



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Ike's Disability Scheme Is Defective

SO LONG as the administration keeps the details of its "understanding" on what is to happen in the event of another presidential disability the plan must be regarded as without merit.

Certainly in intent and quite possible in content the plan has a great deal of merit. The President commensally has refused to close his eyes to the implications of his three illnesses in office and the fact that his term has three years more to run. He has asked Congress to prescribe for the constitutional vacuum on steps to be followed to keep the executive power functioning in the event the executive himself cannot function. In the face of congressional inaction, the President, the vice president and "others around" the President have reached their own understanding.

But the administration plan, whatever it is, has a very grave defect in that the "understanding" is confined to the White House. The basic need for legislation or for a constitutional amendment is to establish a universal understanding, and thereby, acceptance of a system for transfer of executive power.

Describing the administration arrangement, the President spoke of a "clear understanding" with Vice President Nixon—"an understanding to which others around me are completely privy—that it is inconceivable . . . that any misunderstanding could occur." This seems excessively optimistic in view of the struggles for advantage which inevitably occur when the presidency or any other center of power ceases to function.

What is needed and what the Congress must provide, either on its own initiative or by accepting the administration's plan as its own, is a clearly defined system to provide for orderly discharge of executive power against reasonably foreseeable emergencies.

The chief benefit of the President's arrangement—in its present state of secrecy—is that it may spur Congress to fulfill its primary responsibility in the matter.

There is no way to prevent the possibility of presidential disability, but a way can be found to prevent disability crises. The nation has undergone three such crises within a period of about two years. Three is quite enough.

Give Mack The Ear, Then The Boot

THERE have been sudden, righteous demands in Congress that FCC Commissioner Richard A. Mack be ousted immediately unless he resigns.

There's not a bit of doubt in my mind that Mr. Mack must go. But what's the hurry? The fact that he didn't resign, and now refuses to do so, in the face of damaging testimony from both friends and foe regarding his fitness for office must mean that he regards his record as defensible.

He should have every opportunity to defend it. He should be encouraged to elucidate the philosophy of public service that permits him to borrow money from an attorney seeking to influence his vote on the award of a television channel. It is entirely possible that Commissioner Mack sincerely believes, as he testifies, that his judgment is beyond being influenced by such an entanglement. Some other FCC members, including the chairman, have indicated that their integrity is so flint-like as to be impervious to influence from television stations and industry associations that pay them expense money and do other favors.

If such belief really exists on the part of FCC members it ought to go into the record as a commendable testimony on the flabby state of political morality in an immensely powerful government agency. The record then should be used as the basis of legislation providing explicitly for legal proceedings against any commissioner who accepts favors from anyone even remotely connected with the industry he is charged with regulating.

It would be idle to deny the possibility that a political appointee can deny favor to those who do him financial favors. But it would be simple foolishness not to erect stout legal safeguards against the probability that he cannot do so.

The regulatory agencies must be placed not only above connivance but insofar as is possible above suspicion. Having invited suspicion, and having defended his conduct in doing so, Commissioner Mack clearly has no place on the Federal Communications Commission.

But if getting Mack's job is all House investigators intend to get out of the current probe, it is not worth getting. What must be rooted out is the idea that faithful performance of the regulatory agencies can rest on nothing more substantial than the sturdy protestations of piety and the right political affiliations of its members.

Peckerwood

REFERENCE has been made in the recent chambers of city government to a local street pitted as if a "peckerwood" had been hammering upon it. For those recently arrived among us, it should be explained that this expression has been handed down carefully from a misty past. It is a car-a-24, filled with bits of southern Americana to "A-model" and "wider woman."

In fact, our fury at those who might chuckle at peckerwood leaves us tied-tongued.

They Don't Write Songs Like Before

ANY doddering senior citizen whose own wooing was done with the aid of such terms as STARDUST, MOON OVER MIAMI, MOONGLOW, and so forth, can't help but draw a blank in the face of today's songs," writes a distraught CHICAGO DAILY NEWSMAN who wants his woe to show.

"Now popular songs are unintelligible to anyone over 21," says he. "Cupid talks straight gobbledygook in 1958."

The fellow's right. They just don't write songs the way they used to. Remember the tender strains of FLAT FOOT FLOODEY WITH A FLOY FLOY? Intelligible, wasn't it?

