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MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1958

Gov. Hodges Sweetens The Political Pot

GOV. Hodges could have done worse in filling North Carolina's vacant seat in the U. S. Senate, but it's a pity he didn't do better.

His choice, B. Everett Jordan, is unlikely to give offense. A party worker who was serving as the state's national Democratic committeeman, Mr. Jordan knows his way around in state politics and, in addition, has a wealth of business experience—including a partnership with the governor. Doubtless he is devoted to North Carolina and its interests.

Given a few years in the job, he should be able to learn to function effectively in the very difficult and demanding arena of the Senate. But apparently Mr. Jordan, who has never held elective office and is a mile elderly to start running, is going to Washington as a public taker rather than as a public servant laying the foundations of a long and fruitful career. The political indications are that he will serve at most no more than the two years remaining in the term of the late W. Kerr Scott, stepping aside at that time for his patron, Luther Hodges, if Hodges is so inclined.

It seems evident that Gov. Hodges has senatorial ambitions which, in his view, made the appointment of a seat-warmer imperative. But it also seems evident that a complimentary appointment could have gone to a citizen possessing more general prestige or, at least, to one more acceptable to the political heirs of Kerr Scott.

There is nothing in the political code that required the governor to appoint a Scott man, thus making difficulties for his own future. But the Jordan appointment seems to be regarded as a patent insult by Scott forces because of bad blood between the late senator and Mr. Jordan. A caretaker ought at least to be on good terms with all his constituents.

Ideally, the appointment should have gone to a citizen already tested at the polls, or one having a primary interest and some actual experience in government—as opposed to party politics. It is noteworthy that Gov. Hodges, Sen. Ervin and others praising the appointment smoke first of Mr. Jordan's service to the Democratic Party.

The party has its needs, to be sure, but so do the people. What the people need in this Senate seat, which has had seven occupants in the last 12 years, is a vigorous and concerned man capable of appealing to the majority of North Carolinians and thereby acquiring seniority and power in the Senate.

But, perhaps in the situation created by the death of Sen. Scott, it was too much to expect ideal results. There is a political game of high stakes going on, and Gov. Hodges has dealt himself in.

His appointment of Mr. Jordan apparently is just one of the cards.

So Life Begins At 40? Maybe Not

WHEN old soldiers gather for a beer or two, their war stories are as much a part of the atmosphere as the suds and pretzels. Without undue urging they'll tell about how scared they were during the breakthrough at the Battle of the Bulge or the time paratroopers landed behind the lines in the Philippines. They'll tell about the bravest men they ever knew and the company commanders who weren't worth a damn. They may be heard yarning about the vino they drank and the women they loved in Italy, how they froze in Alaska and stowed in North Africa as they sat out a long wait for action.

There may be in the crowd, however, one man who'll sit back from the table just a bit and seldom open his mouth. He's the man who spent his three or four years as a garrison soldier, never moving outside the states. He didn't have a big craving to be a hero, but he'd like to be able to swap lies with the rest of the boys.

It wasn't his fault, for he put in for transfers to combat, but somehow fate always was against him, and he was stuck.

January, February, March, May...

"APRIL is the cruellest month," poet T. S. Eliot assured the Lost Generation. How right he was.

Try as we do to keep up with the rush events, dotting all the appropriate 's' and crossing all the timely 't's, viewing all the latest blackguards with alarm and pointing with pride to all the proper paragons, April throws us for a complete loss.

There is just too much to take note of, celebrate, observe, signalize, keep, do honor to, lionize, extol, magnify, laud, applaud, toast, commemorate, solemnize, drink to and glorify. To be perfectly frank, it is more than one newspaper can handle without getting giddy and, eventually, absolutely unbearable.

One would think it would be burden enough just to get the professional baseball season off the ground. But oh, no. We are expected to launch Let's All Play Ball Week, as well as National Pike Month, National Hobby Month, National Arts and Crafts Week, National Model Building Week, National Photography Week, National Ladder Month (we're utterly exhausted already), National Garden Week and National Rug-Cleaning Month.

