

The Hedge On Permanent Improvements

It is rather surprising that the \$48,000,000 permanent improvements bill shot through the House of Representatives without untoward incident. After all it contained appropriations for a four-year medical college at the University of North Carolina, and the project has been violently opposed in the past by a highly vocal group of Tar Heels who have shown themselves not too finicky in their choice of weapons.

It must be assumed, of course, that the measure had the Administration's blessing, and this alone seems to be enough to assure unanimity these days. However, there is also reason to believe that the opponents of the Chapel Hill medical college may be only biding their time.

Written into the improvements bill are two sections that guarantee a considerable delay in construction of any of the projects authorized by it. No money shall actually be made available until "the Governor and the Advisory Budget Commission shall have determined the time best suited, in their opinion, for the State to obtain the greatest benefits from the expenditure of these appropriations." Another paragraph provides another hedge: "That the appropriations provided in this act for a four-year medical college and teaching hospital at the University of North Carolina and for the Medical Care Commission for the construction of medical centers and local hospitals shall not be available until and until the Federal Government has appropriated and provided funds to cover at least one-third of the cost of construction."

The Erosion Of Basic Liberties

It is logical enough for the Government of the United States to expect loyalty of every person on its payroll. And it is logical enough for the Government to question the loyalty of any member of the Communist Party or any other organization dedicated to the ultimate overthrow of the Government of the United States.

These are the principles upon which Mr. Truman stood when he issued his executive order calling for a sweeping purge of all Federal departments and bureaus. Since the principles are beyond debate there has been virtually no criticism of the order itself. Instead Mr. Truman's action has been greeted with a round of editorial applause.

There is no reason to question the statement of a White House spokesman that no witch hunt is in prospect, for Mr. Truman is certainly not a witch-hunter. Nor is there any reason to doubt that the system of review with provision for the immediate appeal to the courts, provides a reasonable safeguard for any Federal employee who might be unjustly accused. Yet, in spite of all this, there is much in the order itself that is worthy of the order itself. Instead Mr. Truman's action has been greeted with a round of editorial applause.

The executive order reverses the prevailing theory of Federal employment. Up to now it has been assumed that any American citizen is loyal to his Government until proven otherwise. Only when there were reasonable grounds for suspicion was an applicant for a job, or a person already on the payroll, subjected to a loyalty check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Now, however, this system is no longer regarded as adequate—even though the President himself believes that Communist influence in the Government is negligible.

Vermont's Displaced Politician

The record of the (Republican) Party in the 79th Congress was not impressive. The election in 1946 was won in spite of this record and not because of it.

"The record of the Party on international affairs is also unenviable. If the Republicans are to win the national election in 1948, it will be necessary for the 80th Congress, which they control, to present a more impressive record than the one made by the Republican Party in the 79th Congress."

Who is this giving Republican Chairman Reece nightmares? Some loyal Democrat trying to whip up the flagging spirits of his own colleagues? Some Washington commentator reading the signs and portents of the heavens and uttering the words of these grim remarks is Republican Senator George Aiken from the GOP stronghold of Vermont. Writing in *The New York Times Magazine*, Senator Aiken indicates even greater reason to consider the current scene.

"Frankly, I am discouraged with the outlook. The opposition of leading Republicans to the appointment of David Lilienthal to head the Atomic Energy Commission, the determination to put tax reduction ahead of national security, the avowed intention to enact labor legislation which would not merely be 'corrective' but would effectively cripple organized labor, the working people, and the attitude on the part of some of the leadership around the United States and let the rest of the world go by does not encourage hope for 1948."

Of course, Senator Aiken is a self-confessed liberal, and this is a bad season for liberalism. Yet his pessimism is not an offer of sympathy, nor only because dim prospects of Republican prospects are always welcome to a Democratic newspaper, but because Southerners are peculiarly eager to understand his dilemma. The Senator

Both of these provisions are, of course, wise. Until building costs are reduced to something near normal, it would be folly for a state so poor as North Carolina to sink her spare funds in inflated construction. And until the Federal Government meets its obligations under the Hill-Burton Act, the Medical Care program, as originally blueprinted, simply cannot be implemented.

