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SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1949

A LESSON FROM CHINA

THE Kuo-min-tang, like an aged, rotten tree, has fallen. It was as if an oak in an unpeopled forest had fallen, soundlessly, simply crumbling to the earth unnoted...

For months the Western World has watched Chiang Kai-Shek's tottering regime, watched it as administrative leaders—like dry, brown leaves—dropped off and floated away. And now Chiang himself has gone, fled South, probably to complete retirement...

A brave man and sometimes a wise man, Chiang was never an American hero. But he was a man of battle, not a leader in peace. Too old and tired to lead his armies in the field he became a parlor general, playing chess with millions of men. And while he played his game, clever men reached into the grab-bag of Chinese politics, pulled 'out huge handfuls of loot while the average citizen struggled for his life against inflation, disease and starvation...

Thus when the Communists menace rose up following the end of the great war against Japan, Chiang had no public support. He people called him, which government allowed it to starve. The Communists have won. The war in China has burned out, but the battles in the West have not. And through the smoke of the Western World it is to find a center in the new China, to try to understand this war. It can recognize only this: The defeat of Chiang — villain though he may have been — was American defeat, an English defeat, French, Italian.

GO SLOW ON ROAD BONDS

MOST Tar Heels who have stopped to think about its rural road program with Governor Scott are that the State needs to perform a major operation on its rural road system. There are a good many citizens, however, who have certain reservations about the way the Governor is going to perform it.

In the first place, as has been previously pointed out here, the proposal is one-sided, and offers no relief whatsoever to the hard-pressed city dwellers who pay one-third of the revenue into the highway fund, yet get back an insignificant one-fortieth of the money to keep up their 6,000-odd miles of city streets—one sixth of the total State road network.

Over and above the failure to afford the cities any relief, there is some doubt of the wisdom of spending right now on a \$300,000,000 bond issue—almost twice as large as all previous highway bond issues put together. The first State road bond issue in 1921 was for \$50 million. The second, in 1923, was for \$15 million. The third, in 1925, was for \$20,000,000. And the fourth, in 1927, was for \$30,000,000. Certain other small obligations raised the State's total bonded indebtedness to \$116,850,000.

On Jan. 1, 1948, the total amount remaining to be paid stood at \$23,281,000, and the sinking fund which was set up in hopes of paying them off by 1952, totaled only \$17,600,000.

The point is this: Should the State, which has gotten on a pay-as-you-go basis

For it was a Russian victory. Is there still something the West can salvage from China? Only this: a lesson. From China it can learn that the world is a battlefield; that an isolated backward, overcrowded village in China is as important as Berlin or Paris or Rome. It can learn that there is no such thing as ideological neutrality. And there is no time to spare in procrastination. The West cannot afford that time.

But by the same token the West cannot afford—and must not start—a shooting war with Russia. It could not join Chiang in his fight against Chinese Communists. Not with American guns and American trigger fingers. And by the time the danger to the West became apparent to Washington, it was too late to win an ideological war in China.

If we had had foresight enough to gamble on the future, to rebould China rather than exploit it as a base against Russia; if we had refused to offer military aid to Chiang until he cleaned house (and he would have, quickly), we could have done much to start a progressive program in China that might have resulted in Russian defeat in the Far East.

It is too late in China. But in Indonesia, in the Philippines, in India — the remainder of the Far East, the West can win. The West can win if it learns in the East, as it learned in Europe, that victory in this international war will come neither from ideological lip-service nor economic charity, but from the encouraging and aiding of suffering people to help themselves.

GO SLOW ON ROAD BONDS

For the first time in decades, abruptly plunge itself heavily in debt to do a hurry-up job of the kind long-standing and long-developing situation? Rural roads are a continuing problem, and their expense is not limited to the way the Government will call for costly maintenance for many years. Governor Scott's plan calls for an increase of one cent on the gasoline tax to pay about half of the carrying charges of the bonds. That means the citizen will have to foot the bill for the regular highway fund, not to mention the increased cost of maintaining these 12,000 miles of rural roads.

He does not need all the money now. He can spread it out. But, under the theory that he had better strike while the iron is hot, he is asking the Legislature to submit the whole proposal to the voters. Then the bonds will be issued as they are needed.

Without doubt, the people should have a right to vote on the question. It was one of Mr. Scott's main campaign platforms, and the voters should be asked to vote on it. That is a great many people feel as strongly about rural roads as he does. And it will be up to the people to say whether or not the program is too ambitious.

We would like to suggest at this time that the Legislature give some thought to trimming the issue to the needs of the moment, leaving the way open to go back to the voters two or four years from now for the balance.

BETTER BOOKKEEPING NEEDED

THE sentencing of a veteran North Carolina school superintendent on charges of mishandling school funds carries with it a serious obligation on local and State educational officials to develop a system of bookkeeping that will check instances that can not happen again.

The man who has just entered State Prison to serve five to seven years is J. Edward Allen, who was superintendent of the Warsaw County school for 20 years. He was charged with embezzlement of \$45,100.00.

Allen's attorney entered a plea of nolo contendere when the case came before Superior Court Judge Walter J. Bone last February this week. The attorney admitted that Allen had handled school funds "unwisely," but contended the school official had no intent to defraud.

Nevertheless, the State turned up some incredible evidence, including the operation of a "ghost school." It seems that the



People's Platform

Editors: The News: I READ with interest your editorial of Jan. 18 entitled "Second Degree Citizens," and agree with you wholeheartedly with regard to the same.

