

Protection For School Children

ONE form of insurance against which there is simply no argument is accident coverage for children of the public schools in all grades. Thirty-four states of the nation have it, but North Carolina is not among that progressive number.

Charlotte now has group insurance that is restricted to high school athletes but it can have the broader protection for its students despite the fact that our Legislature has neglected to establish laws authorizing the schools to use public funds for this purpose. Fortunately, the Charlotte Parent-Teacher Association has now taken the lead in this matter. Mrs. Roland Bellows has been appointed the state representative on the committee to investigate and report on the feasibility of an insurance program for the school children here, under direction of an organization independent of the schools and financed by the participants.

Costs of this group insurance are so low and the benefits so large that it has been generally acclaimed everywhere it has been offered. Need for this protection has been increased by the epidemic of health problems in schools, which has brought more athletic and playground activity. The injury risk is greater in athletic games but studies have shown that the ratio of injury in school to injuries other than sports is surprisingly high.

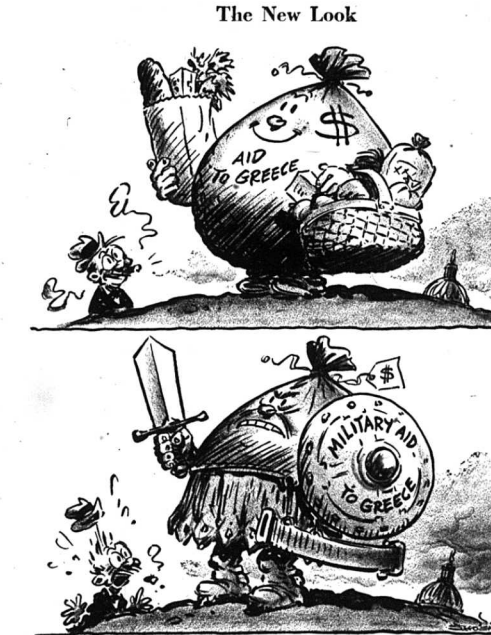
Parents are, of course, the chief beneficiaries of this insurance. Since the courts have ruled that the public is not liable for the costs of injuries to pupils in accidents

on school property, the fathers and mothers must bear the expense. The group insurance plan has relieved them largely of a financial burden that is heavy in many areas. Coverage can be made almost complete for injuries to students and instructors while they are in the school's charge. Services include hospitalization, dental, medical and surgical work.

The students themselves are directly benefited to the extent that they are quick and standard treatment for all pupils who participate, the program reduces the accident hazards through safety studies that are a part of the plan. Indeed, the record indicates that the injury rate has been reduced substantially in schools that have this insurance.

The insurance plan has spread to 34 states in the seventeen years since Wisconsin pioneered in this work. Numerous plans have been worked out in other states and a large body of literature on which to draw for guidance in setting up its program. Costs range from 15 cents per student a year to \$1.00 per student, depending on the scope of the plan. The larger the school and the wider the participation in the plan, the cheaper the cost.

Literally, this insurance saves itself once the preliminaries have been worked out to make it available. That requires wise planning and earnest endeavor. In this project for Charlotte, the PTA merits the thanks of every parent and the support of every citizen.



People's Platform Afraid Of Henry Wallace?

RECENTLY the House Committee on Foreign Affairs began hearings on the Marshall Plan. Several witnesses called to testify was Mr. Henry Wallace.

The House Committee decided that at this particular hearing the news cameras and radio & television would be barred for reasons of "orderly procedure." This is a reasonable excuse and perfectly proper. Among witnesses called to testify were "disorderly" at this particular hearing, is more than a coincidence: Mr. Wallace was there.

Heretofore the House of Representatives committees have apparently shied away from the publicity of the news cameras. The House Committee on Labor (rather than the House Committee for Labor) for instance, seemed to appreciate this means of aiding its union-busting brooding.

But when Mr. Wallace appeared before our duly elected representatives, the channels of publicity were restricted to the news only. Now, the news cameras has a great influence on millions of Americans, for it enables us to see and hear with our own eyes, just as it happened.

The refusal of the committee to permit the cameras to take moving pictures proves several things: (1) Our Congress was afraid of what Mr. Wallace said, and (2) the news cameras are the judgment of the American people. In the first case, it is a serious infringement on the freedom of information and points to the streamlining tactics of the judgment of the American people. In the second case, it is equally plain that our chances in a hot war will not be good until the European resistance movement proceeds much farther than it has to date.

Too long we have depended on angry words and bluster to stop the Soviet aggression while neglecting economic and political measures that would strengthen our European allies. The Mediterranean, menacing America's already precarious positions in Greece, Turkey, Palestine and the strategic Middle East. This turn of

events would be a signal for Russia to proceed more swiftly with its squeeze on the Scandinavian countries. It would open the floodgates for a greater political, ideological and economic Soviet offensive in Western Europe, backed by the threat of the Red Army.

In other words, the situation holds the immediate possibility of an enormous shift in the balance of power in the world. A threat that should materialize, America might well be panicked into going to war with Russia and it is on this point that Secretary Marshall's warning to hold our tongues and wait for the Communists to bear. For it is clear that we are not ready for a major war and will not be for some time. We are, in fact, as unprepared for a full-scale military conflict as we were for the "cold war" when it started.