And then there was that delightfully expressive love song of yesteryear, HURRUT RALSON.

Who can forget the meaningful lyrics of THE THREE LITTLE FISHES?

And remember THE MUSIC GOES

ROUND? It contained real warmth and, well, er, clarity.

The DIRTY DOONIE was another masterpiece of the Golden Age. Oo-Bon-Bo! BAM came a little later, but it was golden, too. So was HI LO TRAILUS BOOR-BOOR.

Then there were those little gems of simple sweetness, JA DA VOOM VOOM, SKID DA DE DAT, WA WA DA WAH-WAH GAIL, TA TA DADDY, GOOSA GOO, DIGGA DIGGA DO, DING DONG DADDY AND BALLEN TUN TUN.

And there was something especially touching about SHIMME SHAWWLE, DIGGIE WIGGIE, THAT DA-DA SPRING, ZONKY, NAGASAKI, TISHIMINGO, WANG WA WA BUREN AND BRAV KOO JACK.

But THE HUBBIE JUBBIE was our favorite. There was a love song of true lucidity.

Today's kids just don't know what they missed.

From The Wichita Falls (Tex.) Times

THE MALADY OF 'GETTING FIRED'

THE Texas Medical Association has taken a scientific interest in the malady known as "getting fired." From an expert in the field, 480 doctors at a recent meeting of TMA, here, the formula: In nine cases the affliction is plain laziness, to one of incompetence. The speaker was Dr. Kenneth McFarland, educational consultant of General Motors, former guest lecturer for Reader's Digest.

Dr. McFarland said a survey shows 90 per cent of the people who get fired lose their positions for reasons which do not remotely pertain to know-how. Laziness led the list—"where people don't get to work often enough, don't get there on time often enough, and don't do enough work after they get there."

Several types of characteristics mark the people who lose jobs, not for lack of qualifications or ability, but for lack of the broad classification of plain laziness. Some of them have poor health, poor personalities, bad dispositions. They

'GETTING FIRED'

talked too much were careless, unreliable, untidy and in temperate. Indifference to the job, unwillingness to put requisite effort, made up the common denominator.

In addition, the medical consultant added that immaturity was another cause of vocational failure, "a basic breakdown of character." Disloyalty ranked high in the reasons, with its expression through the whole range of "symptoms of job indifference, physical and mental laziness."

Maybe the doctors will come up with a vaccine for the laziness virus. Production would need to be on a substantial scale.

Here's Solution To The Presidential Disability Puzzle

By WALTER LIPPMAN

MR. EISENHOWER himself has, as we know, asked Congress to clear up the uncertainties of the Constitution on the question of a disabled president. There is, moreover, an administration bill drafted in the Department of Justice which was introduced in the House of Representatives

last spring. There is, therefore, nothing indecisive about discussing the problem, which should be done with the kind of matter-of-factness that a sensible man adopts when he makes his will.

Yet while some progress seems to have been made, Congress continues to be hesitant to act, rather like a man who, knowing that he

ought to make a will, puts off going to see his lawyer. There are several reasons why Congress puts off action. They are all, so it seems to me, aspects of one general reason. This is a search for a "solution" of the problem which will suit everybody now and in all conceivable contingencies in the future.

No such solution will ever be found, and it is useless to look for the kind of solution which will cover everything that a writer of a series might imagine. As, for example, a secret criminal conspiracy to oust a president and to usurp the office. In dealing with this problem, as with any other of the structural questions of the Constitution, we must assume that the great officers of the state are honorable and honest men, most particularly in the highest matters. If we do not make this assumption, we find ourselves in a hopeless complication of suspicions, trying to find some way where everybody concerned in the decision is able to check and balance everyone else.

TWO PROBLEMS

At the level of common sense in practical affairs, the problem falls into two parts which can be seen, I think, should be dealt with separately.

The first part has to do with a case where, in the words of Rep. Keating who is a leader in the field, there is "a temporary disability declared by the president himself."

The second part, which Mr. Keating calls the "real problem," arises "when a disabled president either refuses to admit his disability or is physically unable to do so."

CAN CONGRESS ACT?