You say, "The civil rights agitators who are so concerned over protecting the Negro from the white man might well direct some of their efforts toward promoting the Negro against their own race." I think you know this statement does not make even elementary sense. Do you not know that many of the "agitators" who are so concerned over protecting the Negro from the white man might well direct some of their efforts toward promoting the Negro against their own race?

Mr. Editor, Negroes do not need protection from the white judicial system which consistently persists in a dual application of the law, rather than mete out the same punishment for the same crime without regard to the race of the criminal. The other races need protection from the same white law-enforcement machinery which allows continued abuse of the parole system, which at best is much to be desired.

—MR. T. S. BROOKS.

About Mr. Wade's Letters

Editors: The News: THIS refers to the two letters written by Mr. H. M. Wade concerning the Veterans' Hospitals for the issue.

First I would like to know why you published both letters—were you hard up for something for that space? Then I would like to know several things about the paragraph in the letter which you say that I can write two letters saying the same thing in different ways? I can do that and I do not own any dog, neither do I.

You are up in Washington where you can find things out. Check around and see if these hospitals are unnecessary and if you find that they are, then you can count on my support to have them closed.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WHILE Washington concentrated on making Harry Truman the 32nd President of the United States, a lot of important things happened. The rest of the world just the same. Here are some of them.

Judicial System Is At Fault

Editors: The News: FRANKLY, I don't believe you or Mr. Wade or your publisher know at this time whether there already are enough capitalists and laborers of the veterans and it seems logical that we should try to find out and not just be for or against them.

JOHNNY PATTON.

More About Wade Letters

MR. H. M. WADE has expressed the rich man's viewpoint, that quite ably, should he be, say, however, that I don't get it. Why should a millionaire object to outrageous taxes, as long as the money is going to himself? What is the first place, does a man want with as much as a million dollars, if he isn't going to use it and the prestige it carries with it, to try to arrange for more and more of these necessary institutions until no community has any shreds left of Government?

To excess, completely, my reaction to Mr. Wade's letters: What would it gain Mr. Wade, if he were able to persuade the Government that Governmental investments in things like hospitals are a bad deal? Would the lightening of his tax load, Mr. Wade should find that Governmental investments in things like hospitals are "the surest road to socialism." But it is our greatest insurance against revolution, and a revolution at any time in the foreseeable future would, I believe, work a greater hardship on Mr. Wade than does our fairly mild brand of socialism.

Elderly Man Wants Work

I AM an elderly 70 years of age, on account of age it is my health a very good. But an ample of age it is my health a very good. But an ample of age it is my health a very good. But an ample of age it is my health a very good.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who writes to Fernbacher-Hoover is handing out information about the same way as when President of the United States.

Foreign Minister Bevin Scolds Douglas

HOOPER Bevin Minister Bevin Scolds Douglas is something Mr. Truman definitely understands. Hoover Bevin Minister Bevin Scolds Douglas is something Mr. Truman definitely understands.

Merry-Go-Round

THE roving Marshall Plan Ambassador, W. Averell Harriman, decided at the last minute to attend the President's inauguration in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 20.

WASHINGTON Emotions in the face of all that has happened since the inauguration run the gamut of a Dorothy Parker once put it: "From a high degree of indignation, from disgust to contempt, from indignation to contempt, from contempt to a sort of weary, weary indifference."

Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, who has been conspicuous in his cause the Democrats reduce the number of Republicans on the Senate and thereby kept him from a place, called it a Roman holiday, as if that certain day when the people turned out to see the power of the state on parade. It seems to me that the responsible managers of the Republican party should look on this outpouring of the forces of the party with something more than disdain.

There are, first of all, the new Senators and Representatives from Washington, who are looking ahead to four years from now with the belief that almost any man who will succeed President Truman as standard-bearer of the party will have anything to say about it, as far as the Negro is concerned.

But no matter what the future may hold, the present outpouring is a formidable one. It implies growth and development in the direction indicated by the election of the new President, waiting for the Democrats to strip and laid fairly seems adequate.

Explanation Wanted

Suppose an "American" mean and low-down Communist in the country was willing to spend a lot of money to get the name and prestige of a country that needed a push to ward property.

What meaning would "guarantees" have in a case like that? The Communist would not care for the internal affairs of that country and would not care for Communist from getting control? And how would other nations look on this? They would be as much about the right of each nation to settle its own affairs?

From The Asheville Citizen

CALIFORNIA, North Carolina and Texas (in that order) led the states during 1948 in number of polio cases, reports the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

These gloomy figures portray the mystery of polio as well as its tragedy. The disease is confined in states which are far apart from one another. It does not strike with equal severity in succeeding years. It rises to a peak, then falls away only to rise again.

Polio's Curious Rise and Fall

The record suggests that polio comes and goes in all of these states according to a certain pattern. Yet Georgia, which borders the Southern States, had only 2.8 cases per 100,000 during the first four years cited above. At the same time, the Southeast saw Florida had a mild year in 1946, with the polio incidence in Florida rising to 22.9 that year.

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Our clues are mechanizing their operations; now stealing units of furniture and of dwellings. — New Orleans (L.A.) States.

Table with 5 columns: State, 1948, 1946, 1945, 1947. Rows: S. Dakota, N. Carolina, Texas, D. Dakota.