

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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The Urge To Purge Is Unsettling

THE URGE to purge is burning again in the bosoms of some South Carolina legislators who fear the "corrupting influence" of ISLAND IN THE SUN, a new motion picture dealing with integration in the British Isles. They would make it a crime, punishable by a \$5,000 fine, for any theater in the state to exhibit the film.

It is a idea unsettling, to say the least, to learn that the honorable South Carolina legislators could be won over to some of the cozier aspects of integration. No such anxiety has ever been admitted publicly before.

If an idea is repugnant, can't free men be depended upon to reject it? The requirement that ideas expressed in a motion picture must conform to some norm prescribed by an official smacks of an ideology foreign to our system of government.

Undoubtedly, a constitutional issue is involved. Overturning a 1915 ruling in THE MIRACLE case of 1952, the United

States Supreme Court made the motion picture industry a member of the press, which the First and Fourteenth Amendments protect. Beyond fraud, libel, slander and obscenity, freedom of press may be limited only under very special circumstances. It can never be totally prohibited in advance. On the basis of THE MIRACLE decision, the Supreme Court subsequently reversed New York's ban, on grounds of immorality, of the film, LA RONDE; Ohio's ban, on the grounds of "tending to promote crime" of the film, M. and Texas' ban, on the grounds of inciting racial tension, of the film PINKY. It seems clear that only censorship for obscenity, as defined by the courts, will be tolerated by the Supreme Court.

It is not the business of government to suppress ideas. It is incumbent on us to suggest that the citizen is not fit to hear ideas discussed, see movies and read books about them and judge those ideas for themselves.

The Senate Rejects A Cuckoo Law

PERFECTION is a rare commodity in legislative halls, but the Senate had a close scrape with it in Raleigh yesterday.

Its 322 vote against subjecting women having two or more illegitimate children to sterilization could have been improved only by the switch of two votes to make the action unanimous.

Those two votes, however, are unimportant. What matters is that the Senate rejected a dangerous and ridiculous

piece of legislation, and rejected it for all the right reasons.

One reason was that the proposal was wrongly related to the purpose of reducing welfare support of illegitimate children. Equally important, the measure was condemned as unfair, possibly unconstitutional, and smacking of police state methods.

The Senate's action should serve as a sturdy precedent for future Assemblies.

Don't Take A Chance—Pen Fido Up

RESIDENTS of the southern portion of Mecklenburg County will be doing a favor to themselves, their children and their pets by observing the new Health Department's dog quarantine.

A serious situation would be made truly tragic unless a conscientious effort is made to prevent any dogs from running at large in the area. A dozen or

more infected animals have already been found. A number of children have already been bitten.

Temporary confinement of a family pet—at least until the danger has passed—may well save his life and possibly even the life of some hapless child. Confinement may seem cruel but it is not nearly so cruel as a case of rabies.

The Ballot Must Be Above Suspicion

WHETHER it was born in political innocence or in partisanship, the so-called "get-Jonas" ballot law is dying of suspicion.

The House has repudiated it, and the Senate's good judgment surely will compel it to follow suit. Repeat would restore a great deal of faith in the integrity of the ballot and of the General Assembly.

Basically, the system of tabulating ballots that would replace the "get-Jonas" law has little or no merit. A ballot marked in a party circle and for an individual candidate on the opposite side is contradictory and should be thrown out.

The "get-Jonas" law arbitrarily as-

signed the ballot to the party. The substitute system would obey the apparent wishes of the voter to vote for everyone under the party circle except where he selected an individual opposing candidate.

What really is killing the bill is not its basic defects, but the widespread suspicion that the Assembly enacted it to cheat Republican candidates. But that is reason enough. The integrity of the ballot must be above suspicion.

That is sufficient reason for repeal. And that should have been sufficient reason to prevent passage of the "get-Jonas" law in the first place.

Let The Voice Of Truth Be Heard

THE NOTION that Congress can appease the economy bloc by wrecking the United States Information program is destructive nonsense.

Seldom has there been a greater need for telling the truth about America to a world oppressed by doubt, fear and more than a little cynicism.

USIA is not perfect. It has its weaknesses. But as a sounding board for truth it is an invaluable instrument of U. S. foreign policy.

Yet few agencies have suffered so much ill-informed abuse as USIA and its good right arm, the Voice of America. Bailed by the McCarthyites and whacked by the economists, it has nevertheless contributed greatly to a better understanding of U. S. policies and intentions in every potential dateline of disaster on this harried globe.

Originally, Voice of America was an

improved offshoot of this country's propaganda effort during World War II. Today it speaks in 43 tongues over a worldwide network of 78 transmitters. It is widely recognized as an asset where the American interests are involved. That is practically everywhere.