Taking the two cases separately, we find that the first case is easy to deal with and the second is rather puzzling. When the president himself declares that he is for the time being disabled, which is the first case, there is general, though not unanimous, agreement that it is the intent of the Constitution that the vice president should act as president until the president himself declares that his disability has ended. There are some lawyers who think that to clarify this proposition a constitutional amendment is necessary, or at least desirable. But there is high legal authority for thinking that in this case Congress itself has the power to decide what the Constitution means.

WISEST COURSE

Now it would be prudent and sensible, in my view, for Congress to act promptly on the first part of the problem. It is not entirely inconceivable that if Congress had acted on this point, the President, when he was stricken last autumn, might have devolved his powers temporarily to the vice president. This might have been the wisest thing to do both as to the effectiveness of his office and in the interest of his own health. But that as it may, since agreement is possible on this part of the problem, Congress should act even though there is not as yet agreement on the second and much more puzzling part of the problem.

WHO SHOULD DECIDE?

It is something of a puzzle to decide what shall be done in the case of a disabled president, if elected.

A Dangerous Gap In Our System

is unconscious, or worse still is irrational. The problem is who in the government is to raise the question of the president's disability, and who is to decide finally whether or not to remove him.

My own view is that the initiative in raising the question should be in the executive branch, in the Cabinet and in the White House itself. On the other hand, the final power to decide the question should be in the Congress.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

In other words, if the president is disabled and unable to make his own decision, the fact of his disability will have to be made known by the members of his own official family, presumably, I should say, by the secretary of state. Under modern conditions of publicity, it would be quite impossible to conceal the president's disability—as was done in the cases of Garfield and Wilson.

SPECIAL SESSION

When the question of the president's disability has been raised, the vice president should go to Congress, or if necessary, call it into special session. He should communicate the facts of the president's condition and should ask Congress to vote on his assumption of the powers of the acting president. The legality of the proceedings could be tested promptly in the courts, say on the question of the acting president's appointment of a postmaster.

Neither this, nor any other solution, is foolproof. But for this one it might be said, I believe, that if Congress does nothing at all, leaving things as they now are, something very like this solution probably would have to be improvised if an emergency arose.

Editors' Note: With this dispatch, News Correspondent Walter Lippman will begin a two-week series of articles. He will visit Sweden, Poland, Austria, Germany, France, Tunisia and England, and will resume his contributions to the News' editorial page in early April.

'By The Way, Who Appoints Those Fellows?'



Naughtiness With A Flair

Crime In The Mother Country

By ROBERT C. RUARK

THE PAPERS here are full of our juvenile delinquency, our teenage gang wars, our callous killings by the young and the terrorism of our schools by the unruly. What is the matter with America that its youth has suddenly gone mad? Is a question I run into daily.

I can't answer that one, but I can counter with what is wrong with England that its people over a long haul commit some of the worst crimes without a second thought to modern times? Which is true.

There is a sort of mad repression here that flows into the streets and quietly dispatches slaves, and when the day passes that some cruel doesn't find a maddening couple in a ditch in the branches of a tree, or a semi-detached villa in London or boys' "amorous" cat-

MALE PROSTITUTES

Peculiarly Circus, once the stronghold of the female prostitute, has now more or less been reformed by the male prostitutes and pervers, have the tube stations. It is difficult to stroll through Piccadilly after dark without being accosted.

England is very firm on its legal drinking laws, which are utterly ridiculous, but I can take out in any number of all-night clubs where the membership constitutes a pound or so payable at the door. Getting in means no more than the bother of walking over the road or grabbing a taxi after the 2 a. m. curfew on weekdays or the midnight closedown on Saturday.

STANDARD ENGLISH

By all odds, the funniest do-or-does of the universe occur in and out of England if one believes the press, and so do rather charming mass killings, and so do the rather accepted flagrant homosexuality cases amongst the elegant.

I know we are accepted as rather a tough piece of furniture here—we crude Americans—so I frankly I don't think as Yanks have a patch on the mother country for downright overall rottenness of behavior. And, finally, the worst of our sensational press pales beside what the average British newspaper plays out in its first three pages as news.

TEDDY BOYS

England has its teddy boys, who correspond to our young thugs and who attack tin jabs and terrorize trams and buses with bicycle chains and clubs and knives. These young thugs wear the uniform, the shaggy hair, the exaggerated Edwardian sleeve puffs and root coats, and they are just as dangerous and fierce and unscrupulous as our little thugs.

