SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1945

Equality Before The Law

B is difficult to read anything heart-ning into a trial for criminal assault, particularly one involving Negroes and rities, but the conviction of Bruse combe in Wake County puts a new Wake and the County puts a new Wake inheric that he wither mann's law can be made to work both ways. Combs, a white farmer, was indicted for criminal assault against a Negro stit. Later, at the request of the girl's parents, Solicitor Bickett reduced the charge to assault with intent to ravish, and Combs entered a plea of guilty. The court promptly handed down a sen-tence of from ten to fifteen years in prison.

We are particularly interested in the We are particularly interested in the tharity displayed by the victim's par-ents, who, under the circumstances, had every reason for bitterness. Their tolerance shines against the usual cry for vengeance that goes up when the racial roles are reversed.

The prompt and orderly trial, and the stiff sentence, are also worthy of no-tice. Only a few years ago a Negro womtice. Only a few years ago a Negro wom-an's charge that she had been assaulted by a white man, if she had had the courage to bring it to the attention of the authorities, would have been laugh-ed out of court. And, if by some miracle, the accused had been brought to trial, no twelve good and true white men could have been found in all of North Carolina to vote him guilty.

Carolina to vote him guilty.

The Combs conviction stands as evidence that equality before the law now exists in North Carolina, even when the law in question is the touchlest of all the statutes on the books. And this realization that justice has nothing to do with the color of a man's skin helps materially to reduce the great area of disagreement over the exact place the Negros should occupy in the complicated society of the South.

The Last Shall Be Left

Within the next few months both the City and the County are coing to present rather impressive bills for four-eservices to the tax-payers of Mecklenburg, and so far there is no indication that they will be forwarded simultane-

The County Commissioners and the The County Commissioners and the City Fathers are anxious to float bond tasues of roughly six million dollars, and they will soon be seeking permission to do so. They will, without doubt, be granted the State's authority to go ahead, and then they will put the two matters before the taxpayers for a vote, probably in the Spring.

Since both these issues are up now, and since which County and City are

Since both these issues are up now, and since both County and City are anxious to lay hands on the bond money without delay, there seems to be some likelihood of a sort of race to see who gets to the polls first. This is not just good clean fun, for there is some danger that the taxpayers who have agreed to borrow six million dollars in one election will not look too kindly upon an invitation to approve a similar sun a few weeks later. Some of the boys around the Courthouse and the City sum a rew weeks later, some of the boys around the Courthouse and the City Hall figure that, in the event of two separate elections, the first bond issue would be approved and the second would

be rejected, regardless of individual merit.

The only possible objection to a joint

merit.

The only possible objection to a joint appeal to the taxpayers grows out of the fear that requests to borrow a total of \$12,000,000, even though the projects involved are unrelated, might prejudice both bond issues. But this danger is fairly remote, and it certainly does not justify a contest between City and County to see who's going to get first crack at the local pocketbook.

And, if for no other reason than economy, a joint election would appear to be an obvious necessity. It will cost the City something like \$5,000 to swing a private election, and the cost to the County would be even higher.

Under the circumstances it would seem to follow, as the night the day, that the Commissioners and the Fathers would be sitting down together to pick out a day suitable to both for a joint election. Sooner or later they will probably do so, but the fact that they haven't, and that neither party has shown any inclination to do so, the fact that we have found it necessary to comment upon the matter, stands as further that we have found it necessary to com-ment upon the matter, stands as further evidence of the growing need for con-solidation of City and County Govern-

The Stratford Killer-Diller

Somebody, we gather from the placards now appearing around the town, is planning to have a public, or script, dance in the near future, and the young and the fair are being bidden to attend in the modern upnamer. "Leave US Leap", the signs invite, and there are other equally scotteric phrases which we have no intention of repeating here, not between the discussion of the property of their use, but cause we disapprove of their use, but because, falling to grasp their exact meaning, we fear we might unwittingly

meaning, we rear we might univitaingly compound a felony. "Leave Us Leap" strikes us as one of the finest phases we have run across since "Let's Grapple" became passe. It is neat, lyrical, and Invokes an exact image; it might, it is true, sound out of place against a background of The of place against a background of The Minuef in G, but it is a proper invitation when addressed to a young lady nervous-ly twitching on the sidelines while a band made up of sixteen trumpets and an anti-aircraft gun plays Hubba Hubba. (The composition of the orchestra may, we admit, be fanciful, but we rely upon the radio for our musical impressions these days and we can think of no other combination canable of requiring the combination capable of producing the wonderful melodies we hear during those frantic seconds that elapse while we're trying to reach the dial.)

trying to reach the dial.)