Whether we feel like funning or not, we're expected to pay our respects to National Comedy Week, National Fun Day and National Laugh Week.

And we're considered absolute cads unless we have something vital to say on the subject of Honey-For-Breakfast Week, Coffee Day or the Spring Festival of Gas Ranges.

Then there is the necessity to make our manners respectfully to National YMCA Week, National Secretaries Week, Good Human Relations Week, National Crochet Week and National Mother-In-Law Day. (It is only fair to report that National Mother-In-Law Day is sponsored by the Museum of American Comedy.)

All this and April Fool's Day too. It is too much. We propose, instead, that April be deleted entirely from the calendar and move right from March into May. May is prettier, vastly less demanding of attention and we wouldn't have to endure all those April showers either.

Not every American boy can become President, but every French lad has a chance to become Premier. — LAUREL (Miss.) LEADER-CALL

A baby sitter sometimes forgets to feed the baby but hardly ever herself. — MIAMI HERALD

Now that Elvis has been pressed into service, we can breathe easier. Surely the nation is safe from something at last. — RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER

World Crisis May Rise From France's Political Void

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
 WITH the critical May meeting of the NATO Council of Foreign Ministers scarcely more than two weeks away, France is without a government and likely to be without one for an indefinite period in which almost anything can happen.

A crisis of 37 days preceded the formation of the 28th French government since the end of the war headed by youthful Felix Gaillard. It is likely that the void he left will be at least that long before a new coalition is found. Gaillard was a prisoner caught in the trap of the National Assembly.

Government put together from the unstable elements of the center, with the grudging backing of the right, could do much more. It is likely that the void he left will be at least that long before a new coalition is found. Gaillard was a prisoner caught in the trap of the National Assembly.

There is No One To Put Out The Fire

Wisdom Scarce The Atom Riddle

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
 THIS country is proceeding inexorably toward the summit to discuss with the Soviet Union the possibility of some form of disarmament.

The heart of the disarmament problem is whether or not it is possible to detect the explosion of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world. It is not possible, nuclear disarmament is a risk this country would not dare to take.

It is now admitted that some nuclear explosions within the Soviet Union have been detected.

One thing is already clear to the senators who are patiently taking testimony in a cramped hearing room these first sunny days of a late spring. It is that not one of them — and they include some of the ablest political minds now operating — could possibly make a wise political decision with the issue in the chaotic shape it is now in.

They include men of all shades of thought: conservative Republicans John W. Bricker and Bourke B. Hickenlooper, liberal Democrats Humphrey, Stuart Symington and Clinton P. Anderson. They notice that they have not yet captured the public imagination or emphasis in the news.

EXTREME ACTION
 Being sage politically, they see still another thing. It is that, while the public generally seems indifferent or unaware, the extremes in opinion are beginning to seize upon the issue and may make it much harder for the President and Congress to be wise.

For example, within the week the Daughters of the American Revolution have been crying for an extreme form of nationalism and no contact with the Soviet Union, while pacifist groups have been moving up with demands to stop all nuclear testing.

RARE FRANKNESS
 With rare frankness, Chairman Lewis Strauss of the Atomic Energy Commission and Dr. Edward Teller, are the first voices to speak the ending of nuclear testing. It is because of this that Sen. Anderson has again called upon the question of a blatant AEC error operating in favor of the Strauss-Teller point of view.

What are we doing today? We are building a cathedral to testify to our faith in the rule of law. From an address by Justice Jackson at the initiating ceremonies of the American Bar Center, November, 1953, quoted in "American's Advocate," Robert A. Jackson, by Eugene C. Gerhart.

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The actual fact, rarely admitted in authority either in Washington or in Paris, is that Gaillard and his government had no real control over the French military in Algeria or over Robert LaCoste, supposedly the agent of the French government in Algiers. Now, without a government, the military commanders may take matters into their own hands again as they did in the bombing of the Tunisian border village, Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef.

HIDEOUS CHOICE

Another incident, perhaps a small border war, would present Washington with a hideous choice. If the United States failed to stand on the side of Tunisia in the face of such an attack, then what is left of the Western—that is to say American—position in the Middle East and North Africa would be gone.