As the situation in Italy now demonstrates, we cannot win the "cold war" unless and until the European people rise and meet the Communists on their own terms. It is equally plain that our chances in a hot war will not be good until the European resistance movement proceeds much farther than it has to date.

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'Very, Very Serious' For America

SECRETARY MARSHALL is given to understatement and the American people may be sure there is no exaggeration in his declaration that "the situation is very, very serious," both with respect to what is going on abroad and to the passions that have been aroused in this country.

There are so many points that bear out the Secretary of State's warning that it is possible to establish a few of the major perils in the situation.

Final stage of the "cold war" has been reached in Italy and there is deep alarm that the Communists will win control at the April 18 elections. The margin of victory is so slender that almost anything can turn the tide one way or the other. It is for this reason that the Administration and Senate leadership have been calling urgently for final Congressional approval of the European Recovery Program in time to rally Italians to the democratic side. The spectacle of a Republican cabal holding up the recovery program is a sight that makes one tremble as a piece of folly unsurpassed in a long record of Congressional stonewalling.

If the Communists should win the Italian elections, they would be in a position to repeat the process by which Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European lands have been brought under the hammer and sickle. Communist control of Italy would place the European balance of power in the Mediterranean, menacing America's already precarious positions in Greece, Turkey, Palestine and the strategic Middle East. This turn of

Our Opportunity In Margarine

THOUGH North Carolina's logical place for the manufacture of oleomargarine—we produce all of its ingredients except salt—no Tar Heel industrialist has seen fit to manufacture locally a product that is a nearly consumption of 3.6 pounds per capita.

Why?

Margarine is made with cottonseed oil, soyas beans, milk, and peanut and corn oils. The finished product contains 80 per cent fat, 16 per cent water, and 4 per cent salt. It is a most interesting and profitable business. In the neighborhood of 225,000,000 pounds per annum and we produce over 200,000,000 pounds in North Carolina.

Margarine is not just as much a farm product as butter?

Margarine is called a substitute for butter. Can you get a zipper a substitute for a button? Perhaps because of the substitute nature of margarine, the North Carolina farmer has exploited only. It's a pure food with a U. S. Food and Drug Administration minimum of 80 per cent fat content. Its manufacture is timed and controlled so that ready-for-the-table margarine retains the vitamin content necessary for body building.

Potential manufacturers may possibly have been shied away from getting into the oleo business because of the formidable penalty taxes imposed on its manufacture and sale. At the present time, an effort to have the European allies to help in the manufacture of margarine in Washington. Leaders in the movement are Senator Hoy of North Carolina and Senator Maybank of South Carolina.

With only one plant in the Carolinas (Greenville, S. C.) producing margarine, we are missing a great opportunity for utilizing our farm products which provide 99 per cent of the fats that go into the making of margarine.

The necessary machinery required to produce 4,000 tons of margarine per hour would cost about \$125,000. An investment of this nature would not only serve as a means of furthering North Carolina's products but also it would provide more work for more people and be a diversity in North Carolina's growing industrial life.

An Aye For Texas

STANLEY WALKER, the former newsmen in London, who likes to leer at venerable traditions, apparently is out to give the United States a trimming. In the *American Mercury* magazine he joyfully takes his adopted state of Texas apart, finds a few stragglers in the Carolinas, and concludes the fabric is in pretty good condition. So good and so varied, in fact, the Lone Star State is a chump if it doesn't match back the independence it signed away to the Union in 1845.

Texas is in the unique position of having been annexed by treaty, a document, he points out, which should be abrogated easily by the state with the probable happy endorsement of Congress. Should it dislike returning to the status of a republic, Walker says, there should be no difficulty in finding a family with the money, brains and inclination to take on the burden of royal

leadership under a constitutional monarchy. It could set up an army and navy to become a United States of Texas and Mexico, reorganize its trade and get on with the job of raising independently the race of supermen he says it believes it has.

Personally, we think the idea unfunny. Primarily because Texas has the natural resources unless Texas' claims are to be discounted an unwise 100 per cent—to do it. Moreover, the White House has just given them an excuse, should one be needed.

And as long as we are taking Texas at its own appraisal, how about the United Nations? It is a pity that the country has freely admitted by the discouraged McGrath has felt like resigning. Here is another.

Boiling Point No. 2

JUST one week before, Forrestal had appointed as his deputy on atomic matters, Donald F. Carpenter, president of the Remington Arms Co., a Du Pont subsidiary.

Practicing Christianity

IT IS mighty tempting to read a letter like Mr. Paul's in the column Monday, "Society To Reform Campaigns" was handled. Mr. Paul stated that "the sole purpose of this society is to jump through Congress a bill to compel the white race of California to accept the Mexican and Japs living there as their social, political and economic equals."