As a matter of fact we have long ennied the young their jive talk. It provides a medium of forceful, colorful expression that, so far as their elders and
determine, precludes the need for pro-

fanity, and it also furnishes the user with a loose sort of code understandable only to other members of his age group, and sometimes only to those who attend the same soda fountain.

group, and sometimes only to those who attend the same soda fountain.

The language, of course, may suffer a considerable distortion as a result of this wide-spread abandomment of the usual tools of intellectual intercourse, and future lexicographers may find their task complicated as they, set out to fix an exact meaning of a word. But, after all, a man has to learn to use a word before he can studiously misuse it, and a great deal of imagination and invention lies behind, say, "Drape your sinpe", which, we once embarrassingly assumed meant "Put your clothes on" and later discovered means, "Bit down and later discovered means, "Bit down and later discovered means, "Bit down the William Shakespeare, who once found it necessary to say. "Stand not upon the order of your going, but go at once," would have been delighted to substitute the succinet, "Beat feet", if he had thought of it first. The phrase that launched this essay would certainly have pleased him. "Leave us indeed leap," he might have written, "and, having leapt, settle our bilthe spirits into a solid groove."

nave written, "and, having leapt, settle our blithe spirits into a solid groove," The Bard, after all, was a sender, as hep a cat as ever coined a phrase, and a man who would never have been inhibited by a dictionary, even if he had had one back in the days when he was playing fast and loose with the English language.

From The Newspaper PM:

The Navy's Witness

The spectacle of Ike Hashimoto, a Jananese submarine commander, being called as a witness in the court-martial of Capt. Charles McVay, commander of the ill-fated Indianapolis, is no mere Gilbert and Sullivan Act.

were and sullivan Act.

There may be something to laugh about when a Navy spokesman says:

"We don't know a thing about Hashimoto. We don't even know whether he commanded the submarine that torpedoed the Indianapolis. Hell, we don't even know whether the ship was torpedoed."

But the fact that the Navy contem-plates using Hashimoto's testimony is less ridiculous. It is something of an outrage for a very simple reason:

outrage for a very, simple reason:

Could Hashimoto or any loyal, patriotie Jap military servant have any motive in testifying at a U. S. Navy courtmartial except to confuse and divide
the enemy which subjected him and
his people to defeat?

his people to defeat?

A Navy spokesman, in advertising the fact that. Hashimto would be flown from Tokyo to Washington, predicted has the Jap's testimony would be "all-mportant." Later a Navy procession and it had not yet been decided whether to call Hashimton or not, after the Japaness had been interviewed for the purchase had been interviewed for the pur-

pose of ascertaining his credibility and

Hashimoto's crowning achievement is the fact that he sank a capital ship of the enemy. Undoubtedly, if this is true, he is an honored man in the Jap-

true, he is an honored man in the Japa-anses Navy.

Is it possible that the defense or the prosecution, or a serious-minded panel of judges, or for that matter any Ameri-can citizen, could place any faith in the Axis commander's version of the tragic sinking of the U. S. cruiser In-diananolis?

the Aus commander's version of the tragic sinking of the U. S. cruiser Indianapolis? The court is challenged with the fateful determination of responsibility in the loss of the ship with 700 Navy men. The court is determination will undoubtedly have a determination will undoubtedly have a determination will undoubtedly a special consolation to the families of the men who were lost. It concerns the homor and efficiency of a Navy captain of 26 years' service, charged with "negligence" in the loss of the ship, which was sunk in the closing days of the war. If McVay is guilty he should be punished, but if the testimony of Hashlimoto, taken publicly or secretly, has any bearing on the case, it will debase and dishpnor justice in the U. S. A.—the kind of Justice we would want our enemies to emulate, not ridicule.

