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Higher Education's Ragged Partnership

WITH all of the condescending sweetness of a scoutmaster lecturing a recalcitrant tenderfoot, the State Board of Higher Education has put University of North Carolina trustees straight on the subject of administrative checks and balances.

Critics of the board's action in trimming State College requests for new married student housing were simply sent back to their law books (Chapter 1131, Acts of the 1957 General Assembly) for the answer.

Its authority thus established, the board then patiently explained the reason for the action—all very plausible. The five-page full-text took the form of a broad definition of the board's "broad mission" and a brief expression of the beauties of "laboring in partnership."

The "partnership," however, is a tenuous one. It must be apparent to the board that the campus outburst about housing for married students at State College is merely symptomatic of larger doubts and fears. It seems inevitable now that the matter will be tossed into the boiling cauldron of politics when the General Assembly meets in 1959.

This could become a major tragedy. Hasty action could result in the obliteration of a laudable scheme to provide for the orderly growth of North Carolina's 12 state-supported institutions of higher learning.

However laudable, the scheme has been poorly defined and poorly sold to the public.

There is a widespread feeling that an elaborate bureaucracy has been set up in higher education in North Carolina. Consequently, it is feared that something will have to give somewhere—either the State Board of Higher Education will be abolished.

ish, the Consolidated University will be broken up into three separate units with three boards of trustees or the nine other institutions of higher education will be absorbed into an enlarged consolidated university system.

If these drastic measures are to be avoided—and they should be avoided until the whole problem of higher education in North Carolina is given long, careful scrutiny—some fast footwork by the Hodge administration will be necessary.

Specifically, the role of the Board of Higher Education will have to be clarified and perhaps even redefined in the light of existing confusion. The need is urgent. Whether he is willing to admit it now or not, the governor obviously recognized this urgency in January when he appointed a joint study committee to assess the situation. The urgency was forcefully expressed Feb. 26 by the GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS, one of North Carolina's most responsible editorial voices.

"This exceedingly complex question regarding the power structure of higher education ought to be pondered, debated and thrashed out now rather than tossed into the maelstrom of 1959 politics. As long as higher education has a vast range of bureaucratic mountains to scale every time it makes an on-campus decision, results will be less than satisfactory. . . . So long as these complex power problems hang in mid-air the administrative and campus level will operate in perpetual confusion."

The Board of Higher Education has only skimmed several surfaces and slapped several wrists. The problem remains to be explored in depth. Let the exploration proceed and the debate continue until solutions satisfactory to the majority are shaped—with or without the assistance of the General Assembly.

thority be settled later in court than they have been to put it on agenda of an incapacitated president.

House Speaker Rayburn argues recently against the administration plan, to wit: "I don't know how they are going to create an office of Acting President. I don't see how you can have someone carrying on the duties of president without taking an oath. Would he take an oath? Suppose he takes the constitutional oath. Then he would be president for the rest of the term" (and the president, if he recovered from his disability, could not regain his office).

These may be very sound objections. If let the matter be settled in a disability system prescribed by Congress. Meantime, the President's plan to yield his powers to the vice president if he cannot exercise them himself seems to be the essence of prudence.

Certainly the solution to the problem of presidential disability must not be undertaken in a spirit of haste and frenzy. But in the 171 years since the Constitution was written Congress has had more than sufficient time to split all the legal hairs that need splitting.

womankind (who probably isn't aware of it).

The favor would be the delay in marketing the horrors fashion dictators have decreed for midday this year.

Their action, we fervently hope, may have meant the sacking of the sack, a shift in the availability date of the shift, a long, faraway swing of the trapeze and the demise of the chemise.

The Better-Than-Nothing Disability Plan

LEGAL nitpickers in and out of Congress have made out of Eisenhower-Nixon presidential disability plan as a pretty shabby makeshift.

Makeshift it certainly is. There is no clear constitutional provision on presidential disability, and a foot-dragging Congress has produced one. Shabby may be this being a matter we gladly leave to the leisurely debate of the legal bigdames in Congress.

But the administration plan has one shining virtue. It provides the means by which the reins of executive authority may be picked up and used in the event they fall from the hands of a stricken Chief Executive. These means, though their legality is unproved, we prefer to the paralysis of the Executive branch that occurred during illnesses of Presidents Wilson and Garfield.

