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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1959

Traffic Safety Can Be A Reality Only With The Public's Support

THE facts of the case are in. They are grim, expensive and tinted with blood. This is a case of people versus people. It can be won by hard work or lost, as many things are lost, by apathy. This is traffic safety, February, 1959. Unimportant?

There were 45 names scratched from the list of the living last year in this county. City and county accidents totaled 5,066. There were 1,764 people injured. Damage to personal property — \$1.5 million.

Worst of all, these figures inch upward continually.

This is a personal thing. It involves all of us. Traffic accidents in 1958 came to about one out of every 20 vehicles. The odds narrow all the time.

Fortunately something is being done. The best answer is that these founders realize one important fact. They

would be amateurs in a professional game. They believe in the need for traffic safety, but they know they must employ full-time professional help. Professional help to organize, plan and execute a program which could keep any of us alive.

Businessmen comprise the association's board. Even if they had intimate knowledge of safety methods, they cannot match the time needed for this encompassing presentation.

Broadly, the program is this: 1. Driver improvement. 2. Pedestrian protection. 3. Safer streets. 4. Better vehicles.

Another important factor is that all the diversified voices for safety would be heard through one informed office. To be baldly frank, the association will have an important function as a lobby in city and county government. It will have the facts of the problems and the solutions. It can tell officials what must be done and the expenditures. It needs no entree as a voice of the public.

The association aspires to reach the heart of the traffic safety problem. It has an ambitious program, an unlimited future if it is accorded interest and help. There were 45 people who would be glad to broadcast this program today. But they can be only mute testimony to the need.

They died in traffic last year.

The Absentee Ballot: A Cancer To Kill

A DISCOURAGING bit of news came from Raleigh last week.

It involved the civilian absentee ballot and the apparent reluctance—once again—of the legislature to move against it. The absentee ballot is still used in North Carolina general elections. It is an open sore because it has been the major source of voting scandals.

There have been strong indications in the past of election fraud linked to buying and selling of absentee ballots.

An ugly example came in 1954 when Secretary of State Thad Eure charged that absentee ballots sold for as much as \$85 apiece in a tight county sheriff's race.

Compared to the total vote, this is a

minor matter. But even with the suspicion of fraudulent ballots, a losing candidate will raise a cry heard across the state. The resulting publicity is always bad. It hurts politics in turn, and that sensitive field cannot afford to be hurt.

The absentee ballot serves a purpose for the serviceman. That, however, should be the limit of it.

The inherent evils of retaining it otherwise are too great. The rotten apathy will continue to contaminate the election barrel through the use of these ballots.

It is politically foolish to retain the provision. The death of the absentee ballot will do much to maintain the public's confidence in its delegates.

Electronics Next For The Classroom

NEWS of a slightly frightening call has filtered from the West Coast, where an electronic teacher has been produced and installed in a classroom experiment.

Effective? Its inventor, Dr. Evan Keislar, says it is teaching algebra to sixth grade pupils.

Efficient? It works at tireless speed, won't continue with a quiz if the wrong button is pushed.

Complete? It has a viewing screen for films, slides or television. It gives a multiple-choice test, grades by a computer and charts a graph for the student's progress.

What a fiendish device!

Even at the college level, dealing with mature students, such a teacher would graduate a mass-production class of automatons which wouldn't need to think for itself.

No English professors who like to relate tales of Paris in 1918. No math teachers to brighten a dark winter day with a discussion of skin diving as a hobby.

No banter, no wit, no process of learning how to think.

There is one bright thought in considering this monster, however.

That is the ingenuity of the student himself. We just believe youth will figure out a way to get ahead of this cold brain, to pass notes or gaze dreamily at passing clouds.

Life In America

A WOMAN arrested in Bedford, Ind. the other day was charged with selling her neighbor's shrubbery so that it wouldn't be as pretty as hers.

From The Greensboro Daily News

COUNTRY BOYS, TAKE HEART!

WE blinked, rubbed our eyes, wiped off our glasses and looked again. We must have misread it. But there it was, an editorial caption in boldface type starting out from the top position in the urban Charlotte News: 'Mecklenburg's A Country Boy At Heart!'

Then we had a new understanding of Charlotte's trouble. Just try to imagine the frustration, the split personality, the clash between country and city in a community which is "a real metropolis" but still has a country boy's heart.

It all doubtless goes back to a sense of insecurity or guilt complex. Charlotte is soon to entertain members of the North Carolina Country Assembly. It is assuring the country boys that there is no need to fear the big city, its temptations, its wiles. Nothing will happen. The Charlotte News assures those legislators "east of the Haw" who have always suspected "that Charlotte is the abode of the damned (including scoundrels, car-punchers, dead-end kids, modern Republicans, libertines and would-be cigarette-taxers)." On the contrary "we are just the country boy that grew too big for its overalls and had to import a few Yankee tailors to produce new britches. The critter inside is still basically bucolic."