They have their style—coats, all black and—furry, blue, or, dark-colored young women. They are just as proud as the baby-boomers who follow the fashions of the confident and the confident of the West Indian problem.

We have our new wave, by the way, and unadmittedly, to be sure, in the West Indian problem. There is also the problem with the East Indian as well and all the strange races which infect Asia and the East End.

BAD HATS

There are areas of London I should not choose to frequent at night, as there are areas in New York. These areas are without a gun. America is described as a gun-tolerant country, but I will much London against the world for gun-tolerance, gun-tolerance, gun-tolerance, and general bad hats.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
THE recession weighs heavily on much of the Midwest. On a quick trip through parts of Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, this writer saw men lined up in the cold outside the Indianapolis unemployment relief office at 7:30 a. m. They had an hour to wait before the line opened. By the time it opened the line was half a block long.

General Motors, from its plant at Indianapolis, normally employs around 10,000 men. What if it were a secret, but it reported men with up to 12 years seniority have been laid off. Machine shops, hitherto busy with orders from the airplane factories are having a tough time. The airplane industry is waiting to see whether plans will go entirely to gaudy missiles.

The Ohio River valley from Pittsburgh down past Wheeling is stricken with factories, many of them now working part time.

Upturn In March?

A worker from Wheeling Steel, laid off with eight years seniority, was cheerful, though he said the pinch was beginning to hurt. There were anxious inquiries from a man with 16 years seniority from a Wheeling building and supply firm. A West Virginia coal

miner asked me whether Eisenhower was right that business would pick up in March. When I told him many economic experts disagreed with the pick-up wouldn't come until midsummer, he remarked:

"What's a man going to do between now and midsummer? There's a lot of work between February and midsummer."

Sadly, he turned and walked away.

The President's Council of Economic Advisors is so unhappy about the recession and the manner in which it reports have been ignored that some of the advisers

People's Platform

Why Did Georgia's 'Liberals' Kill Bill?

Rock Hill, S. C.

Editors, The News:

I AM impatiently awaiting a People's Platform letter writer to rush into print criticizing the recent action of the "liberal" Georgia House of Representatives which killed a bill requiring that whole blood for transfusions be labeled by race.

Though the anti-liberal Georgia Senate passed the bill 34-0, the House by a shout of approval, answered a move to table the bill indefinitely.

The "liberal" Georgia medical associations opposed the measure. To the typewriters, gentlemen, let us have your thoughts on this terrible deed.

—P. R. GRESSLEY

Editors, The News:

Anybody Thought Of Just Obeying?

Charlotte

RECENT years countless governments, legislatures, committees, commissions, associations, organizations, groups and individuals have devoted much of their time and most of their efforts toward one goal: Their expressed purpose, one and all, to find some plan to circumvent a ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States.

From their efforts have come many schemes and proposals, plots and plots, to name a few: The Pollard plan, the Staley plan, the G. G. Staley plan, the Fabian plan, the John K. Staley plan and now the G. G. Staley plan.

It seems to me that the Rev. Martin Luther King is very angry named. Down in this part of the country most people skin catfish.

The Indians almost scalped him. We didn't find southerners are going to do the skinning. I am sure, thanks to such great men as our midst as our beloved Civil War 75th Anniversary. That's why we will prevail.

—W. T. LITTLE

plan. Not any of the plans give much promise of success.

A major part of the army of researchers are paid salaries and expenses—a vast amount indeed by the taxpayer.

How many of us realize the bill taken annually by the gallies, electric chair and some law of the countless thousands of lives wasted away in prisons in every country and state of our country—freely their families subsisting on welfare—because of the law? We need to devise some plan to circumvent some law of our land, or some ruling of its courts?

I doubt if any law is painless to all of us, especially the tax laws, darn 'em, but our country is great because a majority of us comply with the laws, and the rulings of our courts.

Has anyone thought how much simpler, how much more economical, it would be to comply with the laws of our land, the rulings of its courts, and to just try to be good Americans?

—A. CRUPPER BUCKLE

Thanks To Littlejohn, Decency Will Prevail

Route 1, Charlotte

Editors, The News:

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Embarrassing Position

As professional economists they have no right to put in an embarrassing position. The outside world doesn't know, and more particularly their colleagues in the economic world don't know, the inside facts about their warnings. Hence the possibility of resignations.