Yet even as it operates today, the United States Information Agency accounts for only a fraction of the effort the Soviet Union is expending to tell Russia's story to the world.

Reducing USIA to a mere flicker may represent economy to some congressmen but it is false economy. The risk involved in surrendering the field to the Soviets is not worth the few dollars "saved."

The agency's program should be strengthened, not crippled. In the words of President Eisenhower, "the voice of truth must be more clearly heard."

From The Jackson (Miss.) Daily News

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

WANT to stay young? Then don't let other people put you into a social strait jacket. In short, be yourself. That's the advice of New York State Sen. Thomas C. Desmond, who urges men and women of middle age and over to start living their own lives.

"Don't mind being called eccentric, if your eccentricities make sense to you," says Sen. Desmond in the JOURNAL OF LIFETIME LIVING.

Throughout history, the great men and women have been those who dared challenge senseless taboos and cared nothing about keeping up with the Joneses. Fear did not abide by the traditions of the Joneses that find their way even into science. Ford ignored the business practices of the Joneses of commerce. Frank Lloyd Wright achieved success by ignoring the stick-in-the-mud architectural conventions.

Many older people are often made "elderly" simply because they let themselves be cast into stereotyped roles we commonly associate with age. The Joneses of the world may approve of

mature men and women sitting in rockers, caring for grandchildren and putting up around house and garden. But they look askance at anything they think is not "dignified."

Some taboos may, of course, have a basis for existence because they are designed to help protect an older person's health, safety or well-being. But many, if not most, are simply remnants of the Victorian era.

"My plea is not to play the fool at 50 or 60 or 80. It is simply not to be hogtied by unreasonable taboos," says Sen. Desmond. "Examine the restrictions on your activities, your way of life, and your way of thinking imposed by others. Then start living your own life!"

Political scientists are disturbed over the question of who should take a President. He is too sick to go to the office. What's the matter with the grand old American system everybody else uses? Leave it up to the wife. — ASHEVILLE CITIZEN.

Sweet 'Tater Tunes Sicken Lovers Of 'A' Awlins' Jazz

By ROBERT C. RUARK

SOMEWHERE-IN-THE-ELVIS PRESLEY BELT

OH, MY heart is sick and my head is sore and I ain't got that gal no more and I loved her dear but now I fear I am going to throw up if I hear much more of America's favorite music.

I have been driving alone since I left New York and you switch on the radio for company and it ain't fabulous, no matter what Mr. Presley and his nasal, grunting comrades sing. It is altogether the most nauseating effort we have made at popular entertainment—half hillbilly lament with a beat, and the rest plain suggestive calisthenics.

What isn't shameful about love-faded, desperate of breath seems to be calypso, and they've even managed to foul that up. My acquaintance with West Indian stuff goes back to Papa Houdini and the Lion, which wasn't yesterday, and some of it was great. But what we have done to it would create a scandal in Trinidad, dad.



ELVIS PRESLEY
 'A Nauseating Effort'

I have been partying with the boys in my old fraternity house, and have noted the contents of the juke box in the bar. With about one exception, the glittering, gurgling, neon-lit monster offers nothing but corn-pone and sweet 'tater tunes. And this was a lodge

where, 20-odd years back, girls got necked to the tune of the stuff which you find in the better albums today—stuff by Arlen, Porter, Rodgers, Hart, Gershwin. We were smooth enough in those days to consider "Love for Sale" as sad rather than suggestive, and when Ray Noble played "The Very Thought of You" another coded bit of the dust.

SOME HOPE

However, there may be some hope for the future. The Dixieland, New Orleans type noise is still clinging grimly to a small sector of the music loving population. We pitched a big one the other night, to celebrate the arrival of the Ruark memorial ice-making and cultural machine, in the Phi Kap house, and we pitched it with two hands—a colored rock 'n roll outfit from Greensboro, and a local N'Awlins-style group. One of the brethren played a real cool horn, and I could see the N'Awlins boys gaining gratitude under the sufferers with the

backwoods beat. That, I must say, was the triumph of quite a triumphant evening. Word of the rites had spread around the campus, and all the homeless Deltas, SAsEs, Chi Pals, Sigma Chis and ATOs dropped in, bearing hugs.

OLD GRAD EMIGRANTS

The old grad department emigrated from Raleigh and Durham, via yours truly, and all us chillun formed. I am thankful to have met some of the old grads in Raleigh who know whom I am aiming at when I say never did I see a grown woman who had dignified 20 years ago cut up so scandalous with so many soporifics. And I also hope that a dignified effort of a dignified magazine found his hat. It's a wonder the brothers didn't throw us all out.

