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After Five Blocks Worth Of Progress

IN uptown Charlotte, traffic congestion is a tightening noose of woe. It must be loosened rather soon if the central business district is to be saved from slow strangulation.

The City Council's plan to widen five blocks of East 5th Street is a start — but only a start.

Somewhere, somehow the money must be found to unblock the entire midtown area. Somewhere, somehow the leadership must be found to get the whole job done properly.

The alternative is decay. Fifth Street must become a major artery. But the city cannot transform it magically into a major artery by widening just five blocks. Eventually the widening will have to be completed all the way to Independence Boulevard for the midtown situation to be eased to any truly significant degree.

If the money is not available for the purchase of rights of ways then now is the time to start talking about how to get the necessary funds. The widening period is over. The price of such adventures is not likely to come down in the future. On the contrary, it is likely to go up.

It is the time, too, to put first things first. Councilmen should concede once and for all that midtown is the city's No. 1 traffic problem—not Roswell Avenue, nor Morningside Drive nor any of the other curious preoccupations of city fathers in the residential hinterland.

There are no one-shot cures, of course.

Fifth Street alone is not the key to the whole problem of congestion in the downtown business district. Traffic must move evenly in and out of the area in all directions.

This requires systematic, coordinated, multiple thoroughfare planning by experienced specialists. The specialists are available. The ideas are available. But the will to put the specialists and the ideas to work is often tragically lacking.

What's the trouble? Robert Moses, the great New York planner, put his finger on the difficulty recently in an essay on urban traffic congestion. "Remember," he wrote, "that the average public official is afraid to proceed without some evidence of public approval. He is scared of minorities of big owners, of demagogues who threaten his job at the next election. He is expected to have the courage of other peoples' convictions, to be the conscience of the community and to lift water above its own level. Without strong public opinion right down to the sidewalks, grass roots and plowed fields, neither this nor any other problem of equal scope can be solved."

Let's stop snivelling about the neglects and mistakes and failures of the past. Let's pick out the nearest public officials with good ideas on traffic, with courage and enough modesty to imitate successful experience elsewhere and get behind them. Let's stop waiting. Let's demand a little more thoughtful attention to midtown's woes, above all, a little more action.

Nikita Khrushchev Fires His Valet

MR. DULLES in due time and in massive detail will give us his views on Khrushchev's decision to run the Soviet as a committee of one.

But the citizen who concluded immediately that Khrushchev merely wanted a new valet probably is not far from the core of the change in the Kremlin hierarchy. As premier, Bulganin certainly had the authority to differ with Khrushchev and did so on occasion, but on major tests it is known that he did not have the power to win. From all outward appearances his role had been reduced to that of an errand boy and paper shuffler.

With Bulganin out, Khrushchev has become in name what he has been in fact behind the facade of committee rule—namely, the head of the party and the government and his henchmen head the army. As the first dispatches from Moscow pointed out, these were the offices on which Stalin rested his despotic terrorism. But this is not the same as saying that Khrushchev desires to resurrect the forms of

Stalinist tyranny which he has denounced.

There will be more significance in Khrushchev's uses of his power than in the fact that he possesses it. A return to Stalinism could be taken as evidence of insecurity on his part and of a threatening desire among Russians for more freedom, and among the satellite nations for more independence. Or it could mean that he still has reason to fear the enmity of those he has deposed—Zhuikov, Molotov, and Malenkov. In either case, a resumption of Stalinism might be better news for the West than continuance of the blandly deceptive tyranny Khrushchev is presently practicing—and peddling.

Unfortunately there are no signs that Khrushchev need turn back to bare terror to find sustenance for his regime and his strategies. He has scored with his own tactics, expansionist victories that Stalin never approached. Only the fiercest optimist can conclude that there is good news for the West in the latest victory of the man who despised Stalin for his clumsiness but who despised him for his clumsiness.

Do Not Ask For Whom The Bell Tolls

DIG the grave deep. Lower into it a coffin of sturdy, Carolina pine construction. Place above it a marker inscribed with simple dignity, "Rest In Peace." And, please, no flowers.

That's the only way to deal with the late and unlamented Interior Department scheme to impose tolls on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Not even Secretary Fred Seaton could conjure up a tear at the end (one newsman had him "grinning"). He was clearly pleased to be rid of the risky plan. "As far as I'm concerned," he declared, "this ends it."