Our preference is based on the nuclear-age necessity of having Executive authority functioning constantly. The question of whether or not to use nuclear weapons is just one fateful concern that might require immediate Executive decision. If this question should arise it would be preferable for the vice president to answer it, and let his assistant

Sack The Sack & Shift The Shift

IF ever a cloud had a silver lining it was that which spread a glorious pall over seven eastern states when 105,000 dress makers went on strike.

Those who stood in Madison Square Garden and cheered their leaders might also be cheered in their knowledge that they have done an immense favor to mankind (who well knows it) and to

Pentagon's New Broom Doesn't Seem To Be Sweeping

By MARQUIS CHILDS

APPROACHING THE critical stage in his effort to reorganize the vast department over which he presides, Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy is displaying a growing reluctance to make the radical changes that have been urged on him.

He has begun to ask with a

show of resentment why, since he is so new in the department, he should be expected to carry through a revision that has long been postponed. This attitude came to light during the recent Puerto Rico conference on defense reorganization and it disturbed those who had expected McElroy to be the new broom and end the inter-service bickering, the duplication and waste.

SEEMING VIGOR

Six months ago McElroy took his job with a seeming vigor and decisiveness, encouraging the belief that there at least was someone who could bring order out of growing confusion. These same associates are saying today that

istration and admirers of the President. They describe this in part to the President's reluctance to face up to the plight in which he finds himself. He simply does not want to be told the unpleasant facts of life. Therefore his immediate staff members have more and more, and it is on them that the blame falls for things that are neglected or go wrong in the present state of drift.

ANOTHER FACTOR

With respect to the reorganization of the Defense Department and the command system, another factor enters in. The President has been from the beginning fearful of the accusation that, as a military man, he was imposing his own militaristic ideas on the country. Consequently he has been over backward to avoid any semblance of asserting his will in these matters.

But if he does not achieve at least part of the goal of remaking the Defense Department, he will have conspicuously failed in what he said in 1952 was a major objective. In a campaign speech in Baltimore in October of that year, he prescribed a complete overhaul with real unification under the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NAVY'S TOLU

It is not, of course, easy to tell the forces that want to keep things as they are. The Navy, with the powerhouse that it operates on Capitol Hill, is foremost among these forces.

Navy strategists are credited with inspiring the latest maneuver intended to block any administration plan of reorganization going beyond a mere layer-up of the present setup. This is the bill introduced by Chairman Carl Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee and Republican wing Leslie Andrews, the ranking minority member of that committee. Awed by the interests of

greater efficiency, it would prune away 20 of the undersecretaries and assistant secretaries and 1,800 of the secretary of defense's staff of 2,400.

NET EFFECT

The net effect, in the view of those who believe that greater unification is imperative, would be to give the three separate services greater autonomy and leave the secretary with less power than he has now. The Vinson-Andrews measure is credited by some to Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy.

Vinson has never made any secret of his determination to keep the status quo in the Defense Department. He sees red at any suggestion of authority concentrated in a single chief of staff. Under the happy relationship he enjoys with the Navy, his native Georgia has been generously sprinkled with naval largesse.

OLD GAME

It is an old game the Navy has played often before. With increased doubt over the usefulness of giant aircraft carriers with their fabulous cost—\$300 million for the carrier and perhaps as much for the ships to go with it—has grown the Navy the older day laid the keel of an atomic-powered

ered giant. The tragic deficiency in American submarines, as against Russia's 300, has become increasingly conspicuous. The President has in the past made a vigorous case for what he believes must be done to gain efficiency and economy. But today the senseless waste to let events take their own course.

Both Parties Running Hard Against Ike

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS and Democrats are not running against each other at this point in the congressional campaign—both are running against the administration.

The first casualty is the Eisenhower budget. Its precarious balance was cynically regarded from the start. Since then every supplementary bill has been offered by the new secretary of defense.

The President has joined in this process with respect to defense spending, for which various supplementary bills have been offered by the new secretary of defense.

HUGE DEFICIT

Some observers now believe that even without crash programs the huge deficit may approach 10 billions unless some unexpected burst of economic activity softens the congressional mood. Even so, all hands—on the Hill and in the White House—have taken tax cuts so much they will soon not be in the position to back out of one.

Democrats set the pace for the present race. But worried Republicans follow to a degree and sometimes lead, as with the demand of GOP Senate leader William F. Knowland for more war starts.

MILDER MEN

Time was when an administration hard core—Budget Director Douglas, and his immediate associates, Rowland Hughes, former Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey and Sherman Adams, the assistant to the President—put up a hard fight. But two much milder men—Percival Foreman and Robert Anderson—now hold the Budget and Treasury posts.