The Merry-Go-Round

FEW people realise it but President Tuman spends a lot of time these days trying to permane people to take important Federal appointments.

An illustration was the 'tiusele he had with astute of Louiself Land Tuman by an import of Control Control

The Civil Aeronautics Board job really tempted Wyatt, and he asked for a few days to think it over. Next day he got a phone call.

Truman Pleads

"This is the President calling," said a voice at the offer end of the phone.

"Mr. President, Twe been thinking," Wyatt said, "and I'm afraid I'm going to have to turn down that Civil Aerounatic job."

"That's swell," replied the President, "I have a more important job for you. Please come back here right away."

Next day. Wyatt appeared at the White House, where Truman told him about the tough job of co-ordinating housing.

wherementing housing.

"I consider this housing situation the most important problem confronting the country today," explained the President. "If we don't solve this one, well really be in trouble in a year and a half."

"But, Mr. President," said Wyatt. "I'm afraid I "But, Mr. President," said wyatt. "I'm afraid I practice law. I need the money."

"Thuman bit the selline."

can't afford a Federal job. I want to go back home and practice law. I need the money."

Tuman hit the celling.

"I know you want to go back to your law practice."

I know you want to go back to your law practice."

I know you want to go back to your law practice."

I know to do it. I know you want to make some money. But I do all the to I me doing it. The work of the law to do it. I know to do it. I want I know to do it. I want I know to do it. I want I know can I do a good job if fellows like you aren't willing to come up here and help me? I impression on Wyatt. Next day he called at the While House for five minust. Walking into the Executive Office, he said, "Mr. President, I've come in to surrender."

Ordinarily it is that now Tuman I finds he jast to phone men personally and beg them to work for the Government. The other day, Truman, who resents criticism of his numerous Missouri appointments, told one viction:

The state of the proposition of

Gen. Dwight Elenhower went over big at his first meeting as mostly as the first meeting as first mostly as the first meeting as first, for which the Senators went across the Potomac to Elenhower's office in the Pentagon Building for luncheon.

Americans, are unto fun and nave a fine sense of humor."

The General said he held no fears about future amicable relations between our own country and Soviet Russia. There will have to be some give-and-take in our relations, he said, but eventually things will work out well.

Regarding his own relations with Congress. Eisen-

out well.

Regarding his own relations with Congress, Eisenhower declared:

Property and the property and I intend to run it like the memorated intended to the second with Congress. I am especially anxious to get along with the Military Affairs Committees of both Houses. If you sentlemen ever have any gripes, the door to this office will always be ozen to yout.

will always be one to you.

Military Secrecy

A similar set of strength is going on between a Congressional test of strength is going on between a Congressional test of strength is going on between a Congressional test of strength is going on between a Congressional National Section 1997.

**Accordance of the Congression of the Co

proximately a month earlier. He added that he had cabled for its dealed and the committee called for the list.

The pass told that Gen. Lackus Clay, Military Governor of Berlin, had been advised that the committee wanted to see the list. Instead of ordering that it be cabled to Washington. He General ordered that it be brought from Frankfurt, not to Washington but to Berlin.

When or how much of the list of key Nazis here will reach the Senate group is still an unanswered question. Appurently the Army is trying to cover up certain people in the USA.

Hovering



Britain's Thankless Job In Java By Marquis Childs

AT the very time that word comes of British determination to put down the Nationalist movement in the Dutch East Indies with all-out force, we get an analysis from an American reporter with a long background- in the Far East who says that the Alies are losing the peace in Southern Asia and losing it fast.

the peace in Southern Asia and losing it fast.

A. T. Steele of The New York Hall of Tribune has completed a tout of the New York Hall of Tribune has completed a tout of the New York Hall of Tribune has completed a tout of the New York Hall of Tribune has been dead to the New York Hall of Tribune has been dead to the tout of the New York Hall of Tribune has been dead to the tout of the New York Hall of Tribune has been dead to the terms of that pack next year in such a way that the New York Hall of Tribune has been dead to the terms of that pack next year in such a way that commit independence. Nothing must be allowed to interfere with carrying out the terms of that pack next year in such a way that commit independence. Both President Rocally that we would live up to the Philippine compact.