The effect of this is to postpone establishment of the medical college indefinitely. The prospects of the Federal hospital aid appropriation are not bright. It seems quite likely, construction costs being what they are, that none of the medical centers will be spent prior to the convening of the next General Assembly. In this uncertain season no one can forecast what North Carolina's fiscal picture will be two years from now. It could be that the reserve/post-war fund will be exhausted in meeting ordinary budget demands, in which case the unpresent \$48,000,000 in the permanent improvements kitty would be a tempting target indeed. The present appropriations can be rescinded as simply as they were first passed.

These considerations, we suspect, have been carefully weighed by the opponents of the medical college. It would not be surprising, therefore, if they had decided there is no point in expending time and money in a battle now, when they are likely to have plenty of opportunity to reopen the issue before a cornerstone is ever laid.

Henceforth the Government will assume that every employee is disloyal until proved otherwise. Every applicant for a Federal job, no matter how routine, will be given a loyalty check by the FBI, with Military and Naval Intelligence assisting, if necessary. Every filling clerk and typist now on the Federal payroll will be investigated at once if a previous check has not been made.

The results of this tremendous investigation will be carefully compiled and made a matter of permanent record in a "central master index." The cost of the operation will be between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000, and a major expansion of the FBI staff will be necessary.

In the opinion of *The Washington Post*, which keeps loving watch over the interests of its bureaucratic subscribers, "no impairment of constitutional rights of free speech will result from the executive order." Certainly none is intended. But we wonder how free the Government employee will feel now that he knows that somewhere in a "central master index" there reposes a card dossier with his name on it, and that his every utterance may be measured against an arbitrary standard established by the secret agent assigned to keep an eye on him.

We accept Mr. Truman's judgment that such drastic measures are essential—even though a far more complete war-expansion system provided an adequate safeguard in time of war and enabled us to preserve the most sought-after military secret in history. But the necessity, if not the executive "purge" itself, provides a cause for mourning, not celebration. The mass loyalty check is symptomatic of the steady erosion of basic American liberties; we are, all of us, measurably less free than we were before the President signed the order.

People's Platform

Dangerous Corner

CHARLOTTE
Editors, The News:
AN Open Letter To The Chief of Police:
I take this method of calling your attention to a very dangerous situation with regard to pedestrian traffic at the corners of E. Morehead St. and S. McDowell, and am wondering if something cannot be done to help the situation.

At this corner, the pedestrian has absolutely no chance to get a green light, as no matter how, or when he tries to cross the street, cars are coming at him from some direction. I have seen old ladies stand and wait for twenty or thirty minutes at this corner, seeking to cross the street, and finally, as the light was never with them, they had to take a chance. Someone is going to get killed at this corner, some day, and if this happens, it will not be the fault of the driver of the car, but the blame will lie directly with the City of Charlotte, for the lights at this intersection are not designed to aid the pedestrian, but are there entirely for the benefit of the motorist.

It seems to me that the light directly in front of the new building alley now under construction, could be so timed as to agree with the one in front of Armstrong's Drug Store, which would leave a lot when persons are trying to cross in front of the Addition Alley. This would leave the cars at S. McDowell, making right hand turns, but this no doubt, could be corrected also, with a little study.

J. C. CARLIN.

Appreciation

CHARLOTTE
Editors, The News:
I WAS instructed by our Board of Directors to write you a letter expressing our appreciation for the fine work that The Charlotte News is doing, not only for Charlotte but for the Carolinas. You back us in our work always and it is appreciated.

It gives us pleasure to express our appreciation to you at this time.

F. O. KUESTER,
Executive Vice-President,
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

The Fascists

CHARLOTTE
Editors, The News:
THERE is a lot of talk now about the Communist Party in our country. What about fascists? What about people who did not do anything during the war for our country?

There were those who were drafted to serve and got out of it. They hoarded everything they could get. They used the war for their own selfish gain. They were in the Hitler line. They were in the Hitler line. They were in the Hitler line.

They created every kind of disturbance and racial disturbances and discriminations.

These are the kind of people that are crying so loud about Communism. Anyone who does not cooperate with them is a Communist.

When the veterans came home from the war and the labor unions were organized, they were worried over dwindling British finances, was opposed.