Fine and dandy. But it seems to us we've written this

obituary before. The Interior Department has been alternately burying and resurrecting tolls for the parkway since 1942. The idea loses none of its ornerness by being born again.

Just in case, we'd advise future governors and congressional delegations to keep their ammunition handy. It should never be forgotten that the parkway was established as a free road on land largely donated by North Carolina and Virginia citizens with the understanding that it would remain as a toll-free attraction.

That's the way it was. That's the way it is. That's the way it will be.

From The Washington Post & Times Herald

THE 'UPSTART CROW'S' NEST

THE man "that plots to be the only figure among the ciphers (becomes) the decay of the whole age." Now who, would you suppose, said that? Well, since there is no prize money at stake and since we have the answer right in front of us, we shall tell you. It was no other than Sir Francis Bacon, Viscount of St. Albans, sometime Lord Chancellor of England, putative father of inductive reasoning and the experimental method, but not according to our rules, drafted townfolk, Col. and Mrs. William F. Friedman—the author of the plays attributed (and quite properly) to the unlettered Warwickshire rustic, William Shakespeare.

These Friedmans, as you may have heard, are just about the world's most expert cryptographers. For years their work in making sense out of intercepted messages that the senders didn't want sense to be made of by anybody but the intended recipients has been done for the government and many of it, we hear, has had to do with such highly classified matters that they can't even be mentioned now. But since their retirement from the government service (the colonel worked for the Army Signal Corps and Mrs. Friedman for the Treasury) they have been critically examining the various anagrams, cryptograms, acrostics, puns, metaphors and what not that are supposed to prove that Shakespeare was really Bacon, or if not Bacon, then the Earl of Oxford, or Sir

Edward Dyer, or Christopher Marlowe—or at any rate by somebody who might be considered academically qualified nowadays to teach a night-school course in journalism.

The Friedmans show that no sane spy-master would ever dream of communicating to his spies in the kind of codes that Ignatius Donnelly and so many others after him have found, or thought they found, in the Shakespearean literature. For one thing, such a code would be too liable to misinterpretation, since by applying much the same methods to the decoding process one might, as easily as not, obtain some such result as this: "I-W-Shakespeare—(or Shaxper, if you like)—am-the-only-begetter-of-these-plays—sugar-d—sonnets—and—other—poems—and—if—anybody—says—I—ain't—I'll—sue—hell—out-of-him."

Well, well! This seems to be exactly what the academic critics have been telling us all along: only to find themselves accused of a "vested interest" in defending the cause of the academically unqualified claimant. Maybe the Friedmans' book (it is called *THE SHAKESPEAREAN CIPHERS EXAMINED*) will put an end at last to the controversy. We sincerely hope not, though, because the question of who wrote Shakespeare is probably the only subject left about which one can get thoroughly impassioned without great fear of upsetting the equilibrium of nations and the peace of the world.

Political Storm Brewing Over Pentagon Reorganization

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
 ALTHOUGH Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy's office has given out soothing assurances that his plan for reorganization of the Defense Department stops short of major changes, congressional sources, given a digest of the plan, believe it will stir a political storm.

If President Eisenhower embodies the McElroy recommendations in his reorganization message to Congress next week, as he is expected to do, a coalition of Republicans and Democrats will try to bury it. Those who have seen the digest believe that the administration is courting a break with Republican leaders even sharper than those which have seen top Republicans vote against the White House on issues directly involving the President's leadership.

MAJOR POINTS

Here, according to congressional sources, are the major points in the McElroy recommendations most likely to stir opposition on Capitol Hill:

1. All money to be appropriated to the Secretary of Defense, who would then be free to allocate it in any way he saw fit to any of the services. Congress has always jealously guarded the right to appropriate for the separate services.

A MERGER

2. Under present law the three services, Army, Navy and Air Force, are "separately constituted." These words would be



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER
 Is He Ready To Fight?

deleted from the defense act so that, according to critics of the McElroy reorganization plan, what are now three separate departments would be merged into one. The service secretaries would be reduced to advisers to the Secretary of Defense who could delegate to them as much or as little authority as he saw fit.

3. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff would be given powers so greatly increased that, while he might not immediately have the authority of a single chief of staff for all the services, he would be moving rapidly in that direction.

This, in view of congressional

opponents of a drastic reorganization, would be achieved by McElroy's recommendation that the three service chiefs would lose the operating staffs through which they now function. The joint staff, directly under the chairman, would have an operations division which would be, in effect, a single war plans division. The present congressional ceiling of \$10 on this staff would be removed.

