

19th Anniversary Year
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DISFRANCHISING NEW CITIZENS

THE absorption of several perimeter areas by the City of Charlotte next month has focused attention once again on the enormously complicated structure of our State election laws.

North Carolina law requires that a voter must have lived for four months in the township, precinct, or ward of his residence before he can cast a ballot there in any election. Those residents of the perimeter area have been voting in County, State and general elections, but never before in a City election. On January 1 they will become citizens of Charlotte. In April, a municipal primary will be held; in May, a municipal election. Under the strict interpretation of the law, they would not be permitted to participate in the primary. And because of the time-span required for three registration days and a challenge day, perhaps they could not even take part in the general City election.

This tricky area was brought to public attention by attorneys studying a proposed bond issue for a bigger and better system of parks and recreation.

CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

DESPITE the eager headline-hunting, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which have confused and amused the populace instead of shedding light on espionage, there is still a very definite place in the American scene for the Congressional investigating committee. It is essential in the orderly processes of running our big Government that Congress have some check on the various departments and on the way they are doing business with public money voted by the Congress.

Congressional investigating committees as a whole (and there are some good ones) have a long and honorable history because of the un-American procedure the Un-American Committee has often used. And committee critics have jumped at the opportunity to condemn the whole system, the good and the bad. That would be equivalent to discarding a whole barrel of apples because of one bad one.

It would seem wiser to find out precisely what is wrong with the present system, and try to work out a standard procedure which would prevent abuses of individual rights in the future. A good many suggestions have been made along this line, but one of the best so far is that of the American Civil Liberties Union. It is the New York City Bar Association. As summarized by the New York Times, the committee's recommendations, which would be incorporated in a Joint resolution by the Congress, are as follows:

THE BATTLE OF IDEAS

IT HAS been pointed out recently that the Soviet brand of Communism moving Westward offers a lower living standard for the people of the world than the Western world. It can promise an improved standard of living for the population masses of the Orient.

This provides still another reason why the United States should weigh carefully the feasibility of pursuing a policy of China to prop up a sagging Government.

As strongly pro-Nationalist Time Magazine declared last week, China is a fertile field for the seeds of Communism. This is true because she has not yet developed the atmosphere which provides a good background for democracy. "The shift from common functioning as a law to law made by a legislature," says Time, "means a tremendous change from the domination of ideas, doctrine, tradition toward the authority of command, of organization, of what we call bureaucracy."

China — cut off from the European renaissance and torn by constant internal strife for about 400 years behind the Western world in her political and economic thinking — which makes her ripe fruit for totalitarianism but rather helpless to comprehend the functioning of Western democracy.

This is the real tragedy of China at this juncture of history. She appears supremely ready for notoriety which Communists have to offer and notoriously unprepared for what we want her to accept.

What the Western powers need more than anything else is to understand that the China we want to help needs far more than our Western weapons. They are feeble defense in the face of the ideological attack from the Soviet Union. In fact, we would do best not to send the weapons at all unless we can at the same time embark on a vast campaign to send them the full flowering of Western ideas and political thinking. Without that China is lost to the West.

BEFORE we sink new billions into China, it would be appropriate to examine well President Truman's report on the Greek aid program, rendered Congress recently. In it the President says the Greek Army's efforts to liquidate Communist guerrillas have produced a "military stalemate" despite the delivery of \$170-

until May or later when the new residents would be fully qualified to vote.

Bond issues are one thing, but political elections are another. The former depend upon absolute legality for their acceptance by investors, and if the bond issue is to be a gold-plated one, there must not be the slightest suspicion of irregularity. But no tricky provision of the law should be permitted to disfranchise any large bloc of voters.

The perimeter area residents did not ask to become a part of the City of Charlotte. They were voted in by the majority. They have not moved their residences from one precinct to another. The precinct has been moved. By no stretch of the imagination should they be considered disfranchised.

Plans have already been made to get a special ruling on this question from Attorney-General McCullen, and Mayor Baxter has promised to seek a special act of the General Assembly, if necessary, either to qualify the voters or delay the municipal election until they become qualified. Common sense and a spirit of fair play would dictate such a course.

1. A clear statement of the subject of any investigation;
2. Any witness at a public hearing should have the right to counsel to advise him on his answer to questions;
3. Any witness should have the right to make a supplemental statement after questioning on the subject of the question;
4. An accurate stenographic record of testimony should be kept and be made available to the public.

No photographs, moving pictures, television or radio broadcasts should be made during questioning.

5. No person whose name is mentioned in a hearing and who believes this tends to defame him should have the right to make a personal testimony, ask for the recall for at least one hour's cross-examination, and make a personal testimony as to whether he is affected by him, and, at the discretion of the committee, to call a "reasonable number" of witnesses to testify in his behalf.

