

Can We Eat Our Cake and Not Have It?

We confess to a deep sympathy for the good boots on the Mecklenburg Board of Commissioners who this week devoted some of their time to deprecating the value of the Treasury bonds which they agreed that they would have to have more Federal funds if they are to maintain an adequate county welfare program.

This was the trend of the conversation for quite a while, and it might have led to a sort of rebellion if it had not been for Chairman McAden, an eminently practical person. Mr. McAden reminded his over-zealous colleagues that there really wasn't much they could do about the Federal Government's mad course of spending money for welfare purposes.

A Mysterious, Macrocosmic Skunk

The workings of democracy, we think, can best be understood in terms of swimming pools, airports, libraries, and sewer systems. These are the sort of tangible public projects a voter can watch grow before his eyes.

The pattern, with the exception of a successful library vote in High Point, has been the same as that established here. Only a fraction of the voters care enough, one way or the other, to mark a ballot.

There is an adequate historical basis for Mr. Murphy's analysis. But two questions follow: (1) How long can a majority which has abandoned its interests in the tangible manifestations of the government of which he is a vital part, how can he be expected to act intelligently upon the

President Truman's Short Answers

We have been looking over a transcript of President Truman's latest press conference, the one in which he spanked a couple of White House reporters. It does not, of course, report the President's replies literally, but it does paraphrase them to give their full meaning without direct quotation.

Mr. Truman began his (four of duty as President by asking the White House reporters to pray for him. They are, we fear, not too well equipped to intercede on his behalf with God, but it is their natural function to interpret his troubles to the people.

Another Voice

Hush--She'll Be A Grandma Too

JAMES MONTGOMERY FLAGG, the artist, speaking: "Girls used to be lascivious; now they're indigestible. The baby-sitters are ruining the American tradition of beautiful women. I abhor sloppy women. If women had an ounce of sense they would never dress as they do. Men's attire these days is a disgrace. It is brief skirts and Everybody's laughing at American women, and I'd laugh myself if I weren't so disgusted."

THURSDAY steps have so far been taken by Congress to meet the housing crisis: (1) Legislation has been enacted to make surplus structures and surplus property available to war veterans, including those on college campuses. The effect of this legislation is necessarily narrow and temporary.

The House rejected the Wyatt plea to make the re-sale price of houses and other buildings below the ceiling price for another sale. Out of the window went the proposal to pay 100 million or "incentive payments" \$400 million had been the figure suggested in the conventional scheme.

The central feature of the Patman bill passed by the House is a new fund of \$1 billion. The President may double it to insure mortgages up to 90 per cent of the appraised value. Insurance

People's Platform

On Misleading Captions

"MORE DRINKING; LESS TROUBLE" was a misleading caption to my article appearing in the People's Platform of The News on May 8, 1946. I did not discuss the thought that ABC Stores produce more drinking and less trouble than editorial ideas; but the subject of my argument was "ABC Stores Increase Drink."

It was irrelevant to my main line of increased drinking from ABC Stores. I quoted from Mr. Harris' article on "ABC Did It" in The News of Feb. 18, 1946, in which he quoted Judge John H. Barks, head of the Durham County ABC Board, as saying: "I don't any there's less whisky drunk here--there's probably more."

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Why Blame John?

WHY blame John L. Lewis? I blame the one-sided Wagner Act. Suggestion to our Congressmen: Vote for the Case Bill. Also, get Big Inch to carry natural gas.

IN business, in labor, in agriculture, many of the old familiar forces of selfishness are again on the march. And to make matters worse, we find Government allying itself first with this pressure group, and then with that, for political advantage.

Not everyone realizes so clearly that the advantage of modern science depends also upon the existence and exploitation of a large body of subtle, highly intelligent mathematics.

If we must seek means of correcting the vicious educational system that led the Nipponese and Nazi fury, we would better not ignore the anomalies and contradictions of our own Dr. Everett Case, president Colgate U.

Drew Pearson's House Vote Tests 'Nylon Lobby' Strength

(NOTE--Drew Pearson today continues his series exposing the lobbies which have been operating behind the scenes on Capitol Hill.)

TODAY a vote by the House of Representatives will determine whether the so-called nylon lobby has been so successful in its efforts to bring about legislation in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas utility bills who have been trying to block distribution of Government power in competition with private power from the Norfolk and Denham dams on the Texas-Oklahoma border and in Arkansas.

Mr. Harris, who handles the Thomas family's cotton-trading account, is in and out of the Senator's office every week or so. They are very warm friends. The Thomas' have never made more than \$300,000, which is the legal limit for cotton; and usually the Thomas trading is through pools which generally run up to \$20,000 bales.

Investigation shows that the Harris and Voss firm was trading in cotton and very close between the dates of March 4 and 7, between March 28 and April 4, and between April 8 and 12. Harris and Voss trading at this time was largely for his own account and the firm was careful to break no market records.

Congress & Housing

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Samuel Grafton

Roadside America

Salisbury, Maryland, comes to \$2.50. But later on, one finds oneself paying almost two-thirds of the amount for the same breakfast, and this ratio of breakfast price to room price seems curious and distorted.

There is a note of crankiness in roadside and other casual conversations. Some of the talk is about jobs, but more about the shortage of good help for poor jobs, and of good jobs for good help.

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Thomas Pleads for Cotton

Senator Thomas of Oklahoma also was a great silver-enthusiast and did his best to tack a silver amendment on the work relief bill in 1933. This was about the same time Palmer Coughlin was speculating in silver and when Bob Harris was close to both men.

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