Negative Position

But if we are not directly involved in the bloody business of Java and Indo-China, our position is a nega-tive one and therefore open to question. By our curious silence, we seem to lend consent.

On the basis of his observation, reporter Steels brushes asket the conventional explanations and applopies for Allied conduct since V. J Day. He found that they simply do not stand up under an on-the-spot examination.

We are only fooling ourselves if we try simply to explain away the epidemic of Nationalism as a great added moral and material fuel to the fires. But it is added moral and material fuel to the fires. But it is equally evident that the foundation of this moment is the genuine aspiration of people to free themselves one after that the foundation of this moment is the genuine aspiration of people to free themselves one after that the foundation of this moment is the genuine aspiration of people to free themselves one American reporting. Long before the Chancellories of harrier raporting, Long before the Chancellories of harrier raporting. Long before the Chancellories of harrier raporting. Long before the Chancellories of harrier raporting is true therms of possible world disaster.

They went right on as long as they could telling the

story of fascism and its meaning for the democracles. Unfortunately both in Britisin and America there were influential elements that preferred to believe otherwise, or it was more convenient to keep allent.

influential elements that preferred to believe otherwise, or it was more convenient to keep allent.

Unpleasant Truths

It is human nature to try to shut out unpleasant truths. Both in Britain and America there are those today who would minimize what is happening in Southeast Asia, masking it under such convenient phrases as "keeping order" and "the White Man's responsibility."

As we should have learned from the holecast last and the second of the second sold of the second sold

Purely Business



"I guess he expects ME to entertain HIM—all I've heard is how those Jap Geisha girls waited on him hand and foot!"

We Can't Win.

· By Samuel Grafton

By Samuel Grafton

New York

An atomic bomb raid against the United States would be a catastrophe, but a point to keep in mind it that make the United States would be a catastrophe, but a point to keep will also be a catastrophe of or a catastrophe or a catastrophe or a catastrophe of or a catastrophe of or a catastrophe or a catastrophe of or a catastrophe or a catast

The People's Platform

Union Santa Claus?

By MRS. EUNICE LOCKMAN
Dallas
Please print the following, adfressed to Mrs. Elizabeth Spry and
Mrs. Iola Faulkner. NOTE: The
textile workers who wrote recentile
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excitle workers who wrote recentile
excitle to the Erwin Mill strikers.
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By MRS. EUNICE LOCKMAN

Please print the following, and different of Mrs. Elizabeth Spry and diressed of Mrs. Elizabeth Spry and diressed of Mrs. Elizabeth Spry and diressed of Mrs. Elizabeth Spry and these strikers ruining our textile workers who wrote recently asking for Christmans aid for the children of the Erwin Mill strikers.

MOTE: The News)

for yours and other children.

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P. St. Dam

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schools, for Negroes and whites.
This condition, however, does
not exist. We, breather the School
nave been aware of this condition,
just as have the other Negro
schools, and we, too, have tried to
Your article so keenly touched
us that we felt that we should
express our sincere gratitude.

Quote, Unquote

By delaying repeal of the Smith-Connally Act. Congress is putting itself and the Government in a po-sition that gets worse and sillier every day.—Houston Tex., Press.

Vital as it is, scientific research is not a substitute for a modernized, industrialized mobilization which will convert our nation in quickest order to the conditions of possible future wars.—Bernard M. Baruch.

Even thought we might not be able to make ourselves so mighty that no nation will ever dare to attack us, we certainly should make and keep this country pre-

It is altogether to any man's credit if he recognizes his depend-ence upon God and seeks to give expression to his desire to please God in his daily life.—Marion, Ind., Chronicle-Tribune.

The American citizen is almost without the right to make his own contract, which is the right to make a lying, until he first sub-ordinates himself to some so-called labor leader—L. R. Clausen, president, J. I. Case Company.