

Two Ways To Skin A Cat

CHARLOTTE wouldn't hold the good housewives of Bitonio, Italy; they would find our town dull indeed, and they'd turn it topsy-turvy. We couldn't afford to make them feel that way, for their fresh and interesting view of world economic problems are intimate, personal things.

When they descended upon City Hall they hopped into their cars—more than 100 of them—and made their way to the temple of local justice. They sat before their elected representatives in quiet, perfunctory fashion in lightweights suits, or taking their ease in shirtwaists. Most of their attorneys did the talking, and the merchants sat there only to make their presence felt. There were no hot words, and there were even a few attempted jests.

The Show's The Thing

THE poured hours of the NBC accept may in time receive the delightful rapturous talk of the Carolina hills, often the largely the Coastal Bankers, and doom Gullah to intelligibility. But among our antiquities which must be preserved at all cost is South Carolina's old-time political caravan.

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In this season, hard put for world-shaking issues. South Carolina's eleven gubernatorial candidates perform nobly. This week they invaded Barnwell, attacked for years as the headquarters of a small group of men who control the State's Bourbon democracy. One of the accused Bourbons, Senate President Edgar A. Brown, presided as two candidates lambasted the Barnwell "ring." He invited them all to speak their minds; and one candidate dared others to repeat the charges they had made in other towns. They did.

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Bringing A Judge Up To Date

ONLY the bold or the foolhardy would dare tell a judge how to run his court, and at the moment we are striving to qualify as neither. But Judge J. H. Clement, holding criminal court here this week and running smack out of cases to try because defendant after defendant and witness after witness allegedly found absent, might like a synopsis of preceding chapters.

pendence upon police testimony. Bonds have been ordered forfeited—and not paid. Set fas have been issued by the sheriff's basket, with a great waste of paper.

It's old staff, Judge. For years Mecklenburg County's Superior Court, criminal division, has been run in the most execrable, slipshod, indifferent manner imaginable.

North Carolina's system of rotating judges, a system which has its good points but has the disadvantage of leaving no hard-boiled judge here in Mecklenburg long enough to clean up the mess and restore some part of the court's lost prestige and authority. A new Solicitor has helped, and a new Sheriff may help in his department, but we are inclined to the opinion that nothing save the clean sweep of a new Solicitorial district and a new, full-time, trash-moving Solicitor resident in Mecklenburg will turn the trick.

Cases have been non-prossed in wholesale lots. The former State's prosecuting attorney freely accepted pleas of guilty to less serious charges.

Some of these problems were discussed with Small at a recent closed-door meeting with representatives of the major veterans' groups, which the Veterans of Foreign Wars broached the subject of the new race track in Monmouth County, N. J., which is being built by CPA.

The prosecution of all except the most publicized cases, in which other attorneys usually assisted the State, has been casual and without reference to police records—indeed, with a minimum of de-

lucration demand for consumer goods and higher standards of living which exists among the Russians. The Government is meeting the pressure with elaborate promises and with ghost stories about Western "imperialism" and "fascism." In these tales the atom bomb, according to Mr. Middleton, has now been used as the demagogue's seems strange. Possession of such a weapon by another nation, represented as hostile, would seem to be an ideal hair-raiser to cultivate austerity in Russia and drive dreams of washing machines and gas stoves into the realm of pipe dreams. But doubtless the Russian leaders fear that this medicine might be too strong, threatening demoralization.

Another Voice How're You Gonna Keep 'Em . . .

THE United States' plan for international control of atomic energy was addressed essentially not to the governments but to the peoples of the world. But everybody knew that the peoples under the Russian Government would hear only that that Government wanted them to hand over it. "The Russian proposal (on atomic energy) has been published conspicuously and textually in Russia," said an Associated Press dispatch received from Moscow yesterday. "Baruch's American plan never has been published fully or in its complete text in the Soviet press."

Add to this the fact that the Russian Government is extremely guarded about what news it lets get out of Russia. And add to the fact that the Kremlin and its agents in the democracies outside Russia constantly take advantage of democratic freedom of speech and press to arouse divisive national and international antagonisms and to aggrandize the Communist Government's expense of the democratic. The sum total is a sense of frustration, strongly felt, in which contributes certainly as much as any other one thing to the difficulty of our relations with the U.S.S.R.

in any case, Mr. Middleton's dispatch serves to confirm the wisdom of the Senate's action in voting to ratify the new State Department funds for information services, including shortwave broadcasts, which had been eliminated by the House. At best, we can hope to get only a trickle of information into Russia about our way of life and standards of existence. While these are not yet ideal by any means, they are vastly superior to Russia's. The more Russians learn, the more they will yearn. And the more they yearn, the more their Government will eagerly. As it improves their working and living conditions. We cannot think of a better way to distract that Government from the larger designs of which it is sometimes suspected.—Louisville Courier-Journal.



People's Platform In The Heart Of The Mica Country

SPRUCE PINE Here we are in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains. I am glad my Congressional district contains this beautiful section of our great State. To be up here surrounded by beautiful mountain scenes is a high altitude, among people with the kindly, true American spirit makes you realize that this is "God's Country," with the true American spirit very much alive.

We spent Sunday on top of old Grandfather Mountain at the annual singers convention and met people from Charlotte to Tennessee. To mingle with the good people who here this near Heaven gives me great inspiration to fight for our liberties in America that we have so long enjoyed under the blue heavens of freedom.

