

Leadership

Proud old Mecklenburg, by its own admission the State's wealthiest, healthiest, most cultured and most pious county, seems to be on her way to establishing leadership in another field, with some 450 absolute divorces already granted this year in the local courts, and the rate steadily increasing, we seem almost certain to lead the state in splitting asunder those whom God has joined.

Divorce figures are tricky, of course. Our rate is bolstered by an influx of South Carolinians coming here to have their marriages dissolved under a sort of reciprocal "trade agreement" (neighboring sell us legal whisky, we peddle them divorces). But, on the other hand, it seems likely that a great many unrecorded separations are taking place in our Negro community without the formality of court action.

It can also be argued, with some justice, that Mecklenburg is reflecting the national upswing in divorces that always follows unsettled times. Court officials report that a good many customers are bobby-soxers who succumbed in haste to the lure of a pair of silver wings. And there is some intimation that, money being easy these days, a lot of pent-up people can afford a divorce now who couldn't before.

If these conditions are primary factors in the present flurry of divorces, will be a temporary tragedy. But Tom Watkins' investigation of the local divorce mill indicates a root cause of a permanent nature. Lawyers, who are finding divorce practice increasingly lucrative, say the reluctance toward dragging marital troubles into open court has faded and died. Divorce has become humdrum and routine, even respectable, despite North Carolina's restriction of grounds to adultery or two year's separation.

The little woman has lost her hesitancy at stopping in to see the judge on her way home to mother, and we can expect our divorce rate to keep on climbing unless, by some miracle, there is cessation of the sort of marital discussion that leads to the slamming of a door.

Stassen's Bid

Those anonymous, semi-official harbingers, the friends of a potential candidate for public office, have turned up in print to remind us that there is a presidential election coming along in a couple of years. The current announcement concerns the candidacy of Harold Stassen of Minnesota, who posts a bang as this navy captain's uniform in December.

According to his friends, Captain Stassen plans to make his first bid for the Republican nomination in a nationwide speaking tour early next year. This will be an interesting project, indeed, for it will serve to test the reactions of the Republican Party, which has been suffering from the same sort of schizophrenia that besets the Democratic wing of the Republican Party, a native conservatism on domestic issues and a violent internationalist, which brings him into automatic conflict with such Party leaders as Senator Taft and Representative Joe Martin. Covered with martial glory, and backed by a fine record as Governor of Minnesota, he will be a formidable contender, one the Party leadership can't afford to ignore.

Stassen's speaking tour will have the effect of forcing the Old Guard to a decision. If they insist on clinging to the reaction that has consistently brought them to defeat, they will have to go to work on Harold Stassen without delay, using local Republican organization

tions to polish him off as they did Wendell Willkie in 1944.

There is nothing in the voting record of Congressional Republicans to indicate that the Party has had a great change of heart. It may be that Joe Martin and his colleagues are beginning to make out the handwriting that has been high on the wall for sixteen years. The Gallup Poll recently provided evidence that the Democratic Party have, in President Truman, a potent candidate. And the Republicans themselves, in four straight tries, have proved the old political adage that you can't beat something with nothing.

Appropriate

The executive board of the State Federation of Labor doesn't think the State should spend its money on arming the militia, and has so informed Governor Frazier. This is very likely to be used except in case of labor strife, the Federation holds, and the money could be better spent by the State Department of Labor in promoting industrial peace and harmony.

Well, it's a strange little proposal, not particularly radical and not particularly likely to get anywhere. We wouldn't have mentioned it at all except for the fact that the Board decided upon it while meeting at the home of a pair of silver wings. And there is some intimation that, money being easy these days, a lot of pent-up people can afford a divorce now who couldn't before.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

RESENTMENT is rising among the scientists who developed the atomic bomb over rigid censorship. This anger goes far beyond revealing how the bomb operates, but actually applies to any discussion of international agreements or politics regarding the bomb.

To stop such discussion, the Army has issued one of the most stiff-necked orders in peacetime history, curbing civilian discussion on the stationery of the Carbide & Carbon Chemicals Corp. Oak Ridge, Tenn., manager says the executive officer in charge for the Army, the censorship directive reads: "There will be no discussion or speculation on the following subjects: "A. International agreements, beyond the present state of the principle. "B. Postwar usage of the principle. "C. Postwar use of present facilities. "D. Medical speculation. "E. Relative importance of various methods, of plans, of their relative feasibility or efficiency. Some of the scientists who materially contributed to the development of the atomic bomb were refugees, fleeing Germany because freedom of discussion had vanished. While none of them want to reveal any actual military secrets, they definitely feel that they have a right to discuss the purely academic and political question of "postwar usage of the principle" of the atom, and whether it should or should not be given to other countries, etc.