6. These rules should be made applicable to the committee and its subcommittees.

Such a system would undoubtedly restore dignity to Congressional committee investigations, and would protect innocent citizens from being tried by publicity. At the same time, it would not unduly hinder the committee, some of which already follow similar practices.

President Truman, who has a bad habit of shooting the hip, has already predicted the death of the Committee on Un-American Activities. It would be better for the nation if the President would raise his sights a little, and aim his efforts at a more realistic and more effective way to improve the efficiency of such committees.

000,000 of United States arms and supplies and the advice of a United States military mission.

That has happened in a country only a few miles from China with all the benefits of Western communication systems and a cultural background congenial to the West. Why should the United States anticipate better results in China where the odds are doubled or tripled against success and the people themselves have lost confidence in their old leaders?

This advocacy of non-intervention is not associated with the defeatism displayed by the "wave of the future" groups in the United States prior to the Second World War. It is a realistic, sane, and invincible. It is rather based on the thesis that we need to make the best possible use of our resources and apply our assistance where it will accomplish the most.

The fact that Russia can make more headway among the backward people of the Orient than the can among the more highly educated and prosperous nations of the West is our bright hope for the future. It indicates that although China may be conquered for an interval by totalitarianism, she will be a permanent seedling against success and the people themselves have lost confidence in their old leaders?

This, in fact, is the big hope of the Western powers on every front. They must work diligently to spread the ideas of democracy in the dark corners of the world where, in fermenting, they will be a pestilence against success and the people themselves have lost confidence in their old leaders?

Although China may be destined to turn to the Chinese Communists in the face of the present Chinese situation. If there were a strong government to assist there, the situation would be different. But that cannot be said of Chiang's. He seems destined to give way to something new — a "military stalemate" or intervention or non-intervention.

This reasoning may be considered rationalization in some quarters, but it seems to be the reality in the face of the present Chinese situation. If there were a strong government to assist there, the situation would be different. But that cannot be said of Chiang's. He seems destined to give way to something new — a "military stalemate" or intervention or non-intervention.

Record Budget In Prospect For Next Year

More Spending And Higher Taxes

NEXT year's budget may set a peacetime record and will probably require higher taxes to keep the Treasury out of the red, a Congressional Quarterly survey of the Government's financial prospects shows.

If Treasury estimates are correct, there may even be a deficit in the current 1949 fiscal year ending next June 30, though the books won't show it because \$3 billion of this year's foreign aid spending has already been charged off against last year's shopping spree.

Spending this year, including that for foreign aid, will amount to about \$42.2 billion. The Budget Bureau estimates revenue at \$40.7 billion. The Congressional Quarterly Committee on Internal Revenue agrees. Its staff experts say revenue ought to reach \$44 billion.

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WASHINGTON

WHILE we may be treated later during the current political denunciation, there is little dispute at this stage of the China crisis as to the extent of the aid that has been poured into that vast tragedy. Congressional Republicans on the Congressional Un-American Committee as well as the grim realities behind the collapse of the Nationalist Government.

Their calculations show that this country during the past two years has sent upwards of two billion dollars to China in aid of one kind or another. A large proportion of this has been eventually taken over by the Communists.

Not only has the aid been surrendered and have bought immunity from the conquering Communist forces by turning over American military supplies. No one can say with any accuracy the exact percentage of the \$2,000,000,000 that ultimately ended in Communist hands, but it is certainly high.

Republicans who have studied the situation, are for the most part agreed, that nothing can be done to save Chiang Kai-shek at this late date. An exception is the Honorable Judd of Minnesota who spent many years in China as a medical missionary. Judd believes that if Chiang Kai-shek would consolidate his forces in South China, that area could be preserved with massive aid from the United States, sent immediately by the most expedient means.

BLAME ENOUGH

Knowledgeable Republicans such as Sen. Alexander Smith of New Jersey, who has given careful study to the China debacle, realize that the blame is squarely on the shoulders of the President's policy on economic controls and taxation. And he has not only been so, but he has been so in the six black words — strong controls and much higher taxes.

In these palace battles, even the composition of forces is sometimes difficult to discern. There are signs, nonetheless, that the President's policy is being altered. There are signs, nonetheless, that the President's policy is being altered. There are signs, nonetheless, that the President's policy is being altered.

At the summer special session, the Congress agreed only in a limited way on the recommendations for controls of consumer credit and bank credit. The other recommendations were ostentatiously not passed. But they will be passed later. They will be passed later. They will be passed later.

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