On the other hand, by taking the side of Tunisia this government would trigger an explosion in France. The French, according to recently returned visitors, simply refuse to listen to reason on moderation in Algeria. They are determined to find a villain on whom they can unload their emotions and the United States is the most conspicuous target.

Even without another "incident" Tunisia's President Habib Bourguiba means to take the dispute with France to the United Nations. He has said that while out of regard for France he will not move at once, he cannot wait for four or five weeks. He confronts

FRANCE'S EDGAR FAURE
Will He Come Back?

Internal pressures that make his own position precarious.

Small wonder that American officials at whatever level are keeping unhelpfully silent. They are denied the luxury of President Eisenhower's dismissal of the crisis as of little consequence, a gimmick, since they must try to cope with what happens next.

DULLES TRIES HARD

The irony is that Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, who is blamed for so many things, had

made a resolute effort to find a way out after the Tunisian bombing. Dulles sent one of his country's ablest diplomats, Robert Murphy, to join Harold Bealey of the British Foreign Office in a mission to try to reconcile Tunisian demands for immediate removal of French forces in Tunisia with the French determination to have some kind of patrol established on the Tunisian-Algerian border. On a vote of confidence on the recommendations of the Murphy-Bealey mission, the Gaillard government fell.

Through the long French crisis the promise of salvation has been dashed closely with the threat of damnation. French production has reached an all-time high, with the French claiming that their productivity per man-hour is at least equal to, if not greater, than that in West Germany. The unification of Europe through such devices as the common market is just ahead.

In the present situation the frail hope is for a government above party made up of former Premier — Guy Mollet, Rene Pleven, Edgar Faure, Antoine Pinay, perhaps Gaillard, Robert Schuman and one or two other "elder statesmen." Whether they could achieve anything in the face of the implacable hostility of left and right is doubtful. The very fact that this is discussed as a possible temporary way out is a measure of the desperation of the plight of France and the West.

'Lewis Strauss Says That To Stop Nuclear Tests Would Be A Tragic Mistake'



People's Platform

Froth Pays Freight For 'Arty' Culture

Charlotte

Editors: The News
 I DON'T know who created the small editorial sensation praising one local drama group in Charlotte, nor am I really very interested, but it is necessary to remind that "informed" one that while the one artistic group was busy last fall, The Little Theatre of Charlotte was busy turning away paying customers from distances up to 40 miles away from Charlotte because there was simply no room inside for them. As for material, I would hesitate calling a Pulitzer Prize-winning "Tea-house of the August Moon" as a frothy work.

It took frothy vehicles like "No Time for Sergeants" and "Damm Yankees" at Ovens Auditorium four nights to put aside a few dollars to keep this "arty" group alive. It has always interested me tremendously that so many people in our city who continually belittle the efforts of little theaters are usually connected with those various other "cultural" or

organizations which are continually begging for public funds. I would like to remind those critics that even in Hollywood, the mecca for entertainment for money, frothy material helps to pay for such box-office lulls as "On the Waterfront" and "The Red Badge of Courage."

—DAVID M. ALEXANDER

Quote, Unquote

"To me, old age is always fifteen years older than I am." — Bernard M. Baruch.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round FCC Probe Boss Is Dragging His Feet

WASHINGTON
 CONSCIENTIOUS congressmen who want a real probe of the Federal Communications Commission are suspicious that their committee chairman from Arkansas, Owen Harris, is coasting.

Harris made it all too clear in the past that he didn't want a real investigation. Last summer he delayed weeks before permitting ex-chairman Morgan Moulder of Missouri to pick a staff. After the staff was picked and tried to get busy, Harris fired the chief counsel, Dr. Bernard Schwartz.

Later, Harris secretly fired the chief investigator, Baron Schacklette, though he was the man who dug up the facts on Commissioner Richard Mack in Miami when fired Mack's resignation.

