he advanced oil royalties to help Nasser buy arms from Russia, also advanced money to Nasser when the Egyptian budget was low, and just recently, while en route to Washington, stopped at the White House to promise money to balance the Jordanian budget.

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.

Race Issue Threatens U. S. Prestige Abroad

Charlotte

Editors, The News: I am a member of the American Negro History Week to promote wider understanding of the Negro people and the magnificent, often unique, contributions they are making to American culture.

American members of the Baha'i World Faith, responding to a directive from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States, will join in this observance. Baha'is consider this occasion an opportunity to assist in focusing public attention, not alone on the purpose of Negro History Week, but also on the more inclusive theme of the oneness of mankind.

Appreciation of the abilities and achievements of the various racial minorities should eventually help us to become aware of the basic truth of human unity—a realization that the whole world needs at this critical hour in its history. But such appreciation is not enough. In America the race issue, called racial integration at the present hour, has been, and is, a very serious and dangerous of our national problems. It not only perplexes and threatens us at home but also discredits our leadership in the eyes of the world.

'What Fools Ye Be To Fall For Bunk'

Charlotte

Editors, The News: THE PEOPLE have elected a man to the legislature, perhaps many not knowing, who advocates world government and it would play hell with our government. All the little countries would be out of business and the hands of Communist dictators.

That fools ye mortals be to fall for such bunk. A man like that doesn't belong in our legislature. He attempts to bring it up in the newspapers should burn him up with ridicule.

—W. C. MCINTIRE

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