All we've got to say in THE NEWS is that these country boys from east of the Haw know better when they see, hear or smell it. In fact, odds are they've invented the practice over the years they've become increasingly adept at it. It is going to take more than words to win them over. It might help to plot them through the elephant jungle given 'em a whiff of Sugar Creek, tell 'em

how sharply Charlotte's cotton acreage has been cut, and let 'em take a look at extensive farm operations along Highway 29's west bypass.

There is one welcoming committee plan a chitlin' strutt! Are barbecue stands to be erected on Independence Square? Are spittoons to be installed in public buildings? Will all the city and county farmers turn out wearing one gal-lus?

We're warning Charlotte, too, that these boys from east of the Haw are the slickest hoss-traders you ever saw. Any city slicker who tries to sell them the navy yard or the mint may wind up owning Pamlico or Beaufort Sound or that unshalt bridge across the Alligator or Cape Fear River.

"That last line," Y'all come," from THE NEWS' reassuring editorial may call for convincing explanation. Is it the output of Madison Avenue or a Hollywood script writer?

But bless your little country heart, Charlotte, we're only small-city spoofing. We hope you and the honorables have a fine time together and that all principals at the hoodlum get what they're looking for.

Editors' Note: Y'all go jump in the swamp.

Overheard at Kiwanis meeting. Definition: "Nuclear Bathing Suit—one with the per cent fallout." TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT.

If never pays to discuss relative values because one of them might be justifying.—ORLANDO SENTINEL.

Senate Minority Sees Little Of Nixon These Days

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON The United States Senate sees little these days of its nominal presiding officer, Vice President Richard M. Nixon. The Republican minority of 34 has very little more contact with him than the Senate itself.

EMERGE LATER

With his new job as head of the President's committee on the problems of the nation, a spokesman emerged somewhat later as the principal administration spokesman in opposition to the Democratic theory which is the present responsibility of Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois. Douglas will speak as chairman of the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress.

The vice president also has plans for travel abroad when the times are more propitious. In this area, however, he may propose but the President will dispose.

FEW TIES

So far as the work of the Senate is concerned, the vice president is little missed. The chance for that vital vote he can cast in case of a tie will rarely appear in the present session with its 64 Democratic majority.

Republican senators take a detached view of the vice president's preoccupation with his personal



RICHARD NIXON No Help In Senate

ambitions. They say he can't help them, and many admit they can't do much for him. This is particularly true of the 11 Republican who are up for re-election

This unhappy few is besieged in many ways. Six are from the West and Midwest, states which prospects have been making their most spectacular gains. They are resigned to the fact that one cause of this — Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson — will be around in the next campaign. The six, Sen. Thomas E. Martin of Iowa and the district commission, Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota,

Andrew F. Schoepel of Kansas, Gordon Allott of Colorado and Henry C. Dworshak of Idaho.

THREE SAD

The three New Englanders — Sens. Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, M. R. A. F. Claiborne of Maine and Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts — have unhappy visions of a Democratic ticket with John Kennedy of Massachusetts in first or second place, acting as a magnet for voters that region.

Two liberals — Sen. Clifford Case of New Jersey and John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky — complete

the group. They are anti-Nixon in spirit and unquestionably would prefer to run on a ticket headed by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York.

Whatever their ideology, Republicans in Congress are saying with increasing boldness that President Eisenhower is no longer an issue politically. They do not believe they can be hurt or helped by the once-magic name.

DIRKSEN ARRIVES

Another factor which has the effect of dimming the vice president's Senate role is the aggressive and expansionist manner in

which the new GOP leader, Sen. Everett M. Dirksen, has taken hold.

Like his opposite number, Dirksen is taking full advantage of his personality and prerogatives, including lavish office space. Having no other visible expectations, the Illinois clearly intends to be the last man in the fullest sense of the word.

There is no question of hurt feelings or fresh chill in the Nixon-Senate situation. He has always been regarded as a lone wolf by his GOP colleagues—cooperatively politically but without personal warmth.

People's Platform

Nation's Boy Scouts Defended By Reader

Rt. 4, Lincoln

IT is hard to believe that anyone can criticize our Boy Scouts so harshly as Mr. Sneed Ogburn did in his letter to The News on Feb. 17.

It is obvious that Mr. Ogburn knows very little about the Boy Scouts. A boy has to be 11 years of age before he can belong, and I think it is proper and right that the churches honor them on a given Sunday since at least some of our churches sponsor them.

If Mr. Ogburn will just find a copy of the Scout oath and note the beginning which reads, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country"; notice that God was put first.

I would also like to see Mr. Ogburn just how many Scouts do you find before our juvenile courts. Christ did say, "My Kingdom is not of this world" and He also said, "Suffer all little children to come unto me." I know of no better way for them to come unto Him than through the church of which He is the head, Boy Scout or not.