This being a piece about nothing very much in particular, and as formless as a pelvic rendition of "Butterfly," I might mention that I pressed a call on a retiring ruffian named Tom Webb, of Greenville, N. C., the other day,

to recall some nights of kitchen harmony over a fruit jar filled with joyful essence.

FURTHER PHILANTHROPY

I have decided to further my philanthropy and endow a Tom Webb all-girl scholarship, as well as a Ruark all-boy scholarship. In this way, Mr. Webb, who once had me initiated as an ATO despite the fact that I was a registered Phi Kap, and I will get to choose the candidates for the all-girl scholarship, and we will nominate each other for the all-boy scholarship. Mr. Webb has small hair, but still has bounce enough to enthrall a lady not my wife, Miss Lyn Pretlow, aged 18, who accompanied me on the safari. The board is considering Mr. Webb seriously for one of the all-girl scholarships, although this may change when Mrs. Webb and Miss Ruark get back to town.

I think this started out as a dissertation on the degeneracy of American musical taste, but as usual, it has wound up back in the kitchen with a jug.

Chances Grow For U. S. Ban On Hydrogen Bomb Tests

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

IT MAY not be likely, but it is possible that there will be no more H-bomb tests by the United States. Proposals to ban the tests are gaining ground at high levels in the government, a considerable change from the position six months ago when Adlai Stevenson's proposals for banning such tests were brusquely brushed aside by President Eisenhower.

The United States has probably lost the moral advantage of being the sole possessor of H-bombs to half testing, pending a worldwide agreement. The Soviet Union tried once again last week to gain such an advantage over the United States and Britain when Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, in a speech to the U. S. Supreme Soviet, gave notice that Russian proposals for banning the tests were still on the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament currently meeting in London. Banning the tests, he said, would be the first step toward a means of control.

Gromyko warned that unless



ADLAIR STEVENSON
 An Issue Revived

BRITAIN'S ENTRY

The British claim that by withholding atomic secrets from the United States at its sole possible source, the British are forcing them to learn the facts first hand. Perhaps with thoughts of the divisions which rose between British and American policy over

session of the H-bomb doubtless seems a means of staying in the game with the big boys. So there isn't no agreement to halt testing until Britain has exploded its first entry. Then perhaps there will be a change.

The important point is that now there seems to be a willingness to consider the need for banning the tests, as well as to seek the means of doing so. President Eisenhower's recent cautious optimism doubtless reflects the reports that he is getting from his disarmament adviser, Harold Stassen, who is now in London. If Stassen succeeds in his hard task at the disarmament conference he will have a chance to revive his present low stock. Since he will leave the government before long, it may be his last chance.

DEBATE CONTINUES

Meanwhile debate continues over the damage already done by H-bomb and A-bomb tests. This debate has raged ever since the "dirty" American H-bomb explosion in the Pacific in 1954. Ex-

Willard Libby, the scientific member of the Atomic Energy Commission, is finding that answering attacks by other scientists such as Dr. Linus Pauling and humanitarians such as Dr. Albert Schweitzer almost a full-time job. Dr. Libby's efforts are impeded by the fact that he has previously underestimated the danger from tests. Less than two years ago, as the Manchester Guardian points out, Dr. Libby and Albert Strauss, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, were saying that test explosions were no more dangerous than a chest X-ray. "That platitude has now been abandoned," it declares, "in the face of fuller information about the rate at which strontium is accumulating in human bones."

Japan, which is in the unfortunate geographical position to catch every body's fallout, is thinking about bringing before the International Court of Justice at The Hague the question of one nation's right to pollute every nation's air. Such a case might force an abandonment of tests if agreements cannot be reached otherwise.

'Don't Worry, I Don't Think There's Anything In There'



People's Platform

Lee Can't Be Judged By Present Conditions

Charlotte

Editors, The News: AFTER reading Field Marshal Montgomery's remark that we would have fired Gen. Robert E. Lee, I cannot refrain from presenting this remark. Military conditions were entirely different then than now. Then, I hardly think we would have done as well as Lee did with the financial odds and manpower odds from all over the world against him.

My father was a soldier with Gen. Lee from the beginning of the war until its end.

—TOM LEE CROWELL SR.

Ban On Film Won't Serve Undenied

Monroe

Editors, The News: THE recommendation of the United owners of North and South Carolina at their recent meeting in Charlotte are carried out, in this area will not be able to see the movie "Island In The Sun." The movie in question is said to deal with the theme of interracial romance which by its very nature would make it unusable for public viewing in the theaters of North and South Carolina.