Informed sources say that Adams is shaken by the argument that Republicans dare not risk again being branded as the party of depression. Certainly Adams is playing much closer to the party strategists than in former years.

CHALLENGE TALKED

Reports emerging from the President's weekly conferences with Republican legislative leaders are shaken by the argument that Republicans dare not risk again being branded as the party of depression. Certainly Adams is playing much closer to the party strategists than in former years.

'NEW' GIARD

It is not a case of the Republican Old Guard leaders making life more difficult for the White House. Eisenhower Republicans are behind industrial areas—these of Sen. Jacob K. Javits of New York and Clifford P. Case of New Jersey are too—on the forefront of those crying too little and too late.

Clear indication that the President has caught the mood of Republicans appeared at his press conference when he said that he could not support any Republican who did not go along on the broad issues of foreign aid, national defense and the security of our allies. A broad range of domestic matters, including farm policy, is omitted from this limitation.

No Move

The Justice Department has never moved in on some of the real-estate cases turned up by the press in the administration though there was one prosecution under the Truman administration.

Peter Strobel, Ex's public building commissioner, was accused in this column and subsequently had to resign from both sides of the political fence. Sometimes the digging takes days and weeks plus plenty of expense. But it is a vitally important function of the press and is one reason why the press is given a special freedom under the Constitution.

Early Mack Probe

In the Commissioner Mack case, most people thought that discovered Dr. Bernard Schwartz was looking to this column. It was the other way around. As early as August, Jack Anderson, now alert junior partner, went to Miami and interviewed Thurman Whiteide. This was before Dr. Schwartz got started in Washington. Anderson also talked to Commissioner Mack and got an admission from him that he had received money outside. This was not until after 17. When we tipped off Dr. Schwartz, Mack was interviewed with a sure recorder and gave damaging admissions which have now led to his resignation.

Crouchgoggle Brings Terror To The Home

By ROBERT C. RUARK

PALMAMOS, Spain

I HAVE a paleo bullet from a friend of mine named Rafe Rackstraw, who is a hospital care and is brooding about how he made it to the hospital.

It turns out he went shopping for a birthday present for his 10-year-old nephew and spotted a do-it-yourself, unassembled doll critter. Eight bucks went down the drain and father took his precious toy home and went to work assembling same.

"There were enough instructions," says he, "to build a rocket to the moon. Sort of 'Fasten Part A to Part B, where the letters join the studly. After bucking down the armbian with a crouchgoggle. Tighten the crouchgoggle, then slide in Part C so it will line up with the groinphant. Etc. . . ."

STATE OF GAUL

Three days our old friend Rafe foisted on this project, with his spoon hanging around looking suspicious. "A child," he writes, "straight out of 'Bad Seed' I never really believed in that play before. By the time the child is contemplating pushing me out the window, to see if I could fly, dear old daddy hasn't a fingerling left, a knuckle unknit, and a doll's crick is still in a state of Gaul-tres pates divisa est. I chastised my issue into her downy nest, and then retired out and hired a carpenter to shove this torture chamber into some semblance of a nursery. I then retired to the infirmary."

Our confused friend says he is moving from New York City to Rochester, immediately, since he has read a new item that a New York State Assemblyman, one Lawrence M. Bullson, the father of eight, has just been indicted. Bullson has encountered similar difficulties in putting together gadgets for his eight headstrong sons and apart from swearing, has done something about it.

CLEAR LABELS

He introduced a bill in the legislature to restrict the sale of assembled-and-sold toys—i.e., at least the kids have to be so stupid as to believe that poor old pa won't buy anything more complicated than a spoon.

I could not be more sympathetic with Rackstraw, because I too am an afflicted of Allah in terms of inanimate objects. I was reached for and bitten severely by an angry bedstead the other day. I went to inspect the new pillow of a friend and an interior decorator's dead tree lurched at me and knocked me. In the dead of winter, into the ice-crimpled pool.

My body is generally a mass of bruises from contact with inanimate suddenly possessed of lives of their own. The simplest success-failure harks my knuckles. I tried recently to put a pressure lamp together and managed to make it explode, wreaking great havoc on my mistake, eyebrows, and what hair I can count on my head.

HOT KEY

The assembly of a beach chair on a card table is generally done in a week in hospital, and anything as simple as changing a fuse plug blows up the joint. Only yesterday I shorted out the car by trying to insert the ignition key in a space generally reserved for cigarette lighters.