As a result, many of the scientists are boiling mad, and wondering whether their hard-earned time and energy to this invention after all. Note—Scientists say that Maj. Gen. Leslie Groves, the man now insisting on so much secrecy, never wanted to develop the bomb in the first place. A lot of high-powered publicity has been made about General Groves' great contribution to the bomb, but scientists say that at first he was the hardest man of all to convince that the idea would really work.

Capital Chaff

Harold McGrath, ex-Governor of Rhode Island, now Solicitor General of the United States, went to Dallas, Texas, the other day to participate in a big home-coming for his chief, Attorney General Tom Clark. McGrath revealed in Texas hospitality, though was a bit nervous over the revolver chaff. Joked over the fact that his state is the smallest in the United States, McGrath replied: "At least Texas and Rhode Island put together is bigger than any other state."

Worker Trapped

Trustful, hard-working Senator Glenn Taylor of Idaho, the former cowboy singer, certainly walked into

a slick trap in Los Angeles the other day. He called his estranged daughter on the phone and she asked him to come to see her at the newspaper office where she works. He complied.

When he arrived, he did not notice that all the shades were drawn on the windows, obviously a set-up for a concealed camera. And while his daughter kept him standing in an awkward pose, the hidden camera did a beautiful job.

Then his daughter invited him to come into the office of the managing editor where they could talk. The Senator, unfamiliar with newspaper offices, didn't realize that the managing editor's office for private conversations. So he went along. While there, a dictaphone transcript was made of his conversation.

It made a grand story in the paper next day. Note—Real fact is that when Taylor sent his daughter a Christmas present some years ago, she sent it back with a snooty letter, obviously directed at Taylor's estranged wife, saying: "Mother gives me much better presents than yours." Now, after nearly twenty years of separation, ex-wife and daughter are suing Taylor, a first-tymer, has made a good record in the Senate.

Hannegan's Shenanigans

Without any of the fanfare which once surrounded able Jim Farley, Postmaster General Bob Hannegan has been doing one of his best political jobs of supporting the White House Washington has seen in years.

Farley used to do a skillful job of winning badly needed votes on Capitol Hill, but Hannegan is outshining the old master. His job of winning Senate confirmation for ex-Congressman Ray McKeough of Illinois was nothing short of a miracle.

McKeough, who represented the CIO Political Action Committee in the Middle West during the last campaign, was nominated to be a Maritime Commissioner. This immediately aroused AFI opposition. In the Senate Commerce Committee, McKeough lost by a substantial majority. Many wrote off his case as hopeless.

But Hannegan went to work. He button-holed everybody. He backed Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi up against a tree at the Jefferson Island party and won his vote. He had a special luncheon for Senator Patrick McCarran of Nevada plus AFL leaders but did not quote McCarran's vote. He even had the nerve to tackle ultra-reactionary Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia, who said he would like to oblige, but couldn't.

However, Hannegan did win the vote of Tydings of Maryland who a few days before had walked out of a CIO meeting after a lot of mutual name-calling. This immediately aroused AFI opposition. In the Senate Commerce Committee, McKeough lost by a substantial majority. Many wrote off his case as hopeless.

GI Chaff

Overseas vets with 35 points have been waiting several weeks at Clark Air Field for discharges. At Tinker Field, Oklahoma, overseas vets are kept busy with the GI Chaff. At Moody Field, Ga., trained crews are taking the same training for the third time, with many 35-year-olds still waiting to be discharged.

C'mon, Mister, Get Busy!

The President is in deep and serious trouble. He must do something to win support from all elements in the country. He has been ineffective and passionate against his own party. He has not worked himself into a kind of neutral center, so that when he is feeling good, he can give a few weeks ago in the flush of victory, he could conceivably carry out a program of reconstruction. But when we are feeling poorly, as we are now, few are so ready to take the President's side.

Flowing Criticism

Criticism begins to flow, clearly and in the open. The New York Herald Tribune regards as "unprecedented" the President's effort to sidestep the question of the world of atomic energy. The Wall Street Journal's Washington correspondent says that the President is in a "hot" spot of public disapproval because the President left Washington on a holiday trip at the height of the strike crisis, delegating authority to Mr. Schwechenlen to handle it without giving him much in the way of power. Mr. Drew Pearson finds that the President has leaned so far over to consult Congress that it has become "more of a sin than a virtue."

People's Platform

He Has A Long Memory

By H. E. BRADDERMAN

Charlotte

After reading an excerpt from the speech Mr. Dillard made before the Kiwanis Club, I found it necessary to make certain whether or not he was quite "correct."

It deserves some answer, although it merely flows the old observation made by Grover Cleveland in his early liberal days, but it never surrenders.

Mr. Dillard looks with suspicion upon the idea of a "people's platform," and his philosophy, to quote him accurately, "is that of a man of hunger and lack of material necessities is by and large the most motivating factor for which makes a man want to go to work and guarantee himself against such wants."