The convention was held in an open field near Grandfather's lofty peaks, with plenty of room to park and natural rock seats. The height of an average speaker's platform from front to back for a dozen or more people from which Fred Hough and his group from Morganton, N. C., entertained the crowd over loud speakers in singing all day. They invited any and all singers to the rock to sing. The convention was the most successful I have ever known in my own version of a soldier's return, dedicated to all the armed forces—through all the world, entitled, "A Soldier's Return."

Today we visited some of the mica industries in and around Spruce Pine. Space will not permit a full account of the tour which the New Deal gave our Western North Carolina industries, but according to reports, before the days of the New Deal we had 3,000 mica in operation and today New Deal persecution and destruction have left only fifteen per cent of them in operation. And it looks like some of them are going to get their throat cut with a New Deal razor.

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Now, wait a minute," interrupted Small. "That particular race track was started before we established effective bullet control. You can't blame me," he insisted. "I admit that it was a mistake. But it was started last November, before we had our bullet control laws. The materials were already on hand and the contractors couldn't get by with anything like that now." CPA had not been asked to plan the race track. It hadn't been stopped by the CPA.

WASHINGTON THE evidence is increasingly being piled up this year in the White House with all its trials and tribulations, its crises and complaints, has worn President Truman down to the breaking point. The latest piece of evidence is the extraordinary letter he sent to Sen. Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire.

The President wrote in reply to a telegram from Tobey which was for the allocation of grain to poultry raisers in New England. In his wire to the White House, Tobey said he was raising a "Macedonian cry" in behalf of the farmers of his state who were being driven out of business because they could not get feed.

BITTER COMPLAINT This has been a bitter complaint by Senators from various sections of the country. It has come from some who, like Tobey, are convinced internationalists and favor such relief for the farmer. They argue that by taking certain additional steps the Government can help the farmer without interfering with shipments to the rest of the world.

"The tragic situation," said Tobey in his wire, "has been accentuated by the Government's raising the price of poultry for grain for foreign shipment. Let the Government purchase grain to save our farmers who are being driven out of business by the need for bread. The situation demands heroic action."

In his reply the President said Tobey spent all his money on something and he, for one, was disgusted with it. Human beings are more important than animals, said the President.

"You need a cooling off period," the President's letter concluded. "When you have cooled off, come and see me."

Senators are extremely sensitive of their status and their dignity. Such language was scarcely calculated to make friends and influence people on Capitol Hill. But the most remarkable part of the letter was that which disclosed the President's attitude toward Tobey. President Truman accused Tobey of trying to destroy a man who had done nothing for the country, one of the ablest citizens in the country. He was speaking of Edwin J. Tobey, whose nomination for Undersecretary of Navy. A storm of criticism that arose in the course of his nomination. The Senate Affairs Committee compelled Pauley to withdraw his nomination.

PAULEY was charged with having participated in a concerted drive by oil interests to compel the Federal Government to surrender its interest in tideland oil. With vast deposits involved, the safeguarding of military reserves seemed to be an issue. For his articles, which had much to do with precipitating the Senate inquiry, Edwin A. Harris, a reporter on the St. Louis Post-Dispatch received a Pulitzer prize.

After Pauley withdrew his name, the President appointed him to survey reparations in Japan and Korea, and determine whether Russia had removed Japanese industry from Manchuria. Pauley had previously carried out reparations assignments in Europe and Asia. He was appointed as a witness before the Naval Affairs Committee since to have intensified Truman's loyalty to him. That is one of President Truman's chief characteristics—unswerving loyalty to those who have helped him. It reflects his confidence in the man. In a school that Tom Pendergast conducted in Kansas City for so many years.

FRIEND ALIENATED But before the Pauley episode, Tobey had fought valiantly for such essential Administration policies as the British loan, and the reciprocal trade agreements. He is credited with the passage of a bill for approval by the Senate of the Bretton Woods monetary plan. A year ago he was appointed to the White House, Tobey with Senator George Aiken of Vermont made him the man with whom he had alienated a useful friend. That is a high price to pay for party loyalty on the Pauley level.

Peter Edson Judicial Experience

WASHINGTON THE RECORDS of present Supreme Court justices reveal a surprising lack of judicial experience. Such a lack of judicial experience is not surprising, confirmation of Fred M. Vinson as Chief Justice made him the man with most over court background.

It's a mere five years. Four of them were spent as associate justice of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. The fifth year was spent as chief judge of the Emergency Court of Appeals for Price Control.

Vinson apparently did all right. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of Appeals for Price Control. There was nothing about his record that was in any way discreditable.

The only other justice with any experience on the bench prior to the Supreme Court appointment is Wiley Brantley. He also served four years on the D. C. Court of Appeals.

ONE-YEAR AVERAGE Now that the aim total—nine years of judicial experience—an average of one year per member. Sixty-three per cent, quite accurate, either justice. Hugo LaFollette served 18 months as a police officer in Birmingham, back around 1910. It would make a Philadelphia lawyer sweat, how many judges that served less than a year, and "30 and nobs" to a bunch of drunks and nuts qualified to become judges.

As the late Chief Justice Harlan P. Stone is reported to have said his principal trouble with the Court was that the Presidents never sent up enough real judges to get out of the way. The present court may be made up of entirely capable and even brilliant lawyers. But lawyers, not judges, are the best lawyers in the country would probably make the worst judge.

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