—DONALD HARLESS

ple have been colonial subjects of European powers for the last hundred years.

If, during that time, they be loved by European masters have established no schools to fight ignorance and superstition and have not so much as drilled a well to help raise their standard of living or found a medical center to improve their health.

It is about time someone did. And that someone will have to be the African. But he is powerless to improve his condition as long as he is chained hand and foot by European colonialism. Only as a free man will the African be able to take his place in civilization side by side with others.

—TOMMY McNEIL

Writing Suit Differs From Seawell Story

Weldon

EDITORS, The News: I'N A news story dated Feb. 19, 1959, Attorney General Malcolm B. Seawell rapped the Southern Educational Fund, Inc. and the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee for the second time within a week. He would have the people of the state to believe that these organizations were responsible for the "kissing case" in Monroe and the voting case from Northampton County.

As the pastor of churches in Northampton County and of Mrs. Louise Lassiter who brought the registration suit, I know the origin of the voting suits to be different from what the attorney general would have the people to believe.

We employed a lawyer to advise our church members and instructed them in the procedure of getting on the registration books. Not only were our members denied registration, but our lawyer was jailed, convicted and fined

\$500. Other indictments were brought against him, all because he shook a finger in protesting the registrar's turning down our members from registration.

These indictments put us in court, denied us the rights of our lawyer. Meanwhile our lawyer employed other lawyers and began the job of trying to remove the laws that are distracting our members who want to vote.

This struggle had carried us through the lower courts, a three judge federal court, the state Supreme Court before we heard of the organizations rapped by the attorney general. Any attempt to blame the suits on those organizations is without foundation.

To say that receiving help from an organization did not come from the Lord makes no difference to us in need. The devil might have brought it but the Lord sure sent it when it was needed most.

—REV. N. K. DUNN

There's No Substitute For Serious Reading

Salisbury

READING is the channel through which people are educated. There is no substitute for the reading of books. This does not mean that a person reads books while he is going through school and then stops. It means that he reads books all the days of his life.

Of course, it is taken for granted that a person will do about half his reading in his field of concentration of the business that he is in. But it also means that the other half of his reading will be of a general nature for he needs to be intelligent about many things in life where he has to be constantly making choices.

—JAMES W. JEWELL

His Words Dispute His Own Argument

McColl, S.C.

EDITORS, The News: ROBERT C. RIARAK, spokesman for African independence, but his own words are the most forceful argument for it that could be made. In his article in The News he gives his reasons as native ignorance, superstition and their very low standard of living. But to his readers I would like to point to the fact that these peo-

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'You Didn't Bring An Umbrella'



The Thames

Portrait Of A River

Gravesend and farther back still

seemed condensed into a mournful

blow, brooding motionless over

the biggest, and the greatest,

town on earth. The water shone

pacifically; the sky, without a

speck, was a benign immensity of

constant light; the very mist of

the Essex marshes was like a

gauzy and radiant fabric, hung

from the smoking chimneys and

drawing the low shores in dia-

phous folds — Joseph Conrad in

"The Heart of Darkness."

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

STUNG by President Eisenhower's ex-

aggerated complaints against the "spend-

ers," Democratic leaders are taking a

sharp look at how the practices of the

economy he preaches. Their findings

reveal he has been the most extravagant

President in American history.

Cost Doubled

Spends twice as much to run the

White House as former President Tru-

man ever did. During Truman's last year,

his operating expenses came to \$2,467-

000. This is petty cash compared with

\$3,013,750 bill he turned in for the

Ike Tagged Most Extravagant Of Chiefs

WASHINGTON

office staff of 245. Ike has added an-

other 153 employees to the payroll. He

has also increased the White House

work crew from 62 to 71. Among their

tasks are to keep the National Secu-

rity Council, Budget Bureau, Office of

Defense Mobilization, and Council of

Economic Advisors.

Expenses Rise

Truman spent \$6,703,000 on the whole

works his last year in office. Ike's total

budget for the executive office this year

is \$2,736,250. Next year he is asking

for \$31,800,000. Of course, 50 per cent

of the increase will go to the newly cre-

ated office of Civil and Defense Mobiliza-

tion. But a full 5 per cent will be used

to enforce his economy edict.

Many of Ike's little luxuries are

charged to other government depart-

ments, so they don't show up in the

White House budget. The two heli-

copters which whisk him and his staff

Gettysburg on weekends are charged to

the Marine Corps. Sometimes he makes

the hop in a light, twin-engine plane,

kept at his disposal by the Air Force.

Plane Ordered

The didn't wait long after moving into

the White House to get rid of Truman's

hand-down plane and order a de luxe

room and running water. However, the

story leaked out before the new plum-

ing was installed, causing such unfavor-