This philosophy, for even the most enlightened of men, is the 1945-46 starvation is extolled as the incentive to labor. It was just such thinking, any one doing that kind of thing, would be a movement during the early decades. "You are not hungry enough to work," he said, "and the hunger is the most powerful factor which makes a man want to go to work and guarantee himself against such wants."

We Must Be Strong

No American can differ with Marshall's final conclusion that the American must remain strong before the world. But a babel of voices argues over how America can keep strong.

In pre-war times, Marshall has urged a civilian commission to study and recommend on our needs. The Marshall report was released from making that recommendation in his report.

Congress Is Also Confused

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

INQUIRY on Capitol Hill shows that General Marshall's report has made little difference in the attitude of our lawmakers on the issue of universal military service. Even before V-E Day, the tide of opinion was running against compulsory training. That trend has become more pronounced since the first atomic bomb was dropped, with capitulation of the Japanese coming a week later.

The plain fact is that members of Congress are just about as confused as the general public at this point. As one Senator said about the confusion now prevailing:

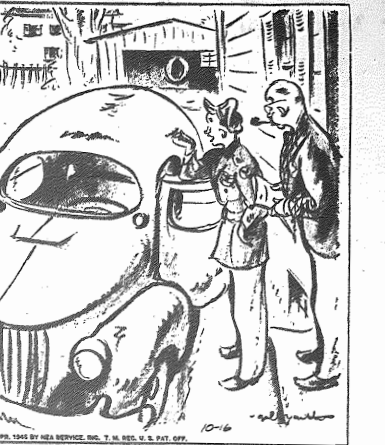
"Listen, you're lucky you just have to write about these questions. We have to vote on them."

We have been told so many different things by so many different people, each one seeming to speak with authority. Before General Marshall's report, other claimants had made loud, attention-getting noise.

The big Navy crowd and their spokesmen in Congress said we would have to have a peacetime navy almost as large as our wartime navy. The advocates of scientific preparedness made a convincing case for all-out Government support of scientific research. The claims of the armistice great conviction. This adds up to a military burden that, as the members of Congress know very well, the American people will not support. It seems, in fact, to add up to a military state permanently preoccupied with war and preparation for war.

Potter's Ineptitude

Thanks to the ineptitude of General Patton, who has a remarkable faculty for putting his foot in his mouth at the moment when it will do the most harm, this seems to be another day when the personal ambitions of certain military men. Patton did not help Marshall's careful, reasoned argument when he said that before the Marshall report was released that another war is inevitable in any event and we



10-16

Truman In Trouble

By Samuel Grafton

THE WINDS of adversity are beginning to blow against Mr. Truman, a storm is brewing. He is in his first Truman crisis, and now at last he must be Truman. Whatever the Nation does not know as yet, what it must know is that it is not a Roosevelt crisis, and the President is not handling it as Roosevelt's deputy would handle it. The President has been dead six months; the new one is in trouble because of the Truman era, for good or ill, and so we all, and we are about to have a debate on the Truman era is to be made.

The President is in deep and serious trouble. He must do something to win support from all elements in the country. He has been ineffective and passionate against his own party. He has not worked himself into a kind of neutral center, so that when he is feeling good, he can give a few weeks ago in the flush of victory, he could conceivably carry out a program of reconstruction. But when we are feeling poorly, as we are now, few are so ready to take the President's side.

CANCELED OUT

On labor, Mr. Roosevelt sometimes quiet, and did tell the labor movement to go away and keep quiet; and it would do so for it knew that it had his sympathies. Or he could have withdrawn from the opposition, for it knew that he would fight it. He has made some of the opposition one of these bargains, it was a real addition to our national unity. It was a real bargain, so much so that, something had happened.

Mr. Truman approaches his crisis after having convinced both sides that he has nothing to lose and in his national unity, he has canceled out the opposition, and goes on without him. The time has come for him to decide whether he will stay a day at a paper pad, working for himself what he wants, and what the Nation needs, or whether he will get out of the room resolved to have it, or to know the reason why.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, tactless and comical excerpts from the Congressional Record.)

THE House was discussing a proposal to allow an increase in Hindu immigration, and Representative Clare Luce of Connecticut was in favor of the bill.

Mr. SUMNER of Illinois, Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LUCE. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. SUMNER of Illinois. I think the gentleman is giving the Russians too much credit when he believes their talk with our leaders as Senators Taft and Representative Joe Martin. Covered with martial glory, and backed by a fine record as Governor of Minnesota, he will be a formidable contender, one the Party leadership can't afford to ignore.

Stassen's speaking tour will have the effect of forcing the Old Guard to a decision. If they insist on clinging to the reaction that has consistently brought them to defeat, they will have to go to work on Harold Stassen without delay, using local Republican organization

tions to polish him off as they did Wendell Willkie in 1944.