The dispute dragged on for some time. Rumblings reached the State Department and this was the source of reports on Capitol Hill that Secretary of State Jimmie Byrnes had been warned last October that Britain would get out of Greece before Hitler storm warnings were put up, but there was no definite decision until three weeks ago.

Then, British weather plus the internal economic crisis, played into the hands of British budget balancers. The Foreign Office was given an ultimatum to dump Greece.

Note—Some people wonder how the British can get away with the argument that it is too expensive for them to keep 10,000 troops in Greece when they can afford to keep before Jewish passions had reached such a frenzy that solution by the United Nations, the United States or anyone else will be difficult.

Kentuckian Learns Greek

PAUL PORTER, President Truman's economic expediter for Greece, was a delightful Kentucky boy. His foreign languages are not his forte. In Greece, however, he wanted to learn enough language to be polite, and the first phrase he learned was "charo," which in Greek is "ehfruto."

THE move to outlaw the Communist Party in this country is gaining strength. It will not go as planned with a wave of fear and reaction that seems to border on hysteria.

There are those who make a logical case for outlawing the Communist Members of the party, they say, owe their loyalty not to the United States but to Soviet Russia. They say that the party is undermining the U. S. position and in some instances they are led into downward treasonous acts. The logical step, then, is to make the party illegal so that all who belong to it will be subject to legal punishment.

That the loyalities of a Communist are divided or perverted, no one can dispute. The Communist owes an ideology that is absolute, and that absolute sets the Communist against the society in which he lives.

DANGEROUS EXERCISE
But to argue that therefore the Communist Party should be outlawed is a dangerous exercise in false logic. If the objective is to prevent disloyalty and help insure the security of the United States, outlawing the party will have exactly the opposite effect.

It will drive present party members underground so they will seek the disloyal, and it likely makes them more nearly a threat than they are now, when they are labeled as a blot on the medium of the news that "Poison." No one who can read is fooled by the contents and the bolshy.

Take the experience of our neighbor, Canada, as an example. On May 15, 1940, as a war security measure, Canada outlawed the Communist Party. It was a mistake.

Many other active members went underground, a subsequent investigation showed. Several of the leadership refused to go underground to evade Canadian draft and other laws. They returned to Canada only to find the German attack on Russia, which immediately made the war for them a holy war.

On December 10, 1942, a charter was issued to the Labor Progressive Party. After a national convention in August of 1943, the party put out a lengthy manifesto.

Samuel Grafton

Pursuit Of Happiness

NEW YORK
ONE of the things Americans have tried to hope for is the pursuit of happiness. It is a noble goal. It is a noble goal. It is a noble goal.

When, after policy has been established, unhappiness is the net result, we are entitled to ask the question, "How do you feel?"

Well, we feel rotten. We feel that we are not getting what we deserve. We feel that we are not getting what we deserve. We feel that we are not getting what we deserve.

But it says here, in the Declaration of Independence, that the right of the people to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is one of the big things; and our country was virtually founded on the maxim that everyone is entitled to get what he wants.

So we can by-pass the United Nations if we want to, but that isn't making us very happy; it is making us miserable. It is making us miserable. It is making us miserable.

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The conservative element has just got to get out of the picture. The conservative element has just got to get out of the picture. The conservative element has just got to get out of the picture.

The boys in the Kremlin scarcely knew what had hit them. They complained to high heaven, but the United Nations stood firm and the boys in the Kremlin scarcely knew what had hit them.

This illustration may appear farfetched. But diplomats point out that already Chile, where the Communist Party holds the balance of power, is signing a trade pact with Russia.

Stopping Russia In Iran

STOPPING a reverse illustration of what the United Nations can do to stop aggression, diplomats point to the case of Iran. This was the greatest victory so far achieved by the United Nations. It was the greatest victory so far achieved by the United Nations.

In Iran, Russia was trying to do what she is now trying to do in Greece. Strong factions in the Iranian Government were opposed and appealed to the United Nations. The United Nations stepped in and the Iranian Government was opposed and appealed to the United Nations.

Under The Dome
The story of the pathetic about Harry Truman's political life, according to Mrs. A. Mitchell Palmer, who has just come back from there. Mexicans are surprised that Mrs. George Marshall was named one of the ten best-dressed women in the world. Congressional committees have long voted her, his best-dressed women.