The role of the Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs would thereby become largely advisory, in the view of the congressional opponents of radical change.

4. The provisions in the present law defining functions of the services would be removed.

ANGRY REACTION

Already representations are being made to the White House that if a plan embodying these changes goes to the Hill, it will stir an angry reaction and meet with all but certain defeat. In view of this warning, the proposal as finally sent to the Hill may be scaled down.

This is not likely, however, since the President and those closest to him have put such stress on the need to overhaul the defense establishment. This is a goal the President has held for at least a decade and which he spelled out in his election campaign in 1952.

RADICAL CHANGES

The argument for radical change is that the Defense Department is not set up to fight a war. The three services are competing for men, materials, research, development, new weapons, everything. In a war, this

could never be tolerated.

The McElroy proposals were sent to the White House under conditions of extraordinary secrecy on Monday. The document was stamped "eyes only" for personal delivery into the President's hands. But a digest based on the full report had wider circulation.

BRIDGES PLAN

To forestall the White House, Sen. Styles Bridges, chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, has put in a reorganization bill providing only mild reforms. He was joined by a leading Demo-

crat, Sen. Mike Mansfield. On the House side, the veteran chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Carl Vinson, and the Republican whip, Leslie C. Andrews, earlier put in similar proposals.

While he has taken major defeats recently in Congress, those around the President who are convinced that he must stand up to the reorganization issue believe his prestige as a military man, coupled with the desire for economy in administering the Defense Department, will carry the day. But it is certain to be a long day and full of the sound of battle if the President does make the fight.



The Brass Waits Nervously

An Unwanted Race

Unhappy Knight

By DORIS FLEESON

SACRAMENTO, Calif.
 FARLY soundings of public opinion show Rep. Claire Engle, Democrat, with surprising strength against his practically certain Republican opponent, Gov. Goodwin Knight, for the U.S. Senate.

The word is surprising because Engle is making his first statewide race and Knight has spent an extremely active decade in state politics, as governor for five years and lieutenant governor before that. In some soundings Engle even leads by a slight margin, though they realize also his greatest problem, which is that so many voters say they do not know him personally.

Engle will, however, have some advantage over Knight. The liberal congressman is in complete rapport with the strong Democrat at the head of the ticket, Attorney General Pat Brown. They will work together and be in a position to capitalize on the Democratic trend so apparent as of now in the nation.

KNIGHT UNHAPPY

No such sympathy, personal or political, exists between Knight and Sen. William F. Knowland, now formally in the race for governor. Knight felt that he could have been re-elected governor and he was deeply unhappy when pressures from party leaders and warnings he would not be financially in that effort forced him to switch to the Senate race.

Knight is morosely certain also that Knowland is battling on a sticky wicket with the right-of-work issue to which the senator maintains his commitment. Knight is on record with a promise as governor to veto such legislation. He hopes to keep the substantial labor support he thus gained by sticking to that position.

RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM

Time was when Californians expected and indeed seemed to prefer rugged individualism in their politics. But their unique cross-fertilization system has been battered and is on its way out. Since Democrats hold the advantage in party registration, this is to their interest generally. The recession will sharpen the party aspect of all the fall elections. In a trend congressional Democrats are trying to hold by means of their own program to combat it. Since there were 490,000 unemployed Californians last month, more unemployed than at any time in the last eight years, the recession seems certain to be a factor here.

The state's phenomenal growth is again shown in the fact that even that large number constitutes only 7.7 per cent of the labor force.

SECOND HAZARD

The personal ambitions of the leading California politicians also heat up the contests. Vice President Nixon, faced with a choice between possible loss of the state to Democrats and possible strengthening of a presidential rival, Sen. Knowland, elected the second hazard. It is a decision the political trade thought wise, as he would certainly be weakened in the nominating convention and the election of 1960 if his state is in the hands of the opposition.

On the Democratic side it is



GOV. GOODWIN KNIGHT
 Was This Trip Necessary?

beginning to dawn on party leaders that when Attorney General Brown, if elected, will give them an alternative to Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, whose liberalism they distrust. By one way or another, the way for a Catholic on the national ticket with a trunk, far-reaching campaign. Brown, also a Catholic, was recently asked if he thought a Catholic might be elected a national ticket in 1960. His jovial answer: "Just say I smiled modestly."