Stiff Protests
 When news of Schacklette's dismissal reached other committee members they put up such a protest in a closed-door session that Harris was forced to rehire him, Comptroller Charles Wolcott, New Jersey Republican, was one who protested. So did Congressman John B. Williams of Mississippi. Both men, but taking just trips at the expense of the radio-TV industry, then

Chairman Harris's current tactics are to drag out the investigation, take up time with unimportant details, and hold hearings without sufficient preparation. Thus the public gets bored, and important evidence is missed.

FCC Morals

Moral standards around the Federal Communications Commission have certainly dropped since a few years ago. The FCC staff, which bears the chief brunt of handling the 101 details of awarding valuable TV channels, recalls the day when the Radio Corporation of America invited a group of FCC officials to attend a demonstration at Princeton, N. J. When Chairman Wayne C. Weaver learned that RCA was buying a hotel bill, he hit the ceiling.

Money Refunded

After they returned to Washington, he collected a check from everyone who had taken the trip, put them in an envelope, and sent them to RCA.

Indeed, FCC staff officials now only wish their commissioner bosses not only use \$10,000 worth of TV sets from RCA, but taking just trips at the expense of the radio-TV industry, then

turning around and charging the taxpayers for those trips.

Caudle Case

This has been ruled illegal by Controller General Joseph Campbell. Mr. Campbell was administrator of Columbia University when Eisenhower was president of Columbia, and was picked by Ike to run the General Accounting Office. He is a Republican who believes in enforcing the law no matter whom it hits. Despite Campbell's ruling, the Justice Department has made no moves to prosecute FCC cheating on expense accounts. Attorney General William Rogers was No. 2 man in the Justice Department when it prosecuted Lamar Caudle for "depriving the United States of his best services." Caudle was given no gift, bribe, financial reward, or favor.

FCC Mocher

In contrast here is the way George McConaughy, Eisenhower's appointed former chairman of the FCC, collected \$797 in travel expenses from the TV industry, then turned round and collected from the taxpayers.

The industry put out \$104.38 for McConaughy's hotel suite and another \$104 for his convention office at the industry's Chicago convention on April 16, 1956. Yet McConaughy turned in a bill to the government of \$51 per diem expense plus \$6.10 miscellaneous while he was the industry's guest.

For Flowers

At the 1957 Chicago convention the industry again picked up McConaughy's hotel bill for \$154.02, plus an extra \$10 for flowers. Yet McConaughy then asked the taxpayers \$51 per diem plus \$40.08 miscellaneous for his expenses.

Again, the West Virginia Broadcasters Association mailed \$113.97 for his hotel suite at the Ritz White Sulphur Springs resort on August 15, 1956. When McConaughy got back to Washington he submitted vouchers to Uncle Sam for \$42 per diem and \$29.00 miscellaneous.

On Nov. 27, 1955, McConaughy and his wife traveled to Columbus, Ohio, where he addressed the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues. The association paid his \$161.31 hotel bill, yet he collected \$39 per diem and \$10.40 miscellaneous for his expenses.

From The Portland (Maine) Press Herald

KEEPING WOMEN IN THEIR PLACE

FUNNY thing happened when a Yarmouth group was kicking around Aristotle's "Politics" at a Great Books discussion session the other evening.

Aristotle, said that he was, begins his description of the ideal state by putting women in their place—subject to the male, by nature the inferior creature.

The strange thing about the Yarmouth discussion was that nine out of ten women present seemed to go along with Aristotle. For a time, the men present were quite puffed up about it. Then one young housewife explained:

"It's this way. Men have their egos. My husband has to think he's superior to me in all things. So I let him—think that. He thinks he makes all the decisions. It's the only way to have peace in the family."

Reminds us of the woman who was explaining to a friend why she and her husband got along so well together.

"You see, we have agreed that I am to make all the minor decisions in our household, and he is to make all the major decisions, so we never quarrel," she said.

"That's very interesting," her friend replied. "Can you tell me about some of the minor decisions that you make?"

"Well," replied the happy wife, "I decide what college our children shall go to, when to buy a new car, whether to rent or buy a house."

"Hmmm," hummed the friend, "if that were the minor decisions you make, what are the major decisions you allow your husband to make?"

"Oh," said the wife, "I let him decide how to solve the Suez crisis, what to do about the Russians and things like that."

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