No matter how you look at it, this is a mighty fine and Christian thing that Mr. Paul is trying to get organized. It speaks mighty well for him, too, because Mr. Paul is a white man. And whenever I

Drew Pearson's Chairman McGrath Thwarted By Forrestal

MR. CARPENTER is a member of the same Du Pont-Carpenter family which poured money into Republican campaigns against Truman and Roosevelt as if it were water. He is a member of the same family which organized the Liberty League to defeat Roosevelt. Naturally McGrath received this news with no thrill. But it is more significant in a lie-up McGrath may not have known about. Back in 1928, Secretary Forrestal's Wall Street banking firm loaned \$200,000 to the Republican campaign to defeat Roosevelt.

Immediately after Forrestal loaned this money to Bolivia Senator Arms Co., which Donald Carpenter immediately set up to profit by it. Remington got a juicy contract for 100,000 rifles for the Bolivian Government. The Senate munitions investigation contained revealing testimony on this sale.

The firm is General and White, attorneys for Eastern Airlines. A member of that firm from 1941 up until a few weeks ago was John B. Branch, son of Charles B. Branch, sponsor Hartley Branch of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Senator Ferguson's committee is also expected to delve

What Is Your Opinion?

Drew Pearson is a highly controverted newspaper writer. His following columns are by appointment by President Truman as United States Editor for the Western District of North Carolina.

It was most gracious on your part and will remain in my mind always as evidence of something wonderfully fine said about me.

With every good wish,
EDWARD WARLICK,
Resident Judge 16th
Judicial District.

Judge Warlick Of Newton

I WOULD like for you to know how deeply I appreciate the exceptionally fine editorial which your paper carried for your pen recently in the matter of the resignation of Mr. McGrath. It was by appointment by President Truman as United States Editor for the Western District of North Carolina.

Amazed At Burkholder

IT WAS amazed to read this P. C. Burkholder's comment on the March of Dimes in his letter to your People's Platform March 8. He says of Roosevelt—"I should not use him (Roosevelt) as a precedent for a white man, why that is just being natural. Or when you see a poor man going to the polls to try to get relief for the poor, that is natural. But when you see a rich man like Roosevelt for instance, or a white man like Mr. Paul, coming out and being elected by the side of the underdog, why—no matter whether they go to church or not, that is practicing Christianity."

Mr. Paul's case, especially, because he himself might think he is including the colored folk and he might lose his job, even. But more power to him and his organization, I say, if they have been mistreating the Jews and the Mexicans out in California. And I say don't let them out there vote on it, either, like Mr. Paul says, because if they would vote to quit mistreating their Jews, why guess they wouldn't be mistreating them in the first place.

Guess in a way, though, it's much ado about nothing, because I expect that the Civil Rights Bill now passing through Congress will take care of the West too.

—A. E. BASSETT,
CHARLOTTE

Marquis Grafton U. S. Action In China

IT often seems as though this country were fated to go on repeating the error—again—in this when the margin for error has been reduced to the vanishing point.

No one disputes that some kind of positive action by America in the present form of the Marshall Plan to the proper approach to that vast, chaotic and profitable market of the pulling and hauling being.

We see furious partisans of Chiang Kai-shek in a small country into action. Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer embraces China at a White House luncheon. The military crusader, Rep. Walter H. Judd of Minnesota, embraces an idealized China on a high moral plane.

These volunteer pulpits—makes proclaim that the nationalistic China of Chiang Kai-shek is essential to us. We need that China, they say, in accents ranging from the urgent to the shrill and hysterical. They are not of course, the only partisans to be heard. There are others with a more practical and profitable, and hence wise self-interest.

GREEK PARALLEL

It was a three-alarm fire. Greece was essential to the United States. Our democracy, they said, served at any cost—to us.

It was the political position in Washington, with an opposition Congress containing a hard core of anti-democratic elements, that made an approach was necessary. But the ending in Greece was most unfortunate.

The politicians in Athens, who are not to be trusted, had understood how we had committed ourselves to them. In proclaiming that Greece was vital to our national security, the Government had attached no conditions to the aid to be given.

Consequently, it has proved extremely difficult to bring about changes in the regime in Athens. After prolonged and patient prodding by American officials, a dictator, Dwight Griswold, the Liberal Party, was elected Premier. But what this change really meant in the way of widespread acceptance by the Greek

Samuel Grafton Matter Of Definition

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM: A form of criticism which confines itself to telling someone how they are doing, and is constructive. It is not intended to hurt or offend, but to help and improve. It is not intended to be destructive, but to be helpful.

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Disagreement Between Two Gentlemen

WHEN 46-year-old John C. Stennis, successor to the late speech by Senator B. M. Stewart, delivered his maiden speech in the Senate, he was the first to congratulate him as New York's young Republican, Irving H. Brown, who had just been elected to the Senate.

"I like the way you handled that hot potato," said Irving. "You showed great restraint. I congratulate you, even though I don't think you took any real action."

"No, I don't give you, any more than I understand your," remarked the New Yorker, who is sponsoring the Fair Employment Practices Act, "but I do give you credit for it in our convictions. I know I'm not grinding any political axe, but I do give you credit for it in our convictions. I know I'm not grinding any political axe, but I do give you credit for it in our convictions."