Quote, Unquote

"Some people can stay longer in an hour than others can in a week." — William Dean Howells.

Flag On Towels Violates The Rule

St. Louis, Mo.

Editors, The News:
 I HAVE received copies of the editorial that appeared in The Charlotte News March 20, "Olds Favors the Beach Towel Brigade."

There is really no comparison in the use of the battle flag of the Confederacy as a beach towel

and the proud wearing of the Gray by fraternity members at the annual hops, nor the general use of replicas of Confederate money. None of these are the least objectionable.

Many persons go to masquerade parties attired in the uniforms of the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps, but no one would go attired in the flag of the United States. It is a question of propriety, and observance of a code that establishes the way life may be lived. The battle flag of the Confederacy must not be used as a beach towel. The manufacturer did not know the rule, which is the kindest way to explain his action.

—MRS. HENRY F. CHADEAYNE
 Chairman, Committee on Correct Use of the Confederate Flag
 United Daughters of the Confederacy

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

SENATORS don't talk about it privately but they resent the manner in which Vice President Nixon has become an absentee presiding officer of the Senate. When he's absent a senator has to take his place in presiding over the Senate, which causes extra work for already busy legislators.

Nixon's office is now costing the taxpayers more than that of any vice president in history. He has an automobile with chauffeur, which senators do not have, plus a large staff, including one colonel, a major, and a press agent. His budget is \$10,000 a year compared with \$11,400 spent by Truman. Yet his absence has set a record.

Time Spent

Careful scrutiny of the Congressional Record shows that the late Vice President Alben Barkley worked at his job about four times as much as Nixon. Here is a breakdown of the time spent by both men working at the job given them under the Constitution as vice president of the United States.

in 1953 when Nixon took office, the Senate met for 763 hours and 35 minutes, of which Nixon presided 162 hours and 45 minutes.

In 1950, Barkley's second year, the Senate was in session 1,265 hours and nine minutes, with Barkley presiding 527 hours and 50 minutes.

In 1954, Nixon's second year, he presided only 120 hours and 31 minutes. Yet the Senate that year was in session more than during Barkley's second year, a total of 1,198 hours and 17 minutes. Nixon worked at his job just one-fourth of the time Barkley did.

Third Year

Nixon's record in 1955 was even worse. This was his third year as vice president and he sat only 47 hours and 14 minutes. The Senate was in session 559 hours and 41 minutes. During Barkley's third year as vice president he sat 335 hours and 24 minutes, during which the Senate was in session 996 hours and 46 minutes.

In 1952, Barkley's last year as vice president, he had an eye operation and therefore was absent for two weeks, Feb. 7 to Feb. 20. Nevertheless, he managed to preside 219 hours and nine minutes

out of 651 hours and 24 minutes of senatorial sessions.

In contrast, Nixon presided over the Senate only 50 hours and 53 minutes, though the Senate was in session considerably longer, namely 801 hours and 42 minutes.

Judge Parker

An old man died last week who refused to become bitter. He had every cause to become bitter. He had been appointed to the highest court in the land—only to lose out on Senate confirmation by two votes.

The people who rallied the Senate votes to defeat John J. Parker's appointment to the Supreme Court back in 1950 were organized labor and Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Yet instead of becoming sour, Parker turned the other cheek. He became their best friend in the nation. In the Supreme Court, he upheld the rights of Negroes and of labor as presiding judge of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sense Of Humor

I used to see Judge Parker when he came to Washington for court confer-

ences. He would pad through the lobby of the Mayflower quite unobtrusively, looking a little lonely, but not sad. By one vote he had missed the greatest court in the nation, yet he kept his sense of humor, went about his everyday routine just as if nothing had happened, even took as the drudgery of the Nuremberg war crimes trials in Germany.

Friendly Note

The late O. Max Gardner, governor of North Carolina, a Democrat, tried to get Parker, a Republican, appointed to the Supreme Court when other vacancies occurred. I wrote several columns urging it. After the last column I got a friendly note from Judge Parker thanking me, but saying he had given up all thought of attaining the court to which he was barred by two Senate votes almost 30 years ago.

So, the other day, Judge Parker, a little tired but never bitter, went on to the Supreme Court when other vacancies occurred. I wrote several columns urging it. After the last column I got a friendly note from Judge Parker thanking me, but saying he had given up all thought of attaining the court to which he was barred by two Senate votes almost 30 years ago.

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