The picture in question may present a theme or a point of view which is unacceptable or perhaps even repugnant to many, but it isn't likely that the banning of the film would serve the cause of understanding or enlightenment.

Whether the picture is as honest and sincere effort to throw

light on a real problem I don't know, but if it must be treated, I don't know of any two people more capable of rendering a sensitive portrayal than Jean Fontaine and Harry Belafonte.

— E. M. MUSSELMAN JR.

Censuring Senators Will Be Repudiated

Dillon, S. C.

Editors, The News: WHEN I read Drew Pearson's May 7 article about the late, great Joe McCarthy I felt nauseated.

Drew Pearson is not worthy to mention McCarthy's name. I followed Joe McCarthy's career in the Senate through the Congressional Record. Only a few people know the greatness of the late senator. Thirty per cent of the people don't read the facts and 50 per cent don't care.

The day will come, and I believe sooner, that the senators who voted to censure McCarthy will go down unforgotten and censured by an awakening public since the death of McCarthy.

— J. A. SMITH

Realtor Licensing Board Is Needed

Charlotte

Editors, The News: YOUR editorial of May 10 on the need of a real estate license law in North Carolina was excellent. It showed both thought and spirit in the problem as it exists in our state. I will turn to your paper for bringing the true facts to your readers.

—J. H. CROMARTIE
 Realtor

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Ike Warned Against Attacking Congress

WASHINGTON PRESIDENT Eisenhower has to win two battles on television. No. 1 is the obvious battle of the budget. No. 2 is the battle which GOP leaders understand much better than Ike—for control of the Republican Party.

Regulars Fight Hard

If Ike loses his round with Congress over foreign aid and the budget, then the "regular" Republicans take over. They know this, and that's one reason they are fighting so hard and why they don't want him to fight hard.

It's also why the palace guard is trying to get Ike to fight hard. They know, and have been telling the President that, if he loses this round, "modern Republicanism" is dead. He can kiss good-bye any idea of remaking the Republican Party in his own image.

Advance Notice

The White House staff began telling newsmen and congressmen even while the President was in Augusta that he was going to have a budget fight. They may well have done so before fully consulting the President, for at that time

he was still being very palsy with the man who had put him in the White House, George Humphrey.

However, the White House staff knew far better than the President that when you lose one big battle in Capitol Hill, the rest of your battles are likely to be lost for the next four years.

A Warning

Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, most vociferous of the "regular" Republicans, telephoned the White House the other day.

"I like Ike," he protested, "but don't let him go on television. The people are not for him on the budget. The reaction will break his heart."

Control Sought

Almost as soon as he was hung up, Goldwater began bawling out the man whose heart he didn't want to break.

He talked about 1958 when "we" are going to get control. He pointed to the fact that most of the Republican senators up for re-election in 1958 are conservatives. Only two or three modern Republicans are up for re-election.

"We're going to capture control with Knowland in 1960."

He referred to the backing which regular Republicans are organizing for Sen. Bill Knowland for president in 1960.

Regular Republicans are already working to replace Knowland when he retires from the Senate next year with conservative Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois as Republican leader. They are determined not to have an Eisenhower Republican as GOP leader of the Senate.

Punch-Pulling Advice

When Republican leaders called on Ike for their regular huddle last week they cautioned him not to attack the sincerity of Congress. He appeared on TV. They urged a temperate talk. They didn't use these exact words, but what they really wanted was that Ike make no appeal such as Roosevelt so effectively made over the heads of Congress to pass his program.

Obviously they were thinking of the party battle, not the President, when they gave this advice. For the only way Ike can win is to call on the voters to relegate again to the past the party that has put dollars ahead of the nation's welfare. Sherman Adams, who knows what the

score is, has been giving just the opposite advice of GOP leaders. But he's a hard time keeping Ike in line. Ike is a one who likes to tangle with Congress.

Long Talk

He was eloquent, however, at the recent meeting of congressional leaders of both parties. Usually, the President opens these closed-door sessions by making a statement, then turning things over to Secretary Dulles.

This time he delivered the longest talk ever given to congressional leaders. He called it "spirited," "impassioned." One regular Republican described it as "humdrum—so doggedly honest I didn't pay much attention."

No Lunch

Only real Congress was raised by Sen. Dick Russell (D-Ga) who objected to Ike's proposed \$500 million cut in foreign aid as a "paper cut." Russell claimed that foreign aid was not being cut, but simply transferred to the defense budget. He charged that the same military equipment is still being readied for shipment overseas, paid for out of defense funds, not foreign aid funds.