I have heard of green thumbs as applied to gardening. I rise to remark that I have green thumbs, too.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

THE act of Commissioner Richard J. Nease, who is in charge of the Communications Commission brings up the question of why congressional committees frequently don't want to investigate until they are in the press.

In the case of Mack and the FCC, the Harris committee simply did not want to investigate. It was planning to hold a phony punch-pulling, philosophical investigation and even ended to fire its counsel—until public opinion, stung by the press, became too noisy.

Basic Question

This question of congressional hesitation to investigate and hold it goes to the issue of why an alert press is important. In case after case congressional committees have not acted until goaded by the press. It is Charles Bartlett of the Chattanooga Times who forced the McElroy committee to bring out the Harold Talbot contract, and after he exposed the fact that the Senate committee was sitting on it.

It was Edie Foland of the Washington Post who dug up the Jack Porter letter on the Texas Gas lobby fund.

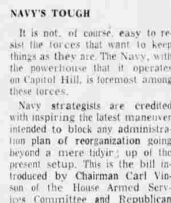


DEFENSE SEC. McELROY

A Falling Viper?

CANDID VIEW

What is happening to McElroy is symptomatic of what is occurring within a tired administration. This is the candid view of those who in the recent past have been ardent participants in the admin-



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

A Lessening Interest?

'Okay — Keep At It'

Time was when an administration hard core—Budget Director Douglas, and his immediate associates, Rowland Hughes, former Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey and Sherman Adams, the assistant to the President—put up a hard fight. But two much milder men—Percival Foreman and Robert Anderson—now hold the Budget and Treasury posts.



INFLUENCES ON FEDERAL REGULATORY AGENCIES

HERBLOCK

Why The Free Press Has To Be Nose

One trouble with congressional committees is that too many congressmen are before the press. Too many have intervened at the FCC. It's also the trouble with the Justice Department. The attorney general has become a political ditchdigger. The Justice Department, despite an army of G-men, did not move to compel four kickbacking congressmen until after exposure in this column. One reason is that the Justice Department has to get appropriations from congressmen. It doesn't like to tangle with Congress.

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Background Needed

It should be the job of the Justice Department to catch these con-men, not entirely the job of the press. It should

From The Manchester Guardian

EXPOSE THIS PLOT!

ENGLISHMEN have long been pouring their hot water or milk on liquid or crystals derived from coffee, and enjoy the drink that results. Coffee, after all, in spite of its three centuries of acclimatization, is still an exotic beverage, and can be tampered with. But tea is sacred. Many of us accept it as a duty during the war, then we had Sir Winston Churchill's calls for sacrifice to inspire us. But in peacetime even tea-bags are not tolerated. Our tea ceremony yields nothing to the Japanese in reverence, although it may in dignity. The pot is almost apothecised; it must be warmed and cosseted, and demands its own special spoonful. But now, as our Colombo correspondent reports, there is a movement in Ceylon to overturn the cult. Successful attempts have apparently been made to extract the essences of the leaf and crystallize them, so that tea making will be reduced to the status of mixing a dose of salts to try to make Englishmen drink the result. This is human chemistry, even if it were as fragrant as the tea drunk in the courts of the Chinese heavens, is like asking them to build houses with pipes that do not freeze, or to share a warm room with a radiator instead of a chilly one with an open fire. The falling price of Ceylon's chief export is indeed a serious threat to the island's economy, and all her friends will wish her success in

meeting it. But Englishmen's patience must not be tried too far, or they will look for the most sinister motives. Correspondents have been making our flesh creep with their stories of growing Marxist influence in tea, too. The Reds behind crystallized tea, too? The suspicion is all the more plausible because both Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Mr. Khrushchev rule nations of teadrinkers. They know what strikes, strife, and domestic discord could be promoted by undermining the tea routine.

If you see good in everybody, you may be an optimist. Then again, you may be naïf—CARLSBAD CUREMENT AG.

A toothpaste tube and a taxpayer are much alike. Even when they seem to be totally flat, a vigorous squeezing provides another cleaning—ELLSVILLE (GA.) NEWS.

One politician's nurse has the real formula for keeping kids happy while she gives them shots. She does the yelling for 'em and they're fascinated.—TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT.

A Columbia professor wants to make marriage more difficult. Does the man think it's easy now?—ROCKMART (GA.) JOURNAL.